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An example of long Hungarian town names:
Pestszenterzsébet (17 characters), 1945 X. 2.
The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society’s address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the content is not to be construed as official policy of this Society or any of its officers. All publication rights reserved for SHP. Articles from this journal may be reprinted with the written permission of the Editor and the authors only. Back issues of the newsletter may be purchased for $3.00, postpaid, (when available).

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* This issue closed on 1 August 2014
* The next issue will close 1 November 2014
*
THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

by Alan Bauer

It is a great pleasure to be here and writing my first “President’s Corner”. First, let me tell you a little bit about myself. My full-time job is that of a computer consultant and I help companies setup their business computer systems. My wife is Diane, we have been best friends since our start of college at Syracuse University and she is my rock. My son Andrew recently graduated from Syracuse University with a technology degree and he is working in Boston as a computer consultant (surprise). My daughter just graduated high school and will start college in September in early childhood education. My heritage is pure Hungarian, as both of my parents lived their early lives in Budapest and then immigrated to New York City, where I was born. Now on to the SHP.

We have some great opportunities and also some great challenges looking ahead over the next few years. One of our best opportunities and where we can all have a lot of fun is the World Stamp Show in New York in 2016. In my years of collecting and being in the stamp trade, I have never seen as much hype and anticipation for a stamp show. It sounds like this will be an extraordinary event and we will be there with all of our “bells and whistles”. The dates are May 28th to June 4th and much more information will be coming in future editions. Mark your calendars!!

Our biggest current challenge is that our dear friend and great editor Csaba Kohalmi will be retiring next year. I have been reading The News for a long time and frankly I can’t imagine what it will be like without him doing it. The News was really my first introduction to the Society and I look forward each quarter to receiving it and reading the many interesting articles, both stamp related and historical. I’m sure that’s the case for all of you. Let us all give him a big “THANK YOU”. I would like each of you to take a few minutes and think about a replacement. Would you have the right skills and be interested? Do you know of someone with the right skills and background who could join our Society and take on this challenge? Please seriously think about it and email me your thoughts at alan@hungarianstamps.com and let’s see what we can do together. We all appreciate your involvement.

A significant opportunity ahead is the use of social media to expand the reach and membership of our Society. We will make sure to balance our personal contact with the use of social media. One of the most frustrating things I have seen is a group of people (not necessarily teenagers) sitting around a table looking at their smart phones and not having any real social contact. We will be sure that opportunities for personal contact are never lost with our members. There will be more to come in future newsletters.

Finally, we all have the challenge and opportunity of soliciting new members to keep our Society vibrant. Hungary has some of the most beautiful and exciting stamps, with recent new issues eliciting a wide variety of senses. Let’s take the “each one - reach one” philosophy and each of us sponsor a new member this year. I am looking forward to the future and working with each and every one of you to improve our experience and to keep this a great Society. Please let me know what’s on your mind, by email or by letter to my address on the cover. I really want to hear from you.

Happy stamping……..Alan

* KUDOS & WELCOME

Congratulations to our newest life member Victor Fischer, who joined our Society in 1994. Thank you for your continuous support these past 30 years, Victor!

Welcome to our newest members: Mr. Jay A. Krumholtz of Riverside, CA and Mr. David Paddock of Marietta, GA.

* PLEASE NOTE OUR SECRETARY’S NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Greg Gessell, 4714 S. American Lake Blvd., Tacoma, WA 98409 USA

*
PHILATELIC CHRONOLOGY OF HUNGARY (Conclusion)

by Lyman R. Caswell

Philatelic events are given in italics.

Numbers in parentheses are Scott Catalogue numbers / Illustrations provided by the Editor

1919. May-December. Stamps overprinted in occupied districts issued: Arad (French), May 5; Baranya (Serbian), May 5, December 18; Debrecen (Romanian), November 19; Temesvár (Romanian), May 1, July 1, August 20; Erdély (Romanian), August 3, October 26; Bánát-Bácska (Serbian-Romanian), July 27. Many counterfeits!

Left to right: Arad (Scott 1NP1); Baranya (7N1); Debrecen (2NP1); Temesvár (4N4); Kolozsvár (5N2); Bánát, Bácska (10N2)


1919. Admiral Miklós Horthy (445-449, 525-527, 555-556, 570-572, 597-599) assembles anti-bolshevist nationalist government at Szeged with permission of occupying French forces.


Magyar Nemzeti Kormány overprint (Szeged, P1)


Left to right: Soviet Republic overprint (207); Budapest occupation fantasy overprint; Entry of the National Army overprint (308); Pošta Českoslovanská (Czechoslovakia B67); 10,000K Large Madonna (387)
The News of Hungarian Philately

1920-1926. Postwar inflation of the Korona. 10,000K Large Madonna highest face value stamp issued in 1925.


Left: 40f red numeral postage due (J37).
Below, left to right: Genuine wheat overprint (J72); fake overprint; genuine (323); fake overprint. In the counterfeit stamps, note the lack of shading lines to the left of the number ‘1’ in ‘1919.’

1920. February 29. Monarchy restored with Horthy elected as Regent (445-449, 525-527, 570-572). Hungary is the “kingdom without a king whose regent is an admiral without a navy.” Count Pál Teleki (3293) is Prime Minister between July 1920 and April 1921.


Magyar Posta dues (J65)
10th anniversary of the Regency (445)
Magyar Kir. Posta

1920. June 4. Trianon treaty. Hungary loses 72% of its territory and 64% of its population to neighboring countries, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Austria, and, eventually in 1924, Italy (Fiume).

No! No! Never! revisionist propaganda label protesting the dismemberment of Hungary by the Peace Treaty of Trianon.

1920. Numerus Clausus laws restricting the number of Jews in professions. In the years to come, many educated Jews leave Hungary (Examples: Theodore von Kármán, 3353, United States 2699; John von Neumann, 3354, 3824, United States 3908; Eugene Wigner, 3679; Leó Szilárd, 3592, Edward Teller, 4100).

/ see the illustrations on the next page /
1920. December 31. All stamps overprinted “Köztársaság” or wheat ears invalidated.
1921. August-December. Stamps issued in West Hungary (Nyugatmagyarország) to promote vote in plebiscite to favor union with Hungary rather than Austria. Counterfeits!
Top, left to right: Stamps picturing famous Jewish Hungarian expatriates Theodore von Kármán (US 2699); John von Neumann (US 3908); Jenő Wigner (3679); Leó Szilárd (3592); left: Ede Teller (4100)


1922. January 1. Last red numeral postage due stamps issued (J41-J43).

Left to right: Official stamp (O1); Lajtabánság Western Hungary insurgent overprint; Porto overprint on Harvester stamp (J97); highest face value (50K) and last red numeral postage due (J43)

1923. January 23. First stamps inscribed “Magyarország” (Magyarland) issued (B72-76).
1924. June 30. All official stamps invalidated.
1926. Inflation ends. New gold-based currency, 1 Pengő = 100 fillér = 12,500 Korona = US$ 0.20.
1927. March 31. All Korona-fillér stamps and postage dues invalidated.

Left to right: Petőfi’s birth centenary issue inscribed ‘Magyarország’ (B74); new pengő-fillér currency stamp (404); korona-pengő currency mixed franking (2000K = 16f); Gödöllő Jamboree (481)

1938. September 29. Munich Agreement allows Germany to annex the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia.

1938. November 2. First Vienna Award. Germany permits Hungary to annex southern Slovakia and southern Carpatho-Ukraine from Czechoslovakia.

1938. December 1. Stamps overprinted “Hazatérés 1938” (Welcome Home) issued to commemorate recovery of territories from Czechoslovakia (535, 536) Commemorative “Visszatért” (Returned) postmarks used in cities in these territories.

Left to right: First Hungarian souvenir sheet issued for the stamp exhibition by L.E.H.E. (486); returned northern territories commemorative (536); First Hungarian Town Returned commemorative cancellation from Ipolyság, 11 October 1938

1939. March 15. Hungary annexes the remainder of Carpatho-Ukraine.

Left to right: Carpatho-Ukraine’s one day independence celebration, 15 March 1939; private souvenir for the 60th anniversary of the return of Subcarpathia; bilingual cancellation used during the Hungarian administration, 1939-1944

1939. September 1. Germany invades Poland. Start of World War II.

1940. August 30. Second Vienna Award. Germany permits Hungary to annex North Transylvania from Romania.

1940. September 5. “Kelet Visszatér” (East Returns) issue commemorates annexation of North Transylvania (558).


1941. April 21. Stamps overprinted “Dél Visszatér” (South Returns) commemorate the annexation of Yugoslavian territories (559, 560).

1944. October 15. Coup by Arrow Cross Party (Hungarian Nazis), following Horthy’s negotiating armistice with the Soviet Union. Horthy arrested by German Army. Szálasi appointed ‘national leader.’

1944. December 15. Precious metal stock of the National Mint and the National Bank removed by retreating Germans and transported to Linz, Austria.


1945. February 12. German and Hungarian troops make a failed attempt to break out of Buda Castle. The siege of Budapest is ended.

Left: An ugly memento of the Arrow Cross putsch: vignette from 1971 showing Szálasi visiting Hitler.

1945. April 4. Red Army drives German troops out of Hungary. The date is celebrated as ‘Liberation Day’ during the communist era.


Left: ‘Felszabadulás / Liberation’ overprint on a stamp depicting the Holy Crown issued on 1 May 1945 (656). Right: Memorial to the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust (3480).
1945. May 4. The Holy Crown and the Hungarian crown jewels discovered at Mattsee, Austria, by U. S. Troops. They are taken to U. S. and stored at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

![Image of Mattsee near Salzburg and the memorial where members of the fleeing Arrow Cross government buried the Hungarian coronation regalia in an empty oil drum.]


1945 (June)-1946 (August). Hyperinflation of the Pengő.


1946. July. Hungarian gold reserve returned from Austria to the National Bank in Budapest.


1953. August 8. Postage due set commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first Hungarian postage due (J210-J227).
1956. October 23. Revolt against the Communist regime (4005). Revolutionary overprints applied to definitive stamps at Sopron.


**Left:** ‘Hazádnak rendületlenül’ overprint applied in Sopron during the 1956 freedom fight.

**Right:** Imre Nagy addressing the nation by radio during the 1956 freedom fight (3552).


1966. “New Economic Mechanism,” better known as “Goulash Communism,” established by the Communist Central Committee. It meant freer markets and moderate responsiveness to public opinion. Many colorful sets of topical stamps issued for the international philatelic trade during the next few years.

1989. May. Opening of the border with Austria (3205). Fall of the “Iron Curtain.”

**Left to right:** North Korean stamp showing Jánor Kádár visiting fellow dictator Kim Il-sung; vignette showing Cardinal Mindszenty; stamp honoring the return of Mindszenty’s remains to Esztergom (3342); 1959 Greek stamp in memory of executed Prime Minister Imre Nagy (Greece 665).

1989. May. Opening of the border with Austria (3205). Fall of the “Iron Curtain.”

**Above:** Rubik’s cube (2752)

**Left to right:** Return of the Coronation Regalia (2548); Dismantling of the Iron Curtain (3205); Republic (3253)
BÓLY:
Postal History and Orthography

by Alan Soble

At the end of this essay, I expose a forty-year Hungarian Communist social and political absurdity that will, after a few centuries, shrink to nothing in the myopia of historiography. This essay in practical postal history, not theoretical, is meant to try to prevent its complete obliteration.

In southern Hungary, in Baranya county, there is a clean, quiet Transdanubian town, Bóly, which I have been to a dozen times or more, for periods ranging from one day to a month, carrying along a status ranging from stranger, visitor, and guest to, eventually, husband, son-in-law, father, and uncle. The Hungarian Wikipedia says that archaeological evidence “proves” that the area had been inhabited during the Stone Age. A settlement called “Bolo” was mentioned in a 1093 text (MW), and the same town, called “Bool,” was mentioned in a 1421 text (DW). In the 18th Century, there was an influx of Germans from Swabia into the location. Although Susan Gal thinks this occurred in the 1740s (p. 340), DW puts the date at 1731. Regardless, the area was situated in a thickly Swabian (Schwäbische) region of Hungary (see Figures 1–2). As a result of the immigration of the Swabians, the place was known, according to DW, as “Németbóly (Deutsch-Bohl).” Back then, the town was “almost entirely German-speaking.” It “remained so until after the Second World War” (Gal, p. 341). Today, more than sixty years and two generations later, and after the town's name was changed (in 1950) to Bóly, thereby eliminating “Német” (“German”), its population of 4,000 is 90% Hungarian. The town is around 15 kilometers west of Mohács and 25 kilometers southeast of Pécs. It is therefore close to the Hungarian borders with Croatia (15–20 kilometers) and Vojvodina (see the maps, Figures 3–5). The sounds of war coming from the south and southeast, originating in a Yugoslavia that was falling to pieces, were audible in Bóly in and after 1991. The wars also made a dent in the tourism to and through the town that was made possible by the collapse, which began in 1989, of communism in Hungary.

Figure 1. A map of part of Baranya Vármegye in the Kingdom of Hungary. Pécs, named by its German exonym, “Fünfkirchen” (I inserted “[=Pécs]”), is at the center. “Nemethbóly” – no accent on the first “e” – is in the lower right corner at the arrow. The web site (http://www.dvhh.org/swabian-turkey/village) that supplied this map calls the region “Swabian Turkey” (Schwäbische Türkei); Gal thinks the phrase was “mockingly” derogatory (p. 340).
Figure 2. A map of Germany, showing approximately the region lived in by Swabian Germans, some of whom settled subsequently in Hungary, Croatia, or Romania. The map is contemporary; the historical Swabia was larger. (Source: http://www.mygermancity.com/Swabia.)

Figure 3. A 1900 (plus a few years) map of Baranya Vármegye, which shows Németbóly in relation to Pécs and Mohács (http://www.vasutalomasok.hu/terk/varm/baranya.jpg). Ízsép, in the lower right corner, is now (i.e., post-Trianon) the town Topolje, in Osijek-Baranja county, eastern Croatia (but historical Slavonia).

Figure 4 (right). A more recent map, this time showing the new post-Trianon shape and extent of Baranya megye. The town is called "Bóly" (at the arrow), meaning the map was drawn after mid-1950. (Source: http://www.map-of-hungary.co.uk/images/baranya.gif.) Note Villány, south of Bóly. Szigetvár had been in Somogy (see note 21).

Figure 5 (left). A recent map (Google Maps, April 2014) that shows the position of Bóly (left-most arrow) on Route M60 and its propinquity to the Croatian [Slavonian] town Beli Manastir (left bottom arrow; "Pélmonostor") and the Vojvodinan-Serbian towns Sombor (middle arrow; "Zombor") and Subotica (right-most arrow; "Szabadka"). Zombor and Szabadka were in Bács-Bodrog Vármegye in pre-Trianon Kingdom of Hungary.
Why did the ethnic make-up of the population change? In the mid- to late 1940s, Hungary did what many countries did after both World War I and II: a cleansing and retributive campaign of “resettlements, forced moves, confiscations of land and property, collectivization drives, stigmatization of the well-to-do, and public vilification of German-Hungarians” (Gal, p. 353; DW; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechoslovak-Hungarian_population_exchange). While descendants of Germans were being expelled from Németbóly, some of that empty space was filled by ethnic Hungarians who were similarly expelled from Slovakia (Gal, p. 347). Not all ethnic Germans or German-language speakers were compelled to leave Németbóly; however, those who were “spared exportation ... were [still] subjected to ... property confiscations” (Gal, p. 343). As I grew to love my newly-found Bólyi family, I was better able to pigeonhole members of the clan: Many older people were among, and many younger people were the descendants of, Swabian Germans who had circumvented exportation. I’ve been told the story (perhaps apocryphal) that the family’s confiscations were light: telephone service, a car, ice cream maker, clothes washer. I never figured out the reason for leniency; the family had juicy plums easy for picking, either on the grounds that the family was genealogically Swabian-German or because the extent of its current property holdings contradicted the principles, policies, or necessities of Hungarian communism – or both. My wife Szabó Sára was crossbred, the product of a marriage (1963) between a German-descent Hungarian woman, Tárnoki (or Tárnoky) Sára, born and raised in Németbóly, and an ethnic Magyar, Szabó Imre, who hailed from Debrecen, found work in Bóly, and courted Sára. I hailed from New Orleans, courted Sára, and worked in Bóly, preparing Fulbright lectures.

In 2008, I published a few lines about Bóly in this journal and hinted that a more extensive essay would be written. I mentioned that Bóly cancels were “easy to find after 1960. But ... I have seen none from the 1950s, none from the war and post-war period of the 1940s, none from the earlier decades of the 20th century, none from the 19th century (1871–1900), and none on Austrian-Hungarian stamps prior to 1871.” The populations of Németbóly and Bóly were small; so I reasoned that philatelic material would be hard to find. But within a month or so of that snippet, I was inspired when editor Csaba Kohalmi unearthed, from an outlying province of his massive collection, a beauty of a between-the-wars entire (see the two images in Figure 6). Since then, I’ve been searching intensely for “Bóly” (the town's official postal-purpose name as of mid-1950), “Németbóly,” and even “Bohl” (the purported German exonym of “Bóly”) cancels on stamps, pieces, and covers. I report here the extent of my success (and failures) in this six-year hunt.

![Figure 6. Front and back of a cover (in the collection of Csaba Kohalmi) sent registered [1]926 JUL. 24 to Vaduz, Liechtenstein, forwarded to Porrentruy, Switzerland, where it arrived 28 VII 26. The cover displays mixed monetary franking: 7000 korona were paid by a 1000K lilac Parliament (MPK 393) and two copies of the carmine/purple 3000K Madonna (1921; MPK 404). A further 32 fillér were paid by four copies of a red 8 fillér Small Crown (MPK 446) from the 1926 Pengő-Fillér issue. This cover is an orthographic goldmine (or disaster). The registry label has one word for the town name and two accents (Table 1, spelling SAA); the return address on the front has two hyphenated words for the town plus one accent, on the “e.” (I believe this cancel is type Kp-700v, MVI, p. 215.]

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In addition to surveying the postal history of Németbóly, this essay probes the town name’s orthography. A student of orthography will be satisfied by plenty of variations in “Németbóly.” To start, see Table 1 and peruse the caption to Figure 6. Further, many towns in Hungary had names in which “Német” was a prominent part, usually a prefix, including Németlipcse (now in Slovakia), Németpróna (also in Slovakia), Német-Palánka (Vojvodina), Német-Ujvár (Austria), Német Lad (Austria), four towns named “Német-Falu,” and another three dozen “Német-X” villages or towns. One question is whether any historical orthographic patterns can be teased out of these town names—or do their spellings vary chaotically over the years? Settling that issue would require extensive investigation, to sort out whether and when the names and/or cancels of these fifty towns were shifted among the three basic types indicated in Table 1: Hyphenated, Dehyphenated, and Anhyphenated spellings. I make no claim that all nine “Németbóly” spellings in Table 1 existed officially or postally, or that all these spellings existed for other “Német-X” towns. (Substitute, for example, “Próna” or “Lipcse” for “Bóly,” as in note 6, or "Magyar" for "Német," as in Figure 9.) Further research will provide that information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short</th>
<th>Long</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hyphenated</td>
<td>Német-Bóly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[SHA] Német-Bolly [LIH]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dehyphenated</td>
<td>Német Bóly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[SDA] Német Bolly [LD]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Németbóly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[SAA] Németbóly [LA]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ékezetmentes</td>
<td>Német-Bóly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[SHE]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Német Bóly</td>
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<td>[SDE]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Németbóly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[SAE]</td>
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<tr>
<td>For example:</td>
<td>SHA = Short Hyphenated Accented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SDE = Short Dehyphenated No Accent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Variations in the Spelling of “Németbóly”

Another project would study the vicissitudes of “Bóly.” For example, there was a town called “Boly,” with no accent (as in “ékezetmentes” [i.e., sans the diacritic in “ó”] “Német-Boly” [SHE] and “Németboly” [SAE] cancels; a better word would be “másodékezetmentes”), which had been in Zemplén Vármegye (Figure 7). This Boly became “Boľ” at the time most of Zemplén was ceded to (Česko-)Slovensko by the terms of the June 4, 1920 Treaty of Trianon. We should not expect to find any “Boly” cancels on Czechoslovakian stamps after 1920 to 1922, the end of the period during which postal cancellers used would have been Hungarian survivors, the exception being the use of a “Boly” Hungarian Crown canceller for a handful of years starting in November, 1938, as a result of the First Vienna Award.

Figure 7. Two 1900 Turuls cancelled “Boly - Zemplén.” There is no accent in “Boly.” I'm not sure that both cancels have an “é” in “Zemplén.” Left: 10 fillér rose MPK 75, [1]902 JUN 9. Right: 50 fillér red MPK 81, [1]903 DEC 28.
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The accented “ľ,” i.e. “ľ,” in the Slovakian Bolý is pronounced like the “ll” in the Spanish tortilla (or like “ee” in the English word “see”).9 Because a “Bóly” canceller, used in the Baranya town, didn’t exist until 1950, confusing one town with the other, or one name/cancel with the other, is not to be feared. Another interesting example is the name of the village “Görömböly” (see Figure 8), in which the “Bóly” portion includes “ö” (perhaps because both other vowels are “ö”).10

Figure 8. A cropped parcel card uprated with 1932 Portraits: a blue 40 fillér Munkácsy Mihály (MPK 531), a red 70 fillér Bolyai Farkas (MPK 533; Farkas was born in Bólya, now in Șeica Mare, Romania; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Șeica_Mare), sent from Budapest [1]933. JUL. 17 to Görömböly.11 Arriving backstamps were applied in Hejócsaba (19th) and Miskolc (18th), into which Görömböly was absorbed in 1950 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Görömböly). The village had been in Borsod Vármegye; post-Trianon, in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén. Görömböly, as much as it orthographically yearned to be in Gömör megye, was not, contrary to the sender’s geographic intuition.

However, the most interesting “Bóly” cousin is surely Magyarbóly, a town listed in the 1828 Census, also located in Baranya but closer to Croatia, 14 km due south (by air) from Bóly, a few km SE of Villány and its wine region (Figure 4) and, due to the “Magyar,” a linguistically bold ethnic contrast with “Németbóly” (see http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magyarboly; http://www.magyarboly.hu). Compare these facts (or “facts”) with the analogous facts about Bóly (above, first paragraph): The first mention of the village, as “Boya,” was in 1287; Swabians settled in the area from 1750 up to 1830; in the 1900s the town was multiethnic; its current population is under 1,000; it was never known as “Magyar-Bolly,” at least for postal reasons. The earliest canceller was a type F of 1871; its cancel, “Magyar-Boly,” was an SHE (MVI, p. 124; left, Figure 9). In the 20th Century, the cancellers were: 1904, type J, Magyarbóly, SAA (MVI, p. 265); 1909, type K, SAA (MVI p. 351; center, Figure 9); and 1933, type N, SAA (MVI p. 393; right, Figure 9).

I propose that the postal history of Németbóly be divided into eight segments (this categorization may be used generally or for specific towns, including other “Német-X” towns):

(I) The period of the use of a “Deutsch Bolly” (and/or “Deutsch-Bolly”) canceller on the stamps of Austria from the 1850 (first) issue through the 1863–1864 issue. (See the left image, Figure 10.)
This canceller was introduced in 1856 and was used through 1867 (or 1868). Because what is commonly known as the “second” series of Austrian definitives did not appear until 1858, finding “Deutsch Bolly” cancels on Austria “used-in-Hungary” stamps issued from the beginning, 1850, through 1863–1864 should be possible. We should not expect to find cancels exhibiting “Deutsch Bohl” (and variants). “Bohl,” despite given the right to be the town’s German exonym (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_German_exonyms_for_places_in_Hungary#Baranya), is not mentioned as a town-name cancel in my reference works.

(II)(a) “Deutsch Bolly” (and/or “Deutsch-Bolly”) cancels on the 1867 Ferencz József issue and on (perhaps, struck by a survivor canceller) (II)(b) the 1871 lithographed and engraved issues. (I won’t rule out those possible cancels a priori.)

(III)(a) “Német-Bolly” (LH) cancels on the 1867 Ferencz József issue and on (III)(b) the 1871 lithographed and engraved issues. This type F canceller was first used in 1869 (MVI, p. 136; but see MII, p. 384, for the date [maybe incorrect] of 1867). For an example of (III)(a), see Figure 10. According to MU, “Német-Bolly” did not appear on the first five definitive issues of Austria.

(IV) “Német-Bolly” (LH) cancels on the 1874–1900 Envelope issues (probably not on the 1900 Turuls). See Figures 11–12 for three “Német-Bolly” type F cancels on various Envelope issues.

(V) The use of “Német-Bóly” cancellers, and orthographic variants, beginning with the Envelope issue, continuing to 1950 when the town name was modified to “Bóly.” (Va) The type F canceller was first used in 1883 (MVI, p. 136), in which the spelling was “Német-Boly,” hyphenated and only one accent (SHE). (Va*) Type F used to 1922; as of 1904 it had the hyphen removed to yield the “Német Boly” SDE. (Vb) A type H canceller was first used in 1896, with the hyphenated, single-accent spelling (SHE; MVI, p. 220); (Ve) the H-variant Kyá canceller was first used in 1904 (MVI, pp. 215, 220), on which the name was the two-word, dehyphenated, single-accent “Német Boly” (SDE); (Vd) the standard type K canceller was first used 1911, with the single-word, single-accent, non-hyphenated spelling “Németboly” (SAE; MVI, pp. 220, 326); (Ve) various type N cancellers were used starting 1928 and 1936 (until 1950) with the single-word, double-accent “Németbóly” (SAA; MVI, p. 395) – I am not sure I have ever seen a Ve cancel; and (Vf) a type Px canceller was used 1947–1950 (MVI, p. 485) with the “Németboly” SAE spelling.

(VI) The use of post-WWII “Németboly” cancellers (and orthographic variants) from which the Crown of St. Stephen has been excised (i.e., obliterated, not merely omitted).

(VII) The use of “Bóly” cancellers in the period from 1950 into 1990. The type Px canceller was first used on June 6, 1950; see MVI, p. 476, where the town’s name is spelled “Boly.” (Why am I not shocked?) There are no “Bóly” cancels from which the Crown of St. Stephen has been excised; the type Px canceller was not decorated with any Crown to begin with, only a big fat empty communist space. (See Figure 19 for an earlier type Px cancel.)


Figure 10. Left: A Deutsch-Bolly (I) cancel on a 15Kr light brown, perf. 9.5, Austrian stamp of the 1863–1864 series, MPK 34. Right: A Német-Bolly (IIIa) type F cancel (LH) on a red 5Kr 1867 Ferencz József, MPK A3.
I am able to display (left, Figure 10) one example of the early “Deutsch Bolly” cancel, (I), on the 15Kr of the 1863–1864 series, and one “Német-Bolly” type F cancel (LH, IIIa) on an 1867 issue (right, Figure 10). The day is September 13; to estimate the year, take into account that the canceller wasn’t used until 1869 and the stamp wasn’t supposed to be used in Hungary after July 31, 1871. I haven’t yet been able to find examples of (II) and (IIIb). Examples of (IV), “Német-Bolly” LH type F cancels, are shown in Figures 11–12. So ends my inventory of “Bolly” cancels.

Figure 11. [Three images.] A monolingual postal money order form (see MPK, p. 30, for a bilingual form) bearing a black 5Kr indicium and uprated with a red 5Kr colored-numeral Envelope adhesive. On the front, there is a Német-Bolly (LH, IV) type F cancel, 9/11/[18]76. The cancel on the back (cropped) is Pécs (see “Fünfkirchen” on the front, as in Figure 1), 10/11/[18]76. Note that twice on the front (one is exhibited here), the handwritten town name is abbreviated “N. Boly.” (The images were borrowed from an offering of “stigma13” on eBay.)

Figure 12. Two “Német-Bolly” (IV) type F cancels (LH). In the left image, the cancel was applied to a 2Kr violet colored-numeral Envelope. In the right image, the cancel was applied to a later 5Kr red black-numeral Envelope. Note that the font in the right-side image is sans serif, while serifs adorn the letters in the left-side cancel.

Figure 13. Cancels on Turuls. Left: A (Va) “Német-Boly” SHE cancel on a 1900 series 4 fillér purple Turul (MPK 71; the year is clear on the postcard, an entire, not shown). Center: A (Va*) “Német Boly” SDE cancel, [1]906 ÁPR 28, on a loose yellow 2 fillér 1904 Turul (year inferred from the perforation, 15; MPK 89C). Right: A (Va*) “Német Boly” SDE cancel, [1]907 S[EP] 3, on a green 5 fillér 1904 Turul (perf. 15; MPK 91C), on the postcard in Figure 14.
Despite being issued in 1900 – which is in the 19th Century; “despite” is wrong – the Turuls belong to the “Classical Era” of Hungarian philately, which stretches from the 1867 Ferencz József issue to the end of the First War in 1918, a tidy 50 (or 51) years; 1917 also marked the demonetization of the straggling Turuls and the de facto descension of the König. I’ve managed to assemble three on-Turul cancels for this study (see Figure 13). All are type F cancels, which I sometimes mock as “geriatric,” especially when they turn up, as a strike from a survivor canceller, on Czechoslovak Hradčany, and which transmit to the stamps that bear them a restrained, formal appearance. The simple apparatus includes a town-name arc inside the top of a circle and a three-stacked-pancake vertical date. No date bridge cuts across the circle’s center and no Crown of St. Stephen confesses its Magyar origin. The Crown’s absence makes these cancellers particularly suitable for use in a lost territory (if still available), for they refrain from bestowing honor on the ousted oppressor. The postcard mentioned in the caption to Figure 13 is shown in Figure 14. It was sent from “Német Boly” to Mozsgó, now also in Baranya, about 30 kilometers west of Pécs. The town was once in Somogy; look at the bottom arc of the receiving strike on the front of the card. On the back is a photograph of Szentháromság Tér near the center of “Német Boly.”

Even though the Figure 6 cover may be an orthographic calamity, bearing three spellings of the town’s name (SAΑ, SHA, SDE), so far nothing else has deviated much, if at all, from what we expected (but see Figure 11). To be sure, more cards and covers remain to be examined and the night is young. Right now, in fact, I bring up a complication. Although I am not exhibiting all the entries on which these registry labels found a home (Figure 15), I will make the central point. All four registry labels spell the town’s name the same way: “Németbóly,” which is SAΑ. Yet the spellings of the town name in the cancels on these covers are SDE and SAE. Assuming that both cancellers and registry labels represent an “official” decision makes me wonder (as I’ve wondered before, in the face of similar inconsistencies) about the quality of the communication between the left hand (or brain) and the right hand (or brain).
Németbóly may have been a small town throughout the 20th Century, but one resident was a committed, active philatelist, Éöry István, who received and sent specially-prepared covers and cards. I possess six pieces from his collection (or estate?) and images of three more, which range from 1920 to 1949. The return address on one of his early creations (1920) is shown in Figure 16: Éöry was not reluctant to use the SAA spelling of his town’s name, in agreement with the registry labels and contrary to the cancellers.23 Although Éöry occasionally lapses, most of his by-hand spellings on outgoing mail are SAA, “Németbóly.” Éöry was a pharmacist (gyógyszerész); covers sent to him were sometimes addressed “Éöry István / Chemist” or “Éöry István / Apothecary.” We may assume he was literate/educated and hence his preferred spelling should be taken seriously.

Figure 16. The return address in the upper left corner of a 1920 cover prepared by Éöry, using his inscribed stationery. The lettering is blue, the envelope gray. This is the only piece of his stationery that I have seen. Does “Szentháromság Gyógyszertára” merely allude to the pharmacy’s location or is it the pharmacy’s proper name (or both)?

/Most likely, the apothecary received its name because of its location on “Szentháromság tér.” Ed./

Figure 17. 1929 cover from the Netherlands to Éöry István, cropped. The one cent Netherlands definitive is red. The cover, sent registered, was franked with 30 cents postage. Note the little hat on the “o” in the town name. (The eBay seller “yedah2009” never sent me this purchase.)

Two types of covers from Éöry’s collection are relevant to orthography: covers leaving the town, containing a cancel and Éöry’s return address, which can be compared, and incoming covers with a receiving strike. The address on incoming international mail, which includes the town’s name, is unreliable: we have insufficient reason to assume that all foreigners are cognizant of the subtleties of Hungarian orthography. See Figure 17 for one dramatic example (1929): the “o” in “boly” is dressed in a hat (error of commission), while both accents in “Éöry István” are left out (errors of omission) – a conspicuous combination. Another incoming cover (1949) is shown in Figures 18–19. The sender spelled the town name “Németbóly,” which agrees (apparently) with the smudgy SAA “Németbóly” in the receiving strike. A postcard sent by Éöry (Figure 20) to Frankfurt in 1931 is cancelled “Németbóly” (SAE), but Éöry’s return address is his preferred “Németbóly” (SAA). Recall – to make the point – the spelling in the 1900 map (Figure 3).
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Figure 18. A registered cover, dated 21.1.1949 (25th anniversary of the death of Vladimir Lenin), sent from Brno in Czechoslovakia to Eőry István in “Németbóly” (SAA). See Figure 19 for the receiving strike. It is no coincidence that the cover is franked with portraits of Lenin – one brown (1.50K, left), one blue (5K, right).

Figure 19. Left: The commemorative cancel marking the 25th anniversary of the death of Lenin, from the cover in Figure 18; the bottom half was struck twice – an aesthetic flaw. Right: the receiving strike on the back of the cover, dated [1]949 JAN. 23. The town name may be SAA, the mature form that existed before the truncation to “Bóly.” The top of the cancel is doubled and smudged, making it less than certain that the spelling is “Németbóly,” with two accents. The receiving strike has a huge empty space instead of a Crown and grille. This is a type Px, Vf cancel.

Figure 20. [Three images.] An 8 fillér green Crown indicium postcard (issued 1930), Higgins and Gage 82, Simády 71, colorfully uprated with a 2 fillér blue Small Crown, a 4 fillér purple Small Crown, and the recently-released 2 fillér overprint on the 3 fillér orange Small Crown (MPK 442, 444, and 501). Sent to Frankfurter by Eőry István, cancelled [1]931 JAN 18. The canceller used was a Vd; the spelling of the canceller town name is SAE. But Eőry's return address, from the back of the card, is SAA. Yes, I’m counting the blob of ink as a diacritic.
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Figure 21. Airmail (légiposta) cover, [19]95 II. 20, from Bóly to New Orleans, franked with a 4 Ft blue Batthyány-kastély, Körömfalva, Vas megye (1986, MPK 3809); a 20 Ft greenish yellow Brunszvik-kastély, Martonvásár, Fejér m. (1987, MPK 3853); and a 50 Ft light reddish brown Teleki-Degenfeld kastély, Szirákmegyesziget, Nógrád m. (1987, MPK 3856) – a total of 74 Ft. The sender's address in the upper left corner includes “Bóly” with an accent. But see Figure 22.

Figure 22. The “Bóly” cancellation on the cover shown in Figure 21. Notice, to the SW of the “2” in “20 Ft,” that the vowel “o” in the town name is ékezetmentes. Sacré bleu! The cancel period is VIII.

So far, we have seen (from the list of eight periods) cancels I and IIIa (Figure 10), IV (Figures 11-12), Va and V*a (Figure 13), Vc (Figure 6),24 Vd (Figure 20), and Vf (Figure 19). Much of the overall list is still missing, despite the six-year hunt. I have other covers from Bóly that I could display, but the most interesting is one example of an VIII (Figures 21–22).25 I do not think that underinking is the cause of, or explains, the unexpected spelling of the town name in the cancel on this cover (although, if you believe MVI, p. 476, nothing extraordinary or unexpected has occurred).

One more Eőry István postal item will return us to the issue of the ethnic composition of the town and, surprisingly, to my extended family in Bóly. In Figure 23, the picture side of a postcard sent by Eőry shows the town’s “Heroes Memorial,” with a Turul at the top, which was erected, soon after the First World War, in honor of the town residents who died in that war. Later (exactly when?), the statue was modified to honor also the residents who died in the Second World War (Figure 24). Looking carefully, not cursorily, at the monument can bring about a revelatory experience. Indeed, in 1990, the first time I saw the monument, and strolled around it to examine the four sides, and up and down, I missed (from not comprehending exactly the significance of what I was in the presence of, which came from being ignorant of the history of the well-worn patch of ground on which I was walking) – its hugely salient feature. Sure, I noticed the menacing, monstrous bird that had always seemed tame and free-spirited (like Ikarsz) on the stamps of 1900 (Figures 7, 13); I noticed the date “1914-1918” inscribed out of stone; I noticed the plaque that updated the monument to include the names of the town’s dead soldiers, the men killed in the Second War; and I noticed the marble tablets

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attached to the monument, screwed or bolted, on which were listed the names of those who lost their lives in each war. I was moved, of course; this small town in the south of Hungary gave up a fair share of its men, and the monument effectively combined the expressions of grief and patriotism. The names of men who died in the First War were inscribed on the higher marble tablets on the monument; the names of those who died in the Second War were put where there was room, lower down the monument. This positioning of the tablets can be seen in Figure 25, which shows two large horizontal WWI tablets above four smaller vertical WWII tablets — on which tablets it is brow-smackingly obvious (now, but not to me in 1990) that the surnames (family names) of the dead, in both wars, are predominantly, if not totally, German. There is not one Kiss, Kovács, Molnár, Nagy, or Szabó in sight.

Figure 23. The picture side of a postcard sent by Eőry István in January, 1927, to Argentina. The spelling of the town name in the cancel is unclear, as is Eőry's handwritten return address. But the side shown is rich enough. The identifying inscription has been blown up at the bottom: “Németbóly [i.e., SAE] Hősökemléke.” The monument honored residents who died in the First World War. The Bóly web site calls the statue the “Hősök emlékműve,” at http://www.boly.hu/~pusba/szobrok/pages/a PICT0049.htm.

Figure 24. The top half of the Németbóly Hősökemléke (August, 2010) showing, below the stone wreath, the dates “1914–1918.” Beneath the bas-relief of a Pietà (as revealed by the acuity of Dr. Eva Thury, the Madonna with a crucified Jesus wearing his [King of the Jews] Crown of Thorns, an analogy to fallen soldiers), note a plaque added to the monument sometime after WWII. The new plaque includes the post-1950 possessive/adjective “Bólyi,” with an accent.

The town name on the plaque added for the WWII soldiers is “Bóly[i].” Because the name change from “Németbóly” to “Bóly” occurred in mid-1950, it would seem that the WWII plaque and the additional names were installed some time after mid-1950 — already a significantly long time after the end of the war. Exactly how long after? (See the answer, below.) I’ve thought that historical records in the town library and museum might explain the appearance of the smudges on some of the
names on the tablets (see Figure 26). Eventually the smudges were removed from the monument (and the inscriptions colored gold). I wonder, though: Which is the obliteration of history – covering the names with smudges, or removing the smudges? Similarly: “Arson damage caused to [a Sachsenhausen] barrack building [in 1992, by Neo-Nazis] has been covered in glass to protect it [the barracks], whilst still showing the [arson] damage to those visiting the camp.”

Regardless of the year of the installation of the WWII plaque, we are faced with an irony that amounts to a symbolic tragedy: the soldiers, who were of German descent and who died in WWII, were memorialized on a monument which – no matter when it was expanded – did not carry the “Német” that had always been part of their town name and daily lives. There is the further possible indignity that not long after German residents of Németbóly had fought in WWII to defend their long-embraced motherland Hungary (note that, even though bearing German surnames, they had, in appropriate assimilationist style, typical Magyar “given” names), their German-descent family members, who survived the same terrible war that took their kin, were subjected to confiscation of property and forced deportation out of Hungary (unless Germans who were spared deportation, even if not some confiscation, were those who were members of families that contributed brothers, fathers, and sons to the war effort.) Even so, failing to mark the Hősökemléke, somewhere, with an unobtrusive “Német” is an insensitive insult emanating from a deficiency of gratitude.

One more detail fits perfectly here, which I have withheld because it is too painfully absurd to embrace as the truth: I have learned that the installation of the WWII plaque and the inscription of the names of the dead soldiers on the Hősökemléke did not occur until 1989. Before that, the Regime did not allow the public memorial to take place. For forty years (ca. 1948–1989), a piece of history was suppressed and ignored, the fact that Németbóly German-Hungarians had given their lives in a desperate attempt to undo Trianon and restore a semblance of Nagymagyarország.
Maybe I have uncovered part of the reason why the German-descent ancestors of my wife were able to remain in Bóly. This hypothesis is purely speculative, but it does tally with some of the observations I’ve made about the Hősökemléke. Concerning the person named “Toth Antal,” who perished in the First World War (left side of Figure 26), I have been told that that he had been my wife’s mother’s paternal grandfather’s younger brother, which makes him Rahel’s (my daughter, b. 1993) great-great-great uncle. About the person named “Kászdorf Gyula,” who perished in the Second World War (right side, Figure 26, partially covered by the highest dark smudge; he sent the card shown in Figure 27), I’ve been told that he had been the husband of my wife’s mother’s mother’s younger sister29 and, as well, the keresztapa of my wife’s mother (my mother-in-law, b. 1944).30 He would be Rahel’s great-great-uncle by marriage.

It must be one of the strangest moments in the history of postal history that while searching for six years for Németbóly material, mostly combing through the junky, cheap lots on eBay, less occasionally at mediocre bourses or in half-crumpled mail-order catalogues offering overpriced wallpaper, I bought, without knowing exactly what I had stumbled across until I actually began to write this essay (the strange moment), a postcard (Figure 27) that had been sent from Visszatért Érsekújvár in Slovakia to Németbóly in 1942 by Kászdorf Gyula, my mother-in-law’s godfather, a resident of Németbóly who was killed during the war and who was honored when his name was inscribed onto the Hősökemléke, and then sadly disfigured (Figure 26).

NOTES

1. The sources of the non-firsthand information about Bóly presented in this essay include Wikipedia (the English, Hungarian and German versions), other web sites that will be named, and the scholarly essay by Susan Gal, “Diversity and Contestation in Linguistic Ideologies: German Speakers in Hungary,” Language in Society 22:3 (September, 1993), pp. 337–59. In turn, Gal often quotes a study of Bóly by Katalin Kovács, “Polgárok egy sváb faluban” [The citizens/bourgeoisie of a Swabian village], Tér és Társadalom 4 (1990), pp. 33–76. (Gal is a distinguished professor at the University of Chicago: http://anthropology.uchicago.edu/people/faculty_member/susan_gal/. ) The Hungarian-produced Wikipedia page about Bóly is at http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bóly [= MW], and the analogous page in the German Wikipedia is at http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bóly [= DW]. The English page is useless. (These Wiki pages contain very different content; they are not merely translations of the same fundamental facts.) Bóly itself has an extensive web site that is well worth browsing: http://boly.ekisterseg.hu. (See the aerial photographs.) For a philatelic view of Baranya (no mention of Bóly, however), see the profusely illustrated book by Surányi Béla and Marmath János, Baranya megye a bélyegek világában (1979). The catalogue of Hungarian stamps used for this essay is the 2006 edition of Magyar posta- és illetékbélyeg katalógus and the 2008 CD-ROM (= MPK). Monográfiája VI is the 1973 volume on 1867+ cancels (= MVI).

2. “Német-Bóly” is listed in the 1828 Census as “Neeemt-Bóly,” misspelled and lacking diacritics; see http://ww.iabsi.com/gen/public/CensusMain.htm#1828Census. The whole document is “ékezetmentes.”

3. In the late 1940s the end-of-the-war reaction against Germany and the installation of the Communist government affected the town. “After World War II, the Soviet Union and Communist-controlled Poland, Hungary, and Yugoslavia [why isn’t Czechoslovakia included?] expelled hundreds of thousands of ethnic Germans, most of whom were descendants of immigrants who had settled in those areas nearly two centuries before” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diaspora#European_diasporas). The change of the name of the town in 1950 from “Németbóly” to “Bóly,” by deleting “German,” can be understood either as the result of the reaction against Germany and German ethnicity or as a Communist Party manipulation, or both. The change in the name of one of the main roads in the town, from “Érzsébet u.” to “Szabadság u.,” is similarly ambiguous: freedom from the German menace, or the new freedom of Communism? (The matter is more complicated if the name had been “Szt. Erzsébet u.”) Here’s a thought experiment that I’m sure many people have undertaken: Suppose that Hungary, after the War, had been able to resist and prevent communism. Would “Németbóly” have been changed to “Bóly”? Would “Erzsébet” have been changed to “Szabadság”? Would the
Tárnoki ice cream maker have been confiscated? I think “yes” may be said only about the first question, although it might not have occurred in 1950. In my “Obliterations” series (note 17) I began to study changes in geographical names. Is dropping “Német” an obliteration of history?

Permit me to mention another touchy topic. Susan Gal, in agreement with Katalin Kovács (see note 1), reports personality, motivational, and value differences between Germanic and Magyar residents of Bóly (and other Swabian towns and villages). Even in the period 1985–1990, when Gal carried out her study, “The value of hard work, personal restraint, and respect for material accumulation are still organizing features of daily life among the German speakers of Bóly [but not the Magyars]. They constitute one set of grounds on which people implicitly build their claims to dignity, pride, and self-respect” (p. 341). In particular, the difference was functioning in the interwar period, when “Német-Bóly had a remarkably high level of bourgeois development, manifest not only in the range of self-help societies but also in the organization of production, the level and mode of consumption – and, most importantly, the overall [German] ethos ... [which was] centered around the values of family autonomy, industriousness, hard work, thrift, rational investment, and austerity in consumption. In contrast, Magyar villagers of the period have more often been characterized as living by a contrasting set of values congruent with those of the Hungarian gentry. These centered not on restraint and investment, but on honor, extravagant gesture, and elaborate material display” (p. 341). To simplify: Németbóly flourished because Swabians were tethered to the Protestant-Capitalist Work Ethic, while Magyars were tethered to Conspicuous Consumption. We may as well embellish these stereotypes (Gal, p. 357, note 5) by adding that Germans are boring, unimaginative, and grumpy, while Magyars are ebullient dancers and drinkers and have (despite Trianon) a sense of humor, without which no culture, no matter how assiduous and punctilious its citizens, can survive.

The Bóly town web site (at http://boly.ekisterseg.hu/nemet_kissebshei_onkormanyzat) includes a page about the “Bólyi Német Önkormányzat,” which (Google translation, edited) “represent[s] the interests of the minority [German] community, preserving ... minority historical traditions [and] language.”

4. This essay has been a long time coming. The 2008 snippet was part of “Bóly, St. Petersburg, and Fiume,” The News of Hungarian Philately 39:3 (July-September, 2008), pp. 5–8.


6. Search for “Nemet” in the 1828 Census. The towns are spread throughout the Kingdom of Hungary. If I seem to be focusing on places “moved” by Trianon, that’s because I have a special interest in the postal history of the lost territories. Here are seven cancel examples from five towns:

7. Most of Zemplén is now in Slovakia; a slice, the southern ¼ of the Vármegye, containing Tokaj and Sárospatak, remained in Hungary. Sátoraljaújhely was on the Trianon border; it was split by the new border, the “Ronyva stream.” Similarly, Polish Cieszyn and Czech Těšín were split by the
Eastern Silesian border marked by the Olza River. (See Cs. Kohalmi and A. Soble, “A Commentary on László Filep’s ‘Czechoslovak Territorial Disputes with Poland after WW1’,” The News of Hungarian Philately 42:1 [January-March, 2011], pp. 24–27.) The Hungarian town retained its name; the Slovakian portion is called “Slovenské Nové Město.” See the map nearby (Google Maps, April 2014), showing the two towns across the border from each other. Recall the Slovakian equivalent of Vágújhely: “Nové Město nad Váhom.”


9. The pronunciation is from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovak_alphabet. Nevertheless, I can’t figure out, after browsing web pages, whether Bol’ should be pronounced “Bow-ee” or more like “Boy-ee,” “Bœ,” or “Bö.” The English Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bol’, is otiose. The Magyar page, at http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boly, is better. The (NE) town Boly had once been known as “Bolly,” simpliciter, so “Német Bolly” as the name of (the Baranya) Bóly was not peculiar. In 2001, the population of Bol’, 730, was (80 years after Trianon) 85% Hungarian and 12% Slovak. The town sits in the SW corner of Slovakia, around fifteen kilometers each from Hungary and from the Ukraine. Its web site, http://www.bol.ocu.sk/sk/, is dull. According to Edwin Mueller (= MU; note 13), the cancel “Bol” appeared on the first five Austrian definitive issues (1850–1864); the first Hungarian-language canceller was the F-type “Boly-Zemplén” in 1888 (SHE, MVI, p. 86). See Figure 7 for two such cancels on Turuls.

10. A search of the 1828 Census yielded four other “Boly” cousins: Bolyar (Sáros Vármegye), Bolyok (in Borsod, at http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolyok), Hoboly (Somogy), and Priboly (Gömör-Kishont).

11. From http://helytortenet.com/gorombolyre-kuldott-szallito-level-1933-dudosits-jeno-festomuvesznek, image retrieved both before and after 05/06/2014. It was for sale on 07/04, but might not remain there for long. The pages and material are owned by Szász György (on eBay, “collectorspub”).


13. It is confirmed by Edwin Mueller’s 1961 Handbuch der Entwertungen von Österreich (= MU) that the Deutsch Bolly cancel (#503) appeared on all first five definitive issues of Austria, from 1850 through 1863–1864. The book does not include cancels on the 1867 (sixth) issue. I don’t have access

14. Many web sites (e.g., http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/I._Ferenc_József_magyar_király) drop the “z” in the digraph, spelling the name “Ferenc,” thereby substituting contemporary practice for the orthographic rule or tradition of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when “Ferencz” was alive and kicking – for example, this superbly designed 1871 “Ferencz József” gold coin, denominated 10 Franc / 4 Forint (abbreviated “Frt”). I resist employing the anachronistic “unigraph” Ferenc. The historic-linguistic principle appealed to here is that when scholars spell the name of a town (or person) while referring to the town (or person) as it (he/she) existed in, say, 1890, we should use the 1890 spelling, e.g., “Debreczen,” but when referring to the town as it existed much later, say 1940, “Debrecen” is quite acceptable.

15. Why “Bolly” at all? The name – which is supposed to correspond to the German exonym “Bohl” (yet there is no “el” sound in “Bóly”) and leads to “Bóly” – can be understood as a contraction of “Bolyly,” shortened from a name of 6 characters, 4 letters, to a name of 5 characters, 3 letters. Why “3 letters”? When a digraph in Hungarian, such as “ly,” is doubled to “lyly,” it is then transformed into a trigraph, in this case “lly,” which is one letter composed of three characters, the way a digraph is a single letter composed of two characters. See the section “Writing system” in the entry http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_language.

16. In fashioning this table, I had the singular assistance of Johan Sevenhuijsen, including his deciphering the symbols in the MVI Német-Boly entry on p. 220. He also sent the Németboly entry (#4017) for 1871–1920 from Márffai A. és Szép E., Postmarks of the Hungarian Post Offices and Postal Agencies (1995).

17. See the crown-excised Rajec (Figure 127) and Pécs (Figure 128) cancels on p. 11 of my “Obliterations and Their Absence [Part V]: Elaborations, Emendations, Extensions,” The News of Hungarian Philately 42:1 (January-March, 2011), pp. 4–15. MVI illustrates an excision on p. 215.


21. Here is a small SE portion of a 1910-ish map of Somogy Vármegye; Mozsgó is NNE of Szigetvár (http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/maps/1910/vmlista.htm). Both towns are now in Baranya megye.

"/see the map on the next page/"
22. “Németbóly” (SAA) is the spelling of the town name in 1910, according to the Verzeichnis den Post- und Telegraphenämter in Österreich, Ungarn, und in Bosnien-Hercegovina. Vol. II, p. 415 (reprint published by the Austrian Philatelic Society [UK]). The cancellers do not agree, is the point.

23. The front side of this cover is Figure 3 in my 2008 report on Bóly cancels (see note 4).

24. Here is another example (beyond Figure 6) of a Vc, SDE cancel, an Eőry István creation. The cover was sent to Budatín, "Č.S.R.," dated 1927 JUL. 18; the 85 fillér paid for registration (see R#766, Figure 15); the stamps are from the 1926 Pengő-Fillér series: a blue 10 fillér Mátyás Templom, a brown 25 fillér Templom, and a black 50 fillér Buda Castle (MPK 447, 450, and 455).

25. I should have lots of post-1990 Bóly covers, more than the few I have, and many franked with various combinations of Kastélyok definitives, because my small family of three received a stream of letters, cards, and small packages from Bóly in the first half of the 1990s. In the late 1990s, I separated out the few dozen or so that for me were worth keeping and sold the rest, several large lots, on eBay. Chad Snee of Linn’s bought one lot (see Linn’s Stamp News, June 5, 2000, p. 62, where a
cover from New Orleans to Bóly is displayed). Jim Gaul, a member of our Society, bought another lot. I later ran into Hurricane Katrina, who took all my put-aside, remaining Bóly covers. The few that I now have were a gift from Jim, who allowed me to rifle through the lot he bought from me to search for items to replace some lost to the flood.

26. The photographs of the monument in Figures 24, 25, and 26 were taken in August, 2010. The damage done to the tablets (Figures 25–26) occurred almost immediately after their installation in 1989. The three nearby images of the cleaned-up monument were taken in mid-2014.

27. There is a photograph of this attempt to save both the original history of the barracks and the arson that partially obliterated the history, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sachsenhausen_concentration_camp.


29. I always greeted this nagynéni with csókolom. Rahel calls her “Bőzsi Tánti,” an historically appropriate Magyar-German (Schwabian) amalgam: it begins with a diminutive form of “Erzsébet” (thanks, Csaba!) and ends, as Rahel noticed, with a variation of the German word Tante for “aunt.” Many names of Bóly residents are similar amalgams, e.g., “Kászdorf Gyula.”

30. I swear that soon after my marriage with Szabó Sára I was appointed (by whom?) and announced to be the keresztapa of a young girl in the family, Eszter, who lived a few blocks away in Bóly. True, my tenure lasted only 1991–1997, during which period I sent her an occasional gift all the way from the U.S.A., but no one who now lives in Bóly or ever lived in Németbóly remembers or acknowledges that I (the sole Jew in the clan, going all the way back to the Stone Age) had been a designated keresztapa. Talk about the obliteration of history. As my shmegegge nephew-attorney advises, always get it in writing, even if it is illetékmentes.
Acknowledgments. Discussions with Dr. Eva Thury of the English Department of Drexel University about “Bolly” and about Susan Gal’s essay were helpful. She also read the manuscript and made many important suggestions, including “másodékezetmenetes.” Johan Sevenhuijsen assisted with the content of Table 1 and with my strained history of the town’s cancels. Szabó Ákos, an ex-inhabitant of Bóly and my ex-brother-in-law, told me that the WWII plaque was erected on Bóly’s Hősökemléke in the late 1980s and provided me with copies of the pages from the German-language book on Bóly that pinpoints the date as 1989. Rahel Emőke Soble took the photographs of the Turul Hősökemléke (note 26), which included its defacement, and supplied information about two of the names inscribed on it. (Had Tárnyoki Ernő [my ex-wife’s paternal grandfather, the old guy with the marvelous handlebar moustache that made Franz Josef’s facial hair look like that of a street person] been evicted from Némethbóly after WWII, Rahel would never have existed to take photographs of the monument – similarly, if I had gone to Salzburg instead of Wien in the summer of 1987, ad quasi-infinitum.) Szabó Ákos took the photographs of the restored Hősökemléke (note 26). Literature supplied to me by SHP members Robert Morgan and Emmerich Vamos was very useful, as these books usually are. Over the six years of my work on this project, Csaba Kohalmi continually offered his knowledge and ideas; provided relevant references; found and gave me pertinent stamps and covers; and sent me a copy of Chad Snee’s article in Linn’s. This essay is much better as a result of his efforts. I am grateful for his supererogatory editorial support.

AIRMAILS TO PALESTINE 1938-39
by Judy Kennett

This article is written because I have found two airmail covers from Hungary to Palestine, sent just three weeks apart in 1939 that have different frankings. Then I acquired a picture post card sent from Hungary to Palestine in 1938 that was apparently treated as unpaid, and attracted a postage due charge at destination.

These covers were both addressed to Josef Weiss at Haifa, and are possibly from the same sender. As both are endorsed ‘6g,’ the difference in frankings is puzzling. There is no sign that a stamp has fallen off the envelope with the lower franking, but it has been suggested that the difference is because there had been a change in the weight increment, possibly to 10gr, in the interval between the two postings. The rate tables for 1936 state that the airmail surcharge for Palestine in 1936 was 24f per 5gr or part thereof. Was there a change in early June 1939?

The first cover (above, left) is postmarked ‘Légi Posta / Budapest’ on 3 June 1939, then Budapest 20 /Repülőtér one hour later on the same day. The postal clerk’s calculation on the left hand side of the cover confirms that the 1936 rate was still in operation, and it is franked with 88f. There is no receiving cancel on the back.

The second cover (above, right) is postmarked ‘Légi Posta / Budapest’ on 24 June 1939, then ‘Budapest 20 / Repülőtér’ later on the same day. It is endorsed ‘6g.’ This time the charge was 64f. There is no receiving cancel on the back of this cover, either.
Since starting this article, I have seen another cover addressed to Weiss on an Australian dealer’s online shop. It is postmarked ‘Légi Posta / Budapest’ on 10 June 1939, and is endorsed ‘5g.’ The charge was 64f, and the postal clerk’s calculation is on the left hand side.

The item shown above is a picture postcard of the Budapest Thermal Baths, addressed to a settlement near Tel Aviv Palestine, endorsed ‘Flug Post – Air Mail’ and franked with a 16f Famous Hungarian stamp. The address is partly written in what appears to be Hebrew. It is obvious that this card was dropped into a post box as it was, and not taken to a post office window.

The stamp has been outlined with blue pencil; this was often done on posted items to indicate stamps that had been withdrawn. In this case, the stamp was still valid, but here it was considered as invalid for postage. The Editor tells me that according to airmail regulations then in force, postage on correspondence had to be fully prepaid at the time of posting. Perhaps the clerk rejected the stamp based on this rule in order to force the recipient to pay full postage due.

A two-line cachet ‘Affranchissement insufficient’ was put on, and emphasized with crosses on either side, then what appears to be ‘170f’ in a circle was added. How was this amount calculated? When the card arrived in Palestine (there is no date of receipt), tax there was calculated at ‘T 70.’ Two postage dues of 50 mils and 20 mils were added, then pen cancelled.

Thank you to the Editor for his advice about airmail rates in 1939. Please direct any comments about either the frankings on the covers or the treatment of the postcard directly to him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello Csaba -- I received the April-June 2014 edition of The News today and for the first time in its 45-year history, I laughed out loud while reading it. From time-to-time there have been questions and/or comments about my writings on “The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail” whether regarding my two “books” by that title or the many articles I’ve written for The News and other publications. But, I never expected to see questions and discussion concerning my name in print. That’s too, too funny. So, I guess I’ll have to try to get my two cents in, since I’m the “fellow who identifies himself as Victor Gy. Berecz.”

The way you guys wrote about me made it sound like I’m dead, but I’m still alive and kicking. I first exhibited my Hungarian airmail collection in 1966 and used the title “The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail” then. A couple of years later Al, Bill, Dennis, Jeanette, and I drew straws for membership numbers ... that’s how I got to be SHP member #101. We thought it impolitic to start with #1. I edited The News for its first 10 years or so, and thought we should also publish some weightier material. So in 1970 I produced SHP Monograph #1 titled “The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail.” That’s the “little blue book” you discussed. I continued collecting, learning, and exhibiting. It wasn’t long before I realized that the “little blue book” was a pretty crappy job ...
not so much for the errors it contained (there are a few whoppers) but for the stuff I just had no idea existed. Fortunately for the SHP Monograph Series, Les Ettre and others kept adding much more appropriate work. I’m not sure why anyone is still using that “little blue book” as anything but a historical artifact to illustrate the folly of not knowing how little you know!

Over the years, my collection and understanding developed. That’s because I learned a lot from many very knowledgeable collectors who I’m proud to have considered personal friends; including Otto Schäffling, John Latham, Paul Szilagyi, and Les Ettre … as well as dealers like Earl Blinn and Bela Bauer. But, when I retired in 1994, I saw the end coming. I’d no longer be able to afford the elusive pieces missing from my collection. I decided to end my collecting by passing on the knowledge gained. That led to the American Air Mail Society publishing a much better rendering of “The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail” in 1996. That’s almost two decades ago. This book is starting to show its age, and real students of Hungarian aerophilately need to look not only to it, but to the work done since by such notables as Bob Morgan, Paul Szilagyi, Judith Kennett and others. But, it still has some value I think, and compared to the “little blue book” it’s great … plus it’s still available from the AAMS for $15 (none of which comes to me).

Now, about my name: my granddad was baptized Berecz Győző in Hungary. His mother recorded his birth in her hymnal with the name Győző/Viktor adding the German word with the same meaning. My dad’s New York baptismal certificate says Victor Berecz, using the English spelling. But since he grew up in the Magyar neighborhood of Manhattan he, like his father, often used Győző … and they both often wrote Victor Gy. … the English name and its Magyar abbreviation. My baptismal certificate anglicizes it a little further and reads Victor Guy Berecz, III. Anyway, what’s in a name … Győző, Viktor, Victor … it’s all the same to me, and I prefer Vic anyway. I just hope none of this is the “vanguard” for George! There’s more, but this letter is way too long already.

BTW -- that “boring cover” is a nice example of the MALÉRT Budapest-Vienna first flight of 1924.

Regards,

Vic Berecz

Reply to Vic Berecz:

I thank you for the entertaining comments on my long and profusely illustrated “Letter to the Editor” that appeared in the last issue of The News (April–June 2014, pp. 14–17). I refer to the length and images because the letter was obviously an article in its own right, not merely kudos for our marvelous editor Csaba Kohalmi (though it does contain well-deserved kudos). Your comments on the “letter” minimize the labor I invested in creating that article. In particular, you should have (c’mon, where are your manners?) mentioned my name at least once. This superbly convoluted yet grammatically and semantically impeccable proposition would have been sufficient: “The fellow who identified himself at the end of the article as Alan Soble identified me as the fellow who identified himself as Victor Gy. Berecz.” That would have been fitting, because it would have continued the playful and funny exchange we (you and I) were having about the fine details of your name. (Still, you must admit, small potatoes.)* I fear that you were distracted (like Narcissus) from the more sober and respectable topic of the orthography of the Hungarian language. You misconstrued that which made you laugh – for the first time in forty-five years while reading The News. (Really that long? Surpassing the tenure of Magyar communism? Has The News been perpetually humorless, even when you were its editor?)

It was not my purpose to concentrate on your name per se. Had you been more familiar with, for example, my article “Hungarian Philatelic Orthography,” The News (January–March, 2014), especially Figure 18 and Note 11, you would have easily noticed that my subsequent interest in your name had nothing to do with YOU, but everything to do with the magnificently subtle evolution of Hungarian orthography. I have studied, in essay after essay in The News, Hungarian postal and philatelic orthography. Perhaps these essays were not funny enough for your taste.

By the way, I wish you had taken the opportunity, at the end of your letter, to educate your readers, especially me, by explaining carefully – aesthetically, aero-philatelically, postal-historically, whatever – why the cover that I judged to be boring is actually fascinating.

Alan Soble
I may have facetiously identified you as the fellow who identified himself as “VICTOR GY. BERECZ,” but at least I identified you and acknowledged that you are a person who has a name. Throughout your letter, I remain nameless; the closest you get to proclaiming my existence and humanity is by using the language of Edward G. Robinson, Marlon Brando, and Humphrey Bogart: “you guys.” That sort of de-individualizing homogenization was a trick of Hollywood-American gangsters, who made knocking off punks palatable by dehumanizing them. They were not alone. Guess who else knew well, and tragically, how much easier it is to kill the nameless.

Hi Csaba!

The discussion on long (one-word) Hungarian town name “Pestszenterzsébet” caught my interest. I did not know that I was born in such a famous place — no kidding, my birth certificate spells it out in full! I’ve started to look in Magyarország Helységnévtára (Hivatalos 1944) and found that “Balatonszabádi fürdőtelep” (population 49) is listed as two-words and two-words’ long town names are plentiful; they even have three-word places listed. For a long one-word town’s name I’ve found Barkóczykőszénbányatelep (Borsod vm) which is not really a metropolitan place with population of only 23, but its name is 24 characters long. I don’t believe that either Balatonszbadi … or Barkóczy… had postal cancellers available.

Balatonszabadifürdőtelep did have a canceller that displayed the name of the summer resort as one word. This is yet another example of separate words vs. hyphenated words that confound research into what is the correct spelling under Hungarian grammar rules. Ed. /

An addition to the long towns names discussion: Reformátuskovácszáza (Csanád vm, Population 1,341). The settlement had a rectangular postal agency canceller (p.ü. = posta ügynökség) and used the Control Number ‘4315.’ Its name is twenty characters long.

Bob Morgan

THE EDITOR’S NOTES

by Csaba L. Kohalmi

Very briefly, as my editorial tenure is winding down (I will do two more newsletters after this one), I’m still waiting apprehensively for a volunteer to step up and take over this job.

2014 NEW ISSUES

Issue date: 27 April 2014

The Canonization of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II

Face value: 2 x HUF 250. Stamp size: 30 x 40mm. Souvenir sheet size: 178 x 126mm. Designer: Barnabás Baticz based on photographs by Cultiris. The stamps reproduce the portraits of the two popes. The sheet design incorproated St. Peter’s Square and Michelangelo’s Pieta. Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers in an edition of 80,000 souvenir sheets.
Issue date: 28 April 2014

Memorial to the Victims of the Holocaust

Face value: HUF 375. Stamp size: 30 x 40mm. Designer: Eszter Domé. The design shows a pair of hands holding a clump of dirt with a green sprig representing rebirth. Technical details: Printer by the ANY Security Printers using four color offset in an edition of 250,000 stamps.

Issue date: 9 May 2014

200th Anniversary of the Birth of Béni Egressy

Face value: HUF 200. Stamp size: 30 x 40mm. Small sheet size: 154 x 74mm. Designer: István Orosz. The stamp reproduces the portrait of the Hungarian composer. Technical details: Printed using four color offset by the Banknote Printers in an edition of 80,000 small sheets containing four stamps. /The sheet is illustrated on the inside of the back cover./

CEPT – Europa 2014: Folk Music Instruments

Face value: 4 x HUF 250. Stamp size: 26 x 26.4mm. Souvenir sheet size: 100 x 68mm. Designer: Barnabás Baticz based on photographs by Anett Madla. The designs show various antique musical instruments. Technical details: Printed by the ANY Security Printers in an edition of 70,000 souvenir sheets.

Issue date: 4 June 2014

Soccer World Championships in Brazil


Issue date: 20 June 2014

Innovative Solutions: Parcel Post Automat

Face value: Domestic rate (HUF 145). Stamp size: 18 x 25mm; attached label size: 36 x 25mm. Designer: Imre Benedek. The stamp design spells out the word ‘BELFÖLD’ (domestic mail). The label shows the machine for mailing parcels. Technical details: Printed using offset by the Banknote Printers in an edition of 5,000 sheets containing 35 stamps each.

Issue date: 4 July 2014

500th Anniversary of the Publication of István Werbőczy’s Tripartium

Face value: 4 x HUF 330. Stamp size: 30 x 40mm. Small sheet size: 91 x 116mm. Designer: György Kara. The stamp reproduces the cover of the 1565 edition of the book. Technical details: Printed using four color offset by the ANY Security Printers in an edition of 50,000 small sheets containing four stamps. /The CEPT and Werbőczy sheets are illustrated on the back cover./
200th Anniversary of the Birth of Béni Egressy small sheet


Our next general meeting will be held during APS AmeriStamp Expo at Riverside, California. Plan to meet your fellow Society members there. There is no substitute for meeting old and new friends in person. We'll have more detailed program information soon. ☼

WANTED: Consignment material for SHP auctions.

Please submit your surplus philatelic items, stamps, covers, and literature to our auction chairperson, Jim Gaul: 1920 Fawn Lane, Hellertown, PA 18055-2117 USA, email: terrynjim@verizon.net. You can set your starting price or consult with Jim to establish the same. You can help de-clutter your collection, support your Society and provide a source of new acquisitions for your fellow members all at the same time.

FOR SALE: BOUND VOLUMES OF THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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Each book No. 1 thru 11 individually is priced at $30.00 or purchase the entire set of the first 11 books for $320.00. * Book No. 12 costs $50 each. Freight fees will be added to all orders. Orders and inquiries should be sent to:

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2014 EUROPA souvenir sheet picturing antique folk musical instruments

2014 500th Anniversary of the Publication of Werbőczy’s Tripartium