

Landlocked Countries: Hungary, Part 3

by Geir Sør-Reime

The Regency 1920-44

Conservative sentiments flourished in Hungary after the war and the parliament decided that Hungary was still a monarchy and Admiral Nicholas Horthy was elected Regent in March 1920, a role he had till 1944, when he resigned.



1921-24 Parliament Sc. 365

Since the country in principle still was a kingdom, all stamps of the inter-war period were inscribed "Magyar Kir. Posta" (Royal Hungarian Post).

The Harvesters design was again issued 1920-24, and the Parliament design was reused 1921-24.

Admiral Horthy was first portrayed on Hungarian stamps in 1930 for the tenth anniversary of the Regency. Three 1938 stamps featured also a portrait of him, as well as three 1941 stamps that also were re-issued 1942 with a new watermark, the full national arms instead of the St. Stephen's Cross alone.



Horthy: left, 1938 Sc. 527; right, 1940, on horseback Sc. 555



The 20th anniversary of the Regency was celebrated with three 1940 stamps, and two of them featured Horthy, one on horseback and one portrait.

Horthy's son Istvan Horthy was vice-regent. During WWII he also served as a pilot on the Eastern Front, where he was killed August 20, 1942. Two stamps were issued 1942 and 1943 (semi-postal) mourning his death. The 1942 Red Cross Fund semi-postals showed portraits of his mother and his widow.



1942 Istvan Horthy Sc. 600, flanked by widow and mother Sc. B148, B150

In 1926, Hungary introduced a new currency, based on Pengő divided into 100 Filler, and definitive stamps with new subjects were issued. Subjects included the Crown of St. Stephen, Matthias Church, Madonna and Child, and the Royal Palace. Redrawn versions of the designs were issued in 1928.



1926 new currency Sc. 404, 414

A new series in a smaller format but with similar subjects was issued in 1939.

During 1943-44 a series showing national heroes was issued.



Two New Series: left, 1939, Sc. 437; right 1943 Sc. 601, 616B

After Horthy resigned, a provisional government was formed at Debrecen supported by the Soviet Union. May 1, 1945, it issued stamps overprinted "Felszabadulás" (Liberation) on the 1943-44 series.



Left, 1945 liberation Sc. 656; above right, 1945 National Relief Fund Sc. B170; right, 1945 Reconstruction Sc. 722

It also issued several stamps overprinted with new values, a semi-postal set for the National Relief Fund, and sets for a Trade Union Congress in Paris and for National Reconstruction. These stamps were inscribed "Magyar Posta".

The Quest to Regain Lost Territory

When Czechoslovakia was broken up in 1939, Hungary annexed Carpathian Ruthenia and the southernmost part of Croatia (with Komárno and Kossice) at its own initiative.

In December 1938, two stamps overprinted "Hazatérés" (homeland) were issued to hail the acquisition of Czechoslovak territories in the north. In 1939, the first anniversary for this was celebrated with five semi-postal stamps with scenes from the area.



Left, 1938 restoration of territory ceded to

Czechoslovakia Sc. 536; right, 1939 restoration of areas ceded to Czechoslovakia 1 yr. Sc. B102



In 1940, the recovery of North-Eastern Transylvania from Rumania was hailed with a single stamp showing the Crown of St. Stephen, and later the same year, three semi-postal



1940 recovery of north-eastern Transylvania (from Rumania) Sc. 558; 1940 Transylvanian Relief Fund Sc. B123-25



stamps were issued for the Transylvanian Relief Fund.

Following the German and Hungarian invasion of Yugoslavia and the proclamation of the Independent State of Croatia, Hungary annexed Vojvodina with Sudotica, Sombar and Novi Sad in 1941. The acquisition of Yugoslav territory was marked in 1941 with two stamps overprinted 'Dél-uiszater' (The South comes home).

After WWII, Hungary had to return to the 1921 boundaries.

The post-WWII Republic 1946-49



1941 return of Backa territory from Yugoslavia Sc. 560



Left, 1946 foundation of republic Sc. 724; right, 1946 75 anniversary Hungarian stamps Sc. B188



Left to right, 1946 postrider Sc. 728; 1946 national arms Sc. 745; 1946 arms and posthorn Sc. 751

A republic established February 1, 1946, and two stamps issued February 12 celebrated the new republic. Definitive stamps showing a postillion were issued February-April 1946, inscribed "Magyar Posta". The 75th anniversary of the first Hungarian stamps was commemorated with four semi-postal stamps issued May 1, 1946. Later in 1946, four sets of definitive stamps were issued, the first showing the national arms, the second both the arms and a post horn, the third a dove with letter, and the fourth a post horn. The reason for all these sets was hyperinflation.



1946 dove with letter Sc. 760

In August 1946 there was than a currency reform with the Forint divided into 100 Filler. Another definitive showing allegories of Industry and Agriculture was issued for the new currency.



Left to right: 1946 inflation issues Sc. 784; 1946 industry and agriculture Sc. 788A, 800 1947 Peace Treaty Sc. 826

Although most stamps of the Republic were inscribed "Magyar Posta", some issues were instead inscribed "Magyarország" (Hungary). The 1947 signing of the Peace Treaty single was one of them, as well as three sets of air post stamps.

Next Month: The People's Republic 1949-89



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