



MILITARY THEMED POSTAGE STAMPS

**PART I:
From the First
World War to the
21st Century**



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The New Front:
(International Hungarian Military
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*“To strive, to seek, to find,
and not to yield.”*

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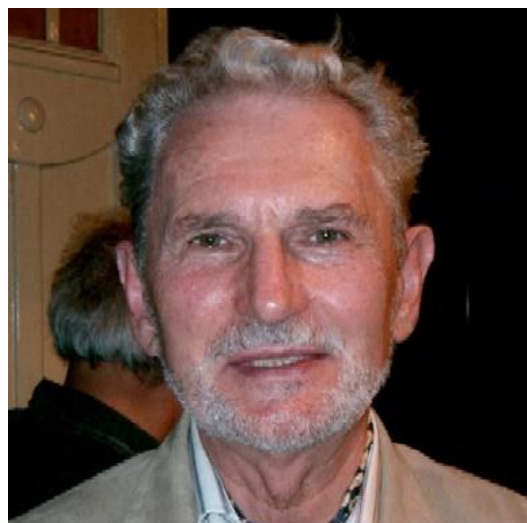
Membership in the
International Hungarian Military History
Preservation Society is \$40.00 annually,
and includes the *Magyar Front*.

The original *Magyar Front* was the
weekly newspaper of the Frontline
Fighter's Association, and was
published from the early 1930s until
the end of the Second World War.

A note from the Editor

This issue of the *Magyar Front* is dedicated to my friend, IHMHPS member George Eckschmiedt, who recently passed away. George was born in Hungary, and by the time he was in high school he had completed his first flight-test in a sailplane - and remained a life-long glider pilot and local soaring pioneer. He was in his third year at the University of Agricultural Mechanical Engineering when the 1956 Hungarian Revolution broke out, and our friendship began in 2006 when he played a major role in our 50th anniversary commemorative projects. Out of the hundreds of “1956ers” I have interviewed over the years, George was one of the few who could provide documentary proof of his involvement as a revolutionary, and he generously shared his photographs and reminiscences with the people of Vancouver.

After arriving in Canada, he attended the University of British Columbia, completed a telecommunications course, earned a British Columbia Institute of Technology diploma in Industrial Management and a graduate certificate in Business Management, and later became a Professional Quality Engineer. Only a few months ago, despite his limited mobility, he spent a morning in my workshop helping me with some electrical and mechanical problems. This fine Hungarian gentleman will be greatly missed.



GEORGE ECKSCHMIEDT 1935-2022



Philately, or the collecting and study of postage stamps, is a complex hobby that can be daunting, however, choosing a particular theme is a good way to narrow one's focus in order to put together an interesting and comprehensive collection. In this issue, IHMHPS member Jeff Tóth shares his Hungarian military themed stamps with us, covering the early, monochromatic examples from the First World War to the detailed and colourful stamps of today. All of the pieces in his collection are reproduced in actual size. Part II will be presented in our next issue - world stamps featuring orders, decorations and medals (spotlighting beautifully designed Hungarian examples) by Gergely Sallay. These military themes represent a wealth of historical information and artistic excellence that I'm sure will be a delight to *Magyar Front* readers.

P.Cz

Hungarian Military Themed Stamps

by Jeff Tóth

My stamp collecting began in my juvenile years, inspired by my father. Aunts, uncles and grandparents all contributed with specimens from their travels around the world and correspondence from distant family and friends. The collection took a back seat during my young adulthood, yet I always saved stamps that struck my curiosity, or that I knew were not in my small and dormant collection – but these just accumulated in envelopes and boxes until just recently, after I retired.

If you haven't participated in the IHMHPs Group Facebook Page, you're missing out on a lot of exciting activity. Although I joined the IHMHPs in 2014, I didn't create a personal Facebook page until 2020. As I reviewed all the earlier posts there were several stamp-related ones, thanks George Hennessy and James Marin and the cast of frequent *Magyar Front* authors and contributors, a spark re-lit the flame of Hungarian philatelic interest in me.

Alan Bauer of Hungaria Stamp Exchange has done a tremendous job in satisfying my many inquiries. You will also find a great collection of high-resolution Hungarian stamps chronologically ordered by period at www.hungarianstamps.co.uk/index.html (being a site created in the United Kingdom they used the Stanley Gibbons, or SG, catalog numbering system).

The following photographs represent just some of the military-themed specimens that I have accumulated in my albums. This subject matter can be quite extensive - Hungarian history goes back more than a thousand years, and many of them were filled with armed conflict. For the purpose of this article, I limited the scope to the modern era (1900 and on, encompassing World Wars I and II). Additionally, due to space considerations, I truncated some of the series to include only unique designs and not all sequential copies of the same image, if only the colour or denomination varied. Depending on which geographical region you call home, there will be specific cataloging conventions (Scott, Stanley Gibbons, Michel, Philatelia Hungarica, etc). I have chosen to reference Michel (Mi) numbers to at least allow anyone who is interested in a particular group of stamps to research them further and begin, or add to, their collection.

1914 and 1915 Military Aid to Widows and Orphans

Previously issued stamps printed anew, but with added overprint for the purpose of collecting additional funds beyond normal postage rates. The two groups represented below contain 35 separate stamps (Mi HU145 through 178) varying colors, denominations and sizes, but only national eagle (*turul*) over crown of St. Stephen or King Ferenc József I images.



Mi HU150



Mi HU177

1915-1917 KuK Feldpost (Austro-Hungarian Imperial and Royal Field Post) King Ferenc József I

Only a partial group is shown, there are twenty-seven separate stamps in the series ranging from 1 heller to 10 krone.



Mi AT-AH F22A



Mi AT-AH F28A



Mi AT-AH F30A



Mi AT-AH F43A

1916 Military Aid



Mi HU183



Mi HU184



Mi HU185

1916 Coronation of King Karl IV and Queen Zita



Mi HU188



Mi HU189

1917 Colonel-General Archduke Joseph War Exhibition



Mi HU208



Mi HU209

1917-1918 KuK Feldpost (Austro-Hungarian Imperial and Royal Field Post), King Karl IV

Only a partial group is shown, there are twenty separate stamps in the series ranging from 1 *heller* to 10 *krone* (Mi AT-AH F53A through F72A).



Mi AT-AH F53A



Mi AT-AH F56A



Mi AT-AH F62A



Mi AT-AH F69A

1918 KuK Feldpost (Austro-Hungarian Imperial and Royal Field Post), King Karl IV

This series was never formally issued, but consists of 14 stamps ranging from 1 *heller* to 1 *krone* (Michel AT-AH FI through FXIV), only a partial group is shown.



Mi AT-AH F IV



Mi AT-AH F V



Mi AT-AH F VII



Mi AT-AH F XIV

1918 KuK Feld Post (Austro-Hungarian Imperial and Royal Field Post) fund assistance, King Karl IV and Queen Zita.



Mi AT-AH F73



Mi AT-AH F74



Mi AT-AH F75

1918 King Karl IV and Queen Zita



Mi HU213



Mi HU214



Mi HU215



Mi HU216



Mi HU217



Mi HU218

1917 KuK Military Post Bosnia-Herzegovina Commemorating the Three Year Anniversary of the Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and His Wife Sofie, June 28th



Mi AT-BA 121



Mi AT-BA 122



Mi AT-BA 123

1918 KuK Military Post Bosnia-Herzegovina War Charity Stamps



Mi AT-BA 142



Mi AT-BA 143

The National Army Enters Budapest - November 16th, 1919

This overprint was frequently counterfeited. 145,000 of the total 270,000 were marked on the reverse by the Szociális Missziótársulat (Social Mission Society) with "SOC. MIS." in the same colour as the obverse, to guarantee their authenticity.



Mi HU286



Mi HU287



Mi HU288



Mi HU289



Mi HU290

1920 Prisoner of War

Note the replacement of *Magyar Király Posta* with *Magyar Posta*. After the end of World War I, the disintegration of the dual monarchy, and dethroning of King Karl IV, Hungary dropped the use of "Royal" (*Királyi*) from their postage stamps.



Mi HU312



Mi HU313



Mi HU314

1921 (Nyugat-Magyarország) Western-Hungary “People, no no never!”

Local stamps from Lajtabánság (an area near the Leitha river now the Austrian federal state of Burgenland), the former short-lived state of Hungary that existed between October 4th and November 5th, 1921. There are eleven separate stamps in the series ranging from 5 *fillér* to 3.5 *korona* (Mi HU-LB32 through LB42).

Note the use of “perfins” - symbols or words perforated into the picture of the stamp (more clearly seen from the reverse side of the 2K “parliament” (Mi HU-LB40) below. More specifically in this set of stamps will be a triangular pattern of three holes. This is called *hármashyukkal* (with triple hole) in Hungarian. Perfins were generally used to prevent the misuse of postage stamps by marking them for specific purposes. Today these perfins can actually increase the value of certain vintage stamps.



Mi HU-LB36



Mi HU-LB40



1921 Western-Hungary Northern Army of the Rising Hungarians

Only a single stamp from this group is shown - there are sixteen separate stamps in the series ranging from 5 through 60 *fillér* with “harvester,” 1 through 10 *korona* with “parliament,” and 50 and 100 *korona* with Madonna (*Patrona Hungariae*, defender, or Patron Saint, of Hungary) and Child (Mi HU-LB43 through LB58).



Mi HU-LB48

1938 Governor Miklós Horthy

Note returned use of “Royal” (*Királyi*, abbreviated as *Kir.*)



Mi HU565



Mi HU566



Mi HU567

1938 Reclamation of Hungarian Territories

Commemorating the First Vienna Award re-annexing Felvidék (Upper Hungary) campaign.



Mi HU591



Mi HU592

1939 Hungarians for Hungarians



Mi HU593



Mi HU594



Mi HU595



Mi HU596



Mi HU597

1940 Horthy as Governor of Hungary – Twenty-Year Anniversary



Mi HU626



Mi HU627



Mi HU628

1940 Return of Eastern Hungary

Commemorating the Second Vienna Award reclaiming Transylvania (*Erdély*), which was ceded to Romania under the Treaty of Trianon, 1920.



Mi HU638



Mi HU640



Mi HU641



Mi HU642

1940 and 1941 National Aviation Fund



Mi HU623



Mi HU624



Mi HU625



Mi HU651



Mi HU652



Mi HU653



Mi HU654

1941 Return of Délvidék (Southern Hungary)



Mi HU655



Mi HU656

1941 Miklós Horthy Governor Portrait Series



Mi HU657



Mi HU658



1941 Soldier's Christmas



Mi HU682



Mi HU683



Mi HU684



Mi HU685



Mi HU686

1942 Soldier's Christmas Fundraising Seals (shown half size)



1942 and 1944 Red Cross

Including István Horthy's widow (Mi HU696B) and Miklós Horthy's wife (Mi HU698B) imperforate series.



Mi HU691



Mi HU692



Mi HU693



Mi HU694



Mi HU696B



Mi HU697B



Mi HU698B



Mi HU749



Mi HU750



Mi HU751



Mi HU752

1942 István Horthy (Son of Regent Miklós Horthy)

Commemorative issued after his death in a flying accident over Russia.



Mi HU695

1942 and 1943 National Aviation Fund

Last used image of the winged emblem in first stamp of the 1942 series 8 fillér (Mi HU687).



Mi HU687



Mi HU688



Mi HU689



Mi HU690



Mi HU731



Mi HU732



Mi HU733



Mi HU734



Mi HU735

1943 Military Relief



Mi HU722



Mi HU723



Mi HU724



Mi HU725



Mi HU726



Mi HU727



Mi HU728



Mi HU729



Mi HU730

1948 Army Week



Mi HU1000

1950 We Keep the Peace



Mi HU1141

1951 The People's Army Day



Mi HU1199



Mi HU1200

1974 Armed Forces Day



Mi HU2982



Mi HU2983



Mi HU2984

1978 Huszár Commemoratives



Mi HU3259



Mi HU3260



Mi HU3261



Mi HU3262



Mi HU3263



Mi HU3264

1981 Hungarian Historical Military Flags



Mi HU3486



Mi HU3487



Mi HU3488



Mi HU3489



Mi HU3490



Mi HU3491

1993 Hungarian Seagoing Ships

St. István steamboat and battleship. The *St. István* battleship was sunk on June 10th, 1918.



Mi HU4264

Mi HU4265

2003 In Memorium Royal Hungarian 2nd Army 1942-43



Mi HU4767

2006 and 2007 Border Guards



Mi HU5117



Mi HU5203

2008 Ludovika Military Academy 200-Year Anniversary



Mi HU5323

2010 Hungarian Bodyguard 250-Year Anniversary



Mi HU5429

2018 100-Year Anniversary of Sinking of the Battleship *Saint Stephen*, June 10th, 1918



Mi HU BL415A

2018 World War I Heroes (Issued October 25, 2018)



Mi HU BL420

Top row:

General of the Infantry Baron Sándor Szurmay, Reserve 1st Lieutenant Lajos Ördög,
Reserve 1st Lieutenant Baron Sándor Proff, Militiaman János Cukor, and Reserve 2nd Lieutenant Béla Fábry

Bottom row:

Colonel Károly Kratochwill, Militia NCO Frigyes Scheip, Sapper Tamás Prigl,
Captain Olivér Perczel, and 1st Lieutenant Tibor Kemény

2019 Defense Development Program



MI HU BL426

2020 Year of National Cohesion - Trianon Commemorative 100-Year Anniversary



MI HU BL443A

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HUNGARIA STAMP EXCHANGE

The background image shows the exterior of a building with classical architectural features, including arched windows and doorways. Two red and green 'Posta' signs are mounted on the facade. A red mailbox is visible on the sidewalk in the lower left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey rectangle in the center.

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NFI NEMZETI
FILMINTÉZET
MAGYARORSZÁG
FILMARCHIVUM

1914
ELSŐ VILÁGHÁBORÚS
CENTRÁLIS
EMLEKBIZOTTSÁG
1920

 HADTÖRTÉNETI
INTÉZET ÉS
MŰZEUM