

The Sub-Carpathian Messenger

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

Number 23 - November 2012



Greetings from the Carpathians - Havasmező (about 1940)

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. We aim at producing at least four issues per year but cannot promise regular publication intervals. As we can see from the numbers at the public web site, this Newsletter is read by more than hundred people.

This number is another celebration issue: Four years have passed, and during this time we have published more than 500 pages of (old and new) information on the Kárpátalja and its postal (and general) history.

We send our best wishes and kind regards to the members of the Study Circle.

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 October 20th, 2012, 10:00 CEST, the following access counts were shown at this web site:

#001	188	#004	112	#007	106	#010	138	#013	143	#016	100	#019	127
#002	162	#005	111	#008	262	#011	151	#014	216	#017	96	#020	247
#003	155	#006	145	#009	89	#012	127	#015	106	#018	127	#021	140

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.

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

Andrew Cronin

Pre-Stamp and Stampless Mail from the Carpatho-Ukraine

This was a series of articles in the magazine «ЯМЩИК – The POST-RIDER» of the CSRP (Canadian Society for Russian Philately), starting with number 11 (November 1982) – exactly 30 years ago. Your editor has only, whenever possible, replaced the original b/w illustrations by colour copies and has added a few comments (always in [brackets]) to bring the presented information to the current state of knowledge. This has enforced a complete change in the page layout – I am sorry for that. The editor.

A series of articles, beginning with the present study, will henceforth be published in this section and will cover the postal history and stamps of the Carpatho-Ukraine, the most beautiful province of the Ukraine and deservedly popular as an area for internal tourism in the USSR. Under Hungarian rule for almost one thousand years until 1919, the local inhabitants preserved their Ukrainian traditions and language by a simple expediency: illiteracy. By refusing over the centuries to attend the schools set up by the Hungarian administration, they never became Magyarised as did the Austrian, Jewish and Roumanian settlers coming into the area.

Due to the long association with the Hungarians, some Magyar words were naturally incorporated into the local Ukrainian dialects; e. g. yarash = footpath or sidewalk, nad' = big, etc. Mind you, the traffic was not all one way and an interesting Ph. D. thesis could be written about the Slav and/or specifically Ukrainian influences on the Hungarian language. Some examples: kulcs = key, from the Slav klyuch; asztal (pronounced ostol) = table, from the Slav stol and szekrény = box, from the Ukrainian skryn'ka.



Fig. 1 [Source: EXPONET, Dr. Walter Rauch collection, from sheet 021].

The pre-stamp period extended to 1st June 1850, when the first postage stamps of the Austrian Empire appeared. The languages used in correspondence during that epoch included Latin, German, Hungarian and a relatively pure form of Literary Russian, but with distinctive traces of the writers' Ukrainian origin. Much of the mail then sent was ecclesiastical and therefore official; it thus enjoyed the free franking privilege and fell into the same category as the "Kirchspielbriefe" (parish letters) sent by the German-speaking clergy in the Baltic provinces of the Russian Empire. Because of this right of free mail, the letters remained stampless when the adhesive period began and this article records some examples for a few years after 1850, as there was a carry-over of the pre-adhesive postal markings.

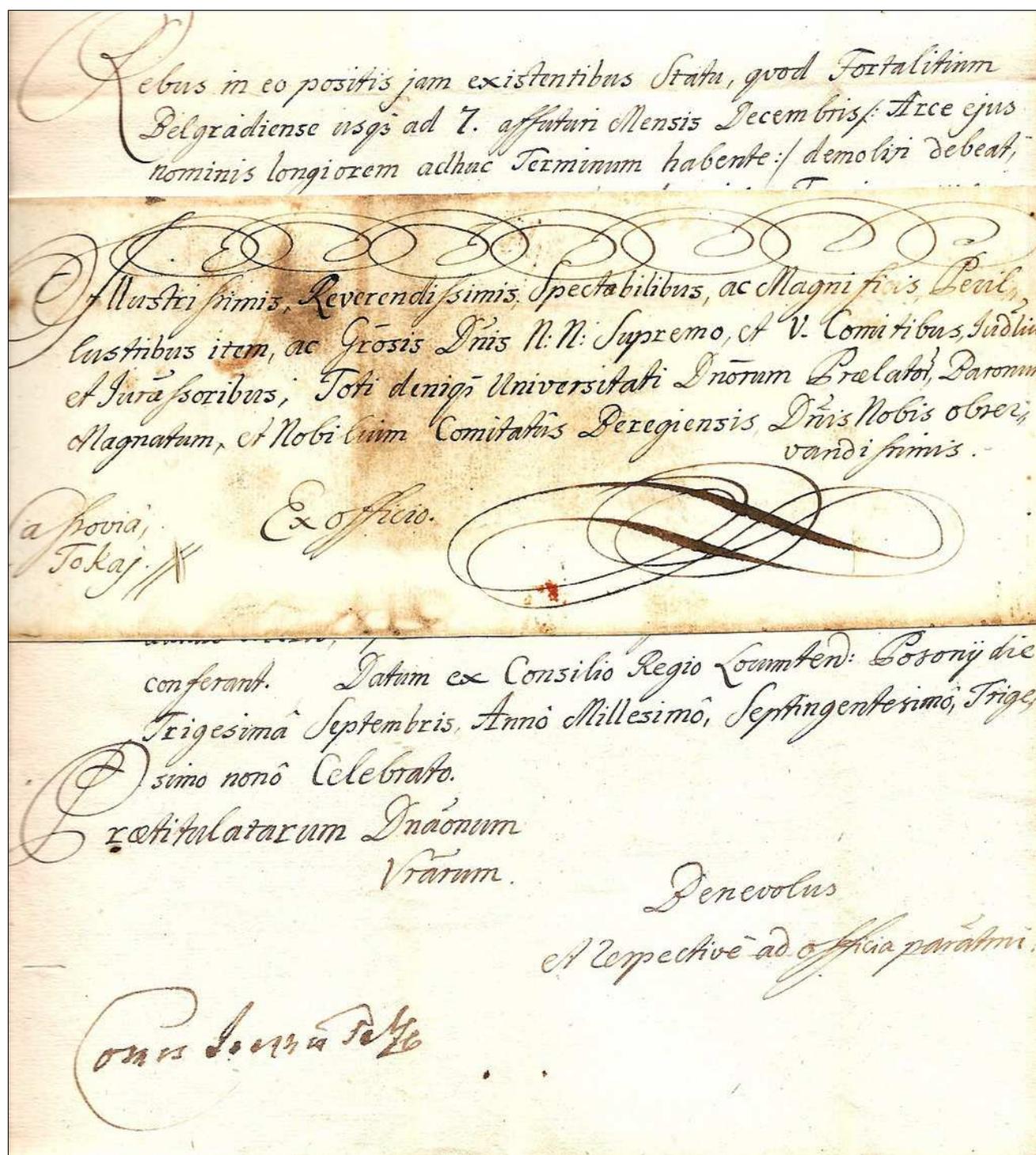


Fig. 2 [Source: EXPONET, Dr. Walter Rauch collection, from sheet 016].

The material examined in this article is drawn from the collections of Dr. Walter J. Rauch of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Béla Simády of Hungary, Mr. Lauson H. Stone of the U. S. A. and also of the present author. In short, true international cooperation, for which many grateful thanks. We will first consider the earliest examples of mail before the introduction of postal markings and all from the magnificent collection formed by Dr. Walter J. Rauch:-

The first example [see Fig. 1] is a military exemption written in Latin and dating from the period of the Great Turkish Wars. It was sent by the Austrian Emperor Leopold I (1640 - 1705) in Vienna on 9 June 1692 to the Hungarian nobles of the Bereg Comitatus (County) and waiving their contribution to the reconstruction of the reconquered city of Grosswardein (= Nagyvárad, now Oradea Mare in Roumania). The Carpatho-Ukraine under Hungarian rule was composed of the counties of Bereg (an obvious Slav name, meaning "shore"), about half of the Máramaros county, Ugocsa and practically all of the Ung county.

[Fig. 2:] An 'ex officio' (official) letter, dated 30 Sept. 1739, from the Palatine of Hungary János Gróf Pálffy (1663 - 1751), sent from Pozsony (= Pressburg, now Bratislava in Czechoslovakia) via Cassovia (= Kaschau or Kassa, now Košice in Czechoslovakia) to the Prelates and Nobility of the Bereg Comitatus in the Carpatho-Ukraine. In Latin.

[The peaceful splitting-up of Czechoslovakia in 1993 now has Bratislava and Košice in the Slovak Republic, of course.]

The third item [see Fig. 3] is a patent of nobility, written in French and sent from Ungvár, capital of the Ung county, in 1788. It is addressed in French to the Viscount Imre Horváth Stanschitz, Councilor of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty, in the town of Leutschau (now Levoča in Czechoslovakia [Slovakia since 1993]). The figure "4" at bottom centre probably refers to the rate paid, i. e. 4 krajczár or kreutzer.

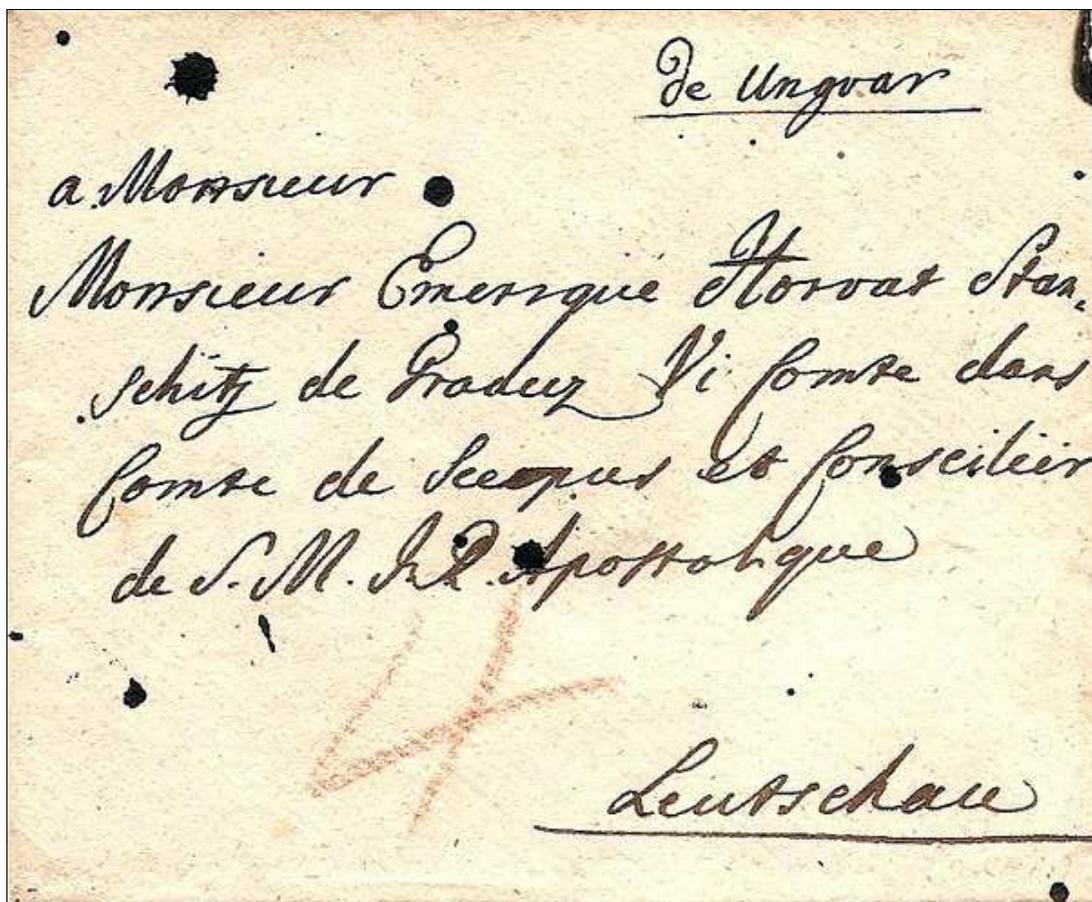


Fig. 3 [Source: EXPONET, Dr. Walter Rauch collection, from sheet 023].

[Fig. 4:] A church letter, written in Latin and sent in 1814 to the Abbot of Ungvár, capital of the Ung county. His name was Mihály Bradác.

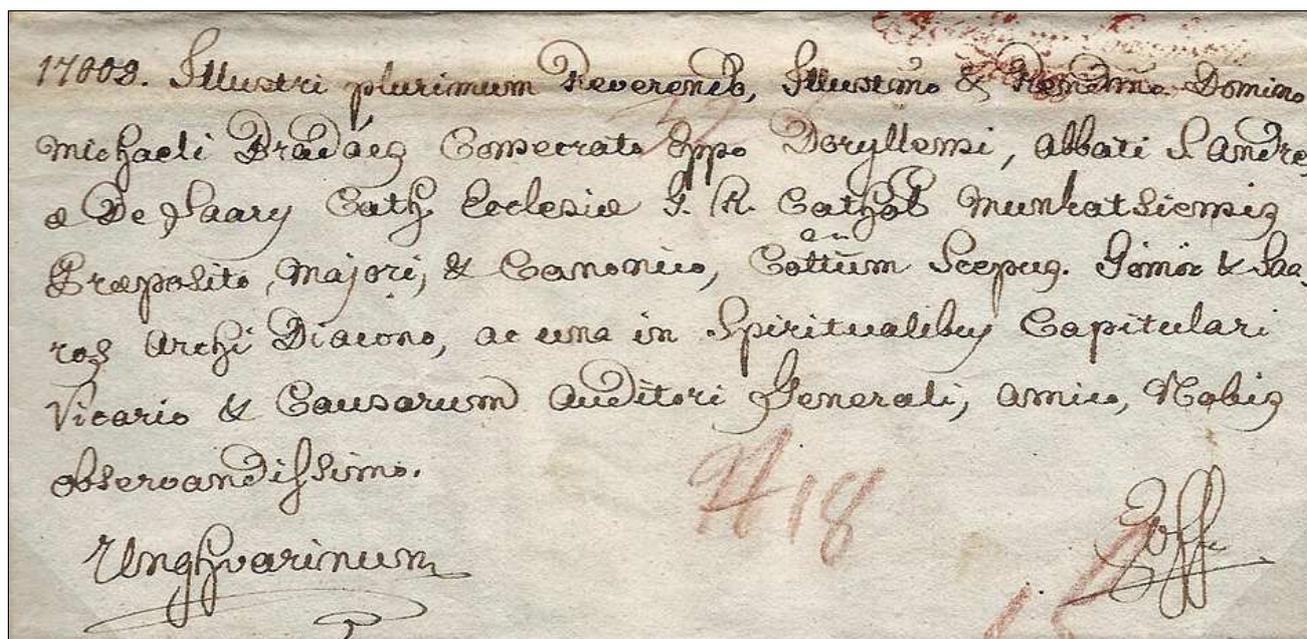


Fig. 4 [Source: EXPONET, Dr. Walter Rauch collection, from sheet 007].

[Fig. 5:] Another church letter, also in Latin and sent 'ex Vécse' (now Veča in Slovakia) in 1814 to the same abbot Mihály Bradác.

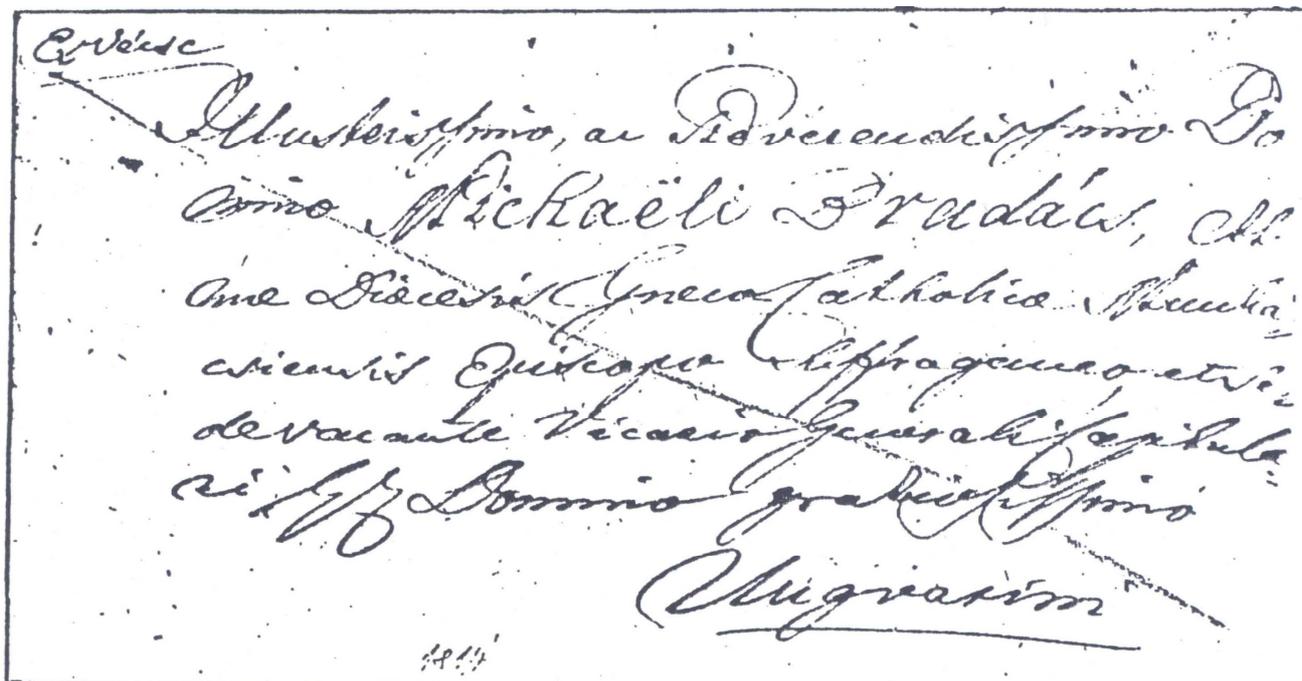


Fig. 5 [Source: »ЯМЩИК - The POST-RIDER«, no. 11 (November 1982), page 42].

* * * * *

We will now pass on to the postal markings used in the pre-stamp and stampless periods. The classification is based on the study of Hungarian pre-stamp markings, compiled by Béla Térffi [1] and kindly supplied by Dr. Béla Simády of Hungary. The listing is alphabetical and the Slav equivalents are added as a guide, being given in Czech, 'Ruthenian' (language permitted by

Hungary from 1939 to 1944), Russian and Ukrainian, in that order wherever possible. Some statistical information has been taken from the work: "Reisehandbuch durch das Königreich Ungarn", by Adolf Schmidl, Vol. 2, Vienna, 1835, Verlag von Carl Gerold, and added as a guide to the relative scarcity of the markings.

ALSÓ-VERECZKE, in the Bereg county (Nižní Verecky; НИЖНИЕ ВЕРЕЦКИ; НИЖНІ ВЕРЕЦЬКІ)

(a) ALSÓ-VERECZKE

Straight-line type, used from 1843 to 1847 and shown here [see Fig. 6] on a letter from the Deacon of Alsóverecke to the Archdeacon Ivan Churhovych in Ungvár. Endorsed "in stricte officiosis" (strictly by virtue of his office). Dr. Béla Simády Colln. Struck in black.

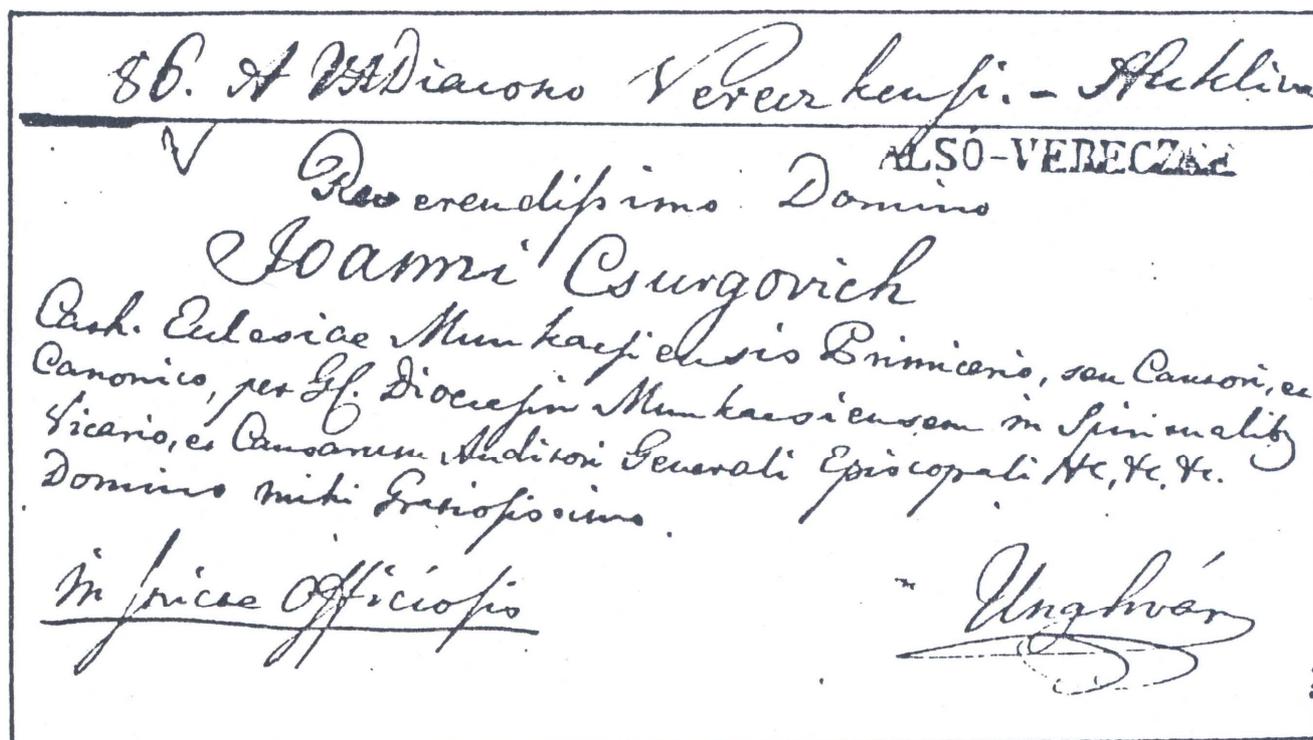


Fig. 6 [Source: »ЯМЩИК - The POST-RIDER«, no. 11 (November 1982), page 42].

[The shown cover was not included in the collection of Dr. Simády as it was passed on. Therefore we must be content with the b/w illustration as originally published.]

[This stamp was used from 1839 to 1847, according to the »Handbook of the Hungarian Pre Stamp Mail«, page 151. The illustration in this handbook is NOT correct - the hyphen between "ALSÓ" and "VERECZKE" is missing. Additionally I think that the dot after the name is doubtful - see the scan from a cover in my collection which definitely shows no such dot:]



Fig. 7: Official letter from Alsó-Vereczke to Ungvár, received February 14th, 1841.
 Enlarged scan of the straight-line postal mark.

(b)



Double-circle type with fleuron at bottom; day & month indicated. No examples seen by Térffi, but apparently introduced in 1847. The letter here [fig. 8] from the Dr. Simády collection and sent to the same Ivan Churhovych. 'Hivatalosan' is the Hungarian equivalent of 'ex officio' (by virtue of his office). Struck in black.

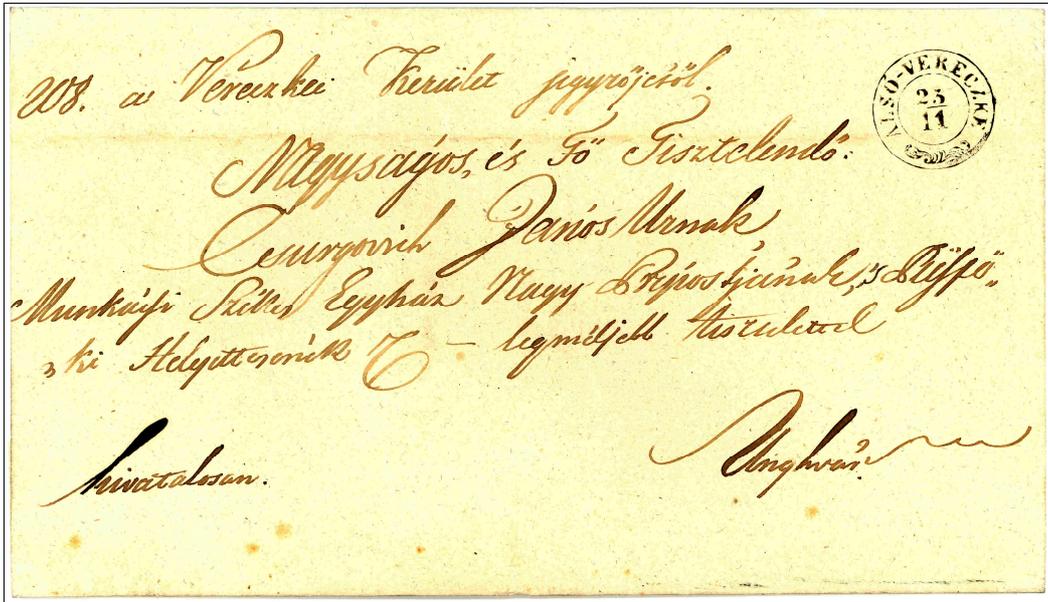


Fig. 8: Official letter from Alsó-Vereczke to Ungvár, November 23rd, 1848 (or 1849).

(c) Another example [fig. 9] of the double-circle type, but now from the stampless period (Lauson H. Stone collection). Sent on 9 January 1854 to Munkács, where it arrived the same day. The wax seal reads: K. K. zweites Ruth. Bezirks-Commissariat in Beregh. Written in Hungarian, the abbreviation 'Hvból' stands for 'Hivatalból' (hivatal = office, ból = from). The notation '3 kr.' may refer to the rate that normally would have been charged for civilian mail.

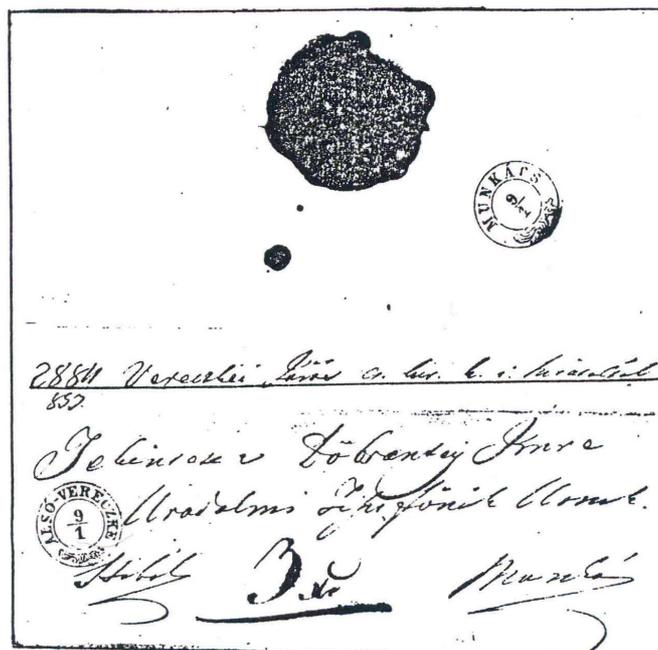


Fig. 9 [Source: »ЯМЩИК - The POST-RIDER«, no. 11 (November 1982), page 43].

BEREGSZÁSZ, capital of the Bereg county (Berehovo; БЕРЕГОВО; БЕРЕГОВЕ; БЕРЕГСАС)

“Szász” is the Hungarian word for “Saxon”; the town was originally founded by settlers from Saxony. It had 3009 inhabitants in 1835.

(a) **V:BEREGSZÁZ**

The first marking is in German, reading ‘from BEREGSZÁZ’ (incorrect spelling of the place-name). Applied during 1838 - 1839 and none of us has examples of this type. Struck in black.

(b) **V.BEREGHSZÁSZ**

Somewhat similar, but with larger letters and properly spelt for that period as BEREGHSZÁSZ. Struck in black or red from 1839 to 1843. Also rare and none of us has examples.

[Examples can be shown now - see figures 10 and 11 where the postmark is “V: BEREGHSZÁSZ”:]

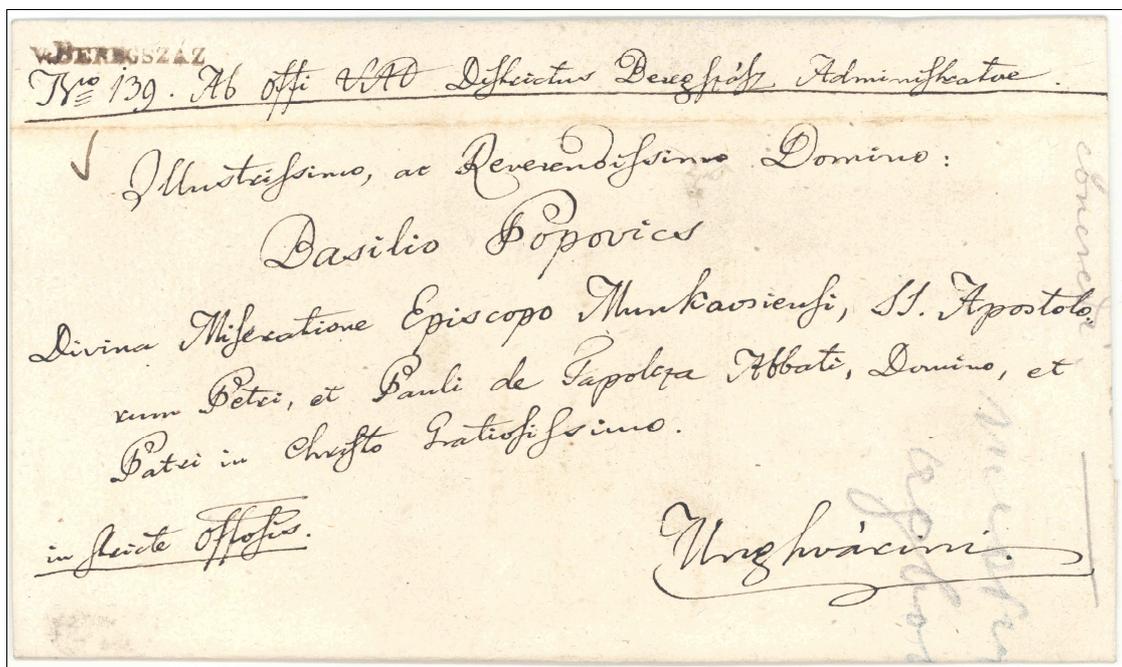


Fig. 10: Official letter, Beregszász to Ungvár, October 26th, 1838. Simády collection.

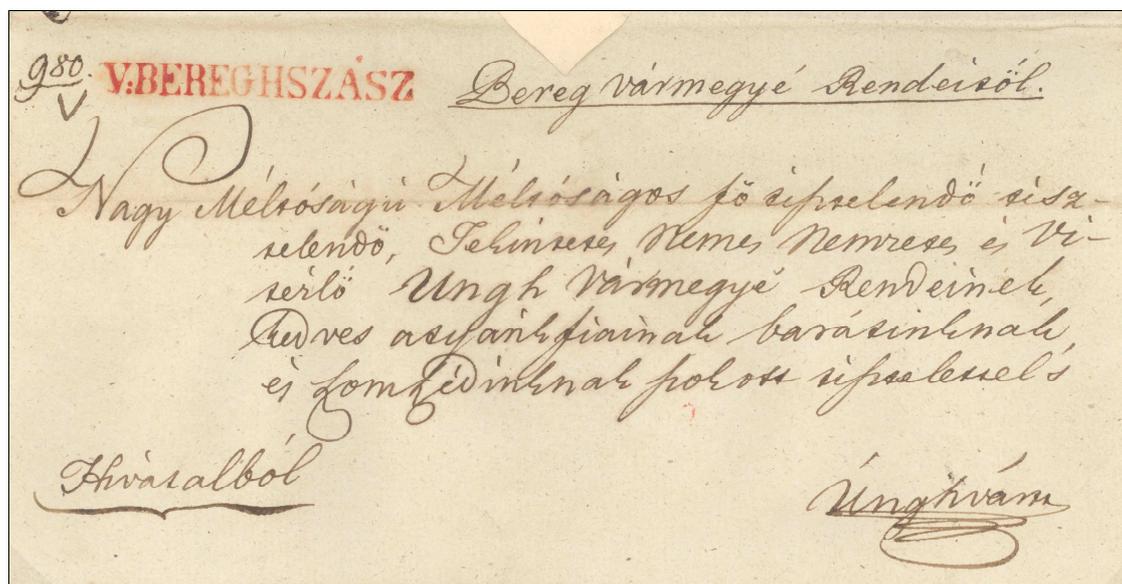


Fig. 11: Official letter, Beregszász to Ungvár, June 3rd, 1840. Hanus collection.

(c)

BEREGSZÁZ

Town-name only in this third type and again misspelt BEREGSZÁZ. Struck in black and used from 1840 to 1847. Dr. Béla Simády Collection. Sent to Bishop Vasyl Popovych (typical Ukrainian name!) at Ungvár.

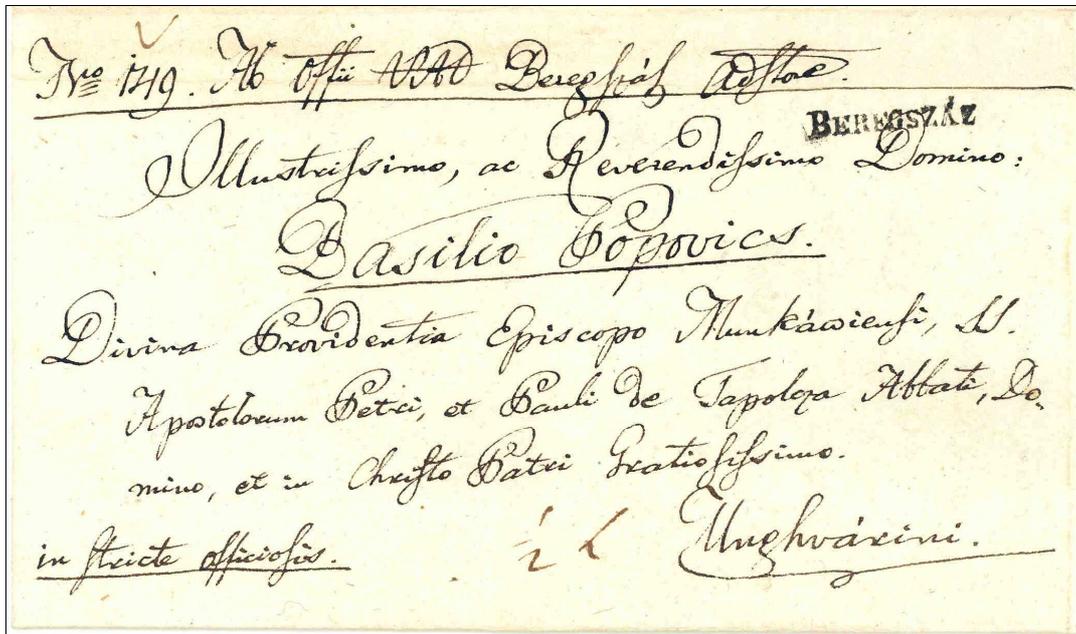


Fig. 12: Official letter, Beregszász to Ungvár, May 14th, 1840. Simády collection.

[Since the original illustration in black/white was terrible anyway and since the piece shown in A. Cronin's article has not been passed on as part of the Simády collection, I have replaced it with a better one. Here we can also see that the repeatedly mentioned "in stricte offosis" is only an abbreviation for the correct form "in stricte officios".]

(d)



The double-circle type was introduced in 1847, but we have seen it [fig. 13] only in the stampless period, sent on 5th May 1853 to Munkács (Lauson H. Stone collection). Note the 'ex offo' abbreviation at bottom left.

[We understand that Andrew Cronin bought the Lauson H. Stone collection some time after this article was published; and when the Cronin collection went for sale at Cherrystone in September 2009, this letter was probably part of the sale. But this is speculation really, because not all lots were available as scans on the auction house's internet page.]

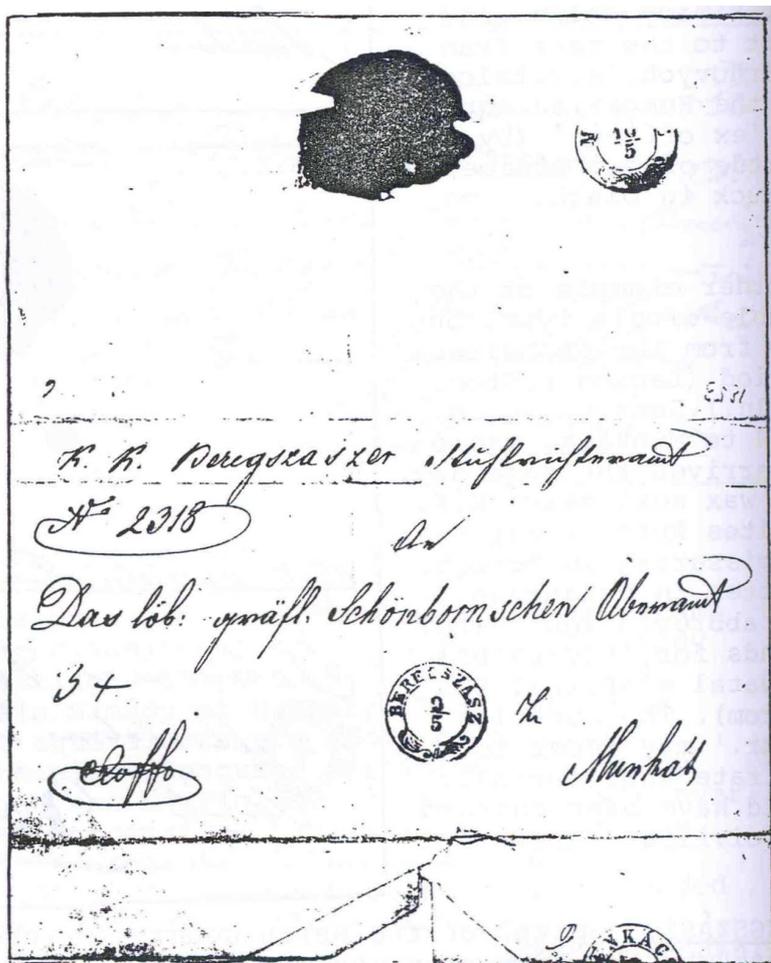


Fig. 13 [Source: »ЯМЩИК - The POST-RIDER«, no. 11 (November 1982), page 44].

HUSZT, in Máramaros county. Population of 2712 in 1835. (Chust; ГУСТЪ; ХУСТЪ; ХУСТ).

(a)

HUSZT

Single-line type used in black from 1839 to 1846 [see fig. 14]. Note the weight “2 L.” = 25.6 grams or 0.9 oz. Sent 24. 7. 1839 to Pest. A. Cronin Colln.

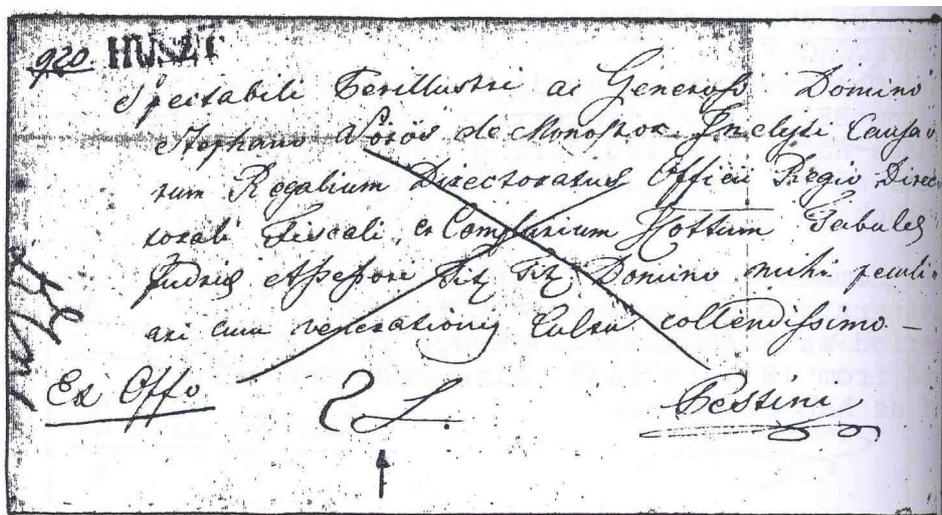


Fig. 14 [Source: »ЯМЩИК - The POST-RIDER«, no. 11 (November 1982), page 44].

Another example [fig. 15] in the Dr. Simády Colln again addressed to Bishop Vasyl Popovych at Ungvár, with note “In stricte offosis” at bottom left and with notation “1L” at bottom centre. Sent by the Deacon at Dolha (Dovhe).

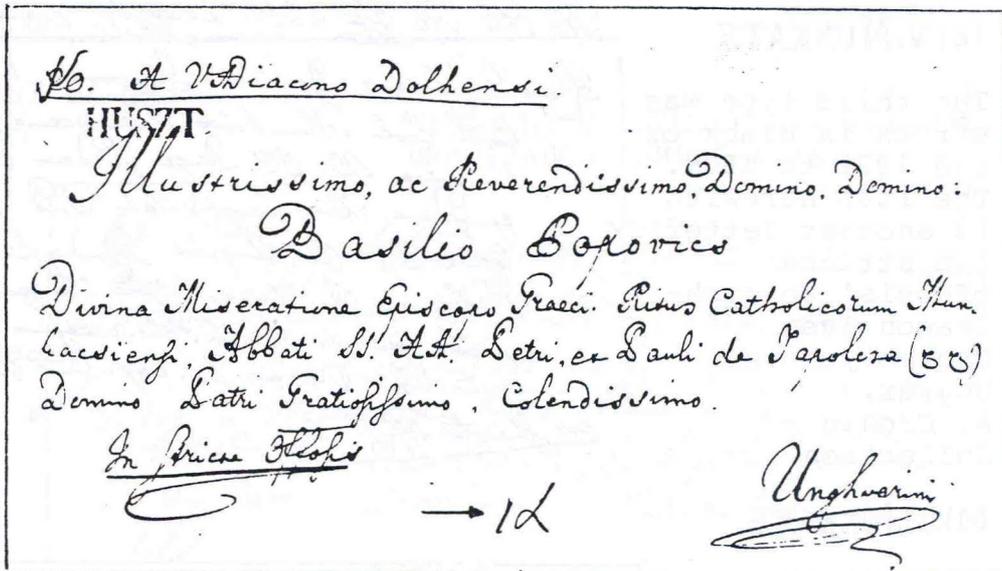


Fig. 15 [Source: »ЯМЩИК - The POST-RIDER«, no. 11 (November 1982), page 45].

[This postmark was recently found in greenish-blue from 1848.]

(b)



The double-circle type was struck in black or green as from 1847. The example here [fig. 16] is another item to Bishop Popovych. Dr. Béla Simády Collection.

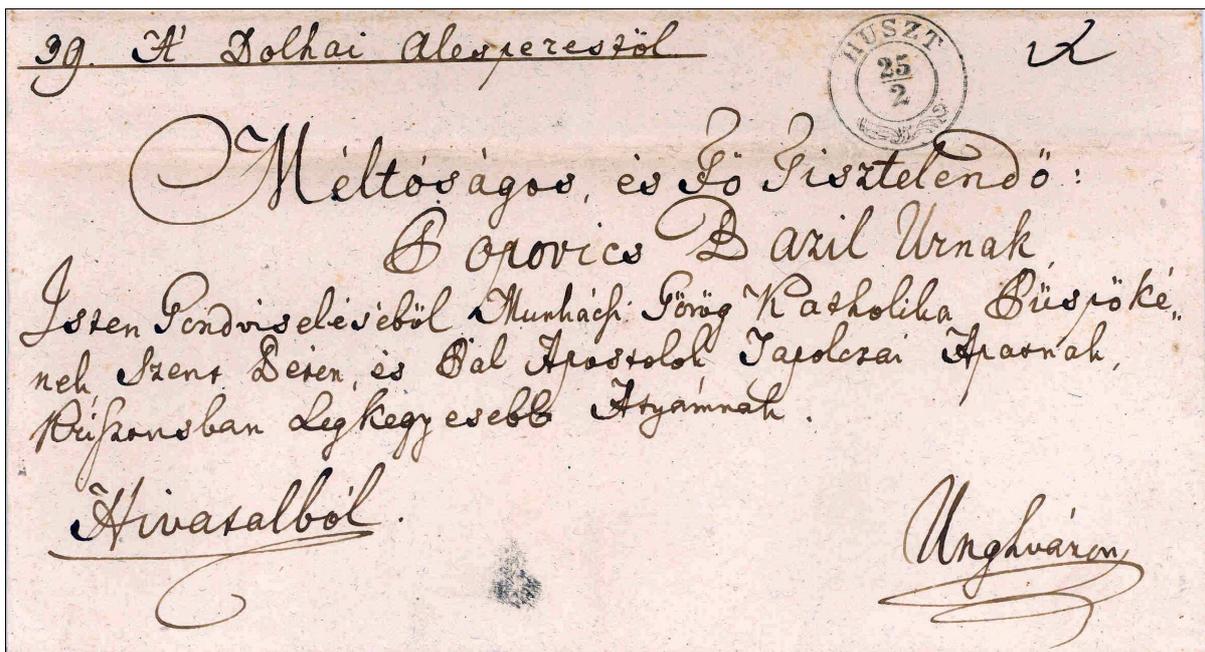


Fig. 16: Official letter, Huszt to Ungvár, February 25th, 1848. Simády collection.

MUNKÁCS, in Bereg county. Population in 1835: 3223. The place-name then spelt MUNKÁTS (Mukačevo; МУКАЧЕВО; МУКАЧЕВЕ).

(a)

V.MUNKATS

This type used in black and red 1818 to 1827. None of us has strikes and it is rare.

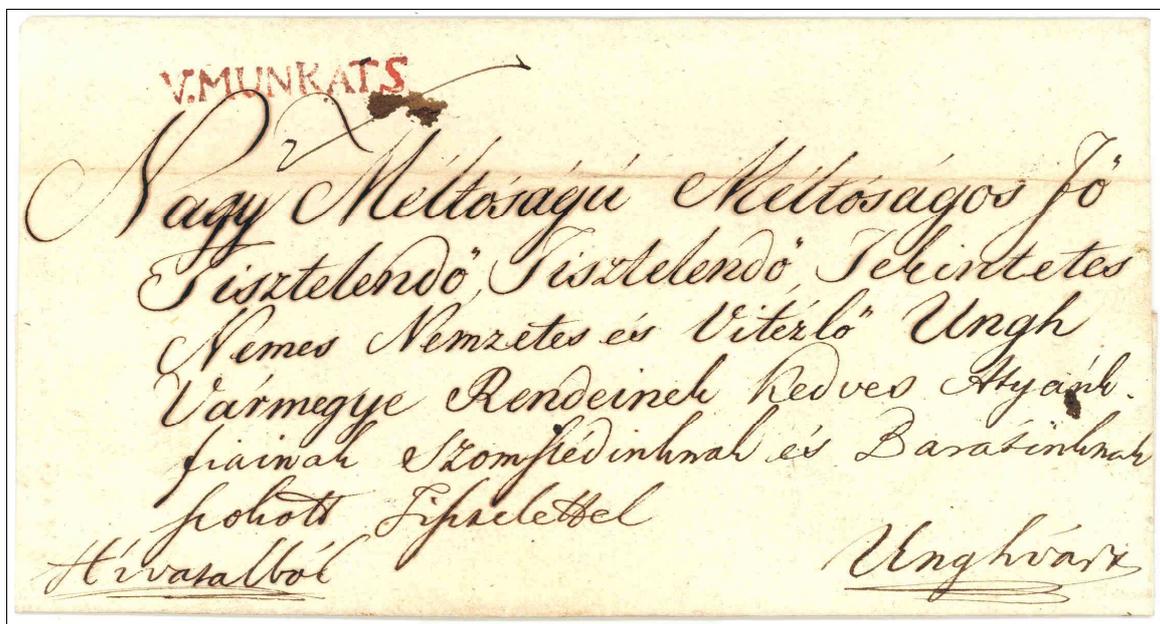


Fig. 17: Official letter, Munkács to Ungvár, January 5th, 1826. Simády collection.

(b)

MUNKÁTS

Used in black and red 1823 to 1848. Also rare and item here [fig. 18] is official letter sent March 1843 from Royal Military Fortress to Vienna. Dr. W. Rauch Collection.

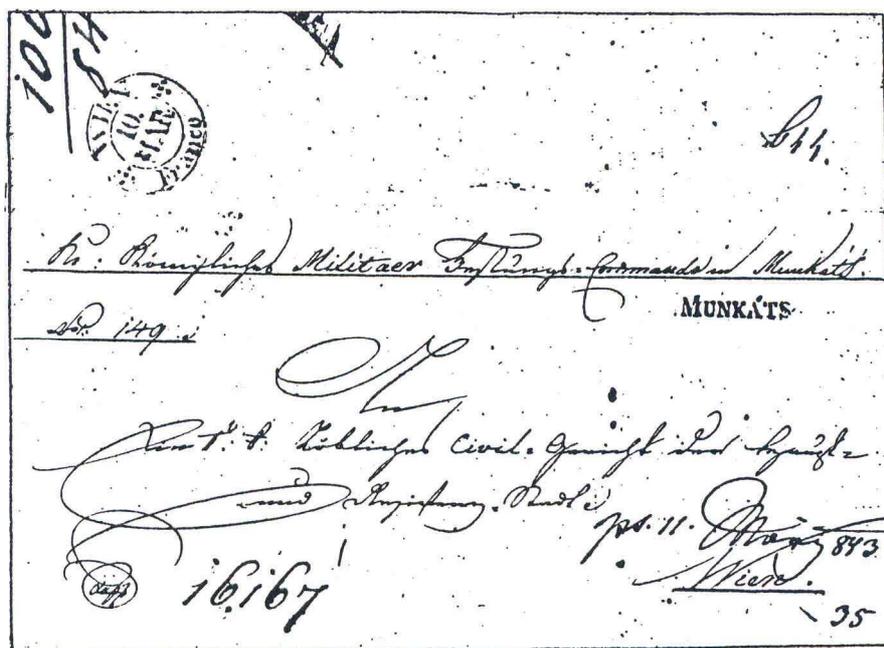


Fig. 18 [Source: »ЯМЩИК - The POST-RIDER«, no. 11 (November 1982), page 45].

The double-circle mark was applied from 1849 in black, but seen by us so far only as transit post-mark. See Beregszász and Ungvár.
 [Applied from 1848 to 1861.]

The final item shown here [fig. 21] was sent on 4 May 1849 from Hungarian Rebel Government at Debrecen to Munkács Fort, asking for sulphur to make gunpowder! Dr. Walter J. Rauch Collection.

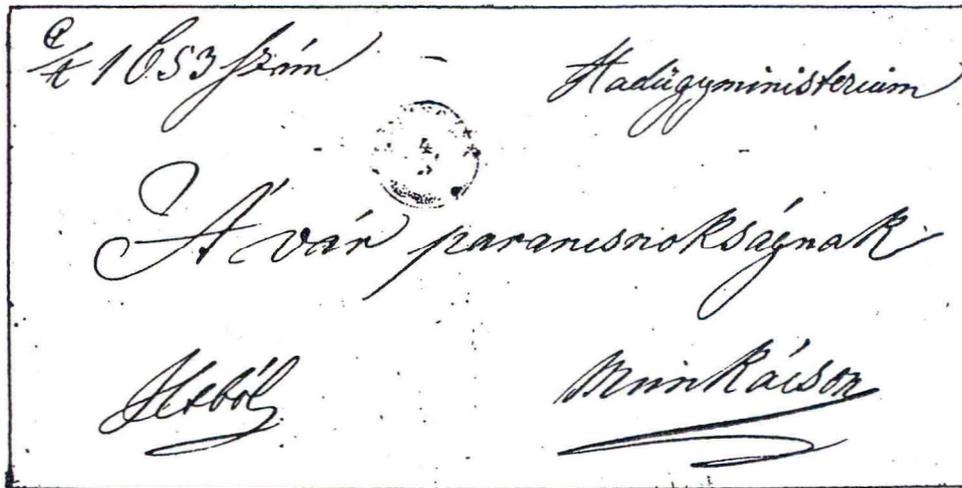


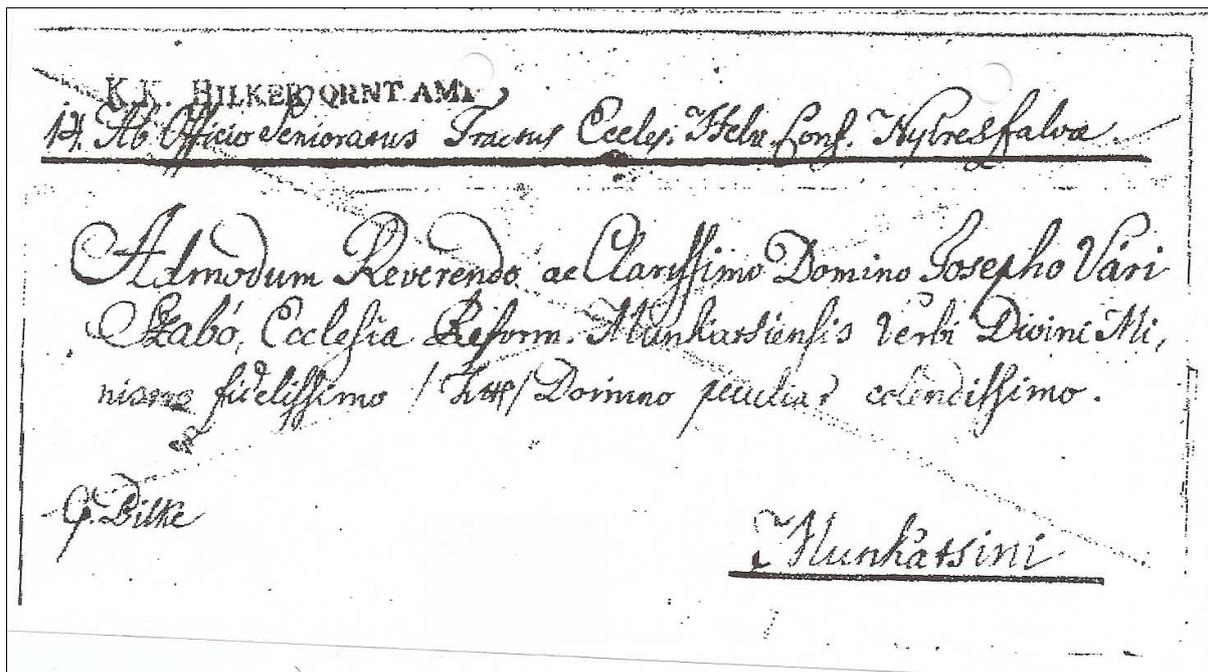
Fig. 21 [Source: »ЯМЩИК - The POST-RIDER«, no. 11 (November 1982), page 46].

[To be continued]

Jan Rompes

Forgery of the "K. K. BILKER QRNT AMT" Mark

The following b/w copy from my archive shows a forged cover with the (rather rare) mark of the "K. K. BILKER QRNT AMT". In the »Handbook of the Hungarian Pre Stamp Mail« (1983) this mark is listed for the year 1798 and is awarded 2000 points - twice the 1000 points for the red negative seal of Ungvár. The sender's address is given as Nyíresfalva - typical for this type of forgery.



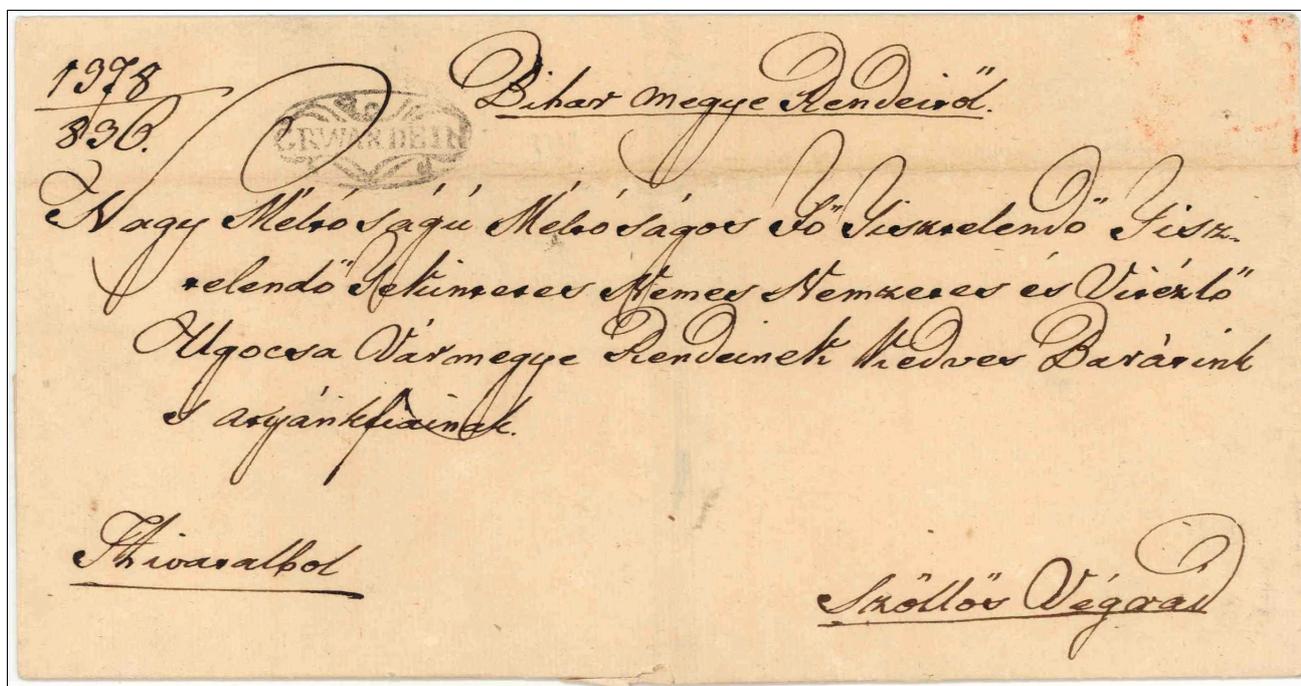
FORGERY.

Helmut Kobelbauer

Another Pre-Stamp Letter to Szöllősvégardó

In SCM #019 I wrote about the post office Nyíresfalva, working from 1787 till 1838 (i. e., in the pre-stamp period), and registered as having no postmark. In SCM #020 I then showed a registered letter from Pest to the adjacent postal station Szöllősvégardó (now Pidvynohradiv in the Ukraine).

By good luck I have found another pre-stamp letter to Szöllősvégardó:

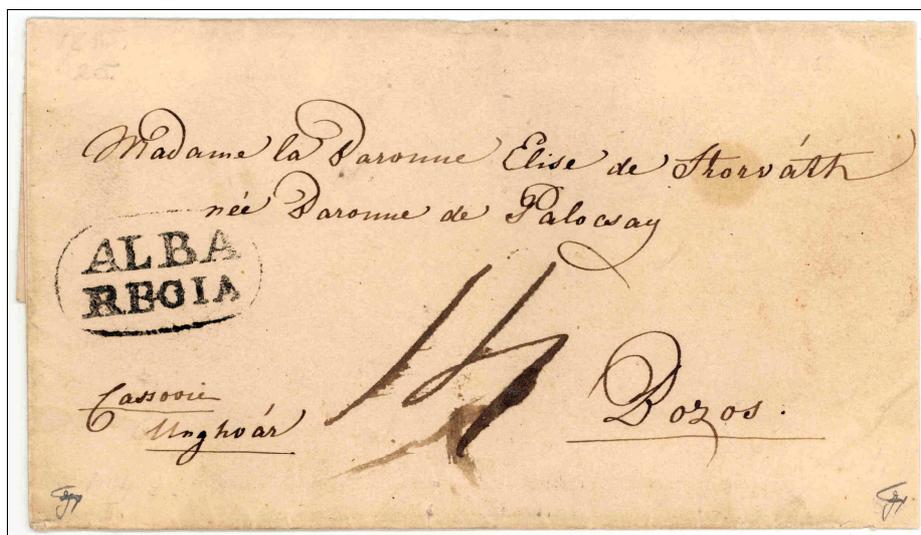


Cover of official letter from Grosswardein, February 28th, 1836, to Szöllősvégardó.

This cover was offered as lot 1085 in the 177th Darabanth auction in Budapest.

Helmut Kobelbauer

But Where is Bozos ?

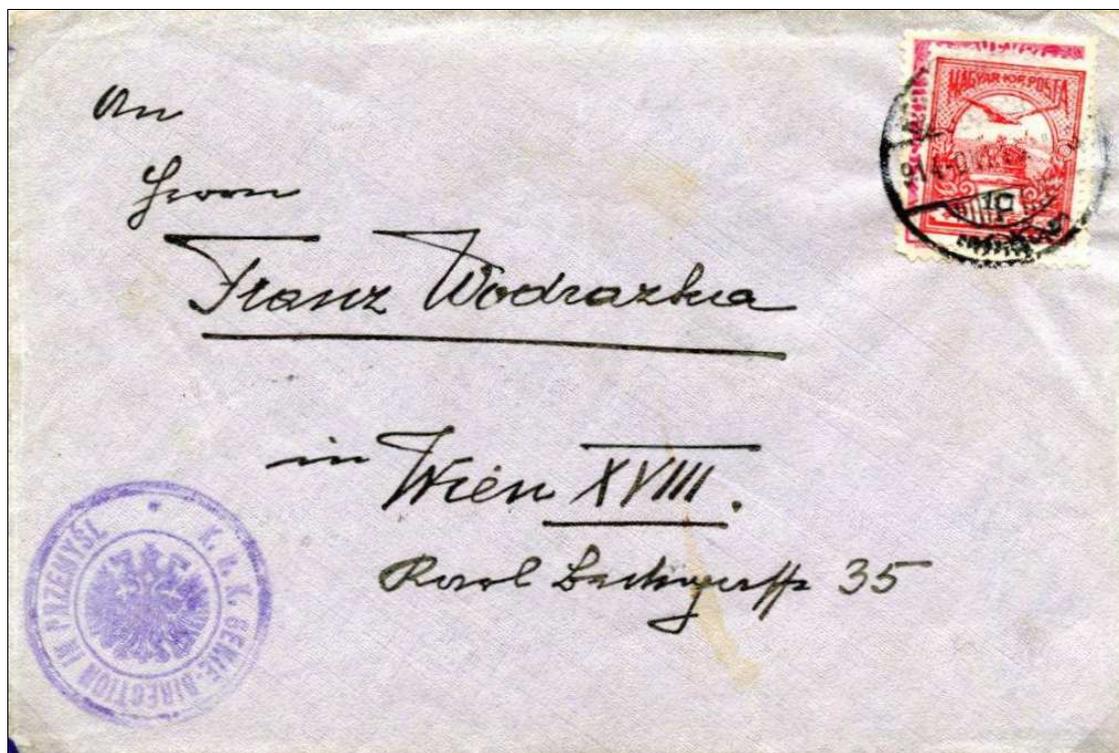


Cover of a private letter, Alba Regia, July 4th, 1835, to Bozos.

Answer in the next issue of the »Sub-Carpathian Messenger« (whenever it is published).

Helmut Kobelbauer (with help from Alexander Kustan)
Two Unusual Letters from Przemysł in 1914

Alexander Kustan from Vienna, one of the most prominent collectors of (civil and military) air mail during the First World War, including the air mail from and to the fortress Przemysł during its two sieges, has kindly forwarded the scans of two quite interesting letters.



Letter, originating in Przemysł, October 15th, 1914, to Vienna.

The first letter, written five days after the end of the first siege, carries the violet circular cachet “K. u. K. GENIE-DIRECTION IN PRZEMYSŁ **” of the Engineering Corps. Originally franked with a 10h stamp from Austria (for use in Galicia), but then had a Hungarian 10f stamp affixed over the Austrian stamp. (For civil mail, one could not use a Austrian stamp in Hungary and vice versa.)

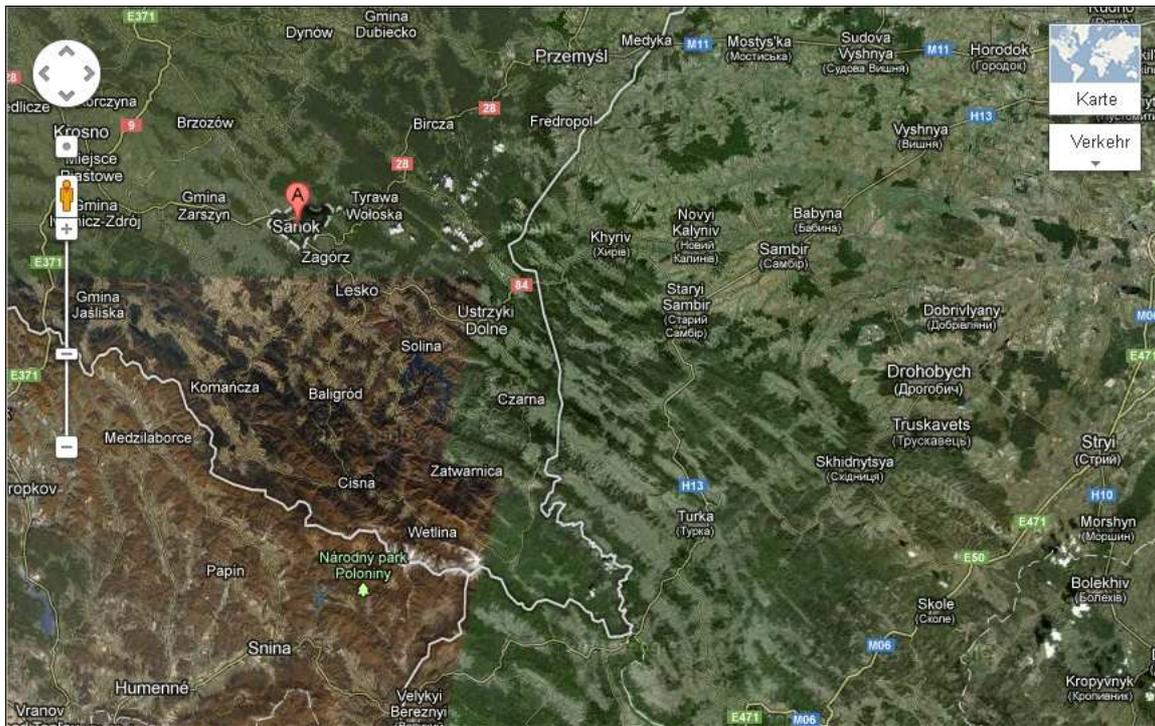
In the text of the letter it says: “A lieutenant going to Sanok is going to post this letter.” and “The siege is over and I am well. The enemy has suffered very heavy losses. We were bombarded day and night. Did you get my card sent with a flyer October 5th ?”

The Hungarian stamp affixed over the Austrian 10h does not appear to be cancelled in Sanok, but is dated October 15th, 1914. The letter was not censored which explains why it was sent unsealed.

[Remark of the editor:

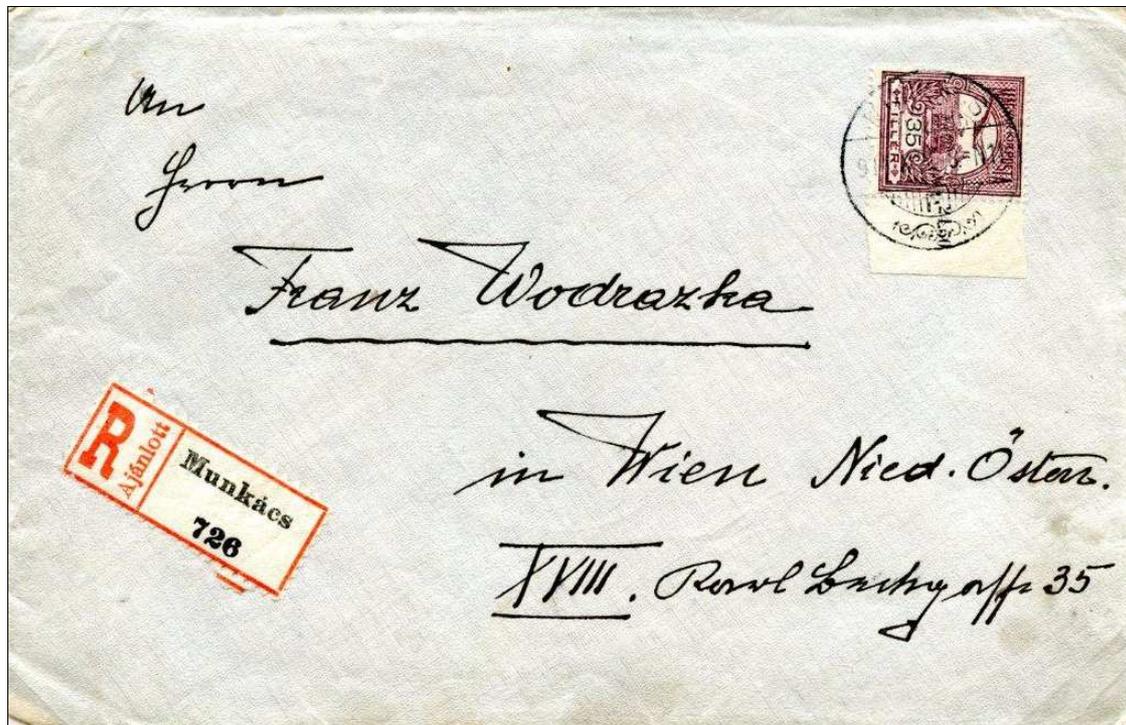
The presence of a Hungarian stamp indicates that the letter was posted on Hungarian territory. The post office in Sanok, lying in Western Galicia, would certainly have accepted the Austrian stamp and would have rejected the Hungarian one. Also the cancellation, although one cannot read the name of the post office, is definitely from a device of the Hungarian Royal Mail.

Therefore one has to conclude that the lieutenant (or, at least, the letter) did not stop in Sanok, but went on - probably towards Homonná (today Humenné in the Slovak Republic). The so-called “First Hungaro-Galician Railway”, i. e., *Első Magyar-Gácsországi Vasút* /EMG, an originally private Hungarian railway opened in 1874 and nationalized in 1889, crossed the Carpathians to Galicia and connected stations in Homonná, Mezőlaborcz and Lisko through the Łupków tunnel with Sanok, Rymanów and Brzozów.]



From Google maps with thanks: Map including Przemysl, Sanok, and Humenné.

Written November 3rd, 1914, the second letter states in its text “I send this by a man going to Hungary. Because of the circumstances, don’t worry if you do not hear from me. It may be a considerable time. I have sent 200 crowns by post”.



Registered letter, Munkács, November 8th, 1914, to Vienna.

The letter was posted in Munkács on November 8th, 1914. Przemysl by then was under siege again (since November 7th). An unusual alternative of the registered mail to avoid a backlog and ensure delivery of post from Przemysl. This letter was also posted unsealed to clear any censorship (as a civilian letter). Munkács lies on the railway line from Stryj to Csap.

Helmut Kobelbauer
A Few Additions

In my article “The Czechoslovak Field Post in Sub-Carpathia in 1919 and 1920” (SCM #022, pages 12 to 20) I mentioned the boxed canceller of Polní Pošta 14 used in Mukačevo (Munkács) in early 1920. From the 82th Brnofila Auction (September 16th, 2012) I can show another example:



Field post letter, Polní pošta 14, January 18th, 1920, to Ovesná Lhota.
With boxed canceller “P. P. 14 18. 1. 20 / MUKAČEVO” in violet.

This is the earliest use of the (rare) boxed canceller that I know of. (The colour distribution in the picture of the letter has been adapted to make the weak strike of the canceller better visible.)

Concerning Petr Gebauer’s article (SCM #021, pages 14 to 16) and especially the censorship mark from Skole, our reliable friends Peter Cybaniak and Roman Dubyniak from Leeds (GB) write in a letter:

“As to the Skole censorship. It is certainly Ukrainian. It is quite typical of Western Ukraine censorship at the time. It means ‘Checked’ at Skole. It is the first time we have seen this censorship marking – it is unlisted in the John Bulat book on Ukrainian philately [i. e. »Comprehensive Catalogue of Ukrainian Philately« (1992)] so it is quite an amazing find.”



and further

“We can confirm that Lawozne (Lavochna) was under the control of the Western Ukraine authorities on [the relevant day, i. e.] 13. 2. 1919.”

They have also sent copies of pages 175 to 178 of John Bulat’s book with examples of Ukrainian censorship marks - as always being perfectly helpful. Many thanks!

For your information: In 2013, Košice (Kaschau / Kassa / Koshytsi) will be the European Capital of Culture. On this occasion there will be a conference on the postal history of this Central European Region (May 3rd to 4th, 2013). Amongst others, Miroslav Bachratý and your editor will give presentations on special aspects of Slovak and Carpatho-Ukraine postal history. Feel invited to come!

Helmut Kobelbauer

Rare Hungarian Postmark Sold on eBay

The post office of Tiszabogdány (in the Máramaros county) was opened in 1885. This village had 3419 inhabitants according to the 1910 census (231 Hungarians, 360 Germans, 2823 Ruthenians) and is today Богдан (Bogdan) in the Ukraine.

Its first postmark (Márfai-Szép #5687.a, page 377) had the text “BOGDÁN-LUHI” and was in use from 1885 to 1901. Although assigned just 10 points on the Hungarian envelope issue (1874 to 1900), it is quite rare.



Millenium stationery (for domestic use), Tiszabogdány (Bogdán-Luhi), September 23rd, 1896, to Pozsony.



This item was offered on eBay as #2610-0527-0017 and was sold for USD 122,50. One can only congratulate the buyer of this nice postal history item.

Helmut Kobelbauer

Late Parcel Card from Hungarian Postal Agency Derczen

In the »Sub-Carpathian Messenger« #017 (September 2011) we had gathered “all” printed information about postal agencies in the Kárpátalja between 1900 and 1918. From an Austrian friend’s collection I can show a quite late parcel card from the postal agency Derczen:

Postai szállítólevél. — Derczen p. ii. 48 381 3569 7
Raktárkönyv, vagy kézbesítési könyv folyó száma

Csatolva dt. árúbevallás vagy más okmány.
Ci-joint déclarations en douane ou autres documents.

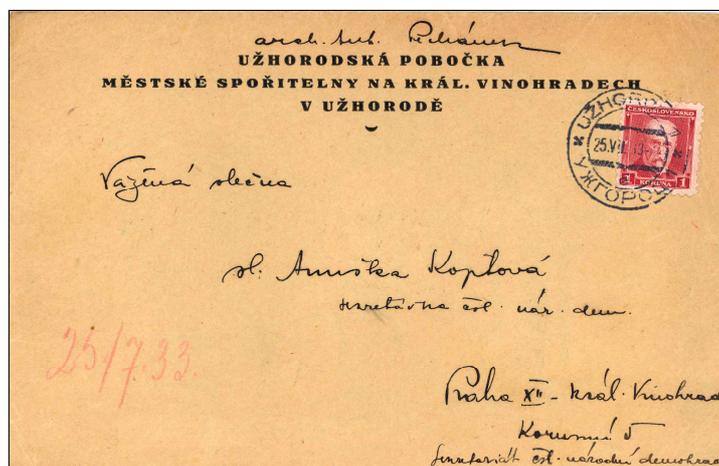
Érték: — Valeur:
K. C.
neme Forme csomag
tartalma Contenu
Czim }
A }
Rendeltetési hely }
Lieu de destination }
Kerület, városrész, utca, házzszám }
Arrondissement, quartier, rue, No. }
Utolsó posta }
Dernier bureau de poste }
Postai előjegyzések: — Notices postales:
Súly }
Poids } kg gr. Porto K f
C. d.
Irányítás }
Acheminement }
Íszere magára a csomag göngyöletére írni. — A csomagra és a szállítólevélre írt ozimnek teljesen meg kell egyezni.

Parcel card, Derczen, May 15th, 1918, to Budapest.

Helmut Kobelbauer

Drawings of Gypsy Quarters in Užhorod

In an unsuspecting cover from the Czechoslovak period I have found two drawings of the “Gypsy” quarters in Užhorod. Would somebody recognize the name of the artist ?



Private letter, Užhorod, July 25th, 1933, to Prague.

Miroslav Bachratý (with some ant's work by Helmut Kobelbauer)

Additional Information on the “Neresnice - Teresva” Postmark

In the usual (Czech and Slovak) terminology we would not call this postal course a “Travelling Post Office” (T. P. O.) because it was not a travelling postal and sorting office in a wagon of its own but consisted only of one person, so was rather similar to the old “Postconductor im Zuge” of Austrian times. The correct term (in Slovak) was “Úhrnná preprava železničná” (ÚPŽ). These were working on less important local railway lines and had no number.

In the »*Monografie Československých Známeček*«, vol. 17/II (1988), pages 388 - 391, the author of this volume, Ing. Emil Votoček, wrote about these postmarks but did not include a list because both official documents and known pieces were scarce.

A catalogue of railway postmarks in the First Czechoslovak Republic (1919 - 1939), in the Protectorate (1939 - 1945) and the Slovak State (1939 - 1945) was published as issue 32 (1991) in the series »*Filatelistické State*« of the Slovak Philatelic Association (ZSF).



Title page of the mentioned booklet.

The following list [extracted by the editor] is reproduced from this booklet (pages 120 - 133) and gives all “ÚPŽ” postmarks with relevance to the Podkarpatská Rus:

#	Text	From - To	4	5	6
1	ANTALOVCE - UŽHOROD x АНТАЛОВЦЬ - УЖГОРОДЬ x	1921 - 1932	sine	D	20
2	ANTALOVCE - UŽHOROD x АНТАЛОВЦЬ - УЖГОРОДЬ x a, b	1932 - 1938	I	D	20
10	BÁNOVCE NAD ONDAVOU - UŽHOROD x Č. S. P.	1922 - 1932	sine	D	16
13	BAŤOVO - MUKAČEVO – БАТЬОВО - МУКАЧЕВО x a	1931 - 1938	I	D	20
14	BAŤU - MUKAČEVO – БАТЮ - МУКАЧЕВО x a	1926 - 1931	sine	D	25
19	BEREHOVO - KUŠNICE x БЕРЕГОВО - КУШНИЦЯ x a, b	1929 - 1938	I	D	22
73	ČOP - UŽHOROD x ЧОП - УЖГОРОДЬ x Č. S. P. x	1921 - 1934	sine	D	25
74	ČOP - UŽHOROD xxx a	1934 - 1938	I	D	25
156	JASINA - MICHALANY x Č. S. P. x	1921 - 193?	sine	D	40
174	KIRALHAZA - TERESVA x КИРАЛГАЗА - ТЕРЕСВА x Č. S. P.	1923 - 1935	I	D	25
192	KRÁLOVO NAD TISOU - NICOLAE TITULESCU xxx a	1937 - 1938	I	D	60
193	KRÁLOVO NAD TISOU - TERESVA x a	1935 - 1938	I	D	40
209	KUŠNICE - BEREHOVO x КУШНИЦЯ - БЕРЕГОВО x a, b	1929 - 1938	I	D	20
257	MICHALANY - JASINA x Č. S. P. x	1921 - 193?	sine	D?	50
274	MUKAČEVO - BAŤOVO x МУКАЧЕВО - БАТЬОВО	1931 - 1938	I	D	40
275	MUKAČEVO - BAŤU x МУКАЧЕВО - БАТЮ x a	1926 - 1931	sine	D	50
279	NICOLAE TITULESCU - KRÁLOVO NAD TISOU xxx a	1937 - 1938	I	D	40
282	NERESNICE - TERESVA x НЕРЕСНИЦЯ - ТЕРЕСВА x a	1930 - 1938	I	D	45
283	NEREŽNICE - TEREŠVA x НЕРЕЖНИЦЕ - ТЕРЕСВА x a	1926 - 1930	I	D	50
288	NICOLAE TITULESCU - KRÁLOVO NAD TISOU xxx a	1937 - 1938	I	D	60
433	TERESVA - KIRALHAZA x ТЕРЕСВА - КИРАЛГАЗА x Č. S. P.	1923 - 1935	I	D	25
434	TERESVA - KRÁLOVO NAD TISOU x a	1935 - 1938	I	D	40
435	TERESVA - NERESNICE x ТЕРЕСВА - НЕРЕСНИЦЯ x a	1930 - 1938	blok	D	45
436	TEREŠVA - NEREŽNICE x ТЕРЕШВА - НЕРЕЖНИЦЕ x a	1926 - 1930	I	D	50
465	UŽHOROD - ANTALOVCE x УЖГОРОДЬ - АНТАЛОВЦЬ x a, b	1932 - 1938	I	D	16
466	UŽHOROD - ANTALOVCE x Č. S. P. x a	1921 - 1932	sine	D	25
467	UŽHOROD - BÁNOVCE NAD ONDAVOU x Č. S. P. x	1922 - 1932	sine	D	25
468	UŽHOROD - ČOP x УЖГОРОДЬ - ЧОПЬ x Č. S. P. x	1921 - 1934	sine	D	25
469	UŽHOROD - ČOP xxx a	1934 - 1938	I	D	16
470	UŽHOROD - VOJANY x Č. S. P. x	1922 - 1925?	I	J?	50

The column “#” gives the number according to the list in the original table; “Text” is the text of the respective canceller; “From - To” gives the period of use; the column “4” indicates the number of the course (I, II; sine = no number; blok = blockade  instead of number); the column “5” indicates the directionality (J = postal course in just one direction, D = postal course in both directions); and finally column “6” gives the points (value) for a strike of the canceller.

Jan Verleg in his »*Carpatho Ukraine. Postal History and Stamps 1786 - 2000*« on page 100 (of the 2nd edition, 2007) mentioned such postmarks from railway courses, too. The list in his monograph has 10 entries which not always coincide with entries in the above list.

Therefore the search for ÚPŽ cancellations from the Podkarpatská Rus should go on ...

Mervyn Benford

The Visszatért Period in Kárpátalja (Carpatho-Ukraine/Ruthenia)

I write this from a Hungarian perspective, not so much from a point of view of political sympathy for Hungarian concerns but so much as from a collector of Hungarian postal history perspective. Trianon removed the Kárpátalja territory from Hungary, part of the 70 % total given away, and I have always had some sympathy for the sheer injustice of that. The 1930s 'Justice for Hungary' movement was not just the dealing between Hitler and Mussolini that launched revision in 1938 but an international movement for revision led by such as Lord Rothermere, editor of the UK "Daily Mail".

The 1938 Vienna Award, never recognised internationally, restored some mainly urban centres to Hungary along with a strip of Slovakia that had long historical associations with Hungary through places like Pozsony (Bratislava) and Kassa (Košice). It was an honest attempt to refine the central ethnic ambitions of Trianon - to free Hungary's many pre-war ethnic groups from Magyar domination. Unfortunately Magyar domination in urban areas was solid. The non-Magyar populations were more heavily rural.

By 1939 Czechoslovakia was under Hitler's pressure such that Slovakia and the Kárpátalja province included in the Trianon Czechoslovak State both had thoughts of independence and Hungary took advantage of this to launch a military occupation in the spring of 1939 that restored the entire territory to its rule.

The 1938 decisions had been long negotiated and the postal authorities were prepared. Key towns were accorded special celebratory postal markings which from the first day of official return to Hungarian sovereignty adorned postal items along with the new normal post office date stamps. However, in Kárpátalja matters were far more sudden. Hungary had for many years employed temporary cancellers, mere numbers, where offices need replacements or repairs for their standard types. To a degree in more rural areas the 1938 restored offices needed to work with these for some time. Many more such were needed in the Carpathian region after the final annexation.

It was a standard rule that temporary cancellers, having just a number, should not be used without some other form of identifying the place and so a manuscript or rubber stamp solution often occurred, but on some occasions this provision was ignored. Collectors can find examples of both.

Later, as life settled to Hungarian authority, deference to the Ruthenian ethnicity of many rural areas was recognised in bi-lingual versions of existing postal stationery cards as well as standard post office cancellers. These add a new dimension to collecting the postal history of the area at this time.



However there was a clear ethnic distinction. Aknaszlatina was given a bi-lingual cancellation (see above) but by 1944 was back to Magyar only under revised analysis of who were the majority living there. At the start of returning to Hungary authority this town had rubber temporary canceller 127 but later also had steel 357.

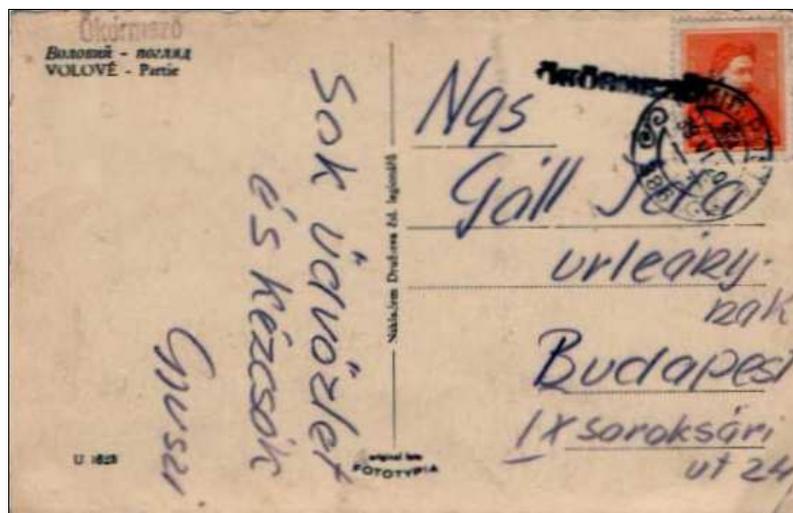
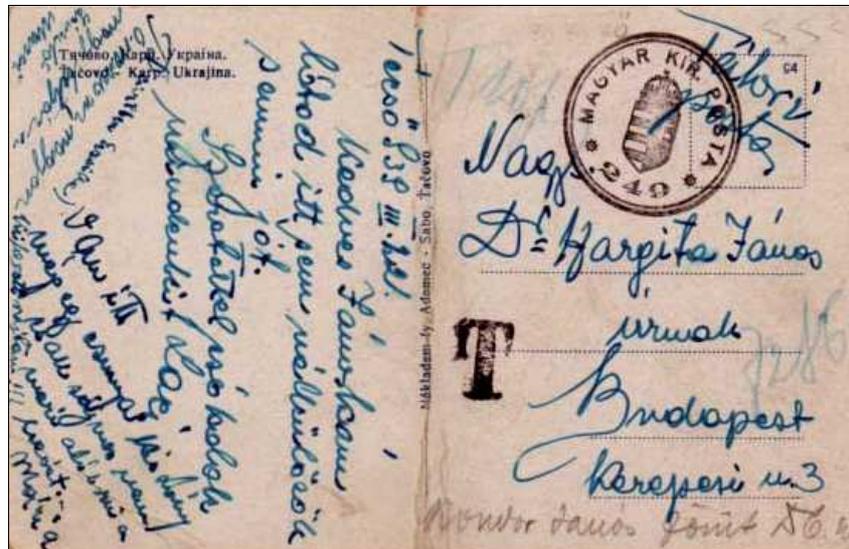


The temporary cancellers came from permanent reserve stock but many new ones were needed and so rubber stamp versions were quickly prepared alongside existing steel types. Inks might be black or lilac. My book on the Visszatért period is still available and lists all the numbers and where they were used, and dates if known. Clearly it was only until the new standard cancellers arrived. The time gaps will have varied. It is always possible that some usage during the Visszatért years may have been due to the normal long-running system for cancellers needing repair or replacement. Dates of use close to the known periods of occupation are very likely related to the return to Hungarian sovereignty.

Some curious examples have come to light. A picture postcard of Alsó Verecke (the Hungarian name not given on the card) was posted still in March 1939, March 24th or 25th, to Budapest carrying the 10f Hungarian Széchenyi definitive but the only canceller available was the bi-lingual Czech-Ruthenian and though the Hungarian rule about always identifying the place-name was also honoured despite it not being a new anonymous numbered temporary canceller, the place name still in its Czech straight line was applied.

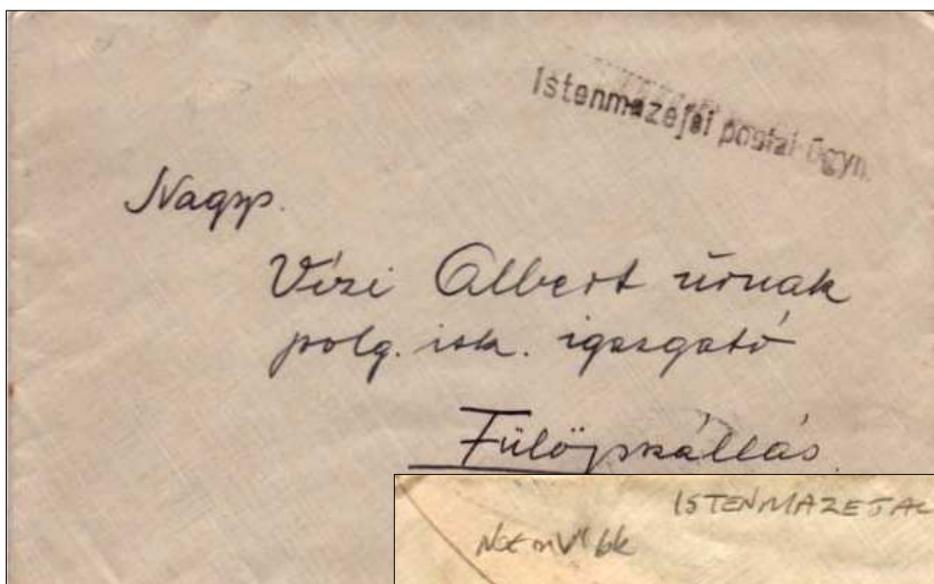


A picture postcard of Técső, again with the printed information only Czech and Ruthenian, was posted to Budapest also still in March, namely 22nd, but as a Field Post mailing, unfranked. However, despite being identified for Postage Due it seems none was collected! I show an envelope sent at letter rate to Prague much later, in November 1939, from Kisberezna with the registration label bi-lingual. I show two picture postcards from Ökörmező, the earlier one with just temporary steel canceller 386 used in June 1939 with the correctly placed straight line place-name also applied, the later one having the new also bi-lingual cds mark.





Postal agencies, or what we in the UK tend to call sub-offices returned during the 'V' years but whether restoring existing services or creating new ones remains uncertain and worthy of further research. I have a cover with a straight-line ISTENMEZEJE postal agency marking and a temporary cds on the stamps, No. 117 or maybe 717 or any combination of those digits - none of which finds that location in my comprehensive lists of temporary cancellers in my book. At first supposing that Kárpatalja might be somewhere any emergency postmarking format might have appeared I assumed it was so but reference to gazetteers shows it is in Heves county. But maybe it betokens some provisional arrangements during these years in parts of Hungary - or restored Hungary.



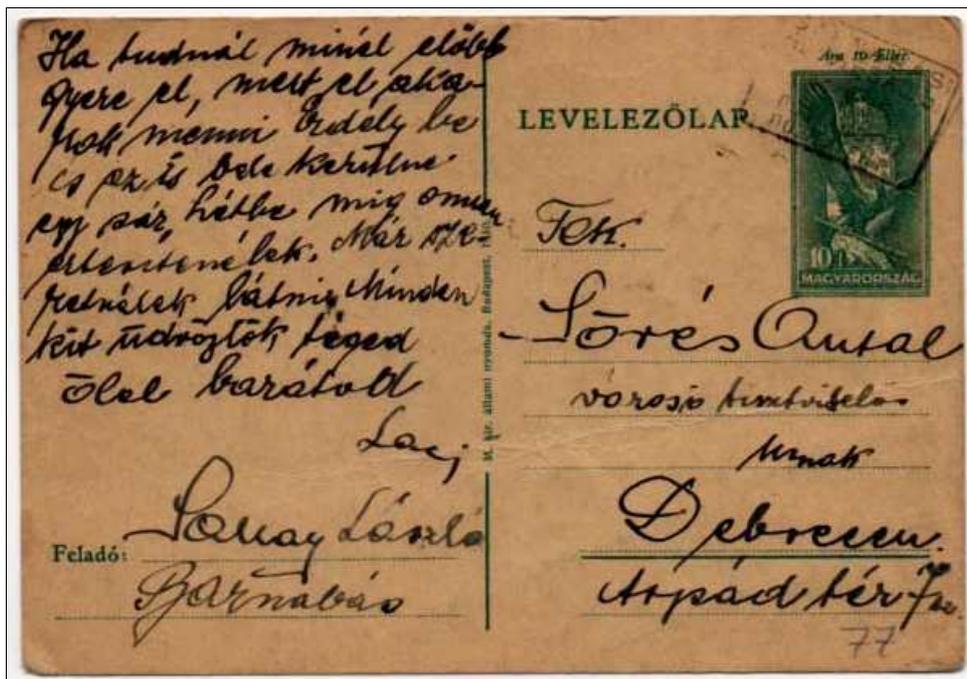
Though my lists come from the excellent researches of Dr. Palotás Zoltán, they show no such place and a steel canceller 117 not used until Maroshéviz in Romania in 1940. In Kárpátalja there was a rubber 117 only, identified as in use at

Szentmiklós. Maybe agency issue details were not so available. The envelope still had its letter, clearly a love letter!



However, I show a standard rectangular but bi-lingual example on a postcard from Barnabás. The ink is not evenly spread but the name is clear on close inspection and matches the sender's address. It is listed on page 582 of Monográfiá Volume VI as from 1941 to the Soviet era but the bracketed date shows 14th March 1940. The cancellation date shows just '94' so not clear what year it was sent but the stationary imprint of the stationery 10f card shows 1940. Unfortunately the writer gives no date.

The second postcard is from Nagyberezna with a standard bi-lingual cds. I have this as early as 1940 but this card shows it still in use in 1944. However, the sender's address says Nagyberezna Postafiók 21- the modern word for agency or sub-office. So was this a separate postal location or were some circular cancellers - maybe for Nagyberezna - issued for possibly more important sub-offices? Or does it reflect changes brought by the presumably deteriorating war situation by July 24th/25th 1944? [Postafiók simply means post box. The editor]



All these postmarks are particularly intriguing and collectable. During the short years of return the normal range of conventional commemorative and other postal markings occurred here and there from time to time. Many towns had their own typically local, regional events for which special commemorative cancellations were prepared and some major national events also came to the region during its brief restored Hungarian life. Munkács had the Zrinyi anniversary in 1943.

It follows that cancellations of smaller post offices in the returned territories will be very much scarcer than those from the towns and larger villages. Not only would literacy levels be lower but also populations were smaller. Temporary cancellers lingered longer and the periods of use of the new standard types will have been short considering that everything changed again in 1946.

One feature flowing from the use of temporary cancellers was that many could have been used in more than one Visszatért region. My list shows many examples where a canceller used in, say, Slovakia or Kárpátalja turns up again at the time of restorations in Romania or Yugoslavia. Information about known dates of use is always most welcome as in the majority of cases this is discovered only from examples found.

The movable canceller feast also in a more customary way applies to field post office movements during the Visszatért years. Hungary returned always with troops in the van and where troops go so do field post offices. It is another intriguing challenge for collectors since the exact location of field post offices is never known except to later researchers with access to relevant records. There are sometimes clues on mail items. For example in Romania some commemorative celebratory cards and envelopes received not only the special Visszatért cachets and the new standard cds but also bear an FPO postmark which would suggest that particular unit was not too far away.

In the Carpathian province all the official 1938 Visszatért restorations were centred on the three towns of Munkács, Ungvár and Beregszász. It always amused me that while I have long been aware of how minor detail differences seem to matter to some collectors and accorded special status in catalogues often, there has been to date little interest from Hungarian collectors anywhere in the kind of things that I have discovered about the commemorative 'V' cancellations themselves. For example there are two different designs to the Crown in the Kolozsvár cachet, the second one distinctly harder to find. Nagyvárad was the only newly-liberated Romanian example where the cachet was available in a second post office, in this case No. 2, the usual office at a railway station. It had also occurred in Kassa and Érsekújvár in Slovakia.

In each of these three Carpathian region examples there are minor differences arguing that either more than one cachet was in use albeit in the main office only, or replacements came into use for some reason. The Beregszász cachet shares its design with that used in Érsekújvár and the letters of the names come in thicker or thinner forms, indicating two cancellers in use in each town. In the case of Beregszász it is most noticeable in the 'R' and 'G'. Munkács has two sizes, overall diameters of 34mm and 38mm and two inks, lilac and black, are known. Similarly it is possible to detect two forms of upper case letters for the Ungvár cachet.

[I hope that we can show examples of such minor differences in a future issue. The editor]

The 'V' atmosphere was of course electric, at least for Hungarians in the province. But there were no attempts to anticipate the commemorations such as had happened early in Czechoslovakia where several other towns and communities resented not being included in the ones given special 'Visszatért' cachets. However, Juan E. Page, a significant researcher into Carpathian philately, believes that Hungary had prepared normal cancellers, monolingual as those for known Treaty places returning, for a lot of other places for the November 1938 dating of the first batch of restorations. I listed 19 in my book. They were not of course issued. It is possible this was simply postal authority enthusiasm and mis-reading of the political grapevine vis á vis the Treaty talks and the further negotiations the Treaty authorised under which several minor additional decisions on territory occurred.

Munkács was one of those places listed by the Gobby/Gazda list of Polish Internment camps. Poles were fleeing Hitler's take-over of Poland and Hungary had long history of friendship with Poland. Many escaped the camps because of this and the helpfulness of local people and so were enabled to reach neutral countries and eventually join the forces in many cases of the Allies. The 1939 annexation of Kárpátalja in fact restored the historical Hungarian-Polish border and in an earlier edition of this magazine I showed one of my five commemorative photo postcards which celebrated the fact with a special gathering in the snow. An enterprising dealer prepared patriotic cards celebrating the new situation.

As a result of the Vienna awards and the imminent arrival of Hungarian troops in November 1938 some Czech Field Post Offices needed re-location. Nos. 12 and 29 had served areas around Ungvár and removed to Perecsény on October 20th and no doubt had to move again as a result of the 1939 changes. No. 29 moved around this time to Michalovce while No. 24 moved from Munkács to Szolyva. (The information about No. 29 came from John Whiteside, at the time one of the Czech society's leading experts, now sadly deceased.)

A major factor was restoration of railways. Former TPO routes became available again, not least in the more Magyar dominated territory that had been taken at Trianon purely to create non-Hungarian through routes between Czechoslovakia and Romania and under which the town of Sátoraljaújhely had had a portion given to Czechoslovakia just to provide a station for that route.

As with normal postmarks TPO cancellers took time to be prepared and so there were also a series of specially commissioned temporary cancellers which gave no route details except in a very few cases, just Roman numerals to identify them. Lilac and black inks occur. My book identifies most of the routes and their Roman numerals. Particularly interesting was the return of trains running to the Galician border and we see Sianki as a terminus for the route through Ungvár. Again, some of these TPO cancellers had certain route names in bi-lingual forms out of respect for local Ruthenian ethnicity.

For a short period after restoration of Hungarian authority in the 1938 award areas, no more than a month, it was permissible to use Czech stamps on mail alone or alongside Hungarian. Such covers and cards are obviously very interesting. It happened a lot on the mail adorned with the celebratory 'V' cancels and in all restored territories. I have a nice example which has stamps of both countries, temporary canceller No. 249 and Field Post 21 marks. My list shows 249 to have been in use then in Técső though in this case the local postmaster gave no affirmative indications. The FPO marks cancelled only some of the stamps. T 249 cancelled the rest.

What I have written so far tends to apply to both the 1938 and 1939 territory restorations. It is important to understand the difference between one for which there was plenty of preparation time and one that followed hot political decision, however much they may have been mooted and discussed in earlier months. There was little of the ambitious commemorative celebrating although in Huszt, principal town of the non-Vienna Treaty territory, efforts were made to create something akin to celebration. I show one of two virtually identical covers that must have been hastily prepared locally.



The only differences between the two is that the one shown is

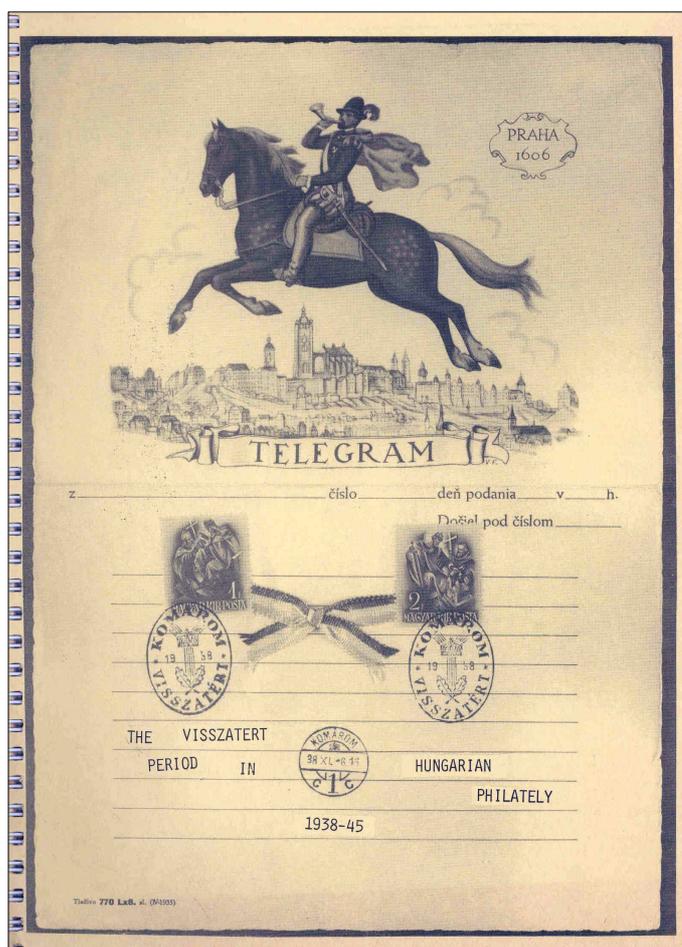
on white card while the other is buff and a little larger, and on the one shown the patriotic strip in red/white/green is wider and has text stamped on it. Both have the registration receipt affixed to the back. Different combinations of stamps occur and the rates are slightly different but perhaps one was heavier. It has to be remembered that in the preceding days not only had Slovakia declared independence but also the Carpatho-Ukraine non-Magyar version of national will, and theirs was extremely short-lived.



The postmark came from rubber temporary canceller 102 but I show a later postcard with steel 314 and correctly identified but with the bi-lingual version of the name - clearly not defined as majority Magyar. These differences, as with the two from Aknaszlatina mentioned earlier, may not necessarily be sequential. The second ones may have added to the first rather than replacing them. That is why recording dates of use is so important.

By 1944 the territory was under growing assault from Soviet armies driving west post-Stalingrad and the battles of the Don where the Hungarian 2nd Army was virtually obliterated. Progressively Hungary ceded ground and postal matters reverted to either local management and political loyalty and priority or eventual Soviet control. Stalin already had his eyes on this element in the eventual new peace settlements. Collectors can trace events mainly through the evidence of found covers, cards and other documents but much has been well documented by various researchers interested in the non-Hungarian perspective.

This article is too short to provide the fine detail that my book contained. The book is still available; its price £8 (10 euros) + £2 (3 euros) postage UK and £5 (8 euros) overseas) from me. Payment either cash or sterling cheque drawn on a UK bank account, or sterling bank draft.



Tom Cossaboom

A Week's Trip to Transcarpathia - Travel Report

This year's gathering of the ARGE Feldpost was a one-week bus tour of the Carpatho-Ukraine, a land of wooden churches and World War I battlefields. It is also a land of numerous peoples: Lemkos, Boykos, Hutsuls, Hungarians, Russians, Ukrainians, Ruthenians, Roma, and Jews. Isolated from the rest of the Ukraine by the Carpathian Mountains, it is one of Europe's little-known regions. While one cannot learn everything about an area during a one-week visit, I think the members of the tour got a glimpse into the area from where so many of their World War I Feldpost cards originated.

The tour began with a day-long bus ride across Hungary and into the Carpatho-Ukraine to Uzhhorod. Our first full day was spent on a walking tour of Uzhhorod, the largest city in the Carpatho-Ukraine. Stops included the market, the university, and a look at the various archi-

tectural styles of the buildings. We followed this with a short ride to the citadel and the ethnographical park which had examples of various peasant homes and where we saw our first wooden church.



Uzhhorod (UA): ARGE group on walking tour.

The next day we drove north of Uzhhorod up the Uzh River valley to Uzsok Pass. This is the area where numerous battles were fought during the winter of 1914 - 1915 and again during World War II. At the top of the pass there are small memorials to the World War I and II battles. There was also a small display explaining the World War I battles. Our lunch stop this day was at a small resort developed by a local Hungarian family. We also visited two more wooden orthodox churches, one dating to 1777.



Perechyn (UA):
Monument to 18th century
mailman who drowned in
Uzh river.



**Uzhok (UA):
St. Michael Orthodox Church.**

On day four it was time for us to move from Uzhhorod to Berehove, the center of the Hungarian community in the Carpatho-Ukraine. In route we visited a XIII century Templar's castle, an orthodox women's monastery and Mukachevo's Palanok Citadel. The citadel is the most impressive military fortification in the Carpatho-Ukraine. For centuries the citadel was also used as a prison for political prisoners.

**Berehove (UA):
Former Czechoslovak Casino.**

A walking tour of Berehove took us to the Hungarian regional museum, the Hungarian gymnasium and some of the interesting architectural sites. After walking around Berehove, we drove a few kilometers north for a wine tasting at a local vintner. Unfortunately, wine cannot be exported from the Ukraine without the purchase of a very expensive permit, thus little is exported.



The next morning we boarded our bus for the ride to the eastern part of Carpatho-Ukraine. Our goal was Tartar Pass. Unfortunately the condition of the highway slowed our travel and we were unable to reach the pass. On the way we stopped at the geographical center of Europe located south of the town of Rakhiv. From there we continued north up the valley of the Black Tisza River to Yasinya to visit the wooden Orthodox Church of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which was built in 1824. The church was featured on two stamps issued by Czechoslovakia during the First Republic in 1928 (Pofis #236) and in 1939 (Pofis #351). The bus then returned us to our hotel in Rakhiv.



Yasinya (UA): Graveyard behind wooden church.

From Rakhiv we retraced our route to Berehove, crossed the border into Hungary and drove to Nyíregyháza where we spent our last night in the grand old Hotel Korona. The hotel, located on the main square of the city, is a veteran of the Kaiser's days. That evening we enjoyed a wonderful Hungarian meal accompanied with good Hungarian wine and topped off with palatschinke.



wonderful Hungarian meal accompanied with good Hungarian wine and topped off with palatschinke.

Nyíregyháza (HU):
Zoo restaurant - final dinner.

The next day we drove back to Vienna where the tour members said goodbye to each other. We thanked Helmut Kobelbauer and Herbert Robisch for their efforts in organizing the tour. This marked the end of the 2012 gathering.

Two additional pictures (by Germaid Puhr):



The workers in the field.



Carpathian buffaloes - rescued from extinction.