COLLECT "HUNGARICA"

by Leslie S. Ette

The collection of Hungarian stamps is relatively straightforward: these stamps are well documented in the various catalogs and many preprinted specialized albums are available if somebody doesn't want to spend the time to set-up his own collection. Of course, it is not easy to compile a collection containing the many variations - particularly in the field of the classical stamps - but it depends mainly on the available money and luck how complete somebody's collection will be.

There is, however, another field related to Hungarian philately where everybody is forming his own collection; the price of the stamps included is generally low, and the completeness and uniqueness of each collection depends not on the available financial means, but on the ingenuity of the individual collector. This field is what I call HUNGARICA.

What is HUNGARICA? Generally speaking, a collection of HUNGARICA comprises of stamps and postal material which, by their origin, design, or subject are related to Hungary but were not issued by the central Hungarian postal authorities. Such a collection can be divided into four parts:

(1) Stamps of other countries which, by their subject or design are related to Hungary and Hungarians.

(2) Overprinted Hungarian stamps or stamps of special design which were issued by continued on page 4.
This editorial is being written, and hopefully being read, within a short period of Election Day, so politics is close to us all. Our hobby, stamp collecting, is unfortunately tied very closely to politics. Few countries have bypassed the opportunity to use their postal emissions to make political "hay" either domestically or overseas. Neither the United States or Hungary are exceptions in this case. When the "party in power" changes, as in the US in 1968, the trend of stamp subjects frequently changes dramatically. Both people commemorated and causes espoused begin to follow a different "line". This isn't necessarily bad, and certainly is to be expected. The US has also used stamps to state its position in international affairs. The entire "Champions of Liberty" series is directed in this vein. The Poland commemorative of a few years ago is a prime example of this policy.

Our society, together with a substantial part of the Hungarian-American community, requested a stamp to commemorate the 1000th anniversary of the birth of St. Stephen this year. We look at Stephen as a great nationalist and religious leader of the country of our forebears. But, the stamp was not judged on a cultural or historic basis, it was judged politically. The well-known fact that its refusal did not come from the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee or the Post Office Department, but rather from the State Department, makes this very evident. But, shouldn't this have been expected? Hungary was on the "wrong" side in the two great wars of this century. Hungary's present government is not on friendly terms with our US government. And many of the appeals for this commemorative stamp have followed a pseudo-political line such as "Poland got one so we should".

Due to uncertainty of the date of his birth, the twelve month celebration of the St. Stephen anniversary, as decreed by the Council of Hungarian Catholic Bishops, does not end until August 1971. Therefore, many feel there is still time to have a stamp put in the 1971 stamp program. But how can this come about? Only by taking this appeal completely out of the realm of politics. Despite my comments in the first paragraph, many of the stamp subjects selected are non-political. St. Stephen must be numbered among these. The kind of appeal that I believe does have a "shot" is based exclusively on cultural and historic issues that show how Hungary and St. Stephen were important to the survival of the Western Civilization on which these United States are based. As you write your congressmen and Executive Branch officials requesting a St. Stephen commemorative, make sure that they realize that it was the Hungary that St. Stephen put together that provided the eastern bulwark of European Civilization for the seven centuries prior to US independence. Remind them that Hungary was mutilated by the Mongols, and later by the Turks, but that this buffer that Hungary provided may have saved Western Civilization as we know it. Let them know that the Hungarian people have a great religious devotion to this day, and that this religious heritage is based on Stephen, the King-Saint that Christianized the nation. Let them also know of the dedication of hundreds of thousands of Hungarian immigrants and their descendents to the United States, as workers and soldiers and scientists and scholars.

I guess all this can be summarized by saying -- the US should commemorate the anniversary of St. Stephen's birth with a stamp because the heritage he gave birth to in Hungary has influenced greatly the preservation and development of our civilization, and in particular these United States.

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Editorial ... continued

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Vic

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Collect "HUNGARICA" ... continued

foreign forces occupying Hungarian territory.

(3) Hungarian stamps overprinted by other states or their local authorities in territories which, in the reschuf- fling of Middle-Europe after the first and second World Wars, became permanent parts of these states.

(4) Overprints or stamps of special design issued by local Hungarian authorities either during occupation or in a time when the central Hungarian postal authorities did not, or could not, exercise their responsibilities in that area.

Stamps of the third category are usually handled among the stamps of the particular state, while stamps of the second and fourth categories are generally compiled under the term of occupation stamps or local issues. Some information on them is available in the various stamp catalogs but it is very difficult to find it because this information is scattered around in the listing of about seven countries; at the same time, their handling is not uniform and by far not complete.

Stamps belonging to the first category represent a real challenge. It is a virgin territory which, according to my best knowledge, has never been dealt with. This field is even more interesting and challenging because to handle them, it is not enough to have a knowledge of stamps; one also has to acquire a knowledge of history, culture, sport, and international events.

In the subsequent issues of the NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY we plan to deal in more detail with these four groups. We hope, that in this way, we will arise an interest among our members to include this field in their collection. Meanwhile the author of this article would appreciate if the readers who are interested in collecting HUNGARICA would tell him about their collection, by writing to him in care of the Society.

NEW ISSUE SERVICE

Last month in an editorial a poll of the membership was requested regarding a possible new issue service. Response from outside the local area was only two letters, and so most of the responses below were gotten at the last local meeting in Fairfield. 75% responded that they do collect new issues, 40% favored the establishment of a new issue service, and 60% replied that they would use the new issue service if it was established. (It must be noted that this 60% amounts to only nine people, hardly enough to even seriously consider this project.) Your Executive Committee believes that unless support for this idea is expressed by many more members, it will necessarily be dropped from consideration.

CLEVELAND ACTIVITY

The American-Hungarian Stamp Club of Cleveland, Ohio held their eighth annual exhibition and bourse on November 1. It was called "HUNPEX '70". They are offering a cacheted cover honoring the 60th anniversary of Hungarian Scouting and the 25th of its existence in exile". The covers are available at $25 each from George J. Vareska, MD, 1952 Laurel Hill Road, South Euclid, Ohio 44121. We hope our friends in Cleveland have had a very successful exhibit, and also hope that in the future we may find ways to assist one another to make each of our annual exhibits even a greater success.

NEW ISSUE

Shown below is the set and souvenir sheet issued by Hungary on the 43rd Stamp Day. The designs picture elaborate initials from the codices of the library of King Matthias (1458-90). (Souvenir sheet shown on Page 9)
Collect "HUNGARICA" ... continued

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(Souvenir sheet shown on Page 9)
World War I Censorship in Austria-Hungary

by Victor G. Berecz

During the first world war all of the mail leaving the Austro-Hungarian Empire was censored. Domestic mail was not usually censored. The standard list of censor offices, as given in volume 1 of Billig’s Philatelic Handbook, lists 161 offices. Of these ninety were in Austria, thirty-one in Hungary, ten in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and thirty in occupied cities under Austro-Hungarian control. My greatest interest is in the censor offices in Hungary proper, but it must be remembered that mail posted in Hungary was frequently censored in cities in other parts of the Empire, before crossing an international boundary. The most frequently found of these other censor offices is Feldkirch, Austria, the principle railway port-of-entry to Switzerland. In addition to the 31 cities listed by Billig, I have in my collection the marks of censor offices that apparently existed in Kormend and Nagyvarad, Hungary.

On the following page I have located most of the thirty-three cities in Hungary that are under consideration on a rough map. Note that the majority of these cities were in border areas, and were frequently known by different names or varying spellings. I used Billig’s spellings here, although I wanted to change a few. The three cities I have been unable to locate are: Bozovics, Osijek, and Stara-Pazova. Note that these cities are mostly ports-of-entry, on the Adriatic, the Danube, or major railway lines. This is the reason that many important cities, such as Szeged, Debrecen, and Szombathely are not on the list. All prisoner of war mail went through Budapest, where it received special censor marks and was forwarded to the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen for distribution.

If further interest is evidenced from members, I will publish one or two interesting censor marks each month in the NEWS. Any information on the “missing” cities above,

List of Austro-Hungarian Censor Offices in Hungary - 1914-1918.

1. Arad
2. Brestercze
3. Bjelovar
4. Bozovics
5. Brasso
6. Budapest
7. Eperies
8. Flume
9. Karlovac
10. Kassa
11. Kolozsvár
12. Liptoszentmiklos
13. Marmaros-Szigeth
14. Marosvasarhely
15. Munkacs
16. Orsova 2
17. Osijek
18. Pancsova
19. Pecs
20. Petrovardin
21. Ruma
22. Satoraljaujhely
23. Stara-Pazova
24. Temesvar
25. Ujvidek
26. Ungvar
27. Varazdin
28. Versecz
29. Zagreb
30. Zemun
31. Zsolna

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5. Brassó 22. Satoraljaujhely
7. Eperies 24. Temesvar
8. Fiume 25. Ujvidek
10. Kassa 27. Varazdin
12. Liptoszentmiklos 29. Zagreb
15. Munkacs
16. Orsova 2
17. Osijek
A. Kormend
B. Nagyvarad

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Below are several of the special cancellations used in Hungary during this past summer. They are taken from recent issues of the Filateliai Szemle.

King Stephen I cancellation used in Esztergom on August 20th of this year. In St. Stephen's time Esztergom was the capital of Hungary.

Summer Fine Art University of the Danube Bend at Esztergom.

Kiskun Region Shepherd's and Horsemen's Day.

The Sixth Trans-Danubian Analytical Chemistry Conference held in Pecs.

Fourth Debrecen International Chess Festival - Geza Maroczy Jubilee Competition.

UN/FAO ISSUE

Souvenir Sheet from Page 5.

Hungary issued a single stamp, 1 forint value, for the Seventh Regional FAO Conference for Europe, held in Budapest. Featured in the design is the emblem of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. The main design portrays the wooden sculpture by Istvan Szabo entitled "The Bread". Stamp designer is Jozsef Vertel.

New Postal Stationery:
1. 60 filler postal card in same design as issued for the 100th anniversary of the Hungarian Postal Card, but in green.
2. 1 forint stamped envelope as currently produced, but with light yellow and orange-yellow paper.
3. 1 forint brown acknowledgement form (shown below) that is essentially a receipt for a deposit made to someone's National Bank account, the deposit of course being made at a post office.
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PO Box 1162 Samp Mortar Sta. Fairfield, Conn.

The regular monthly meeting of SHF will be held on Tuesday evening, November 17 at 7:30 PM.
It will be held as usual in the Fellowship Hall of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 160 Hill Farm
Road in Fairfield. A map is below. Following the brief business meeting, color slides recently
taken in Hungary will be shown. This should be of particular interest to those who have
never visited Hungary. As usual, an auction of Hungarian philatelic material will be held
and "door prizes" will be drawn. Everyone is welcome.

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