HUNGARY’S 1970 STAMP PROGRAM ANNOUNCED ...

Below is the 1970 stamp program as announced in the April issue of Filatelia Szemle. Given is date of issue, subject, and number of pieces in the set. An asterisk (*) indicates a semi-postal issue.

January 12  Painting VII souvenir sheet (1)
February 28  The history of the automobile (8)
March 7  Budapest 71 (3) *
March 20  Sojuz 6-7-8 (1)
March 20  Apollo 12 souvenir sheet (1)

April 3  Liberation of Hungary souvenir sheet (1)
April 8  100th anniversary of the Hungarian Meteorological Service (1)
April 22  100th anniversary of the birth of Lenin (2)

Continued page 3.
A MATTER OF OPINION ... AN EDITORIAL  
by Vic Berecz

Why does the Hungarian government persist in manufacturing imperforate versions of its postage stamps? The principal reason for starting the issuance of the imperfs is obviously the foreign exchange their sale to collectors generated. As a philatelic purist, I disagree with the validity of this reason; but as a day-to-day pragmatist, I might have done the same thing if I had the authority and opportunity. But the major point really is -- does even the original, questionable reason still exist? I believe it does not.

The FIP has banned the exhibit of Hungarian imperfs issued since 1967. Therefore the exhibitor, the most serious form of stamp buyer, has no need for these imperfs to assure his all-important completeness. The topicalist is interested in the stamp's subject, and that subject is reproduced just as admirably on the perforated version. Therefore, he has no need for the imperfs. The collector working under a tight budget certainly has no need for the imperfs at their inflated prices. As a matter of fact, I cannot think of any collector or collection to which the imperfs would make a significant contribution.

The above factors, coupled with the editorial campaigns against the imperfs and particularly, the APS black-blot program, must have taken their toll in the marketability of these "stamps". But I must admit, many imperfs are still being sold, and some valued foreign exchange is still brought into Hungary by them. I wonder though, if that same foreign exchange could not be increased by eliminating the imperfs? If Hungary did not appear so prominently each month on the black-blot list, could more collectors be convinced to specialize in the issues of Hungary? Would the positive publicity associated with the termination of imperfs improve the marketability of future Hungarian emissions? I think the answer to all three of these questions is YES! I hope someone in the right place is listening.

STAMP PROGRAM (continued) ...

April 30 100th anniversary of the birth of Lehár (1)  
May VIII paintings series (7)  
May Painting VIII souvenir sheet (1)  
June 27 200th anniversary of the birth of Beethoven (1)  
June World exhibition at Osaka (2)  
June Treasures of Hungarian goldsmithery (8)  
June Anniversary of the Lenin Metallurgical Works (1)  
August 75th anniversary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee (1)  
August 1000th anniversary of the birth of St. Stephen, first king of Hungary (1)  
September Stamp Day souvenir sheets (4) *  
September Stamp Day souvenir sheet (1) *  
September European rowing championship (1)  
September Education Congress (1)  
4th Quarter IX Paintings series (7)  
4th Quarter Painting IX souvenir sheet (1)  
4th Quarter Space research series (7)  
4th Quarter Anniversary of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (1)

SOCIETY NEWS ...

At the meeting held on April 21 several points of general interest were discussed. Al Bauer reported that he had received from a Post Office Department official a reply to his letter to President Nixon. It was stated that the idea of a US St. Stephen commemorative was on the agenda of the Citizen's Advisory Committee and will be discussed shortly. Additional letters to both your congressmen and the Postmaster General will help, so send one if you haven't yet.

Leslie Ettre moved that the President appoint a society librarian, and that the librarian be directed to begin plans for a library as well as attempt to compile a list of philatelic literature relating to Hungary in the private collections of members. The motion was passed unanimously, and Al Bauer, our president, stated that he would appoint a librarian prior to the May meeting.
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An Executive Board meeting was held at the home of Al Bauer on April 28. Plans for the annual meeting were discussed and Bill Domonkos was given the task of finding a suitable location. A large exhibit area, as well as sizable meeting rooms for other activities are required. Bill Domonkos reported that membership cards and bound copies of the Constitution were now ready and would be mailed in a few days. It was decided to wait until the Charter membership period was over on June 30 to publish a directory of members. Vic Berecz recommended that the society provide a suitable award for the best exhibit relating to Hungarian philately at each AFS national exhibit. Bill Domonkos will correspond with AFS officials about this suggestion. It was noted that in the April 25 issue of STAMPS magazine, in the report of the APS business sessions in Memphis, our society was mentioned as having been accepted as a Unit. All were pleased that we were described there as an "outstanding specialty society". Information on the next meeting is given on page 11 of this issue.

CLEVELAND SOCIETY ANNOUNCES EXHIBIT ...

In their April newsletter, our friends at the American Hungarian Stamp Club of Cleveland announce the date of their HUNPEX 1970 exhibit as November 1. This leaves four weeks between our exhibit and theirs permitting the many people that are members of both societies to conveniently exhibit the same collections at these two outstanding events. Our Executive Board wishes to extend their sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Károly Kárpáti who passed away unexpectedly last month. Dr. Kárpáti was a devoted philatelist and a charter member of the American Hungarian Stamp Club of Cleveland.

SHIP CANCELLATIONS OF WORLD WAR I ...

As promised in the last issue, I'm including here several ship cancellations with some pertinent comments. I expect to follow up with some others in a future issue of the NEWS.

The most ornate of the six basic types of postage stamps is shown from the SMS Panther, a cruiser that was ceded to Great Britain in 1918.

The SMS Bodrog was a monitor type gunboat that was a part of the Danube Flotilla.

The SMS Radetzky was a battleship which was ceded to Italy in 1918.

The SMS Sebenico was a naval tugboat.
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The SMS Adria, interestingly enough, was a hulk used for the naval gunnery school.

At the right is one of the several types of cancellations used at the naval postoffice at Pola, which was the headquarters of the Austro-Hungarian Navy on the southern tip of the Istrian peninsula.

CONTEST...

The first correct answer to last months' question came from Leslie Ettre of Norwalk, Connecticut. The question was "How many American astronauts have appeared on Hungarian stamps through the end of 1969?" Mr. Ettre correctly responded with the six names: J. Glenn, M. Carpenter, W. Schirra, E. White, E. Aldrin, N. Armstrong. He also notes that the names of astronauts Borman, Lovell and Anders appeared on Hungarian stamps without their pictures. I will send Mr. Ettre an interesting 1903 registered cover from the US consulate in Budapest to the Consul General in Vienna. Because of lack of sufficient response I've decided not to continue contests at this time. I may try the idea again in the fall, let me hear your feelings on the contest idea.

THE TURUL SERIES.
by William Domonkos

In 1900, because of the change in the monetary unit, a new series of stamps was required, and the Turul set was issued, which, with different watermarks and perforations, as well as overprints, was in use until 1916. This is a nice, variable area for collecting and specializing, with many rarities. It is worthwhile to collect these used as well as mint, as those with a nice cancellation make a very favorable impression.

We will take up in order, from 1900 on, the varieties, the rarities, the forgeries - all those stamps to which one should pay special attention in the course of collecting.

Of interest in the first Turul set of 1900 are the four types of the 6 filler, of which the yellow-olive color is already rather scarce unused; also scarce are the "row-perforated" values, and there are also four values, namely: the 1, 2, 3 and 5 filler pairs imperforate between. The 2kr is already very scarce.

The rarity of the 1904 series is the 2 kr unused, and even more scarce is the 11½ perf variety of this. It is already difficult to obtain the 5kr, and the 60 filler is also rather scarce. The 5kr used with genuine postmark or cancellation, is quite rare. On this last stamp, we have to be careful, because in many cases the lilac cancellation often used has been washed off and a "favor" or counterfeit cancellation applied later. With a lilac cancellation it is not very valuable as a postage stamp and is not worthy of collecting.

An interesting aspect of the 1906 issue is the plate fault causing the word "filler" to appear as "f.iller" on the 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 25, 30, 50, and 60 filler values.

Another item worth mentioning is that on the 1908 issue, there is a great rarity in watermarks - the Roman numeral IV in a "rhombus". The 2 kr value with this watermark is very rare unused, and some of these stamps also have had the lilac cancellation washed off,
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and some have been regummed. Of course it is worthless thus.

In the 1913 Turul issue, the first printing error occurs: on the 13th stamp of the sheet, "35 filler" appears instead of the normal "50 filler" value. Several hundred sheets had already found their way into circulation before the error was discovered.

The 1914 "flood relief" stamps were the first Hungarian charity set, and on the first "war relief" stamps, plate faults appear on the overprint, with "Aadi" and "Vadi" occurring in the place of "Hadi" on the lower values, and "Fill.e." in place of "filler" on the 1, 2, and 5 kr. The last two can still be found, but the 1 kr is very scarce. This has been forged, also, but in a rather primitive manner.

On the second "war relief" set, several sheets were printed with the "35 filler" error. These are extremely rare.

All in all, the Turul series of stamps, including the overprints, provides a fertile field for the specialist, who derives a great deal of pleasure from searching for, and finding, any of the above varieties, and probably hopes someday to come across one as yet undiscovered.

(Note: this article is based to a great extent on an article in the April 1957 issue of the Filateliai Szemle which was written by Szepes Aladár.)

MAHART POSTAL STATIONERY ...

The MAHART (Hungarian Steamship Company) is celebrating its 75th anniversary. For this occasion a specially designed envelope and postal card were issued from Trieste, where MAHART has its shipping dock for high seas traffic. Special stamp and cancellation were also used to commemorate the event - according to the Hungarian Philatelic Revue.

HELP ... we continue to need articles for future issues of the NEWS. Any area of special interest to you is welcome.
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NEXT MEETING...

The next meeting of the Society for
Hungarian Philately will be held at 8 PM
May 19, 1970 in the Fellowship Hall of
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 160 Hill
Farm Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Following the business meeting there
will be a slide presentation by Mr. Otto
Schaffling. The slides were originally
prepared for a presentation that he made
at the Collector's Club in New York City.
They cover the 1871-1900 period of Mr.
Schaffling's collection of Hungary. As
many of you know, this collection has been
awarded important medals at several inter-
national exhibitions. Therefore this will
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There will also be an auction of members
material, so bring some of your duplicate
stamps and covers along.

Following our last meeting, we viewed
and discussed various errors brought by
members. There were interesting pre-print
paper fold varieties, double impressions
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1945 BEKE issue, two examples of the 35 f
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