

The Sub-Carpathian Messenger

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

Number 11 - June 2010



Ora Pokorný - Haymaking in the Podkarpatská Rus

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 DocStoc web site, this Newsletter is read by more than hundred people.

Change in distribution method

With the (much appreciated !) help of John Lechtanski we have found a public place where we can store all issues of our Newsletter - at no cost which is even better.

Since SCM #006 you can view and download each issue (including the "old" ones) from the Web address:

<http://www.docstoc.com/collection/128/The-Sub-Carpathian-Messenger>

For downloading you will need to register with DocStoc which again is free of charge. If you encounter any problems with access to the mentioned web site, please let us know.

For those who have no Internet access and/or no e-mail, the distribution method will stay 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 will be limited to the members of the Study Circle. So joining us still has some advantage.

At the ANTVERPIA 2010 (FEPA) our member **Tønnes Ore** got 82 points (Vermeil) for his "Postal History of Carpatho Ukraine" exhibit. We congratulate although he was disappointed - the level of knowledge in the international juries is taking its time to adapt to reality.

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.

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.

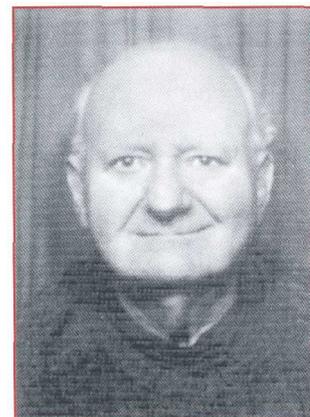
We will "print" everything even only loosely connected with our subject of interest so any contribution is certainly welcome. Please send it (as Word 2003 document, graphical elements in JPEG, 300 dpi) to our editor's e-mail address (kb@aatc.at). His postal address, if you would need it, is:

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

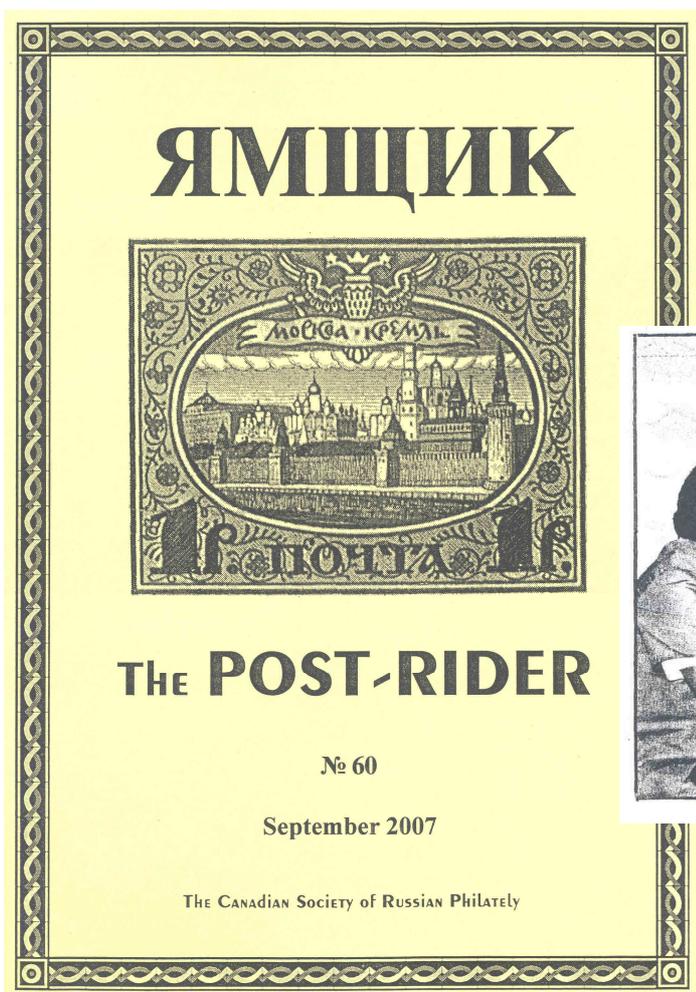
Helmut Kobelbauer

Our Best Wishes to Andrew Cronin

During the world exhibition in London I have heard a rumour that our member from Toronto (Canada), the avid collector and knowledgeable researcher of world postal history, Andrew Cronin, has passed away. It took some time to have it confirmed that this rumour is NOT TRUE - he has suffered a stroke some months ago, is now in a nursing home in Ontario, is properly cared for and is recovering. We wish him a long life in good health !



Born in 1925 in Greece and living for a number of years in Australia, he finally settled in Canada, working as a pharmacist. Fluent in an incredible number of languages, he has been specially involved in Russian philately with the natural “extensions” Carpatho-Ukraine and Mongolia. For exactly 30 years, from 1977 till 2007, he was editor of the famous “ЯМЩИК” (YAMSHCHIK - The Post-Rider). Each year saw two numbers of this magazine of the Canadian Society of Russian Philately (CSRP), coming up in total to more than 5000 pages, backed to the brim with first-hand information on all aspects of this fascinating subject. Earlier issues also had a number of original contributions on the Carpatho-Ukraine.



The CSRP team in 1979: Patrick J. Campbell, Rev. Rabbi L. L. Tann, Alex Artuchov, and Andrew Cronin

The title page of the last number of “The Post-Rider”

I have not yet had the honour meeting Andrew Cronin in person during one of his visits to the Old Continent but during our e-mail and letter contacts he always was very friendly and helpful. So my best wishes go to him and I am sure that all members of our small circle agree with me.

Helmut Kobelbauer
A Map of Hungary from 1528



Lazarus: Tabula Hungariae ad quatuor latera [...], Ingolstadt, 1528.

We have found this map on the Internet - at the University of Tübingen (Germany) an exhibition was prepared under the title "Hungary on Maps". By good luck, we were able to download some of the material. The following comment accompanied this oldest map of Hungary:

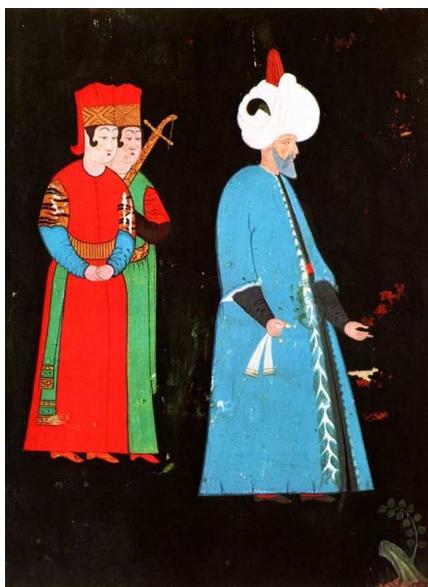
"Although this well-known map has aroused a great deal of controversy, little more emerges from contemporary sources than the fact that the compiler of the work in which it was published was one Lazarus (Hungarian form: Lázár); we do not even know if this is a surname or a first name. The sources refer to him as a "scholar", which at this time was a term used for those whose education included the study of Latin but not a university degree. It is clear that he was a Hungarian, but the designation of his occupation as "secretarius" does not at this time necessarily imply that he was secretary to some official, since officials of the royal chancery also bore this title. There are some 1,400 place-names on Lazarus's map and the spelling of these, in respect of the representation of contemporary Hungary vowel sounds, overwhelmingly follows the conventions in the documents of the Hungarian chancery. It seems that the manuscript version of the map was completed by Lazarus around 1514. The title of the printed version, and other sources, suggest that he did not live to see his map published.

The role of Georg Tannstetter, who taught at the University of Vienna and whose name appears in the title of the printed map, was probably the preparation of the manuscript map for the press. He was in all likelihood responsible for the title of the printed version. To provide room for the title and for the Emperor Ferdinand's coat-of-arms on the map itself, he had to "liberate" almost 200 square cm of space. This intervention changed the original design of the map: in particular, the characteristic direction of the flow of the Danube through Hungary was radically altered. Almost certainly, he was also responsible for the Latin and German description of Hungary on the lower part of the map.

The map was found by Johannes Cuspinianus, a regular diplomatic visitor to Buda, presumably after Suleiman the Magnificent's forces left it on 25 September 1526. He is the source of the historical comments, such as that on Trajan's Bridge, and it was he who financed the publication of the map.

The Tabula Hungarie (apart from its placenames) was carved in wood in the press of Peter Apianus of Ingolstadt. The cast type inscriptions and the place-names were placed as small plates in the appropriate places by the process known as stereotyping. As far as we know this was probably the first example of the application of this revolutionary process to the production of maps in multiple copies. Unfortunately the inscriptions often fell off the surface of such printing blocks during the printing process, so that a number of the offprints that were made are faulty.

This copy of the Tabula Hungarie lacks a number of actual place-names where a place or settlement is marked. Thus it seems that the copy purchased by Count Sándor Apponyi in 1896 - the only copy extant and now in the National Library of Hungary under the shelfmark OSZK App. M. 136 - was not one of the first to be printed."



The interest for Hungary at this time was certainly driven by the fact that the Ottoman troops under Suleiman the Magnificent had crushed King Ludwig II. of Hungary and his Magyar forces in a decisive battle at Mohács on August 29th, 1526.

One cannot overestimate the impact of this lost battle on the subsequent history of the Danube basin: only in 1699 were Central and Eastern Hungary (including its later capital Budapest) finally recaptured from the Turks.

Since King Ludwig had died without a son, his brother-in-law (and Emperor) Ferdinand I. inherited all his possessions and became King of Bohemia and of Hungary, too. Thus Hungary was added to the possessions of the Habsburg dynasty.

Portrait of Suleiman by Nigari towards the end of his reign in 1560

Ludwig II., King of Hungary and Bohemia (1506 – 1526).
Portrait by Hans Krell



One can find a good description of the very earliest organized “postal system” for Hungary in the English summary of the new book »A Magyar Bélyeg Története« [Hungarian Stamps - A History], published in 2010 by Kossuth Kiadó. On page 228 it says:

“From the very beginnings of nationhood, humankind has found it essential to send and receive news, albeit the people who sought the news were generally the rulers of these nations and their main interests were political events. Hungary was no exception. Rulers from the House of Árpád (11th to 13th century) employed the ancient courier system and promulgated their decrees through heralds. A well-organized postal system during the reign of King Matthias (1458 – 1490) grew in efficiency when a new vehicle, named after the village of Kocs (pronounced Coach) was put into service. Under Matthias’s successors the courier system withered and collapsed, but the threat of the approaching Ottoman Army (early 1500s) made it essential to have a regular postal connection between Vienna and Buda (the royal seats in medieval Hungary). Starting in 1523, the route was travelled once a week. [...] After the Battle of Mohács (1526), when the region came under the influence of Ferdinand I. of the Holy Roman Empire, court postmaster Anton Taxis organized a regular postal service between Vienna and Pressburg (today’s Bratislava), and in 1527 Mathias Taxis established a regular route between Vienna and Buda with 10 permanent stations.”

A similar description can be found in Dr. Rüdiger Wurth’s »Österreichisches Jahrbuch 1981 für Postgeschichte und Philatelie« on pages 61 and 62. He writes:

„Aus diesen Frühformen wurde das ungarische Postwesen unter der Herrschaft des **Mathias Corvinus**, 1458 bis 1490, auf ein höheres Niveau gehoben. Das von ihm zur Residenz erhobene Buda (Ofen) war auch zur Kurierzentrale geworden. Die Erlässe des Königs, jedoch auch Briefe und Geldsendungen wurden von hier aus über das ganze Land getragen. [...] Bemerkenswert ist es, daß nach der Eroberung Wiens durch König Mathias dieser hier ab Juni 1485 residierte und sein Königreich regierte, was zur Folge hatte, daß auch der Kopf des Kurierwesens – analog höfischer Ordnung – nach Wien verpflanzt worden war und alle Verbindungen hier ihren Ausgang nahmen und auch hier wieder zusammenliefen; so war kurzfristig Wien Zentrum des ungarischen Kurier-Postwesens. Mit dem Tode des Königs Mathias zerfiel mit der Herrschaft auch seine höfisch-postalische Organisation; noch im Todesjahr 1490 war Maximilian aus Österreich nach Ungarn vorgedrungen [...] Von den früheren ungarischen Kursen mögen sich einzelne in beschränktem Ausmaße und auch ohne fahrplanmäßige Regelmäßigkeit erhalten haben, das Niveau aus der Herrschaftszeit des Mathias Corvinus erreichten sie jedoch niemals mehr.“

And he continues:

„In dieser postalischen Situation befindet sich das Land, als mit dem für Ludwig II. unglücklichen Ausgang der **Schlacht bei Mohács, 1526**, für Ungarn und Siebenbürgen eine völlig veränderte, neue politische Situation eintrat. Der **Erbvertrag** war zu Gunsten des habsburgischen Herrscherhauses aktuell geworden und dieses wollte unter Ferdinand als neuem ungarischen König diesen auch realisieren. Postorganisatorisch sah dies zunächst so aus, daß der Hofpostmeister in Wien, Anton von Taxis (1526-1548), seinen Verwandten Matthias von Taxis zum Postmeister in Ofen (Buda) bestellte. Eine Ernennung, die kaum zu praktischem Werte kommen konnte, denn Ofen war bald, noch ehe das Osmanenheer 1529 Wien erreichte, türkisch geworden.“

Buda was finally occupied by Ottoman forces in 1541 and stayed under their rule until 1686; in the meantime Pressburg (Pozsony) was the nominal capital of (Habsburg) Hungary.



Ferdinand I., Ruler of the Holy Roman Empire



Detail of the above map, showing the Northeastern part and the border mountains.

In the following decades Hungary was actually divided into three parts: the central and southern areas which were under Turkish rule, the far west and part of the north under Habsburg administration, and the far east as the (more or less independent) principality of Siebenbürgen.



Map taken from Paul Lendvai: »Die Ungarn. Ein Jahrtausend Sieger in Niederlagen«. 4th edition, Bertelsmann, Munich (1999), page 118.

Helmut Kobelbauer

The Development of Postal Connections in Hungary: Snapshot from 1709

In SCM #010 I have reported on a map from 1780 which shows (and lists) the postal connections in (part of) Historical Hungary.

The earliest known postal routes map of Germany (“Heiliges Römisches Reich Deutscher Nation”) is that of Iohann Peter Nell, post official in Prague, printed in 1709 by Iohann Baptist Homann in Nuremberg. Its easternmost border area shows (as is written in the map) HUNGARIÆ PARS, i. e., a part of Hungary.



One can see that already at this early date there have been two postal connections relevant to our question, one from Vienna towards Kassa/Kaschau/Košice and the other from Vienna to Ofen (Buda). A third line, not mentioned in our 1780 snapshot, went from Vienna to Agram along the western border of Hungary. One can also speculate whether the line Vienna - Ofen was continuing further to Eastern Hungary and to Siebenbürgen.

#	Name on the map	Posten	Sum	Hungarian name	Current name
1	Fischa	1½	1½	---	Fischamend (AT)
2	Altenburg	1½	3	---	Bad Deutsch-Altenburg (AT)
3	Iändorf	1½	4½	---	Deutsch Jahndorf (AT)
4	Wiselburg	1½	6	Moson	Moson (HU)
5	Hochstraßen	1	7	Öttevény	Öttevény (HU)
6	Raab	1	8	Győr	Győr (HU)
7	Göny	1½	9½	Gönyű	Gönyű (HU)
8	Nesmühl	1	10½	Neszmély	Neszmély (HU)
9	Neudorf	1	11½	Nyergesújfalu	Nyergesújfalu (HU)
10	Dorach	1½	13	Dorog	Dorog (HU)
11	Wereswar	1½	14½	Pilisvörösvár	Pilisvörösvár (HU)
12	Offen / Buda	1½	16	Buda	Budapest (HU)

Table 1: Postal route from Vienna to Ofen.

Additionally there is a detour from Göny to Comorn and back from Comorn to Neszmühl, each of them being 1½ Posten.

#	Name on the map	Posten	Sum	Hungarian name	Current name
1	Fischa	1½	1½	---	Fischamend (AT)
2	Altenburg	1½	3	---	Bad Deutsch-Altenburg (AT)
3	Presburg	1	4	Pozsony	Bratislava (SR)
4	Langschitz	1	5	Cseklész	Bernolákovo (SR)
5	Sarfö	1	6	Pozsonysárfő	Blatné (SR)
6	Tyrna	1	7	Nagyszombat	Trnava (SR)
7	Freystädtl	1½	8½	Galgóc	Hlohovec (SR)
8	Rippina	1½	10	Nagyrépény	Veľké Ripňany (SR)
9	Topolzan	1	11	Nagytapolcsány	Topoľčany (SR)
10	Sambokret	1	12	Nyitrazásambokrét	Žabokrety nad Nitrou (SR)
11	Vestenitz	1	13	Alsóvesztény	Dolné Vestenice (SR)
12	Baymaz	1	14	Bajmóc	Bojnice (SR)
13	Rudna	1	15	Turóczrudnó	Rudno (SR)

Table 2: Postal route from Vienna towards Caschau.

Please be aware that the route given in table 2 is incomplete.

On the other hand it is quite improbable that the postal line east of Kaschau was in use because during this period there was heavy fighting between the Habsburg troops and the Kuruc “rebels” under the leadership of **Ferenc II. Rákóczi** in the first Hungarian War for Independence (1703 - 1711).



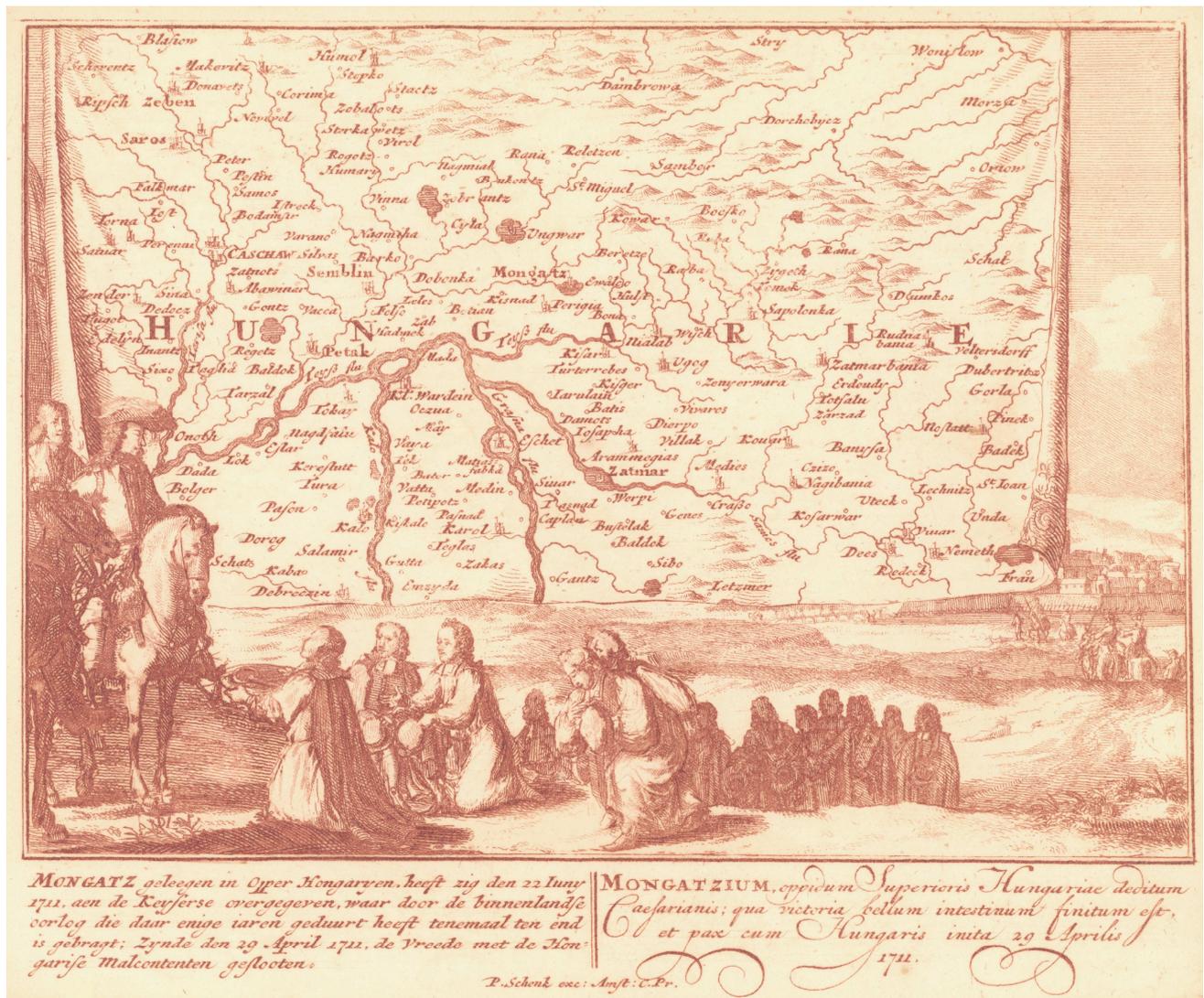
Born 1676 as son of Jelena Zrinska (Zrínyi Ilona in Hungarian) and Ferenc I. Rákóczi, he became the richest Hungarian landlord of his time. Raised in the castle of Munkács, he also befriended Count Miklós Bercsényi, whose property at Ungvár lay next to his. During the War of the Spanish Succession and spurred by the French Throne, Kuruc forces in 1703 began a new uprising in Munkács, and Rákóczi was asked to head it. He accepted this request and together with Miklós Bercsényi and Tamás Esze started an initially successful war against the Habsburg forces. But the success did not last long ...

From 1705 on, protracted peace negotiations between the Hungarians and Emperor Leopold I. took place, interspersed with further military actions. The decisive battle of Trenčín (August 1708) saw the Kuruc troops defeated, and Rákóczi's forces were restricted to the area around

Munkács and the Szabolcs county. Not trusting the word of János Pálffy, who was the Emperor's envoy charged with negotiations with the rebels, the Prince left the Kingdom of Hungary for Poland on 21 February 1711. Later he fled to Paris and finally to the Ottoman Empire where he died in 1735.

During his rule, Prince Rákóczi established a postal system of his own in the area under his power, which included Transylvania (Fürstentum Siebenbürgen) but obviously this courier mail was fundamentally limited to the interests of the Court and the Military.

The end of the “Kuruc rebellion” was noted even in Western Europe:



This is a copper etching by Peter Schenk, printed 1720 in Amsterdam in sepia ink. The Latin text on the right goes:

MONGATZIUM, oppidum Superioris Hungariae deditum Caesarianis qua victoria bellum intestinum est et pax com Hungaris inita 29 Aprilis 1711.

In English:

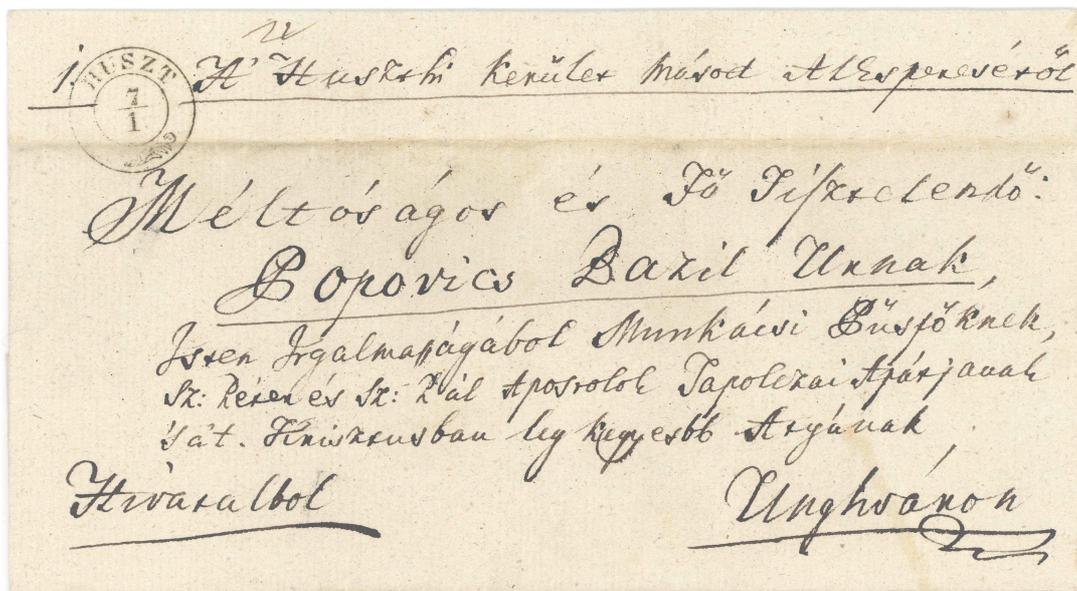
MUNKATS, a city in Upper Hungary, handed over to Imperial [troops] after their victory in the civil war and peace had been made with the Hungarians [in Szatmár] on April 29th, 1711.

Part of the Rákóczi possessions near Munkács in the following years were given to the Roman-Catholic Schönborn family, establishing their presence in this region - see SCM #008.

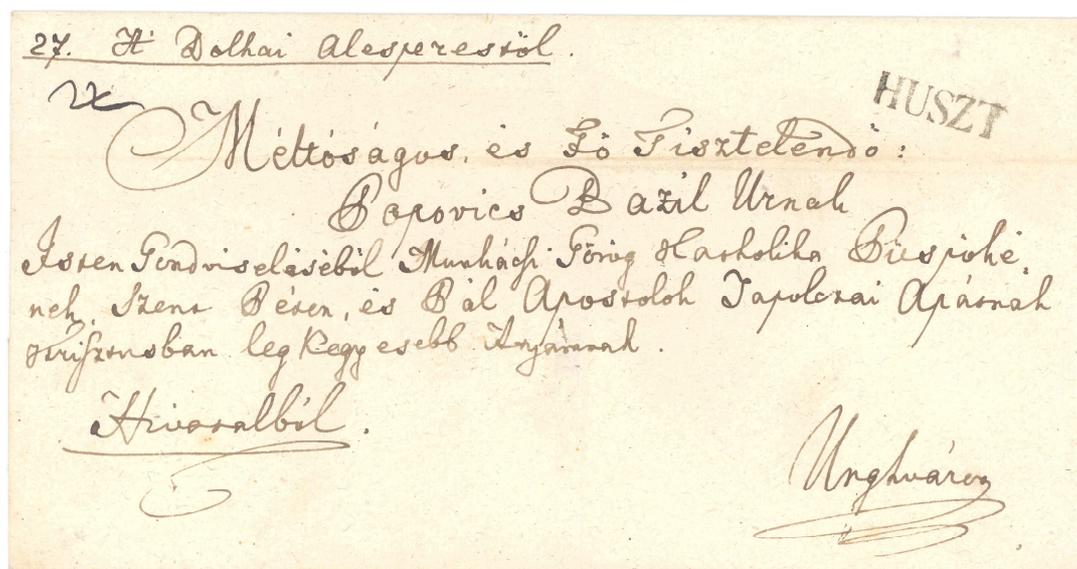
Registry Numbers on Pre-Stamp Letters to Bishop Bazil Popovics

Pre-stamp letters from our area of interest are not really rare because the bishops of the Greek-Catholic Episcopal Church (of Munkács) in Ungvár, especially Bazil Popovics, asked their parish priests for regular written reports. The respective archive was raided in 1944 when Soviet troops occupied the city, and from it a seemingly endless stream of such covers/letters has found its way to the market.

Nearly all these church letters have some number near the top left-hand corner of the cover, and it is obvious that this was some sort of registry. But was it a number per year or was it a continuous count going on forever from some mythical start ?



Church letter, Huszt to Ungvár, January 7th, 1848 - register number 1



Church letter, Dolha (via Huszt) to Ungvár, February 3rd, 1847 - register number 27

I think that the covers shown above clearly indicate that the register numbers were used on a per year basis, i. e., started over again with number 1 at the beginning of each Christian year. This will help to (over time) build an index of such register numbers which again will help us to smoke out forgeries of pre-stamp letters. You are welcome to participate and contribute to this index !

Dénes Czirók

Carpatho-Ukraine Pieces in HUNFILA 2010

At the last HUNFILA exhibition in Hungary (Sopron, 26-28 March 2010) we organised a 'Hungarian Master Championship Class' and showed Hungarian material of the highest class, i. e., material which had been awarded more than 85 points in FIP or FEPA exhibitions in the last few years. Of course, there were a lot of visitors from neighbouring countries such as Austria, Slovakia, Croatia and Slovenia, but also from Germany and Italy. In the room we had a discussion with Mr. Kobelbauer about items on display that we could also present to the readers of the SCM and we found two particularly interesting pieces in the exhibition.

The first was an 1873 registered cover from UNGHVÁR to the Netherlands in my exhibit on 'Mail from Hungary to abroad 1867-1900':



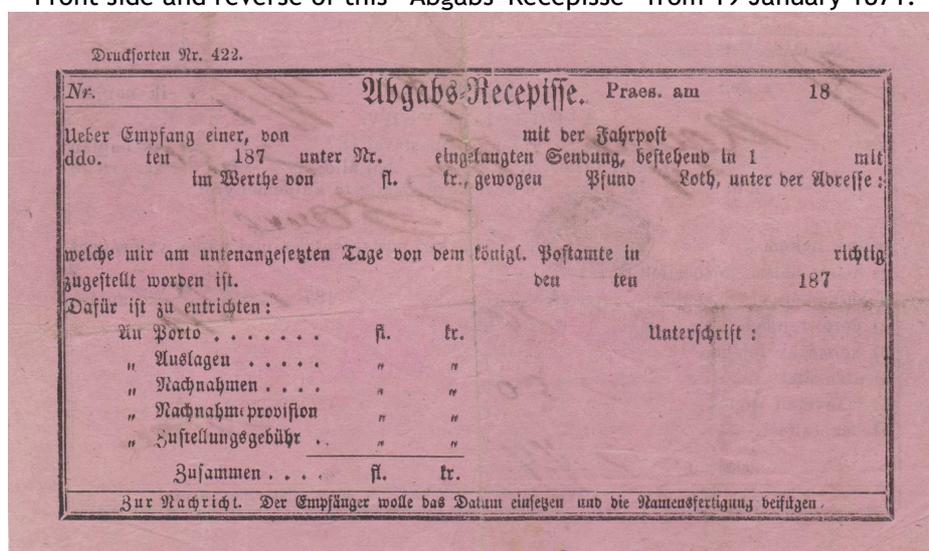
As we can see it is a 5 Kreuzer postal stationery envelope where the imprinted franking was supplemented with three additional stamps, an engraved 3 Kr, 5 Kr and 10 Kr, to make up a total of 23 Kreuzer. On the rear there is a receiving cancellation of Amsterdam but no additional franking.



The problem with the cover is the rate. We do not know all the rates from Hungary to abroad in the period between 1 May 1867 (when the independent Hungarian postal administration came into being) and the establishment of the UPU in 1875, but we know for certain that from October 1868 on the rate to the Netherlands was only 10 Kr/Loth and the registration fee was 10 Kr. So why are there 23 Kr on this cover?

My theory is that the sender was confused by the range of different foreign rates then in operation. It is very normal to find underfranking and overfranking on foreign letters of this period, and in this case it looks as if the sender firmly intended to apply a total franking of 23 Kr, applying the 3 Kr stamp first, then the 5 Kr and finally the 10 Kr which overlapped the 5 Kr slightly. This suggests to me that the sender thought the postage rate to the Netherlands was the same as that to Great Britain which was 13 Kr at the time. An interesting insight on why the UPU was such an important innovation in promoting international communications.

The second piece was an 1871 Delivery Receipt (Abgabs-Recepisse) in purple colour that I showed in my exhibit on 'Coach Mail from Hungary 1750-1900':



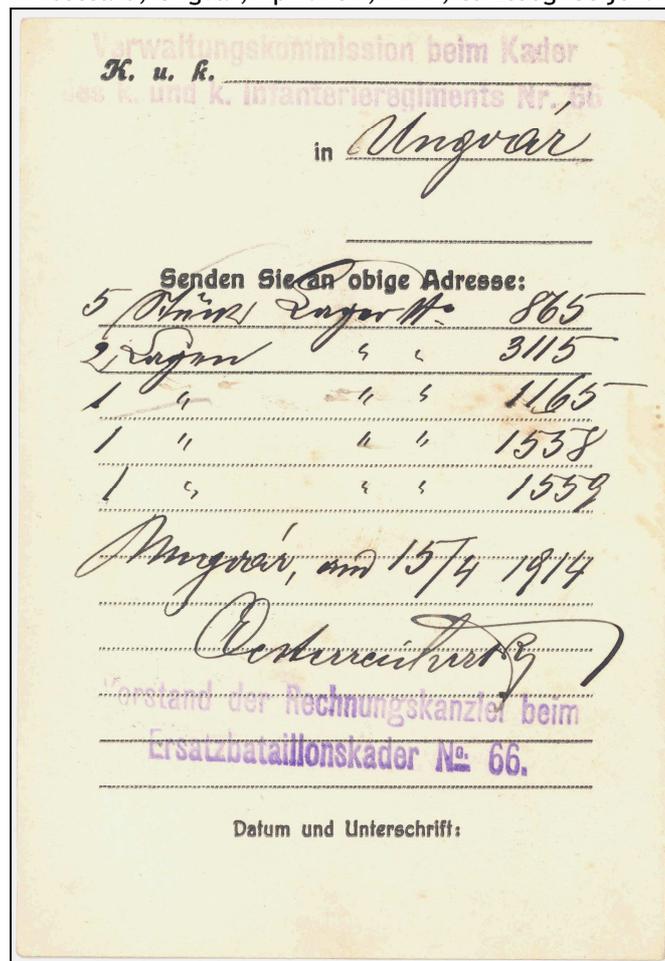
Generally the Delivery Receipt is a very rare item of which only three examples are currently known in this era and in addition it is stamped with a negative Postmaster's cancellation from POLENA that is otherwise unknown. This mark was only used to show the originating Post Office and not for cancellation of stamps. According to the receipt the addressee took delivery of a packet on 20 January 1871 weighing 4 Loths and with a value of 2 Forint 50 Kr that had arrived from Kassa by coach mail. For this he paid a total of 2 Ft 74 Kr, including 24 Kr in postage and 2 Ft 50 Kr as the cash on delivery amount. It is a fantastic piece in every respect for receipt collectors, for Carpatho-Ukraine collectors and for me as a Coach Mail collector!

Helmut Kobelbauer

Ungvár 1914 - The k. u. k. Infantry Regiment 66 was stationed here



Postcard, Ungvár, April 15th, 1914, to Esseg/Osijek.



As the above card shows, in the year 1914 (before the Great War) the “K. u. k. Infanterieregiment Nr. 66” was stationed in Ungvár. The card goes to Ferdinand Hölbling in Esseg (Osijek), at that time one of the few printing companies selling the military their special forms.

Helmut Kobelbauer

Ballonpost Przemyśl 1915 - Further Additions

In SCM #004 (pp. 14 to 16) I have written about the curious postcards which were sent in early March 1915 from the besieged fortress of Przemyśl by paper balloons.

In the meantime a number of such postcards have been offered by the Austrian auction house ÖPHILA, and therefore we can show now the colour copy of such a piece:



Field post card from Przemyśl, cancelled at F.P.O. 47, March 19th, 1915

This bluish-gray card carries the “Ballonpost Przemyśl | 1915.” mark together with the numerator “5503” and the circular “IX. | 54.”, a handwritten censorship mark “Zensurirt Lt. Kohner[?]” and a red “ZENSURIERT.” at the bottom. It has affixed an Austrian regular stamp of the 1908/1913 series which stayed uncanceled. We know that this card has been found near Turjaremete and was cancelled by the Austro-Hungarian F.P.O. 47 on “19. III. 15”.

The 5h regular stamp was not strictly necessary - the card was valid field post and therefore free of charge. On the other hand, a private finder might have hesitated to forward the card without postage, and 5 Heller was just the right franking for a civil postcard at that time.

Keith Tranmer in our on-going correspondence was very doubtful about the assertion of Gerhard Schenk that F.P.O. 47 at that time was stationed at Cracow. He says it was with the 8th Cavalry Division (2nd Army of General Böhm-Ermolli). I have also written to Mr. Schenk about this question but have not received an answer.

The actual location of F.P.O. 47 mid of March 1915 therefore should be considered an open issue. Even Turjaremete has become possible again ...

In the mentioned article (loc. cit., p. 15) there was also a reference to the post offices of Lemes and Margitfalva where such cards have been cancelled. Keith Tranmer has clarified that the respective marks were arrival marks after the cards had been handed over to the Hungarian civil mail for normal forwarding. In these cases there is definitely no connection with a “first recovery” of the paper balloons.

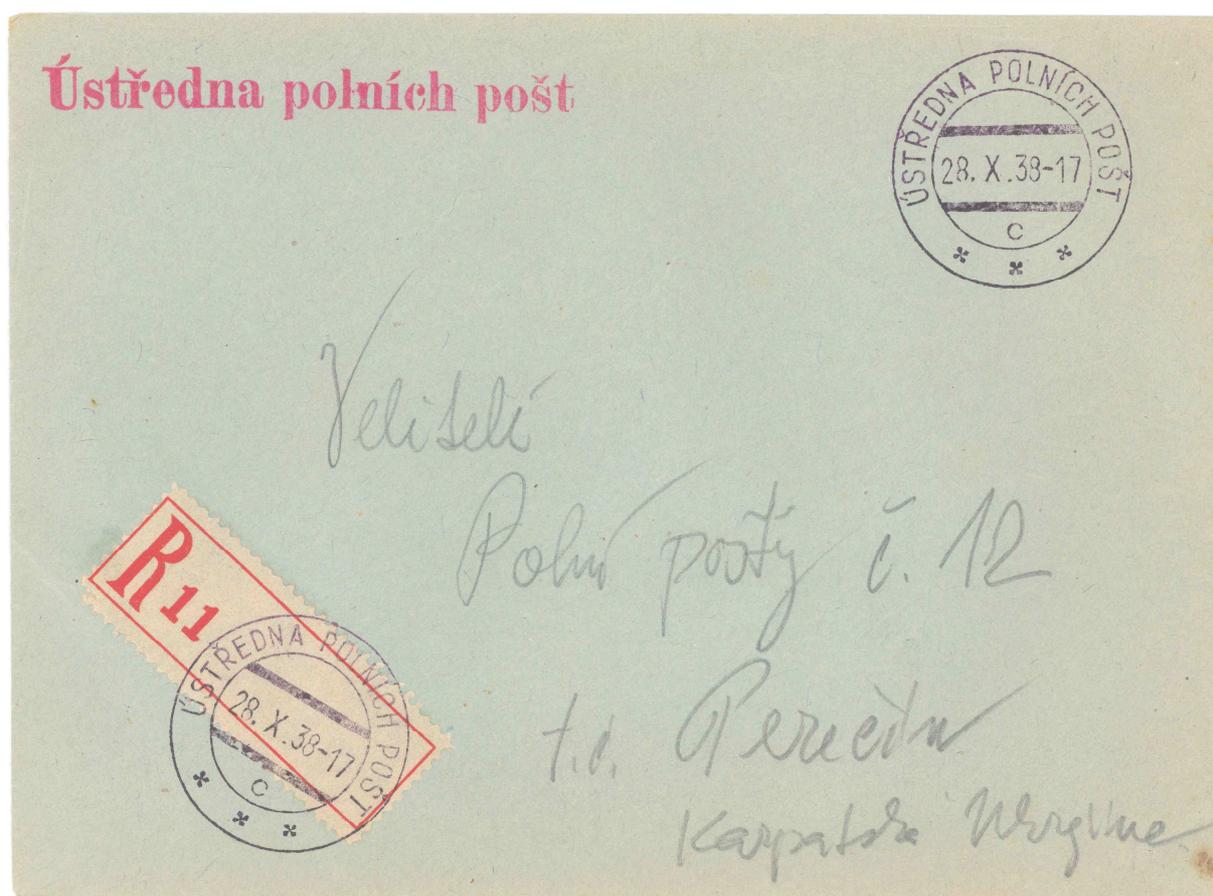
Helmut Kobelbauer

Another Hint to the Location of Czechoslovak Polní Pošta 12

You may remember that I have been a bit sceptical about the date when the Czechoslovak troops moved out of the so-called zone 1 which then was occupied (or liberated, depending on your point of view) by Hungarian forces between November 5th and 9th, 1938.

Jan Verleg (with reference to Mr. Vostatek) writes that PP 12 moved from Užhorod to Perečín on October 20th, 1938, and PP 24 from Mukačevo to Svaljava on the same day.

I have considered these reported moves to be possibly a bit early - the First Vienna Award (which gave zone 1 to Hungary) was negotiated and decided only on November 2nd, 1938. But it seems that I was wrong nevertheless:



The shown registered (military) letter is from the Main Field Post Office (in Prague) to the commander of Polní Pošta 12 on **October 28th, 1938**, and the destination of PP 12 is given as Perečín (already).

Of course, it would be nice to have more than just this single letter indicating that the troops' movement happened really at the date as given in the literature. It would be even better if somebody could give a (good) reason for this early move ...

In that context it is curious that the earliest postmark from a civil post office for the dislocated troops of the 45th Infantry Regiment (see SCM #002, page 13) is from October 22nd, 1938. Is this a chance coincidence ?

I am hoping for further revelations - with YOUR much appreciated help.

On Hungarian Postal Tariffs from 1938 to 1944: Deviating Cards

In general the table of postal tariffs on page 124 of Jan Verleg's monograph is very valuable (like the rest of the book). But when checking against a number of Hungarian postcards from the 1938 to 1944 period, not everything fits.



Fig. 1: Postcard, Csap to Budapest, November 25th, 1938 - 2 fillér

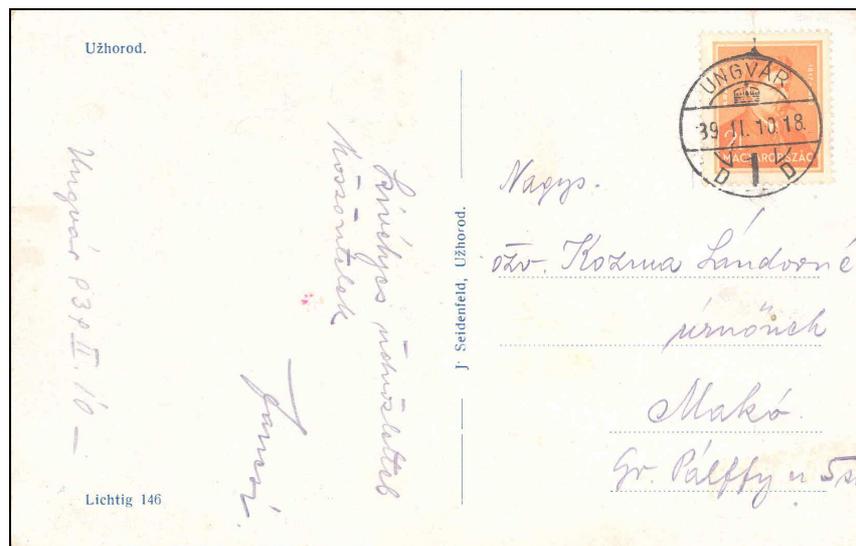


Fig. 2: Postcard, Ungvár to Makó, February 10th, 1939 - 2 fillér

My troubles started with the two postcards shown above. Both look absolutely “normal” - but instead of the nominal fee of 10f both carry “only” a 2f stamp. And none shows any mark of fee's deficiency or postage due handling. Curious ...

Let us repeat the tariffs for domestic (i. e., not local) postcards:

- 10f From the beginning of the (re-)annexation until 1941-09-14
- 12f From 1941-09-15 until 1943-06-30
- 18f From 1943-07-01 until the end of the Hungarian administration (in October 1944)

Maybe there was some special tariff for the “returned home” (visszatért) areas ? To get a clearer picture, I began to search for further deviations ...



Fig. 3: Postcard, Huszt to Budapest, March 27th, 1939 - 2 fillér



Fig. 4: Postcard, Terebesfejérpatak to Kazár, June 20th, 1939 - 2 fillér

Now these are postcards from zone 2, so a special “Visszatért” tariff would not explain them.



Fig. 5: Postcard, Körösmező to Miskolc, September 20th, 1941 - still 2 fillér



Fig. 6: Postcard, Rahó to Budapest, October 18th, 1941 - now 3 fillér



Fig. 7: Postcard, Hársfalva to Budapest, January 21st, 1942
6 fillér postage due, therefore should have been 3 fillér

The last two cards prove that some time between September and October 1941 this assumed (special) tariff was raised from 2f to 3f - whatever the "speciality" was. In time this would fit in with the change in "normal" tariffs for a postcard (from 10f to 12f) which took place on September 15th, 1941.

Have you already found some pattern why these postcards are "special" ? If yes - have you taken into consideration that all shown cards have originated from the Zone 1 or Zone 2 areas ?

Not only searching for "Tiszalónka" (or "Luh") in old and modern maps is a detective's game ...

With the gracious and reliable help of my good friend Tamás Gudlin in the meantime I have found the answer to the implicit question. Still I am curious: who else has detected this apparent deviation in postcard tariffs ? And who would know the correct answer, too, why this reduced payment was possible and legal ?

In a continuation I will show further examples from later years and provide the answer.

To be continued ...

Helmut Kobelbauer

On the Question of Currency in the NRZU in 1944/1945

The second half of October 1944 saw the First Hungarian Army defeated in the Eastern Carpathians, and by the end of this month most of the Sub-Carpathian Region was liberated (if you like that term) by the victorious 4th Ukrainian Front as part of the Soviet Red Army.

The Czechoslovak Government (in Exile) sent an Official Delegation under the heading of Minister František Nemeц to the liberated area. On October 27th, 1944, it began to operate from its seat in Chust. It stayed there until March 1945 when it left for Košice.

With hindsight we know now that President Beneš had decided some time earlier to give the rebellious province to the Soviet Union for good, and the Soviets were only too happy to get a final foothold in the Hungarian Plain. In late November 1944 they had a National Council organized in Užhorod who openly asked for a “reunion” of the Transcarpathian Ukraine with the Soviet Union.

Jan Verleg states in his monograph (page 152):

“At the time the [Czechoslovak] governmental delegation started its activities, Hungarian currency was used in Carpatho-Ukraine.”

and later (page 165):

“As no denomination of currency is mentioned on the stamps [issued by the NRZU], it was originally assumed that Hungarian, Czechoslovakian and Russian money could be used. [...] He [= Dr. Petrezkij] wrote that in those days Hungarian Pengö and Czechoslovak Crowns were legal currency.”

The following form is from the time in question. It was obviously ordered/printed by the administration then in power, i. e., by sub-ordinates of the NRZU. To be more exact, it is a payment order (lot 255 from the von Steiden auction at Raritan - the only one I got ☺).

My Ukrainian is not as strong as I would wish it to be (yes, it is Ukrainian - the Russians do not use the letter “i”). But in the middle of the form, even I can recognize the text “на суму 742 П 24 ф”, i. e., “to the sum of 742 P 24 f”. And my guess would certainly be that “P” stands for Pengö, and “f” for fillér. Wouldn’t you agree ? (And the currency is pre-printed, not filled in.)

Helmut Kobelbauer

Illustrated Covers from the Soviet Kárpátalja

On page 213 of his monograph Jan Verleg tells us: “A great many illustrated postcards and covers with topics related to Carpatho-Ukraine have been issued over the years. [...] It is not possible within the scope of this book to catalogue them.”

I fully agree with Jan that preparing a complete catalogue of such items is probably impossible. But I would like to show a few such illustrated covers, just to give an impression of another aspect of our wonderful common interest.



Cover (4 kop) with view of hotel “Uzhgorod” - issued 16/XI 1977.
Kholmok to Sájópüspöki (Hungary), August 4th, 1978.

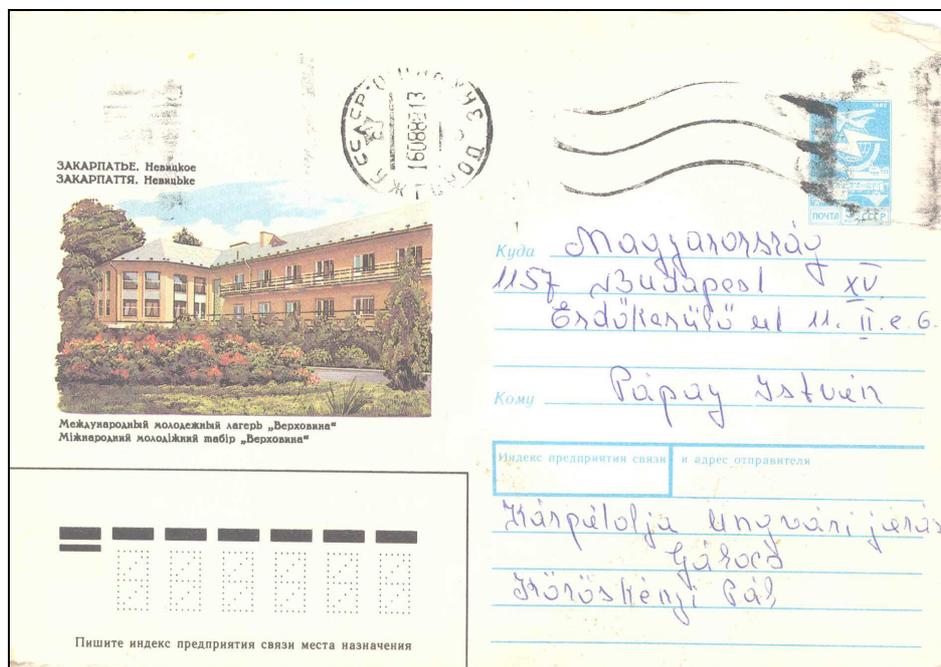


Cover (4 kop) with sanatorium “Karpaty” - issued 09/IV 1979.
Beregovo to Debrecen, August 8th, 1981.

I have, of course, chosen such covers as are not already pictured in Jan's book. Since the items are coming from a "real" correspondence (no philately involved), their quality is not always up to our expectations.



Cover (5 kop) with view of pioneers' hostel - issued 06/XI 1984.
Uzhgorod to Budapest, August 12th, 1985.



Cover (5 kop) with international youth hostel "Verkhovina"
in Nevicke - issued 11/XII 1987.
Uzhgorod to Budapest, August 16th, 1988.

Such letters from the Soviet Union to Hungary were treated equally to domestic letters; the fee for a domestic letter went from 4 kop to 5 kop starting February 1st, 1983.



Cover (5 kop) with musical-dramatic theatre in Uzhgorod - issued 20/III 1989. Uzhgorod to Budapest, March 5th, 1990.

The last cover is one that Jan Verleg has (partially) shown in his book (page 213) and displays the memorial plaque of the Sub-Carpathian messenger who gave our newsletter its name:



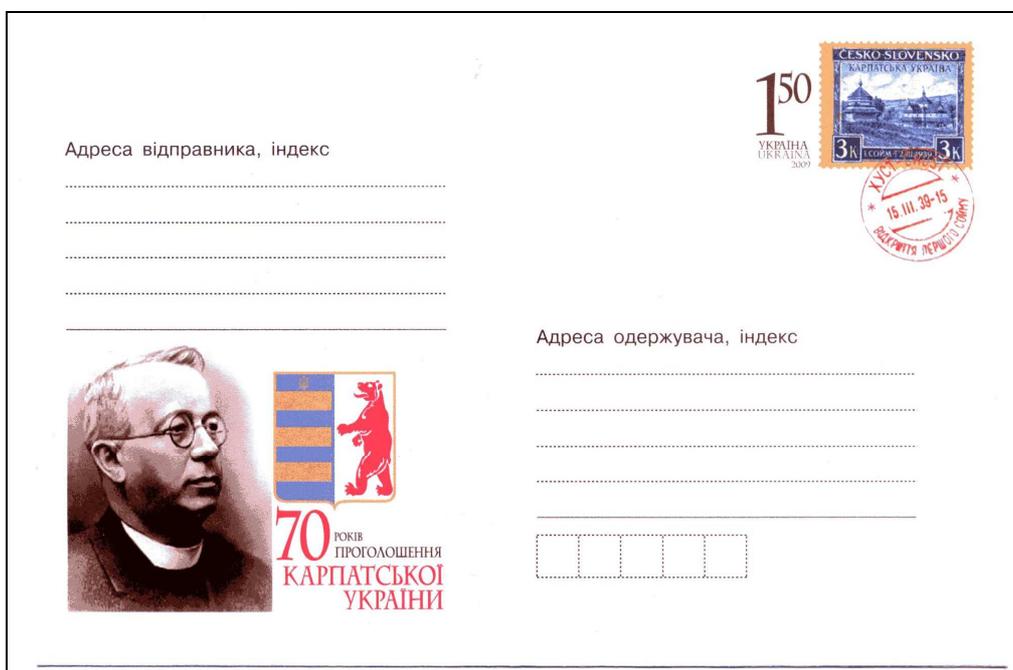
Cover (5 kop) with plaque of Fedor Fekete in Tur'y Remety - issued 12/VII 1989. Uzhgorod to Budapest, January 23rd, 1991.

On August 24th, 1991, the Ukraine declared its independence and established its own full postal authority on January 1st, 1992, thus ending the era of Soviet political and postal administration. Covers like those shown were accepted by the Ukrainian post and were in use at least until the end of the year 1993 (transition period from the Soviet to the Ukrainian post).

Dr. Alexander Malycky

Ukrainian Commemorative Postal Stationery

The Ukrainian post issued on February 20th, 2009, the shown envelope in memory of the 70th anniversary of the Carpatho-Ukraine with the picture of Father Avhustyn Voloshyn.



The Editor

Corrections

After ten numbers of “The Sub-Carpathian Messenger” I want to especially thank those who have critically read some of or all the articles and told me about mistakes. Continue with the good work, please!

SCM #001, page 4:

The three colours' cover was offered before by Köhler (275th auction in February 1992) and is now in the collection of our member Jakab András.

SCM #001, page 15:

The 15th Ottoman Corps was fighting in Galicia, not in the Sub-Carpathian region.

SCM #002, page 16:

The tariff of the card (2f) has nothing to do with the VISSZATÉRT areas or activities.

SCM #003, page 3:

The negative red seal of Unghvar has already been used in the year 1813.

SCM #006, page 15:

The registration mark on the Uzsok letter is regular (for this time), not a provisional one.

SCM #007, page 12:

In this postmark type there is no day time marker and therefore it is not missing.

SCM #009, page 5:

The shown marks of N-BEREZNA and PERECSENY are not marks of the Hungarian state post.