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World’s First Christmas Stamp Issue from Hungary, 1943

The Adoration of the Magi Represented by the Hungarian Kings, St. Stephen, St. Ladislas, and St. Emmerich

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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 contents 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).

Annual membership dues are $15 for members whose addresses are in the United States and Canada and $20 for all other, overseas members. Dues are payable in January in advance for the calendar year. Payment of dues entitles members to receive the newsletter, to participate in the sales circuit and the quarterly auctions, and to exercise voting rights.

This issue closed on 1 November 2000.
The next issue will close on 1 February 2001.
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by H. Alan Hoover

Another STAMPSHOW and another year of fond memories are now behind us. Although this was to be our annual SHP Society show, the first one since Pacific 97 in San Francisco, I am sorry to report that it was not a successful society function in my opinion. Pacific 97 was extremely successful, it had good participation from the society and an excellent program. Unfortunately, STAMPSHOW 2000 in Providence was a flop. Although we did have a society table with yours truly manning it constantly, only six members stopped by to visit, and most them were involved from the exhibiting perspective. Possibly, poor planning on my part was the reason for the dismal turnout. A short excerpt of my impressions about STAMPSHOW can be found in the Society Business column of this issue. Unfortunately, I forgot to take my camera to provide the promised photos.

Not to fret; we will try to address the causes of this problem more diligently the coming year. In anticipation of our 2001 participation at BALPEX, Dr. Andrew Munster has volunteered to be our show chairperson and to coordinate our society’s involvement. Elsewhere in this issue should be the first announcement of our participation as a society. Due to the limited number of contacts we have with you before next year's show, we are trying to encourage active participation in the exhibiting at BALPEX so we can provide an educated estimate of the number of frames from our members. Won't you consider your participation? Please contact Dr. Munster now if you think you will be exhibiting. In order to promote greater participation, we are considering awarding single frame "special society awards" for new exhibitors.

Our society’s Executive Board held it's first electronic meeting, which produced some active participation on some items. In accordance with our new by-laws, a synopsis of the meeting minutes can be found herein.

We regret that we have had to drop some members for non-payment of dues. It happened despite the diligent efforts of many board members, who contacted each delinquent member via letters, telephone calls, and notices. The board decided that the mutual interest in being members must no longer be there and they were dropped. We still show seven other members as being delinquent with their year 2000 dues. We are attempting to persuade them to renew, too. Please check your mailing label for the paid up year of your membership. If it reads 1999, you will be dropped soon if you do not renew.

The SHP board, with the gracious help of one board member, is actively trying to facilitate membership dues payment within Hungary. Watch for further details of this in a future issue.

Finally, take a look at the numerous awards by society members in the following Kudos & Welcome article. It contains some well-deserved praise for some nice work and achievement in the field of Hungarian philately. Congratulations!

I’d like to wish all of our members a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!
KUDOS & WELCOME

The following members received awards at the World Stamp Expo in Anaheim, CA. Donald E. Green received the reserve grand and gold medals as well as the APS pre-1900 medal of excellence and the US Philatelic Classics Society medal for Patent Medicine Companies Subject to the Revenue Act of 1862; Alfred F. Kugel received a gold medal for The Philatelic Effects of the Break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire 1918-1923; and Robert B. Morgan received a gold medal, the APS 1940-1980 medal of excellence, and the Postal History Society medal for Hungary: The Hyperinflation 1945-46.

The following members and contributing authors exhibited successfully at Hunphilex 2000 in Budapest (conducted under the patronage of FEPA, the Federation of European Philatelic Associations): Dr. Paul J. Szilágyi received a gold medal for Occupied Baranya 1919-1922; George Buza also received a gold for Money to Burn, Hungary’s 1945-46 Hyperinflation; Andrew Cronin received a large vermeil for The Hungarian Postal Administration; László Filep also received a vermeil for The Postal History of the Czechoslovak Republic to 14 March 1920; and József Jánosik received a vermeil for Air War over Hungary, 1944-45.

The results of our exhibitors at the APS Stampshow in Providence were as follows. Donald E. Green received the Prix d’Honneur in the Champion of Champions category for Patent Medicine Companies of the Civil War and Reconstruction Era; Stephan I. Frater, M.D. received a gold with Independent Hungarian Post: The Early Years 1867-1878; Henry Hahn received a gold with Prestamp Mail on Future Czechoslovak Territory (1564-1850); Alfred Kugel received a vermeil with 20th Century Ottoman Empire Postmarks of the Lost Territories; Charles Rejto received a silver with Universal Postal Union; and Csaba L. Kohalmi received a silver in the literature competition with The News of Hungarian Philately.

Continuing with the list of awards, Henry Hahn received a gold at Wi-pa 2000 with Czechoslovakia: The First Republic 1918-1938; Alfred F. Kugel received a vermeil at the Minnesota Stamp Expo with German World War II Occupation Mail; and John Stansfield received a silver at Coalpex with Hungary’s Visszatérés Cancellations of 1938 to 1941.

Welcome to our new members Mr. James O’Dea, Jr. of San Diego, CA; Mr. Don E. Heller of Ames, IA; Mr. Martin Rhein of Maximiliansau, Germany, and Dr. Gábor Somkúti of Szeged, Hungary.

Correction: Dr. Andrew Munter’s award at the London Stampshow was a large vermeil medal. The editor regrets reporting it as a vermeil.

AN ANNIVERSARY ALL BUT FORGOTTEN

The registry etiquette from the Budapest 7 post office on the right commemorates the registry label’s 50th anniversary in 1940: 1890-1940 50 Éves Az Ajánlásti Ragjegy. Can anyone report other examples? /Ed./
REMEMBERING ANTON BÁNHIDI

One of the highlights of my life was the one-time encounter I had with a giant of Hungarian aviation, Antal Bánhidi. In 1992, at the urging of several veteran fliers, the 'hermit of Budaörs' was persuaded to attend a monthly meeting of veteran aviators. Those who witnessed this occasion realized that a person of great stature was amongst them and greeted Mr. Bánhidi with a rousing ovation. Along with many of the people present, I, too, lived with the opportunity of asking him to autograph a copy of his book about the flight of the Gerle-13. The book detailing his adventures was published originally in 1938 and reprinted in 1990. I was impressed by the elderly gentleman's stamina and enthusiasm in doing the book dedications.

When my turn came, he looked up at me and asked if he knew me from somewhere. I had to admit that I was a mere philatelist specializing in World War II aviation topics who was not lucky enough to be one of his comrades-in-arms. He put his pen down and changed the topic of conversation to the 1988 Aviation History stamp series issued by the Hungarian Post. He was quite unhappy that while the 10Ft value pictured his aircraft, the Gerle-13, nobody approached him to find out what he thought of the stamp design.

The Gerle-13 was one of five aircraft that bore that name, and 'Gerle' indicates the type of aircraft. All five were built at the Mátyásföld Aerodrome in the hangar of the Műegyetemi Sportrepülő Egyesület (MSrE)/Technical University Sport Fliers Association. Mr. Bánhidi was upset that the name of the manufacturing organization (MSrE), identifying the 'parentage' of his Gerle design, was not indicated on the stamp. The Hungarian Post did not have a satisfactory answer for the omission. Later, I met with Pál Varga, the stamp designer and asked him the same question. He was receptive to the inquiry but apologized saying that the source data for the stamp designs was provided to him by his customer, the Post Office.

The Gerle-13 lifted off on its flight around the Mediterranean on 19 February 1933 from Mátyásföld with Mr. Bánhidi and Tibor Bisits on board. The flight left a rich philatelic legacy for us to collect and admire.

The stations of Mr. Bánhidi’s life encompassed many aviation-related accomplishments, some with aerophilatelic tie-ins. He entered Hungary illegally in 1920 from Transylvania in order to pursue his studies at the Technical University, where he was one of the founders of the Sport Fliers Association. While enrolled as a student, he designed and built airplanes and taught himself to fly. He worked as a mechanic for the Aeroexpress Company at Mátyásföld and later became the shop director of the MSrE.

- In 1929 he flew 5,000km on a northern European tour with a small 18.LE 'Roma' aircraft.
- In 1930, began building the first of five 'Gerle' aircraft.
- In 1930-31, worked to support the 'Justice for Hungary' flight from North America to Hungary.
- In 1932, he performed acrobatic flying in the midst of other aviator greats at the Berlin Air Show.
- In 1933, he and Tibor Bisits conduct the flight around the Mediterranean in 'Gerle-13'.
Post Card from the Around the Mediterranean Flight of the Gerle-13 Posted at Oran, Algeria on 11 March 1933 Arriving at Budapest on 24 March 1933. (The reverse side is autographed by Antal Bánhidi and Tibor Bisits.)

Bánhidi (left) Shown with Members of the Hungarian ‘Puma’ Fighter Squadron on their Return Home from the Eastern Front (from the magazine Magyar Érő, 10 Dec. 1943).
But, that’s another story. My grandfather was proud to recall the times that he was in the gardens close to the general on many occasions when the invalid soldier was brought out under the horse-chestnut trees to enjoy the fresh air and the scenery. Görgei died on 21 May 1916.

As the clouds of World War I gathered over Europe, my grandfather was drafted into the infantry in December 1915 and was wounded during his very first firefight in Galicia, Poland in the spring of 1916. He recovered and was sent back into action. After Russia was eliminated from the war, his unit loaded onto a train, the wagons were sealed and transported via Hungary to the Italian front in the Dolomites. His reminiscences about this journey were heartrending.

Workbook for János Kládek with 30f Documentary Revenue Stamp from the 1914 Series.

- In 1937, he piloted an expedition in South America and flew 17,000km, parts of it over previously unexplored terrain.
- In 1939, he took part in air action piloting fighter aircraft over Upper Hungary and the Carpatho-Ukraine.
- He resigned his commission and became a civilian pilot for MALÉRT. During World War II, he piloted Ju-52 aircraft ferrying wounded soldiers home from the front lines.
- During the Siege of Budapest, he was the first pilot to land on the runway carved out of the Horseracing Track. The emergency airlift brought supplies for the city and evacuated the wounded.
- In 1948, he received the People’s Aviator gold medal.
- In 1950, he was blacklisted and prohibited from aviation activities by the Communist government.
- In 1991, he was rehabilitated and in 1992 received the Hungarian Republic's Officer's Achievement award and the Széchenyi Prize. He donated his prize money to establish a scholarship fund for the students of Szatmárnémeti/Satu Mare.

Workbook Entry by Mrs. Frigyes Latinovits

Cachet Prepared by the Author to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Budapest Airlift Operation Organized by Antal Bánhidi.

- 10Ft Gerle-13 Stamp from the 1988 Series with the Broken Wing Spar Plate Variety.
Antal Bánhidi passed away on 18 March 1994. I prepared the illustrated post card to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Budapest Airlift as well as to honor one of Hungary's great aviators. The Gerle-13 stamp achieved philatelic 'notoriety' with the 'broken support member' plate variety.


Antal Bánhidi at a Booksigning in 1992 with Fellow Veteran Aviators

József Jánosik

FIRST IMPRESSIONS CAN BE DECEIVING

The Hungarian post card addressed to Rumania was franked with a 20f Hazatérés stamp but was assessed 12 lei postage due. My first impression was that it was a variant of a non admis item: the Rumanian post office refused to accept the controversial 'returned territories homecoming' stamp from Hungary because of pending Hungarian territorial claims in Transylvania. While the normal procedure for non-admis mail was to return the item to the place of origin, I thought that maybe this was not followed because the post card did not bear a return address.

So, after some spirited bidding on e-Bay, I acquired the card. It was posted from the Szepsi tourist resort in the Szádelő Valley on 15 July 1939. This place was near the larger city of Kassa/Kosice, in an area that was returned to Hungary by Czechoslovakia on 11 November 1938. The card was cancelled at the last post office of Torna. At this point in the examination of the card, it dawned on me that the post office of Torna deliberately did not cancel the stamp, but struck the CDS in an empty space next to the stamp. It was the Hungarian post office that refused to accept the stamp for postage because the postal validity of the 1938 Hazatérés (Scott #561-2) issue ended on 30 June 1939. The postal clerk of Torna followed the correct procedure by boxing in the invalid stamp with blue crayon and writing a large 'T' to indicate that postage due was to be collected upon delivery.

The card was forwarded to Rumania via Nagyvárad/Oradea (17 July 1939) and arrived in Kolozsvár/Cluj on 19 July 1939. At some point during its
I received photocopied pages from the 1982 Zumstein and the 1997/98 Michel catalogs from Miklos Tecsy in regards to the discussion of the Nagyszeben and Borosjenö issues. He and I feel that it's worthwhile to highlight the footnote-type entries from the two catalogs keeping in mind that the task of categorizing of the overprinted stamps was the main objective of my article. The Michel catalog refers to the Nagyszeben overprints as 'Mache,' which means 'fabricated,' i.e. a philatelic, 'fantasy' creation. Zumstein refers to the two issues as 'Schwindelerzeugnisse,' which, in my somewhat weak understanding of the German usage, means 'fraudulent' or 'bogus issue.'

The exact text, which appears next to an illustration of the Nagyszeben overprint, from the Zumstein catalog states 'Marken von Ungarn mit nebe[n]stehendem Aufdruck sind Mache.' The text from the Michel catalog, which similarly illustrates both the Borosjenö and the Nagyszeben overprints, states 'Sogenannte Besetzungsmarken von Siebenburgen mit Aufdruck BANI, Wertangabe und Landesname durchstrichen und die Ausgabe für Südwesstungarn mit Aufdruck de rumäischen Wappen auf kursierenden Marken von Ungarn sind Schwindelerzeugnisse.'

I think that the message both catalogs are trying to deliver is that both issues were unofficial (not authorized by a central postal authority) overprints created by private individuals to pursue a philatelic fantasy. It is known that the Borosjenö overprints were prepared by a stamp dealer in Bucharest. It is known that the Nagyszeben overprints had some form of 'authorization' from a regional military commander in the then occupied southwestern part of Hungary. It is also known that the use of the Nagyszeben overprints was tolerated on letters (fiscal cancels?).

So, my point in the article was that these should not be considered as official 'occupation' issues, but as 'local' issues (bogus, fantasy overprints) created in a time of turmoil for the sake of demonstrating (Rumanian) patriotic fervor as well as to make a few extra 'lei' for the perpetrators. That seems to be in agreement with the opinions expressed in the catalogs.

It is interesting to note that as far as the Kolozsvár and Nagyvárad overprints are concerned, both catalogs list them as issues of Rumania. Both mention the facts that these two issues were prepared for the newly acquired Rumanian province of Transylvania; and, although the stamps were valid throughout Greater Rumania, they were not sold outside of Transylvania.

Mr. Tecsy also pointed out some excellent reference articles for further study of the occupation issues:

- Ettre, László, Dr., 'A homokbálványosi portó provizórium/The Provisional Postage Dues from Homokbálványos,' Philately, 1980/1.
- Surányi, László, 'A temesvári helyi kiadások/The Local Issues of Temesvár,' Philately, 1983/1.

Csaba L. Kohalmi

Address Side of the Picture Post Card Showing the Invalid ‘Hazatérés’ Stamp, the Torna CDS Dated 15 July 1939, the Nagyvárad/Oradea CDS Dated 17 July 1939 and the Postage Due Markings ‘T’ and ‘12L.’

Given that the relations between Hungary and Rumania in 1939 were strained to the point of the two countries almost going to war with each other, it was easy to fall into my first impression. Reality, however, was quite different.

Picture Side of the Card with the 12 Lei Rumanian Postage Due Stamps Affixed and Cancelled with the Kolozsvár/Cluj CDS on 19 July 1939.

transit in Rumania, the postage due of 12 lei was written on the card and 6 x 2 lei postage due stamps were affixed to its picture side.
I had acquired a nice postage due piece of postal history from tension filled months prior to the outbreak of World War II.

Csaba L. Kohalmi

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A COVER FROM A HUNGARIAN TO AN AMERICAN THEOLOGIAN FROM 1927

I purchased the cover shown below in an e-Bay auction for about two dollars last spring. It was addressed to Mr. George Foot Moore / Professor / Cambridge Massachusetts / Harvard University / Amerika. It was franked with 48 fillér postage consisting of a pair of 8f Crown of Stephen and a pair of 16f Fishermen's Bastion stamps from the 1926 Pengő-fillér definitive series. This was the correct rate for a single-weight letter sent abroad. The cover was cancelled at the Budapest 62 post office on 22 September 1927. The return address provided on the back side of the cover was Heller / Budapest / VIII Röck Szilárd, 26. Who were these two correspondents?

According to the online edition of Encyclopedia Britannica (www.britannica.com/seo/g/george-foot-moore), the addressee was a scholar of the Old Testament who specialized in rabbinical source literature. George Foot Moore was born on 15 October 1851 in West Chester, Pennsylvania (to the southwest of Philadelphia), and died roughly four years after receiving the letter, on 6 May 1931 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Moore graduated from Yale University in 1872 and Union Theological Seminary in 1877. He was the Hitchcock Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature at Andover Theological Seminary (1883-1902) even though he was an ordained Presbyterian Minister and served in that capacity at a church in Zanesville, Ohio. In 1902 Moore was appointed a Professor of Theology and then (in 1904) a Professor of History of Religion at Harvard University. His research work was concentrated on the Old Testament, in particular, the Book of Judges, and his most renowned book was titled Judaism in the First Centuries of the Christian Era.

So, who would be writing from Hungary to a prominent Hebrew theologian in the United States? Through the research help provided by Professor Márta Fehér of the Philosophy Department of the Budapesti Műszaki Egyetem, I was able to conclude that of all the possible academic Hellers alive at the time, the most likely candidate was Bernát Heller. Professor Fehér found the following entry in the Magyar Zsidó Lexikon (edited by Péter Ujvári, Budapest, 1929, p. 356):

Heller, Bernát, writer of literary history, lector at the National Rabbinical Institute, born in Nagybittse (Trencsén County) on 16 March 1871. He completed his high school studies at the Rabbinical Institute. He was awarded a doctorate in 1894 and became a rabbi in 1896. That same year he earned a teaching certificate in the German and the French languages. Since 1896 he has been a state certified high school teacher. In 1919 he became the principal of the Israelite Faith Community high school for boys and girls in Pest. Since 1920 he served as the director of the upper high school (gymnasium) and curator of the girls' high school (lyceum). In 1922, the teaching department of Vilmos Bacher named him to an instruc-
tor's post at the National Rabbinical Institute. He is an elected member of Ilmit, the Hungarian Demographic Society, the Folklore Council, and the Pro Palestine Association Executive Council. The main areas of his articles, which have appeared in prominent domestic and foreign periodicals, include studies of comparative literary history, folklore, fairy tale research, analysis of Hebrew texts, the evaluation of connections between Talmudic and Midrash stories from a literary historical perspective, and articles on pedagogy. His published works include Az evangéliumi parabola viszonya az adagához (Budapest, 1894); Eléments, Parallèles etOrigines de la Légende des Sept Dormants (Paris, 1904); La Légendejudeo christienne du Compagnon au Paradis (Paris, 1908); Az arab Antarregény (Budapest, 1918);A héber mese I-II u. o. 1923-1924, Népszerű zsidó könyvtár 5. és 14. sz.); A biblia a költő Zrínyi Miklós műveiben (Budapest, 1925); Bibliographiedes ouvrages du professeur Ignac Goldziher (Paris, 1927).
HOW TO RUIN A PERFECTLY GOOD COVER

The cover illustrated below is from the last (27th) rate period of the great Hungarian inflation of 1945-46. On the front, it is correctly franked with a total of 2 million adó/tax-pengö stamps paying the local rate for a single weight letter of 200,000AP, plus the registration fee of 800,000AP and the express rate of 1,000,000AP. The stamps were cancelled on 27 July 1946 with the special cancellation used at the Labor and Factory Organization Groups Exhibition. So far, so good.

The sender worked in the Ministry of Justice in Budapest and addressed the cover to his wife at, presumably, their home address. He must have been aware of the impending introduction of the new currency on 1 August 1946, since the Forint-fillér issue was announced in the 25 July 1946 of the Postai Rendeletek Tára. He must have also known that the inflation era was ending. As a result, he didn’t mind overfranking the letter by 6 million AP in the form of one 1 million AP and one 5 million AP stamp. The letter went through the mails at the central post office where it received a strike from an old CDS on 28 July 1946. (The Type N CDS was put into service in 1934. It is illustrated on p. 646 of Volume VI of the Magyar Bélyegek Monografiája.) The act of sticking these two unnecessary stamps on the back side of the cover ruined a properly franked letter and made it into a philatelic novelty. He must have intended to use the entire Adópengő-series issue on one cover and wasn’t worried about wasting the 6 million AP.

I wish he hadn’t.

Front Side of the 27th Rate Period Local Registered Express Letter Franked with 2,000,000 Adó-Pengő Using Nine Different Denomination Tax-Pengő Stamps
The illustrated Hungarian covers were offered by a New Zealand postal history dealer in an auction. The descriptions piqued my interest, so I sent for photocopies, which were transmitted by FAX. Since I wasn’t successful in bidding, the resultant poor quality illustrations are the only record I have of these covers. Both represent commercial correspondence between the Leopold Reitzer & Company of Szeged and the Xavier Brothers, Ltd. of Hong Kong. One was mailed in 1934; the other, in 1935.

The first cover was franked with 2,10 pengő using a 10f and a 2P air mail stamps from the 1933 series. The fee breakdown represented 40f for a letter abroad, 50f for registration, and 1,70P air mail surcharge for destinations beyond China. The letter was short paid 50f, which could mean that the sender did not intend it to be registered when it was posted at Szeged. Ed. The Szeged CDS is dated 14 August 1934; the Mátyásföld Repülötér, 15 August 1934. The cover was backstamped Saigon Central Cochinchine on 25 August 1934 and Registered GPO Hong Kong on 1 September 1934. There is also a part of another CDS on the back, which looks as if it could be from another Saigon cancellation.

The intriguing question is why is there a Mátyásföld Repülötér registry etiquette on the cover instead of one from Szeged? Perhaps there were no labels.
available at Szeged and the envelope was endorsed with the manuscript word ‘Ajánlott’ (only an examination of the actual cover could reveal this). The postal clerk at the airport, being better acquainted with international mail, could have felt that this was unsatisfactory and made up for the omission. There is an rubber stamped ‘R1’ in a circle, which may have some connection with the ‘registered’ nature of the cover. /But, it could have been applied to the envelope at its destination, or it could be company ‘stamp’ representing the ‘RL,’ the initials of Reitzer Lipót. It’s impossible to tell if the second character is a numeral ‘1’ or and a letter ‘L.’ It could also have prompted the clerk at Mátyásföld to add the registry etiquette to the envelope without bothering to re-calculate whether the postage paid was correct for registered air mail. Ed./

The second cover was posted on 31 July 1935 and was franked with a single 1P air mail stamp from the 1933 series. /Fee breakdown is as follows: 40f for single weight letter abroad, 64f air mail surcharge to China, short paid 4f. Ed./ It was routed through the Mátyásföld Repülötér on 1 August 1935 and was backstamped Hanoi R-P Tonkin on 9 August 1935 and Hong Kong on 13 August 1935. A manuscript notation of 5 gram 1 P on the front and a second, indistinct Hanoi backstamp can be found on the envelope.

Both covers were sold to an American stamp dealer for approximately $30 and $17, respectively.

Australian collectors and researchers agree that the carrier for these covers was Air France. From 17 January 1931, a French aviation company called Air Orient make weekly flights between Marseilles and Saigon. KLM, the Royal Dutch Airline, covered the section of the route from Baghdad to Bangkok on alternate weeks. Air Orient alone covered the route from Bangkok to Saigon. Starting in January of 1932, a French airline company operated daily flights from Paris to Bucharest via Strassbourg, Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade. Mail would have been picked up from the East-Central European cities and flown to Paris to connect with the Paris-Lyons-Marseilles route. After May 1933, Air Orient and the various other French airline companies merged to form a conglomerate, which became officially known as Air France on 30 August 1933.

Also, according to the experts, the mail between Saigon and Hanoi would have traveled by train. The segment between Hanoi and Hong Kong would have been by mail steamer. The French company, Messageries Maritimes Cie. de Paris, has been suggested as the most likely carrier.

//In The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail authored by Vic Berecz, the southern route through Asia is mentioned on page 5-41, but starting later than these covers document at least in the westerly direction. “Beginning in February-March 1936, through mail from China to Europe was possible by another route. This route was facilitated by the connection of the China National Aviation routes in China to Air France’s south Asia route at Hanoi. The latter route went to Europe via Bangkok, India, and Baghdad. The first flight cover in my collection left Shanghai on February 12. It did not arrive in Hungary until March 17, being delayed for over three weeks ‘by adverse weather.’” Ed. /
documents the reverse of the Air France route. It is annotated by hand *Air Orient - Marseilles - Paris - Praha by Air Mail*. It was posted in Victoria, Hong Kong on 17 November 1936 and arrived in Prague on 1 December 1936.

The next cover was posted in 1937 and traveled to Hong Kong by land along a northern route. It was sent registered from Szekszárd on 15 May 1937 and was annotated *Via Siberia! China!*. The postage paid was 1,30 pengő /60f for a double-weight letter mailed abroad, 50f for registration, overpaid 20f. *Ed.*. The cover was damaged in transit and repaired by the post office of Shanghai by affixing official labels in six places around the edges of the envelope. The Shanghai CDS reads 2 6 26. There is a partially legible manuscript note written in red crayon on the front of the cover: wt (weight) 40 grs (grams) Received in broken condition’ and what may be a signature. I wonder if this might have been written at the Hong Kong post office, where there would have been a staff fluent in English, rather than at Shanghai, where the staff more likely would have been Chinese. The front of the cover also carries the evidence of a single word written in blue crayon but almost completely erased making it unde-cipherable. Unfortunately, there is no Hong Kong receiving postmark to tell the tale of how long the cover took to travel from Hungary to the Orient.

I would be happy to hear from any member who could explain the dating system used on the Shanghai CDS as well as who could shed light on why there are discrepancies in the postage paid with respect to the assumed rates indicated in italics.
The anticipated highlight of the general meeting was the presentation of this year’s Gervay Awards. The Mihály Gervay Postal History Foundation was established in 1993 by MAFITT for the purpose of promoting the public presentation of the results of research and organizing symposia, such as the three-day event held in August of 1999 at Keszthely. For all practical purposes, the Gervay Foundation provides all of the financial support for MAFITT activities. The Foundation established the Gervay Award in 1996 to be presented to philatelists from Hungary or abroad in recognition for outstanding achievements in the research of Hungarian stamps and postal history. Thus, it was designed to recognize those individuals who contributed most to promote the knowledge of Hungarian philately. The award has been presented annually and in all instances, it went to more than one individual. It is interesting to revisit the list of the names of individuals who shared this award, some of whom, unfortunately, received the recognition posthumously.

1996: Gary Ryan, Ferenc Orban, Dr. László Makkai, and László Surányi.
1998: Dr. István Láng and Dr. László Molnár
1999: Dr. Miklós Kamody, Dr. Tamás Somogyi, and Endre Szép.

The recipients for the millennium year of 2000 all reside outside of Hungary: Dr. Ferenc Nagy (Austria), György Cserni (Rumania), Dr. Stephan Frater (USA), Otto Schäffling (Germany), and Robert B. Morgan (USA).

Dénes Czirok, the President of the Foundation, awarded each recipient a certificate and a silver medal engraved with the person’s name. He also read the curriculum vitae of the two, who are members of SHP.

Dr. Stephan Frater is a member of MAFITT since 1990. In his acceptance presentation and other publications, he treated us to a fascinating display of rarely seen classic Hungarian stamps and postal history pieces. He has earned gold medals in several FIP exhibitions with his classical collections. He has been an enthusiastic advocate of Hungarian philately. For nearly two decades, he was the president and organizer of the Society for Hungarian Philately based in the US. We have always looked forward with interest to reading the organization’s publications. Since the 1980s, he has been a regular visitor to Hungary and has been a defining figure in the life of Hungarian philately.

Robert B. Morgan is a member of MAFITT since 1992. His acceptance presentation was focused around the frankings used during the 1945-46 Hungarian inflation. Through extensive research, he introduced us to the concept of ‘frankings using the fewest possible stamps.’ He has published his research in countless articles and several books. For several years, there was hardly a copy of The News of Hungarian Philately that didn’t carry one his articles. He has kept an eye on developments in Hungary, and several of his articles were published at home as well. His 1945-46 inflation collection has been recognized with significant awards at many American and FIP exhibitions. Through his tireless perseverance in exhibiting, he has contributed to the good reputation of Hungarian philately around the world.

Heartfelt congratulations to both of these gentlemen!
Second Cover Posted from Szeged on 31 July 1935 to Hong Kong via Mátyásföld. On the Right: Hanoi Transit Marking and Hong Kong Arrival CDS 13 Aug 35.

Acknowledgements:
The source of much of the information about the early French airlines is the publication, International Airmails as Reflected in the US Postal Guides and Supplements 1921-1946, published by Printer’s Stone, Ltd., Fishkill, NY. My thanks to David Collyer, Australian Philatelic Federation Research Officer for New South Wales, for his efforts in researching the early airmail services to Eastern Asia. Also, thanks to Editor Csaba Kohalmi for his efforts in drawing this article together, and for his explanatory notes inserted in the text, particularly on Hungarian airmail rates in the 1930s.

Judith Kennett

QUESTION & ANSWER

Q: For a long time, I've been puzzled by what Hungarian government agency controlled the country's philatelic life. From postal history items like first day covers, it looks like Mabéosz was in control of new issues. In my collecting of aerogrammes, there is no evidence of Mabéosz being a player at all. Philatelia Hungarica seems to be the dominant force in this area.

A: First, one needs to understand that in the 1950s, the monolithic communist government in Hungary was paranoid about consolidating all activities under communist-controlled umbrella organizations. Hence, MABÉOSz came to be in 1952 as a result of the forced merger of various regional stamp collecting organizations. (The abbreviation MABÉOSz came from the first letters of the organization's name: Magyar Bélyeggyűjtők Országos Szövetsége / Hungarian Stamp Collectors' National Federation. Originally, it was capitalized; but later, the lower case version Mabéosz became accepted usage.)
Philatelic life in Hungary started in the last quarter of the 19th century. In 1876 Klári Prückler opened the very first stamp shop in Budapest. In 1884, the LEHE (Levélbélyeggyűjtők Első Hazai Egyesülete / The First Homeland Association of Postage Stamp Collectors) organization was founded. Today, its successor organization is the Mabéosz group located in Budapest's VIIIth District. Other regional organizations followed: Hungária Magyar Bélyegkör / Hungária Hungarian Stamp Club in 1899; Elma (Elso Magyar Alkalmiberélyeggyűjtő Egyesület / First Hungarian Special Stamp Collectors' Organization) in 1911; MABOE (Magyar Amatőr Bélyeggyűjtők Országos Egyesülete / Hungarian Amateur Stamp Collectors’ National Organization) in 1913; Pannonia in 1916; and so forth. Today's collectors have no doubt encountered souvenir vignettes and cards produced by these organizations in conjunction with various stamp shows and programs. It is interesting to note that all of the regional groups have a successor in the various districts of the Hungarian capital. By the way, the first Hungarian National Stamp Exhibition was held in 1909, and it was during this event that the idea of having a national organization for stamp collectors first surfaced.

In 1922, the various organizations met to form the Magyar Bélyeggyűjtő Egyesületek Szövetsége / Federation of Hungarian Stamp Collector Organizations. Mabéosz considers this it's legacy organization and used this date to honor its own 75th anniversary in 1997.

Immediately following the Second World War, the 'old order' national organization was overshadowed by the Communist-inspired Munkás Bélyeggyűjtők Központja / Worker Stamp Collectors' Center and the Bélyegbarátok Országos Egyesülete / Friends of Stamps National Organization, both of which were founded in 1945-46. Towards the end of 1951, the activities of all three organizations were curtailed and placed under the direction of a government ministry representative. The suppressed groups proceeded to merge into what we know as MABÉOSz in February 1952. The merger was commemorated with an overprinted stamp (Scott #960).

In 1950-1989 timeframe, the only way collectors could subscribe to new issues was to join Mabéosz. Each member was allowed to buy up to five sets of each perforated new issue and one set of imperforates. Buying new issues are face value was guaranteed to be a good investment because the Mabéosz monopoly created a private resale market amongst collectors. Thus, stamps immediately appreciated in value. That's why the Mabéosz membership, which started at 7,000 in 1952, spiked up to over 225,000 at one point in the late 1960s/early 1970s. (It's around 16,000 paid members now, so the relationship between these numbers is significant.)

Philatelia Hungarica (PH for short) was founded in 1950 as a state-run company to market stamps. It had a monopoly to sell Hungarian stamps abroad. It also had a virtual monopoly inside Hungary, although some small stamp dealers survived and managed to make a business of selling stamps. (The private economic sector in Hungary was nationalized during the 1949-1951 timeframe and everybody had to be gainfully employed, i.e., working for a state-run entity, in order not to be declared a vagrant.) It's interesting to note that individuals were not allowed to export stamps. Still, many did so, illegally.
The only way stamps were allowed to leave Hungary was under a controlled 'exchange' program in which a like value of stamps were to be returned from the exchange partner abroad. Exchange shipments were opened and evaluated by the Mabéosz exchange control board. The only legal 'open' exchange of stamps was by way of using them as postage on an envelope. That's why there are so many philatelic covers on the market in America.

So, Mabéosz was the vehicle to distribute new issues from the post office, and Philatelia Hungarica was the vehicle to provide a resale outlet, both domestic and abroad, for all philatelic items. PH also developed a huge approval book selling operation. Even today, it has tons of postage stamps from around the world that it sells mounted into approval books or makes up as packaged lots by country. In the 1957-1989 timeframe, it was the marketing agency for Mongolian stamps.

Privatization came with the democratization of Hungary starting in 1990. Mabéosz lost its monopoly to distribute new issues. It still gets a subsidized supply from the post office, but it also competes with the post office, which now sells new issues for face value (what a concept!). PH is a privately-help corporation, and it still markets stamps domestically and abroad. However, now it has to compete with a sizeable number of private stamp dealers.

The reason that one doesn't see any evidence of Mabéosz in the area of aerogrammes is that the collecting of covers was not a prime form of collecting. In my experience from the 1950s when I started collecting, the emphasis was on 'stamps.' Aerogrammes were made for correspondence only, at least until the 1970s. Even now, they are the stepchildren of philately. Mabéosz took no interest in distributing them at first. Later, aerogrammes commemorating special flights, etc. started to be produced and were sold through the organization.

PH also saturated the hard currency world with mailings announcing new issues. Again, there are a lot of PH covers available from dealers’ cover boxes at stamp shows. Occasionally, an aerogramme form was used.

Reference:
Kurdics, Sándor, 75 Éves a Magyar Bélyeggyüjtők Országos Szövetsége, Mabéosz, Budapest, 1997.

Q: I have six Air Express stamps that I do not know anything about. I have seen them listed in an airmail catalog.
A: The Malért Budapest vignettes were written up previously in our newsletter, probably by our 'retired' air mail expert, Vic Berecz. I couldn't find the actual article, though. My recollection is that they were intended to pay the surcharge for air parcel express delivery, kind of like the FedEx-next-day-air service in today's world. (Malért = Magyar Légiforgalmi R.T. / Hungarian Air Traffic Co., Inc.) For some unknown reason (lack of business? postal regulation violation?), the labels were never put into use. Some of the labels survived or were marketed to collectors by Malért. All copies of these labels that I have seen have part of the name of the company rubber stamped on them, which was probably intended to be a form of invalidation. A set is worth about $35-40 on today's stamp market. I have never seen these in on an actually flown piece of mail in any auction catalog. The Sanabria Airmail specialty catalog lists these items. /See illustration on p. 18./
Q: I have a cover with six green postage due stamps overprinted 'Köztársaság' cancelled with a Lajtapordány CDS dated 918 DEC 2. Since both the Hungarian catalog and the Handbook of Hungarian Stamps indicate that these stamps were put into circulation in February 1919 while the Monográfiája states that they were gradually introduced starting December 15, 1918, I do not know if this cover is a fake.

A: Lajtapordány is the town of Leithaprodersdof in Burgenland, Austria. It's located about 5km north of Eisenstadt, formerly Kismarton. The town was located in the Lajtabánság / Western Hungary, which became the province of Burgenland when the area reverted to Austria in 1921. The key to the cancellation is in this change of sovereignty. During the turmoil, the Hungarian canceller fell into private hands and, as the cover manifests, was misused. All of the major references state that the Köztársaság overprints on postage due stamps came into use sometime in the time mid-December 1918 to early-February 1919 timeframe. Therefore, the cover represents a philatelic, 'favor' cancellation of the postage due stamps with no special additional value added. I wouldn't call it a 'fake' unless the owner added an address and an arrival backstamp to indicate actual postal usage. I've seen a similar misuse of a traveling railway post office canceller from Transylvania on fully gummed Hungarian stamps issued after the establishment of the Trianon borders.

Csaba L. Kohalmi

REPORT FROM THE 2ND WORLD CONFERENCE OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELISTS AND POSTAL HISTORIANS

The MAFITT organization held its second world conference in Budapest in connection with the HUNPHILEX exhibition honoring the Hungarian Statehood Millennium. While the visitors to the exhibition had to endure a Sahara-like climate with temperatures rising to 104°F in the exhibition hall located on Caste Hill, the attendees to the MAFITT conference enjoyed the air-conditioned comfort of the Music Academy meeting rooms. Members, who pursue the study of Hungarian postal history on an advanced scientific level, came from many regions and countries, such as Transylvania, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, and the United States. The first such festive gathering was organized in 1996. Dr. István Láng, a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, gave the keynote address by highlighting the activities and the achievements of the past four years as well as outlining the challenges that lie ahead. MAFITT, which was founded in 1989 with 31 charter members, now consists of 51 members from Hungary and 53 members from abroad. It is well known that the organization is not an exclusive ‘stamp club’ but an association of advanced philatelist who pursue the avocation of Hungarian postal history. Membership is not granted automatically. Prospective members must be nominated by two active members and be voted in by the entire body. Currently, there are six members from the United States, namely
Dr. Leslie Ettre, Dr. Stephan Frater, Janos Gabriel, Robert Morgan, Dr. Paul Szilagyi, and Emmerich Vamos.

The anticipated highlight of the general meeting was the presentation of this year’s Gervay Awards. The Mihály Gervay Postal History Foundation was established in 1993 by MAFITT for the purpose of promoting the publication of the results of research and organizing symposia, such as the three-day event held in August of 1999 at Keszthely. For all practical purposes, the Gervay Foundation provides all of the financial support for MAFITT activities. The Foundation established the Gervay Award in 1996 to be presented to philatelists from Hungary or abroad in recognition for outstanding achievements in the research of Hungarian stamps and postal history. Thus, it was designed to recognize those individuals who contributed most to promote the knowledge of Hungarian philately. The award has been presented annually and in all instances, it went to more than one individual. It is interesting to revisit the list of the names of individuals who shared this award, some of whom, unfortunately, received the recognition posthumously.

1996: Gary Ryan, Ferenc Orban, Dr. László Makkai, and László Surányi.
1998: Dr. István Láng and Dr. László Molnár
1999: Dr. Miklós Kamody, Dr. Tamás Somogyi, and Endre Szép.

The recipients for the millenary year of 2000 all reside outside of Hungary: Dr. Ferenc Nagy (Austria), György Cserni (Rumania), Dr. Stephan Frater (USA), Otto Schäffling (Germany), and Robert B. Morgan (USA).

Dénes Czirok, the President of the Foundation, awarded each recipient a certificate and a silver medal engraved with the person’s name. He also read the *curriculum vitae* of the two, who are members of SHP.

**Dr. Stephan Frater** is a member of MAFITT since 1990. In his acceptance presentation and other publications, he treated us to a fascinating display of rarely seen classic Hungarian stamps and postal history pieces. He has earned gold medals in several FIP exhibitions with his classical collections. He has been an enthusiastic advocate of Hungarian philately. For nearly two decades, he was the president and organizer of the Society for Hungarian Philately based in the US. We have always looked forward with interest to reading the organization’s publications. Since the 1980s, he has been a regular visitor to Hungary and has been a defining figure in the life of Hungarian philately.

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Heartfelt congratulations to both of these gentlemen!
Following the reading of the awards, several members of MAFITT remembered one of the pioneer researchers of Hungarian postal history, Ferenc Orban of Denmark, who passed away in August 1999.

Four significant presentations were made during the conference. Three of these were centered on the 100th anniversary of the Turul stamp issue. Gerrit Hof (Holland) highlighted the differences amongst the 1900-1913 Turul issues; Dénes Czirok presented mixed Krajczár-Turul frankings, and Gábor Voloncs showed the fascinating AUT-perfin. The fourth speaker, Rolf Rohfs, displayed his recently published book, which contains representative examples of bisects of the 1850 Austrian stamp issue.

/SHP members wishing to support the work of the Gervay Foundation with monetary contributions should contact Bob Morgan, SHP Secretary, at the address listed on the bottom of the front cover of this publication./

Dénes Czirók

HUNGARIAN STATEHOOD MILLENNIUM

August 20th has been the Hungarian national holiday for generations. It is the day on which the Catholic Church celebrates the life of Szent István király/King St. Stephen in liturgy. (Elsewhere in the world, September 2nd is the liturgical day for St. Stephen in honor of the re-capture of Buda from the Ottomans in 1686.) Under Communism, the holiday remained in effect with the secularized name of Constitution Day.

This year’s celebrations embraced the Magyar Millennium, the 1000th anniversary of the founding of the Hungarian State by the same king in the year 1000. Historically, the correct date should have been Christmas Day on which day Duke István was crowned king of Hungary with an emblem sent from Rome by Pope Sylvester II. Still, August 20th was the proper day to celebrate the event. Festivities, military parades, street dances, and nighttime fireworks were held in Budapest and throughout Hungary. Pope John Paul II’s representative Cardinal Sodano celebrated mass in St. Stephen’s Basilica in Budapest, after which the Holy Right, the mummified hand of the first Hungarian king, was carried in a traditional procession to the Parliament Building, where the Holy Crown of St. Stephen is on permanent display. As part of the religious celebration, Patriarch Bartholomeos I of Constantinople recognized King Stephen as a saint of the Eastern Orthodox Church.
Philatelically, the nation-building activities of the first Hungarian king had been commemorated as far back as 1938 during the 900th anniversary of his death. St. Stephen consolidated power in a central authority by defeating his cousin Koppány, who claimed the right to rule the loose federation of Hungarian tribes following the death of Duke Géza. Stephen sealed this authority with the crown from the Pope. Through his Bavarian wife Giselle, he opened the doors of his realm to European influence. Through Western missionaries, he Christianized the pagans according to the Rite of Rome. He codified laws and established the county system of local government. Unfortunately, his accomplishment in establishing the Kingdom of Hungary that was to survive intact for the next 500 years (until its disintegration following the defeat at Mohács in 1526) gave way to the mystique, the inviolability of the borders of the Kingdom of St. Stephen, that still haunts post-Trianon Hungary.

King St. Stephen died in 1038 AD without an heir after his son, Prince Imre was killed in a hunting accident. For a few years after his death, wars of succession were waged by his Venetian son-in-law and designated successor Pető Orsoelo, who was supported by the Germans, and the Kazár lord, Sámuel Aba, who was supported by the Hungarian nobles. To complicate matters, the last round of pagan uprisings bent on restoring the old tribal order occurred at this time. Miraculously, the young kingdom survived. The line of succession passed to Stephen’s nephews, the sons of his brother Vazul, whom he blinded because of an alleged conspiracy to acquire the throne for himself. In 1083, his grand-nephew, King St. László, put the interests of the kingdom ahead of bloody family feuding. King László disinterred the body of his predecessor and had him and his son Imre canonized as saints of the Church of Rome. Thus, he perpetuated the cult of St. Stephen.
EDITOR'S NOTES

Another high face value (HUF 2000 = US$6.60) souvenir appeared courtesy of the Hungarian Post. While the event commemorated (1000th anniversary of the Hungarian State) and the innovative printing methods used (OEI ink screen printing, UV overlay, hologram) make this issue an outstanding one, the large face value precludes its purchase by retired Hungarian philatelist. In a land where the average monthly pension is HUF 29,000 (less than US$100), spending one-eighth of this amount on a single stamp purchase is a frivolous luxury. Can we expect a HUF 2001 value issue next year? The trend from the past two years indicates: YES. Shame on the Hungarian Post!

László Filep discussed the 1920-21 Villány provisional overprints on three pages of the July-August issue of Bélyegvilág. Four postally used and one mint example were illustrated. Besides these five, only six other copies (three mint, three used) are known to exist making this issue the scarcest 'occupation' era overprint. The overprint consists of the text negyven fillér (forty fillér) stamped diagonally across the 10f imprint of the postal stationery envelope, Simády # 33b. The author analyzed the frankings on the postally-used covers to decipher whether the overprint indicated a new face value or was a surcharge on top of the 10f original face value of the envelope. In one instance, the 40f was counted as a surcharge in figuring out the postage; in another instance, it was ignored altogether. (The latter was on a unique registered cover addressed to the Belgian Congo.) The third and fourth used covers did not provide any useful data because stamps were soaked off or the rate paid did not correspond to any known rate from that era.

Update to the conversion value of the Hungarian forint: the current exchange rate is US$ 1 = HUF 305. In the last issue I reported this to be US$ 1 = HUF 272 in the table of postage rates for 2000.

Ms. Denise McCarthy, the New Issues Editor for Linn's Stamp News, reviewed the WIPA 2000 and the Magyar Millennium stamp issues from Hungary in the August 7th issue. Unfortunately, she fell into the common error of stating that Austrian stamps were used in Hungary between 1850 and 1871. The correct dates should have been 1850 to 1867. Regarding the Magyar Millennium souvenir sheet, its connection to the 1000th anniversary of Hungarian Statehood was omitted. The misconception about the 1867 'Coarse Beard' issue, despite decades of campaigning by leading philatelists worldwide, will remain to haunt us until all of the major catalog publishers (Scott Publications is owned by the parent company of Linn's) provide a separate listing for it under Hungary. After all, the 1867 issue is the first stamp issue of the independent Hungarian Post Office. I kindly requested Ms. McCarthy to print a correction. She graciously complied and published my comments verbatim in the September 25th issue of Linn's.

I am happy to report that The News of Hungarian Philately received a silver award in the literature competition at Stampshow 2000 in Providence. This is a step up for all of us, contributors, publisher, and editor, since our last entry about six years ago, when we received a silver-bronze.

Csaba L. Kohalmi

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SOCIETY BUSINESS

Membership Renewal

Membership dues for the upcoming year 2001 are payable as of the first of the coming year. Dues remain unchanged at $15 for members from the US and Canada and $20 everywhere else. Please use the enclosed return envelope to send in your dues to our Treasurer, Ted Johnson.

Book Raffle for the Participants in the Quarterly Auctions

Philatelic reference material has been raffled off amongst the members who have participated in this year’s auctions. The prizes, which cost a total of $150 and were purchased by Emmerich Vamos during his trip to Hungary last summer, were funded by income from these auctions. The following is the list of prizes and winners:

- Three copies of Bélyegkönyv Stamp Book by Visnyovszky, (Eugene Kelton, A.B. Muller, & Miklos Tecsy);
- Two copies of Die Ungarische Luftpost Handbuch/The Handbook of Hungarian Airmail by Tálas, (Istvan Bakacs & Andrew Kondor);
- Two copies of Határokontúli helységnévszótár/Glossary of Place Names across the Borders by Sebők, (John Lattin & Patrick Moore);
- One copy of Bélyegzés katalógus/Catalog of Cancellations by Dr. Zlatev; (Franklin Miller);
- One copy of the Philatelic Dictionary in 5 Languages, (Judith Kennett);
- One copy of Magyar bélyegek katalógusa/Catalog of Hungarian Stamps on CD-ROM, (Frank Delzer).

Report from the World Stamp Expo 2000 Held in Anaheim, CA (by Bob Morgan)

The show theme was ‘Space.’ The SHP meeting was held on July 9th. Seven members (Dick Bayless, Gabor Beszedes, R.S. Frank, Ted Johnson, Bob Morgan, Miklos Tecsy, and Emmerich Vamos) along with two wives, and two prospective members were in attendance. We spent about two hours discussing our collecting interests and exchanging information. The two interested attendees found out about the meeting from the official program of the show, which underlines the importance of advance publicity.

During the show I met Attila Hejja, the designer of the 1998 US ‘Space Discovery’ stamps, a sheet of which he was kind enough to autograph for me. He also designed many UN stamps, one of which was issued with an overprint in honor of the Anaheim show. Mr. Hejja provided me with a copy of his biography and offered to give our editor an interview. Unfortunately, his travel plans prevented his attendance our Society meeting. His stamp designs have been reported in previous issues of The News of Hungarian Philately.

Report from Hunphilex 2000 in Budapest (by Andrew Cronin and Dr. Stephan Frater)

The biggest drawback of the show was the extreme heat that everyone had to endure in Budapest. The hot winds blowing north from the Sahara raised the summertime temperatures into the high-90s every day. Unfortunately, most Budapest hotels do not have air conditioning. Despite the discomfort, the attendees enjoyed the show greatly. Mabéosz will try to host a full-scale international show in 2004. The MAFITTT Salon was held simultaneously with the exhibit honoring the 1000th anniversary of Hungarian Statehood. SHP Members Bob Morgan and Dr. Frater were the honored recipients.
of the Gervay philatelic awards. The late Ferenc Orbán, also a former SHP member, was remembered in a presentation Gábor Visznyovszki gave in conjunction with the Stamp Museum staff.

Report from the APS Stampshow held in Providence, RI (by H. Alan Hoover)

The show opened with a slight delay while the organizers waited for the mayor to show up and do the ceremonial ribbon cutting. Several SHP members signed in at the society table, namely R.S. Frank, Dr. Stephan Frater, Jim Gaul, Alfred Kugel, Charles Rejto, and Zolly Sober. Unfortunately, there was scant interest from prospective new members. Only two persons took an application, and a former member stopped by just to say hello. The SHP board meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum. Attendance at the show seemed fairly heavy on the first day, but dropped off on the second. The dealers appeared to be more happy with the sales volume here than in Anaheim. I had some spare time to stroll about Providence and found it to be a pleasant town. At least I got a break from the 90s temperatures that I left behind in Atlanta. In keeping with the general theme for the weekend, the APS affiliates luncheon was also cancelled due to lack of interest.

SHP Executive Board Meeting Minutes (by Robert Morgan)

The electronic board meeting was called to order by President H. Alan Hoover on September 27, 2000 and closed on October 25, 2000. A synopsis of the discussion follows. The full text is documented in the Secretary’s files.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Reports were reviewed for each of the current society committees. See the reports below. Action: None.

2. HUNGARIAN CHECKING ACCOUNT: To assist our members who reside in Hungary with dues payments, Tom Phillips volunteered to establish a procedure for direct deposit of members’ dues in Forints into an account. This won unanimous approval and details of the transactions and postings of deposits will be worked out later. Action: Tom Phillips.

3. FUTURE CONVENTIONS - SHP Society involvement in annual shows was discussed but no decisions were made for society participation beyond 2002. Alan Hoover will solicit possible future sites and recommend to the Executive Board upon receipt of inputs. Action: Alan Hoover.

4. FUTURE CONVENTIONS - Exhibiting at BALPEX 2001 - Dr. Andrew Munster has volunteered to be the SHP Chair for our participation in this show. Innovative inputs to ensure sufficient exhibit entries into BALPEX were formulated. Action: Andrew Munster.

5. SLIDE SHOW - Postponed to future discussion. Action: None.

6. EXPERTIZATION COMMITTEE - This subject was discussed briefly, but no action taken to offer it as a membership benefit. Action: None.

7. LIBRARY - Csaba Kohalmi will continue serving as the librarian in the same mode as in the past. No changes to this membership service.

8. BOUND ISSUES OF THE NEWS - A project proposal for the board's future approval was presented by H. A. Hoover. This proposal is in its infancy but could be utilized to formalize our past and future publications and be an additional revenue generator. Action: Alan Hoover.

10. **PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE LIST** - Monographs need updating before doing this. Bound issues depending on outcome of cost analysis - defer to future meeting at this time. Closed for now. **Action: None.**

11. **TRANSLATION OF MBK** - Everyone agrees it would be nice but not feasible and expensive. This item dropped for now. **Action: None.**

12. **MEMBER ESTATE ASSISTANCE** - The APS’s current advice to its members is fully encompassing and it does not commit the Society to any liabilities. This will be reprinted for SHP membership use. **Action: Alan Hoover.**

13. **SALES CIRCUIT / AUCTION COMMISSIONS** - Commissions for buyers & sellers for both the auction and the sales circuit were reviewed. Sales Circuit sellers’ fees to be reduced to 10%. **Action: Alan Hoover.**

**Plans for 2001**

The Society for Hungarian Philately has agreed to participate at the Balpex 2001 show to be held in Baltimore on Labor Day weekend next year. **Dr. Andrew Munster** has volunteered to serve as the local coordinator and host chair for our participation. Members are encouraged to plan to exhibit and to attend our annual meeting to be held during this show. Please contact Dr. Munster as soon as possible at AAndyplop@aol.com. Information about Balpex may be found on their website http://www.balpex.org.

**Treasurer’s Report (by Ted Johnson)**

- Beginning balance (1 January 2000): $11,007.36
- Income (Dues, donations, Sales Circuit): $2,750.00
- Expenses (2 issues of the newsletter, postage, APS entry fees): $907.32
- Bank balance (17 August 2000): $12,850.04
- Membership: 163 members
  - 5 members (not included in the above number) dropped for nonpayment of the 1999 and the 2000 dues
  - 7 of the 163 members have not paid the dues for the current year.
  - These members have received a final notice along with the September mailing of the newsletter.

**Sales Circuit Manager’s Report (by H. Alan Hoover)**

- 1999 Sales: $2670.33
- Commissions deposited in the Society treasury: $479.99
- 2000 (as of 31 July) Sales: $4729.12 of which $709.37 is commission
- Commissions deposited in the Society treasury: $1000.00
- Checking account balance: $7527.29 of which $5500.00 is payment due to owners
- $9449.00 in new material submitted so far
- No circuit losses in 1999 and this year to date
- General information:
  - Insurance continues with Dan Walker's Collectibles Insurance Agency since the new APS provider cannot handle society accounts
  - Currently 21 active members; 4 circuits in circulation
  - Material is selling well but not much new is coming in

*The Newsletter Editor would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Publisher, Chris Brainard, and the support of the contributing authors who make this bulletin possible.*
FOLLOW-UP TO THE SEMANTICS: 'OCCUPATION' vs. 'LOCAL' ISSUES OF 1918-1921 ARTICLE (Jun-Sep 2000 issue of THE NEWS)

I received photocopied pages from the 1982 Zumstein and the 1997/98 Michel catalogs from Miklos Tecsy in regards to the discussion of the Nagyszeben and Borosjenő issues. He and I feel that it’s worthwhile to highlight the footnote-type entries from the two catalogs keeping in mind that the task of categorizing of the overprinted stamps was the main objective of my article. The Michel catalog refers to the Nagyszeben overprints as ‘Mache,’ which means ‘fabricated,’ i.e. a philatelic, ‘fantasy’ creation. Zumstein refers to the two issues as ‘Schwindelerzeugnisse,’ which, in my somewhat weak understanding of the German usage, means ‘fraudulent’ or ‘bogus issue.’

The exact text, which appears next to an illustration of the Nagyszeben overprint, from the Zumstein catalog states Marken von Ungarn mit nebeneinanderem Aufdruck sind Mache. The text from the Michel catalog, which similarly illustrates both the Borosjenő and the Nagyszeben overprints, states Sogenannte Besetzungsmarken von Siebenburgen mit Aufdruck BANI, Wertangabe und Landesname durchstrichen und die Ausgabe für Südwestungarn mit Aufdruck de rumänischen Wappen auf kursierenden Marken von Ungarn sind Schwindelerzeugnisse.

I think that the message both catalogs are trying to deliver is that both issues were unofficial (not authorized by a central postal authority) overprints created by private individuals to pursue a philatelic fantasy. It is known that the Borosjenő overprints were prepared by a stamp dealer in Bucharest. It is known that the Nagyszeben overprints had some form of ‘authorization’ from a regional military commander in the then occupied southwestern part of Hungary. It is also known that the use of the Nagyszeben overprints was tolerated on letters (favor cancels?).

So, my point in the article was that these should not be considered as official ‘occupation’ issues, but as ‘local’ issues (bogus, fantasy overprints) created in a time of turmoil for the sake of demonstrating (Rumanian) patriotic fervor as well as to make a few extra ‘lei’ for the perpetrators. That seems to be in agreement with the opinions expressed in the catalogs.

It is interesting to note that as far as the Kolozsvár and Nagyvárad overprints are concerned, both catalogs list them as issues of Rumania. Both mention the facts that these two issues were prepared for the newly acquired Rumanian province of Transylvania; and, although the stamps were valid throughout Greater Rumania, they were not sold outside of Transylvania.

Mr. Tecsy also pointed out some excellent reference articles for further study of the occupation issues:
- Ettre, László, Dr., A homokbálványosi portó provizórium/The Provisional Postage Dues from Homokbálványos, Philatelica, 1980/1.
- Surányi, László, A temesvári helyi kiadások/The Local Issues of Temesvár, Philatelica, 1983/1.

Csaba L. Kohalmi

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The News of Hungarian Philately, Oct-Dec 2000
Antal Bánhidi passed away on 18 March 1994. I prepared the illustrated post card to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Budapest Airlift as well as to honor one of Hungary's great aviators. The Gerle-13 stamp achieved philatelic 'notoriety' with the 'broken support member' variety.


The Hungarian post card addressed to Rumania was franked with a 20f Hazatérés stamp but was assessed 12 lei postage due. My first impression was that it was a variant of a non admisible item: the Rumanian post office refused to accept the controversial 'returned territories homecoming' stamp from Hungary because of pending Hungarian territorial claims in Transylvania. While the normal procedure for non-admissible mail was to return the item to the place of origin, I thought that maybe this was not followed because the post card did not bear a return address.

So, after some spirited bidding on eBay, I acquired the card. It was posted from the Szepsi tourist resort in the Szádelö Valley on 15 July 1939. This place was near the larger city of Kassa/Kosice, in an area that was returned to Hungary by Czechoslovakia on 11 November 1938. The card was cancelled at the last post office of Torna. At this point in the examination of the card, it dawned on me that the post office of Torna deliberately did not cancel the stamp, but struck the CDS in an empty space next to the stamp. It was the Hungarian post office that refused to accept the stamp for postage because the postal validity of the 1938 Hazatérés (Scott #561-2) issue ended on 30 June 1939. The postal clerk of Torna followed the correct procedure by boxing in the invalid stamp with blue crayon and writing a large 'T' to indicate that postage due was to be collected upon delivery.

The card was forwarded to Rumania via Nagyvárad/Oradea (17 July 1939) and arrived in Kolozsvár/Cluj on 19 July 1939. Today, the villas formerly belonging to the Latinovits family can be found at the Fő utca #5 and #9 address on Visegrád's main street. The interesting historical connection is that at the time my grandfather was working there, the Hungarian General Artúr Görgei, the Commander of the Army of the Upper Danube and Dictator of Hungary in the final days of the 1848-59 War of Independence, was a house guest of the Latinovits family. By that time, the aging honvéd commander was a wheel-chair-bound invalid requiring care. Because of his surrender to the Russians at Világos, which ending the 1848-49 War of Independence, the general was an unpopular person. Students from Pest would cruise up the Danube on Sundays and conduct protests in front of the villa. By now, history had proved that this was undeserved. Görgei was a brilliant tactical officer and his personality conflicts with Lajos Kossuth did not contribute to the failure of achieving Hungarian independence, per se.

Bust of General Görgey

Map of Visegrád. Fő Utca (Main Street) Runs Parallel with the Danube River. (The Latinovits-villa was across the street from the boat dock on the river.)
But, that's another story. My grandfather was proud to recall the times that he was in the gardens close the general on many the occasions when the invalid soldier was brought out under the horse-chestnut trees to enjoy the fresh air and the scenery. Görgei died on 21 May 1916.

As the clouds of World War I gathered over Europe, my grandfather was drafted into the infantry in December 1915 and was wounded during his very first firefight in Galicia, Poland in the spring of 1916. He recovered and was sent back into action. After Russia was eliminated from the war, his unit loaded onto a train, the wagons were sealed and transported via Hungary to the Italian front in the Dolomites. His reminiscences about this journey were heartrending.
János Kládek (standing, second from the left) in the Company of Other Recuperating Wounded Hungarian Soldiers (1916).

Fieldpost Card from János Kládek Sent from Lemberg/Lwow on 21 April 1916 in Transit to the Front Lines in Galicia. (The card bears the K.u.k. Militärzensur marking from Lemberg. The Dömös arrival CDS was dated 2 May 1916.)
He was wounded again and was recovering in a military hospital at the time of the Armistice. After the war, he settled with his family in Esztergom and became a municipal policeman. The photo of him on patrol in Zombor was taken in 1941 when Hungary re-occupied the Bácśka region between the Danube and Tisza Rivers. Hungarian law enforcement officials were sent to secure the area where he was stationed for about four months.

Police Sergeant János Kládek
Patrolling the Streets of Zombor
in the Returned Bácśka Territory with Fellow Policeman József Réti, (May 1941). (Note that the World War I medals were a part of his dress uniform.)

Postcard with ‘Zombor Visszatért’ Cancellation Sent by János Kládek on 30 April 1941 during his Assignment in Zombor.

Csaba L. Kohalmi
2000 NEW ISSUES

Issue Date: 18 May 2000

73rd Stamp Day

Face value: HUF 26, 28. Size: 30 x 35mm.
Designer: András Andor. The designs depict the figures of King St. Stephen and Queen Gisella from the Hungarian Coronation Robe.
Production details: Printed using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in sheets of 50 stamps. The quantity issued was 300,000 sets.

WIPA 2000 - 150 Years of Postage Stamp Usage in Hungary

Face value: HUF 110. Size: 40 x 30mm.
Designer: László Dudás. The design depicts a scarce usage of a bisected 6kr stamp with Nagy-Dorog cancellation from 1850 from the collection of the Hungarian Stamp Museum. The use of bisected stamps for making up the proper postage rate was legal at the time. The Hungarian Postal Regulation 17902 outlawed the practice in 1881 because of frequent fraudulent use of uncalled parts of stamps.
Production details: Printed using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in sheets of 50 stamps. The quantity issued was 200,000 sets.

Hungarian Viniculture

Face value: HUF 29, 34. Size: 30.7 x 45mm.
Designer: Pál Varga. The designs depict the wine growing regions of Balatonfüred-Csopak and Aszár-Neszmély.
Production details: Printed using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in sheets of 50 stamps. The quantity issued was 300,000 sets.

Turn of the Millennium - Magyar Millennium

Face value: HUF 2.000. Size: 120 x 70mm (stamp in sheet: 35 x 35mm).
Designer: Imre Benedek. The design depicted a view the Earth from space, the numeral 2000, and a holographic image of Dénes Gábor, the Hungarian-born, Nobel-prize winning inventor of holography. The Roman numeral XX and XXI for the turn of the centuries as well as the names of 57 noted Hungarian mathematicians are screen-printed in the design.
Production details: Printed using offset, UV and OEI color-changing printing methods by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. Produced in a quantity of 100,000 numbered sheets.

Religious History - Churches

Face value: HUF 30 (four different designs). Size: 30 x 40mm.
Designer: Dániel Kertész. The designs depicted the Evangelical Church of Deák Square, Budapest; the St. Anthony Church of Eger; the Reformed Church of Tákos; and the Abbey Church of Ják.
Production details: Printed using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. The issued quantity was 200,000 sets. The emblem of the program designed to commemorate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ is repeated on three margins of each sheet of 50 stamps.

Antique Furniture Definitive Series

Face value: HUF 2, 3, 9, 26, 29, 30. Size: 26 x 33mm.
Graphic designers: György Kara and Péter Nagy. Photographic artist: Imre Eck. The designs depict various chairs from the 18th century through 1935. Production details: Printed using two-color offset in sheets of 100 by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in quantities needed to meet postal demand.

Issue Date: 18 August 2000

73rd Stamp Day / Hunphilex 2000 Souvenir Sheet
Face value: HUF 200 + 100 surcharge. Size: 93 x 72mm.
Designer: András Andor. The design shows the Hungarian Coronation Robe.
Production details: Printed using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in a quantity of 120,000 single sheets and 100,000 se-tenant pairs of sheets with commemorative inscription honoring Hunphilex 2000 in between the sheets.

Millennium of Hungarian Statehood
Face value: HUF 50 each for two strips of five se-tenant stamps. Size: 40 x 30mm (individual stamp); 214.5 x 51mm (strip of 5 stamps with borders).
Designer: Ferenc Svindt. The designs bleed into the surrounding sheet margins. Depicted are personages and events from Hungarian history starting with King St. István, King St. László, St. Elisabeth, King Zsigmond of Luxembourg, János Hunyadi & St. John of Capistrano, King Mátyás Corvinus, Miklós Zrínyi, the re-capture of Fortress Buda from the Turks, Zsuzsanna Lórántffy & Gábor Bethlen, and Péter Cardinal Pázmány.
Production details: Printed using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in an edition of 200,000 sets.

90th Anniversary of Hungarian Aviation
Face value: HUF 120. Size: 33.5 x 26mm
Designer: Péter Nagy. Design depicts a Boeing 767-200 aircraft.
Production details: Printed in sheets of 100 using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 300,000 stamps.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2001
to all of our members, readers, and fellow philatelists!

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KELLEMES KARÁCSONYI ÜNNEPEKET
és
BOLDOG ÚJ ÉVET
kivánunk minden tagnak, olvasónak és gyűjtőtársnak!

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NEEDED: Material for study of the postal history of the "Dove" (Galamb) inflationary issue of Hungary. Photocopies of all material, whether commercial, favor, or fake, together with any comments, would be welcome. I will promptly reimburse all copying and postage expenses. Please send to Dr. Andrew M. Munster, 304 Northway, Baltimore, MD 21218.
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H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092, tel: (770) 840-8766, e-mail: h.alan.hoover@lycosmail.com
HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND NEW YEAR 2001!