

THE POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTAGE STAMPS OF SERBIA

by

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To The Memory of
My Wife Mira

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Preface

There is no handbook on Serbian stamps in the English language. There is no specialized catalog of Serbian stamps, not even in the Serbo-Croatian language. Although such a publication was announced from Yugoslavia many years ago, it appears that the project was shelved indefinitely.

The postage stamps of Serbia deserve better treatment. For many years Serbia has been considered philatelically unpopular and, apart from the general collector, has seen few specialists. There are two reasons for this: (1) "Istorija Postanskih Maraka Srbije" (History of the Postage Stamps of Serbia) published in 1940 by the Yugoslav Philatelic Association, has been out of print for many years. The last book by the greatest expert on Serbian stamps of the pre-World War II period, the late Eugen Derocco, it is practically unknown outside Yugoslavia. And, despite the fact that much material and documentation has been discovered since that time, it is still an excellent study. (2) The scarcity of Serbian stamps, particularly of covers, is so great that collectors have difficulty in obtaining material. Further, during the last war many well-known pieces have disappeared and have probably been destroyed.

Now, after 30 years of research in the area covering the pre-adhesive period, the Austrian post office at Belgrade, the Austrian post offices in Macedonia and the Turkish period, I am, at last, able to comply with the desire of many specialists and collectors of Serbian stamps and give them the results of these studies. However, because of the scarcity of material, particularly of covers and multiples, this

work should not be considered complete. More work and research will be required. Nevertheless, this book tries to give an accurate listing of existing rarities, some of which are illustrated, as well as of material which has apparently disappeared.

The purpose of this book is to provide collectors and specialists with a comprehensive handbook on the postage stamps and postal history of Serbia; to record the degree of rarity of certain stamps, frankings, cancellations and covers; and to draw attention to dangerous fakes and forgeries which exist in abundance. Readers will also be able to learn of rarities which once existed and how few of them survived the two World Wars.

Serbian covers have always commanded a higher premium than those of other countries. A primitive land, it did not have much correspondence. In fact, most of the existing covers are addressed to tribunals, state and communal offices and church organizations. Certain Serbian stamps on cover fetch 40 to 50 times the value of a single stamp.

Values quoted for covers of the prestamp period are only to show the relation of such values between various cancellations. Point valuations are given for cancellations, postal markings of the Turkish period and for the popular Prince Milan issues.

My sincerest thanks to the many philatelists who assisted me in the preparation of this book. I am particularly indebted to Dr. Jovan Velickovic, Mr. P. Brodtbeck, Dr. S. Petkovic, Mr. D. Stanimirovic and Mr. M. Roth who with their knowledge and experience have at all times been of great help to me.

The most valuable help I received was from M. Miodrag Vukovic, a young Belgrade philatelist, who spent much time at the State Archives searching for the "missing" documents relating to the first issues. Most of these documents were found in files untouched since the time of the Kingdoms of Serbia and Yugoslavia. It was Mr. Vukovic who, in January 1970, discovered that the newspaper stamps of 1866 had four printings rather than three as was previously believed. He it was who found all missing data about the Michael and nearly all about the Milan issues. His discoveries were published in No. 134 and 135 of the Belgrade "Filatelista," and though they delayed the printing of this book, they did much to bring it up to date.

Due to contradictions in these newly discovered official documents the correct sequence of the printings of the 1866 issues of the news-

paper stamps remain, unfortunately, without a satisfactory solution.

In a publication such as this—especially when it attempts to cover a field heretofore largely unexplored—there must be omissions and mistakes. I am certain, for example, that a number of varieties have been omitted simply because they escaped my attention.

My sincerest thanks to Mr. Ira Zweifach of the Collectors Club and to Mr. Kenneth Rowe, the editor of the "Canadian Philatelist," editing in spite of their heavy daily duties. Many thanks also to Dr. Fred Stulberg, who assisted with the photographs.

Had it not been for these good friends who gave unstintingly of their time and knowledge, this book would not have been possible.

Toronto, May 1975.

Mirko R. Rasic

History

In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries Serbia was a great Balkan empire. But, in the year 1389 she suffered a crushing defeat by the Turks at Kosovo and seven decades later, in 1459, disappeared as a sovereign entity. For the next 350 years Serbia was governed by the Turks, a rule that left lasting marks on the country and on the character of its people.

Although they enjoyed certain religious liberties, allowing them to keep the Serbian orthodox faith, the Serbs were oppressed in every other way. Finally, 413 years after their defeat at Kosovo, a revolt and insurrection broke out in 1804 under Kara George (Black George).

Successful at first, he captured the fortress of Belgrade in 1806 and established himself as ruler in the former Pashalik of that city. He tried to organize the new state and the Russians even sent an advisor to assist him in the preparation of a constitution. Unfortunately, disagreements and jealousy between selfish Serbian chieftains, bad choice of his closest advisors and Russia's own political troubles, changed what had been a promising climate. Things worsened in 1812 when France and Austria signed a treaty against Russia just before Napoleon's campaign. Russia then had to withdraw all assistance to Serbia in order to bolster its own defences. The Turks, taking advantage of the situation, once again invaded Serbia, forcing Kara George and his commanders to flee into Austria. Turkey, as before, became the indisputable masters of the country.

The Serbians, angered by Kara George's precipitous flight when

his presence was most needed, gave full support to Milosh Obrenovich. Obrenovich was a totally ambitious and unscrupulous schemer who, when Kara George returned to Serbia in 1817, had the erstwhile ruler murdered by Turkish agents. Thus began a struggle for power between the rival dynasties of Karageorgevich and Obrenovich, a feud that lasted 87 years and ended in 1903 with the murder of King Alexander Obrenovich, last of his line.

A second uprising in 1817, led by Milosh Obrenovich, was more successful. The National Assembly elected him Hereditary Supreme Prince of Serbia and in 1828 he was confirmed as Vassal Prince by the Turkish sultan.

In 1830 Serbia was granted local self-government and in 1833 more districts were added to its territory. The Drina river became the boundary to the west, the Timok river to the east and the Save and Danube rivers to the north. The southern line ran approximately from Uzitse to Aleksinatz.

A constitution was granted in 1838 which, among other things, gave Serbia the authority to organize a postal service.

Prince Milosh Obrenovich abdicated on June 1, 1839, in favor of his eldest son, Milan, who died soon after. His second son, Michael, took over, but in 1842 was forced to flee the country by Karageorgevich supporters. He lived for 16 years in exile in Vienna and Western Europe.

Meanwhile, in Serbia, Prince Alexander Karageorgevich was elected ruler by the Skupstina (National Assembly). He worked closely with his masters the Turks and with his powerful neighbor, Austria, supporting their policies during the Crimean War. This was very much resented by the Russians and was used against him by his political enemies. At the same time Prince Milosh and Prince Michael worked from Vienna for the restoration of the Obrenovich dynasty. They had the support of several European countries, including France and Russia. Their efforts were successful and on December 13, 1858, the Serbian National Assembly forced Alexander to abdicate and recalled Prince Milosh to the throne. He and his son, Michael, returned to the homeland and began to work for Serbia's complete liberation from Turkish rule.

Milosh died September 26, 1860 and Michael was confirmed by the Assembly as their new ruler. Intelligent and liberal, he held Western European views, trying very hard to bring his backward people into the European community. Successful in many things, he

did not live long enough to see his beloved Serbia become completely independent. He was assassinated on May 28, 1868 by a group of conspirators instigated by agents of Prince Alexander Karageorgevich. Luckily, an able politician, Ilija Garashanin, saved the situation for the Obrenovich clan. Milan, a minor who was being educated in Paris and grand nephew of Michael, was chosen heir to the throne. A regency was established to conduct the affairs of state until he came of age.

After the Crimean war the Congress of Paris placed Serbia under the collective protection of the European powers. Complete sovereignty and recognition by Turkey was not obtained, however, until the peace treaty of San Stefano in 1870. In the Russo-Turkish war Serbia fought on the side of Russia and, in 1878, the Congress of Berlin recognized Serbia as independent. Four more districts were added to Serbian territory at this time: Nish, Pirot, Toplitze and Vranja.

Prince Milan declared himself King in 1882, but was forced to abdicate in favor of his son, Alexander, in 1890. The fate of King Alexander, last of the Obrenovich dynasty is well known. He and Queen Draga were murdered in their palace at Belgrade the night of May 29, 1903 (the anniversary of the assassination of Prince Michael) by a group of Army conspirators. Peter Karageorgevich, the son of Prince Alexander, was invited to assume the throne and return from exile in Switzerland.

After the Balkan Wars in 1912-13, Serbia again increased its territory to the south, but was not successful in obtaining a much desired access to the sea.

During World War I the Central Powers and Bulgaria occupied all of Serbia. A small piece of territory which included the city of Bitolj was retaken on November 19, 1916, and remained under Serbian control until the end of the war. A post office there operated during this period but received no Serbian stamps until the end of September 1918. For nearly two years French, Greek and British stamps were used. They were cancelled by a bilingual Bitolj postmark with the date in the middle and "Vojna Posta" in the segments above and below the date. Serbian stamps printed in Paris with the portraits of King Peter and his regent, Alexander were supplied in September 1918. Soon the whole country was liberated and this issue, which remained in use until April 15, 1921, was the last to be produced by the Kingdom of Serbia (Postage dues were

valid longer). At that time the first general issue of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was introduced.

General Notes

At the beginning of postal service in 1840, Turkish weights and measurements were used:

1 oka equaled 1,280 kilos and was divided into 400 drams, each weighing 3.2 grams.

The currency unit was "charshiski grosh" or Turkish "kouroush" (piaster) which was divided into 40 paras. However, these 40 paras only had a value of 20 paras after the introduction of dinar currency and the metric system in 1881. The dinar contained 100 para or 5 old grosh in Turkish currency.

Until the end of World War I Serbia used the old Julian calendar, which in the last century was 12, and in this century 13, days behind the Gregorian.

Serbian postal services were administered by the Home Office until 1882, then by the Post and Telegraph section of the newly established Ministry of National Economy. After 1900 the Post was under the Ministry of Construction (Gradjevina). In the new state of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, a new Ministry of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones was created.

Principality of Serbia

The Preadhesive Period and Its Postmarks

The first efforts to organize a postal service dates back to the time of Kara George and Milosh Obrenovich when relay stations called "mensulanes" (postal and coach stations) were established along the courier routes of the Tatar messengers. Originally they were under control of the Turks, but were transferred to the administration of Prince Milosh around 1820. By 1834 there were 31 "mensulanes," and the Austrian Government asked Milosh to permit them to be used by Austrian couriers traveling to Constantinople. To accommodate the Austrians, the "mensulanes" were auctioned off and leased. A letter from the Prince, dated April 11, 1834, orders "all mensulanes" to be auctioned to the highest bidder with special care to be taken that those in Belgrade and Palanka be given to honest people who will always have at their disposal good horses so that we shall not have complaints by the Tatars."

In 1837, in an effort to counteract Russian efforts to use Serbia against the Turkish Empire, the British opened a consulate in Belgrade. Through Colonel Hodges, the first British consul, an agreement was concluded with Milosh that established a regular British courier service throughout Serbia. The agreement, which went into effect soon after May 29th when the consulate was opened, allowed British couriers to bring mail up to Semlin. From there special Serbian Tatars under command of Rista Prendic took over and relayed it to Aleksinatz at the border to the south where another British courier had his base.

Tchupria, Aleksinatz, Banja, Grgousovatz, Zajecar, Negotin, Fetislam, Milanovatz and Krousevatz.

The first law governing postal services went into effect October 15, 1843, after private mail service had been in use for more than three years. It confirmed the existing situation and prescribed postage rates for letters by weight only, completely disregarding distance. The rate was set at one grosh (*charshiski*) for 3 drams (9.6 grams). The rate for a letter over 3 drams, but not more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ drams, was $1\frac{1}{2}$ grosh and so on. The rate for books, journals, samples, etc. was one third the rate for ordinary letters. There was no charge for the delivery of foreign mail if its destination was Belgrade, since such mail was handled by employees of the Austrian post office. Consignees of letters sent to places inland had to pay on receipt the Serbian postage rate from point of entry to destination.

In 1847 the law of 1843 was amended, bringing about the establishment of two zones—the first based on transportation time of up to 12 hours. The second on transportation time of more than 12 hours. The rate for an ordinary letter weighing up to 3 drams was reduced to 20 para for the first zone (half grosh), while the rate for the second zone remained one grosh.

The law was revised again on January 25, 1866, to permit the introduction of postage stamps. Up to July 1 (13th), 1866, postage had to be paid in cash either by the sender or recipient. After that date it was paid for in advance by adhesive postage stamps that had to be cancelled with the word "*naplaceno*" (paid).

The regular mail went via the following main routes:

- (1) Beograd-Grotska-Pozarevatz-Krousevitza-Milanovatz-Brza Palanka-Negotin-Radoujevatz.
- (2) Beograd-Grotska-Kolare-Palanka-Batocsina-Jagodina-Tchupria-Paratchin-Shoupeliak-Aleksinatz.
- (3) Beograd-Grotska-Kolare-Palanka-Batocsina-Kragoujevatz-Brousnitza-Tchachak-Pozega-Uzitze-Mokra Gora.
- (4) Beograd-Palez-Shabatza-Loznitza.

These four mail routes were connected with ten cross routes. Krousevitza and Brza Palanka on the main route had "*mensulanes*" only. The other towns had postal stations and *mensulanes*.

During the preadhesive period trade and commerce in Serbia were negligible. In fact, existing covers come mostly from correspondence addressed to state, communal and religious authorities

and tribunals. Covers from private correspondence are rare, and covers addressed to Serbia from other countries or the reverse are also rare. Official correspondence was, naturally, mostly confined to internal mail.

Postmarks

We can distinguish five types of preadhesive postmarks. The earliest type consists of straight line postmarks without date. The earliest of these to be recorded is a straight boxed, "Beograd," used on May 25, 1840. The lettering varies as can be seen from the illustrations.

After 1856 straight line postmarks gradually began to be replaced with dated double circles (day and month only). Some post offices had at their disposal "Naplaceno" (paid) and "Preporuceno" (registered) postmarks.

The five groups of town postmarks are:

- (1) Straight line.
- (2) Straight line boxed (Beograd and Jovanovac only).
- (3) Double circle with date and ornament.
- (4) Ovals (Kragujevac, Cupria and Sabac).
- (5) Registration postmarks with the name of the town (Kragujevac, Loznica, Pozarevac, Sabac and Valjevo).

Color

Black, blue and bluish-green were normally used. Occasionally red is found, but this is rare (Kolare and Beograd only).

Name Changes

During the prestamp period, several post offices changed their names.

Despotovac	became	G. Milanovac
Fetislam	"	Kladovo
Supeliak	"	Jovanovac
Grgusovac	"	Knjazevac

In 1882, when Serbia became a Kingdom, Karanovac became Kraljevo.

БЕОГРАДЪ. № КРАГУЕВАЦЪ

№ ЛОЗНИЦА ПОЖАРСВ.

№ ШАБАЦЪ. № ВАЛЪВО

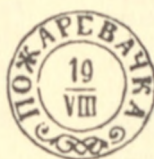
БЕОГРАДЪ

БЕОГРАДЪ

КРУШЕВАЧКА

ГРСТЕНИК

ІОВАНОВАЦЪ



No.	Name of Post Office	Color	Type	Time of Usage	Point Value
1.	ALEKSINAC				
a)	Aleksinac	black	PS.7.	1842-1852	20
b)	Aleksinac	bluish-green	PS.7.	1856-1857	25
c)	Aleksinac	black	PS.13.	1862-1866	20
d)	Aleksinac	blue	PS.13.	1859-1860.	25
2.	BANJA (SOKOBANJA)				
a)	Banja	black	PS.7.	1844-1866	30
b)	Banja	bluish-green	PS.7.	1858-1860	50
3.	BATOCINA				
a)	Batocina	black	PS.7.	1846-1855	40
4.	BEOGRAD				
a)	Beograd boxed	black	PS.1.	1840	1500
b)	Beograd 35 x 5½ mm	black	PS.2.	1840-1844	15
c)	Beograd 31 x 4 mm	black	PS.8.	1843-1855	15
d)	Beograd 27 x 4 mm	black	PS.7.	1843	1300
e)	Beograd 21 x 2½ mm	black	PS.7.	1845-1851	15
f)	Beograd	black	PS.13.	1855-1865	15
g)	Beograd	bluish-green	PS.13.	1856-1857	25
h)	Beograd	blue	PS.13.	1858	30
i)	Beograd	red	PS.13.	1857	350
j)	Beograd (small letters)	black	PS.15.	1865	1300
k)	Beograd (large letters)	black	PS.15.	1865	1300
l)	Beograd	black	PS.16.	1865-1866	25
m)	Beograd	bluish-green	PS.16.	1865-1866	30
5.	BRUSNICA				
a)	Brusnica	black	PS.7.	1844-1856	40
6.	BRZAN				
a)	Brzanske	black	PS.14.	1860-1866	35
b)	Brzanske	bluish-green	PS.14.	1864	40
c)	Brzanske	blue	PS.14.	1866	60
7.	BRZA PALANKA				
a)	Brza Palanka	black	PS.7.	1853-1860	150
b)	Brzopalanacka	black	PS.14.	1844-1866	250
8.	VALJEVO				
a)	No. Valjevo (1st type)	black	PS.6.	1841	500
b)	No. Valjevo (2nd type)	black	PS.6.	1844	150
c)	Valjevo	black (photo PS.2)	PS.7.	1844-1846	20
d)	Valjevo	bluish-green	PS.7.	1864-1865	30
e)	Valjevo	blue	PS.7.	1859-1862	40
f)	Valjevo	black	PS.16.	1866	40
g)	Valjevo	bluish-green	PS.16.	1866	40
h)	Valjevo	blue	PS.16.	1866	40
9.	VELIKO GRADISTE				
a)	V. Gradiske	black	PS.14.	1861-1865	80
b)	Vel. Gradiske	blue	PS.14.	1865	125
10.	VELIKA PLANA				
a)	Vel. Planska	black	PS.14.	1860-1865	80
b)	Vel. Planska	blue	PS.14.	1865	125
c)	Vel. Planska	bluish-green	PS.14.	—	125
11.	G. MILANOVAC				
a)	Despotovica	bluish-green	PS.14.	1856-1860	175
b)	G. Milanovacke	black	PS.14.	1860-1866	30
c)	G. Milanovacke	bluish-green	PS.14.	1860	40
d)	G. Milanovacke	blue	PS.14.	—	40

No.	Name of Post Office	Color	Type	Time of Usage	Point Value
12.	<i>GROCKA</i>				
a)	Grocka	black	PS.7.	1845-1859	60
b)	Grocanska	black	PS.16.	1864-1866	100
c)	Grocanska	bluish-green	PS.16.	1863	100
d)	Grocanska	blue	PS.16.	1863-1866	120
13.	<i>ZAJECAR</i>				
a)	Zaicar	black	PS.7.	1843-1847	20
b)	Zaicar	bluish-green	PS.7.	1858	30
c)	Zaicarske	black	PS.14.	1863-1866	40
d)	Zaicarske	bluish-green	PS.14.	1864	45
e)	Zaicarske	blue	PS.14.	1860-1861	50
14.	<i>IVANJICA</i>				
a)	Ivanjica	black	PS.13.	1864-1866	700
15.	<i>JAGODINA</i>				
a)	Jagodina	black	PS.7.	1843-1860	25
b)	Jagodinska	black	PS.14.	1866	25
c)	Jagodinska	blue	PS.14.	1866	30
16.	<i>JOVANOVAC</i>				
a)	Supeljak	black	PS.7.	1846-1860	450
b)	Supeljak	bluish-green	PS.7.	1860	500
c)	Jovanovac	black	PS.11.	1860-1866	250
d)	Jovanovac	bluish-green	PS.11.	1863-1866	200
17.	<i>KARANOVAC</i>				
a)	Karanovac	black	PS.7.	1853-1859	25
b)	Karanovac	bluish-green	PS.7.	1857-1859	25
c)	Karanovac	blue	PS.7.	1861	30
18.	<i>KARANTIN RACA</i>				
a)	Kar. Raca	black	PS.7.	1853-1859	300
19.	<i>KLADOVO</i>				
a)	Fetislam	black	PS.7.	1842-1858	250
b)	Kladovska	black	PS.14.	1864-1866	300
20.	<i>KNJAZEVAC</i>				
a)	Grgusovac	black	PS.7.	1841-1859	75
b)	Knjazevac	black	PS.13.	1850-1860	40
c)	Knjazevac	bluish-green	PS.13.	1862	40
d)	Knjazevac	blue	PS.13.	1861-1862	50
21.	<i>KOLARE</i>				
a)	Kolare	black	PS.7.	1846-1853	200
b)	Kolare	bluish-green	PS.7.	1857-1859	200
c)	Kolare	red	PS.7.	1853	1200
22.	<i>KRAGUJEVAC</i>				
a)	No. Kragujevac	black	PS.2.a.	1840-1844	70
b)	Kragujevac	black	PS.7.	1844-1857	20
c)	Posta Kraguevacka	black	PS.12.	1857	25
d)	Posta Kraguevacka	bluish-green	PS.12.	1856-1857	20
e)	Posta Kraguevacka	blue	PS.12.	1856-1857	20
f)	Kragujevacka	black	PS.14.	1863-1864	20
g)	Kragujevacka	bluish-green	PS.14.	1863-1864	25
h)	Kragujevacka	blue	PS.14.	1865-1866	30
23.	<i>KRUSEVAC</i>				
a)	Krusevac	black	PS.7.	1841-1848	30
b)	Krusevac	bluish-green	PS.7.	1860-	25
c)	Krusevac	blue	PS.7.	1863-	30

No.	Name of Post Office	Color	Type	Time of Usage	Point Value
d)	Krusevacka	black	PS.12.	1865-1866	30
e)	Krusevacka	bluish-green	PS.12.	1865	60
f)	Krusevacka	blue	PS.12.	1865	75
g)	Krusevacka	black	PS.13.	1866	80
h)	Krusevacka	bluish-green	PS.13.	1866	80
i)	Krusevacka	blue	PS.13.	1866	80
24.	<i>LOZNICA</i>				
a)	No Loznica	black	PS.3.	1841-1844	60
b)	Loznica	black	PS.7.	1844-1863	20
c)	Loznica	bluish-green	PS.7.	1863	20
d)	Loznica	black	PS.13.	1866	80
25.	<i>MAJDAN PEK</i>				
a)	Majdan Pek	black	PS.13.	1858-	60
b)	Majdan Pek	blue	PS.13.	1861-1863	70
26.	<i>DONJI MILANOVAC</i>				
a)	Milanovac	black	PS.7.	1848-1853	300
b)	Milanovac	black	PS.13.	1857-1858	30
c)	Milanovac	bluish-green	PS.13.	1863-1866	40
d)	Milanovac	blue	PS.13.	1859-1863	50
27.	<i>NEGOTIN</i>				
a)	Negotina	black	PS.7.	1841-1851	20
b)	Negotina	bluish-green	PS.7.	1862-1863	20
c)	Negotina	blue	PS.7.	1860-1861	30
d)	Negotin	black	PS.13.	1866	40
e)	Negotin	bluish-green	PS.13.	1866	50
28.	<i>OBRENOVAC</i>				
a)	Palez	black	PS.7.	1842-1860	250
b)	Obrenovacke	black	PS.14.	1859-1863	60
c)	Obrenovacke	blue	PS.14.	1866	70
29.	<i>PALANKA</i>				
a)	Palanka	black	PS.7.	1847-1852	30
b)	Palenka	bluish-green	PS.7.	1860-	40
c)	Palanka	blue	PS.7.	1859-	40
30.	<i>PARACIN</i>				
a)	Paracinske	black	PS.14.	1860-1864	20
b)	Paracinske	bluish-green	PS.14.	1862-1866	30
c)	Paracinske	blue	PS.14.	1863-	30
31.	<i>POZAREVAC</i>				
a)	Pozarev.	black	PS.4.	1841-1843	350
b)	Pozarevac	black	PS.7.	1844-1854	20
c)	Pozarevacka (arabic date)	black	PS.14.	1863-1864	25
d)	Pozarevacka (roman date)	black	PS.14.	1865-1866	30
32.	<i>POZEGA</i>				
a)	Pozega	black	PS.14.	1864-1865	200
33.	<i>RASKA</i>				
a)	Raska	black	PS.14.	1864-1866	400
34.	<i>RZANA</i>				
a)	Rzana	black	PS.14.	1860-	500
b)	Rzana	bluish-green	PS.14.	1860-	600
35.	<i>SARAORCI</i>				
a)	Saraorci	black	PS.14.	1860-1863	300

No.	Name of Post Office	Color	Type	Time of Usage	Point Value
36.	<i>SMEDEREVO</i>				
	a) Smederevo	black	PS.7.	1842-1861	20
	b) Smederevo	bluish-green	PS.7.	1861-1863	25
	c) Smederevo	blue	PS.7.	1857-1859	25
	d) Smederevska	black	PS.14.	1863	30
	e) Smederevska	bluish-green	PS.14.	1865-1866	30
	f) Smederevska	blue	PS.14.	1863-1864	35
37.	<i>STUDENICA*</i>				
	a) Studenica	black	PS.13.	1864	—
38.	<i>SVILAJNAC</i>				
	a) Svilainicke	black	PS.14.	1862-1864	40
	b) Svilainicke	bluish-green	PS.14.	1866	40
	c) Svilainicke	blue	PS.14.	1866	50
39.	<i>TEKIJA</i>				
	a) Tekia	bluish-green	PS.13.	1862-	500
	b) Tekia	blue	PS.13.	1860-1861	600
	c) Tekia (reversed R)*	blue	PS.13.	1860	—
40.	<i>TRSTENIK</i>				
	a) Trstenik	black	PS.10.	1862	40
41.	<i>CUPRIJA</i>				
	a) Cupria	black	PS.7.	1842-1856	20
	b) Posta Cupriska	black	PS.12.	1861	30
	c) Posta Cupriska	bluish-green	PS.12.	1854-1858	25
	d) Posta Cupriska	blue	PS.12.	1862-1865	25
	e) Cupria (reversed R)	black	PS.13.	1865-1866	30
	f) Cupria (reversed R)	bluish-green	PS.13.	1866	30
42.	<i>UB</i>				
	a) Ub. (Arab. date)	black	PS.12.	1856-1860	75
	b) Ub (Arab. date)	blue	PS.12.	1857	50
	c) Ub (Roman date)	black	PS.13.	1862-	125
43.	<i>UZICE</i>				
	a) Uzice	black	PS.7.	1841-1861	20
	b) Uzice	blue	PS.7.	1861-	20
	c) Uzice	black	PS.13.	1866	25
	d) Uzice	bluish-green	PS.13.	1866	25
	e) Uzice	blue	PS.13.	1866	25
44.	<i>CACAK</i>				
	a) Cacak	black	PS.7.	1843-1862	20
	b) Cacak	black	PS.13.	1866	25
45.	<i>SABAC</i>				
	a) No Sabac	black	PS.5.	1841-1854	125
	b) Sabac	black	PS.7.	1841-1861	20
	c) Sabac	blue	PS.7.	1861	80
	d) Posta Sabacka	black	PS.12.	1864-	60
	e) Posta Sabacka	bluish-green	PS.12.	1862-	20
	f) Posta Sabacka	blue	PS.12.	1857-1861	30
	g) Sabac	black	PS.13.	1866	30
	h) Sabac	bluish-green	PS.13.	1866	30
	i) Sabac	blue	PS.13.	1866	35

The value in points (in 1975 15 cents) merely shows the relation between cancellations and is understood to be for clean postmarks and complete covers.

Preparations for the First Issues of Postage Stamps

Serbia and its people were extremely backward after four hundred years of Turkish rule. Prince Michael Obrenovich, who took over the reins of government of the tiny principality in September 1860, made great efforts to bring his nation closer to the European community.

Educated in Paris, Obrenovich had traveled much in Western Europe, making his home in Vienna where he maintained a luxurious palace. Utilizing the Austrian city as a base of operations, he took advantage of every opportunity to wrest more privileges from the Turks and at the same time increase his personal power and esteem.

Serbia was surrounded by four countries: Austria, Hungary, Moldavia and Turkey. The first two had issued stamps in 1850, Moldavia in 1856 and Turkey in 1863. It was only natural, therefore, that Obrenovich should try to obtain similar status for his country. Even more important, gaining the privilege of issuing his own postage stamps was a great political coup, since Serbia was still a vassal state.

The first demands for the introduction of postage stamps originated with Serbian merchants. They were the ones who would benefit most and were at a disadvantage without them. Their proposal was contained in a letter from The Merchants Committee of Belgrade dated May 23, 1863. It was addressed to Kosta Cukich, the Minister of Finance. Two years later, in May 1865, the organization repeated its proposal. Cukich and the Home Secretary, Hristich, now became convinced that postage stamps were a necessity and queried the State Printing Works as to production procedures.

It wasn't until July 26th that its director, Vasa Berar, informed Cukich that they could produce stamps, but only by lithography. However, with increased usage, he said, the stamps could be stereotyped using xilography (woodcut). The letter, which contained samples of Russian stamps issued in 1858, pointed out that those stamps were engraved and could not be manufactured with existing Serbian facilities. Berar further stated that while stamps of similar appearance could be made, they would have to be separated by scissors or knife (imperforate).

On the reverse of this document we find Cukich's notes to pro-

NS.1. *The Blue Essay.*

ceed, using whatever means were available at that time, and to appoint a commission to set up rules and regulations for the handling and control of such stamps.

The Printing Works got the go ahead on August 14th and on September 15th [#2932] (Fig. NS. 1) submitted essays with the approval of Radoje Sarceвич, head of the Post & Telegraph Section of the Home Office. Twelve copies in four colors were submitted. The report states that "the design is very pleasing and is comparable to the design used by other nations." It is, however, pointed out that such stamps could be easily forged if prepared by lithography and "the only way to avoid this danger would be to engage an engraver and to install facilities to make copper and steel engravings."

It would appear from this letter, signed by Berar, that the submitted essays were lithographs. Indeed, the four essays discovered by the late Edwin Mueller in 1959, are very fine lithographs in yellow, deep rose, red brown and blue. Although no documents have been discovered regarding their origin, they were probably prepared by the Printing Works at Belgrade from the ideas and instructions of Anastas Jovanovich.

Serbia's first postage stamps for letters bore the image of Prince Michael and were engraved by Wincenz Katzler of Vienna. This is confirmed by a letter, from Theodor Tirke, a well-known Serbian banker, to Jovanovich, dated April 16, 1866. The name of the designer and engraver of the "Coat of Arms" stamps is still unknown, but facts gleaned from Prince Michael stamps indicate that the design was probably proposed by Jovanovich, himself a great lithographer and artist and also head of the Prince's household. (Fig. NS.



NS.2. *Anastas Jovanovich (1817-1899) Head of the Household of the Dynasty Obrenovich, Artist and Lithographer who proposed the design for the first Serbian stamps.*

All four copies of the essays are in “grosh” currency and not in “para” as were the issued stamps. Considering that the Act of 1847, amending the Postal Service Act of 1843, prescribed a rate of one half “grosh” for ordinary letters weighing 3 drams, it is likely that the “Arms” design was originally intended for all denominations.

The essays also differ from the issued stamps in the number of pearls—78 against 77—on the stamps. This is probably due to engraving the stamps in wood, making the larger number of pearls impossible.

When Cukich received Berar's letter of September 15th, [#A. 4679] he made the following note—"Wait for the new postal law and instructions from the Home Office."

This new law, dealing with the reorganization of the postal service, was passed on January 25, 1866, and ordered the introduction of postage stamps of 1, 2, 10, 20 and 40 para values.

Article 19 of the same law prescribed the franking of mail according to weight of the item, disregarding distance. It contained the following provisions:

- (a) an ordinary letter up to 5 drams (16 grams) cost 20 para (half grosh).
- (b) printed matter, circulars, catalogs, musical scripts and similar, up to 10 drams (32 grams) cost 10 para. Up to 40 drams, 20 para. Registration fees cost one grosh (40 para) with the same fee for a return receipt.
- (c) newspapers and periodicals to be free of postage provided they originated in Serbia and were dispatched by the publishers without wrapper. Newspapers and magazines from abroad to subscribers in Serbia were to cost 2 para for every 10 drams and an additional 1 para for every 5 drams. This postal tax was to be paid in advance. If the newspapers were mailed by private persons they were subject to the letter rate.

Article 20 called for the advance payment of a postal tax at places without post offices.

Article 23 called for payment in advance on printed matter. An implementing law (passed on March 17th and found in Article 7) states that postage stamps must be affixed close to the address and must be obliterated by postal employees with a cancellation reading, "Naplaceno."

Article 16 of the implementing law prescribed that stamps on printed matter must be placed partly on the wrapper and partly on the content. Obviously, it was intended that such stamps would be torn when received and opened by the consignee.

The rates were for internal use only, since Serbia, at that time had no relations with other nations. All mail to and from abroad, with the exception of that coming from Turkey, left and arrived through the Austrian post office at Belgrade.

The Home Secretary, in a letter dated February 16, 1866 [#231], suggests that the Minister of Finance order stamps printed in de-

nominations of 20, 10, 2 and 1 para values. Consequently, on March 7, 1866 [A. 830], a commission composed of R. Sarceвич, head of the Postal & Telegraph Section of the Home Office; N. Petrovich, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Adolph Jaksa, Accountant for State Control, was ordered to:

- (1) Prepare regulations for handling postage stamps.
- (2) Decide how many stamps would be required for one year, based on statistical data.
- (3) Decide the denominations and quantities of each in accordance with the new postal law.
- (4) Report its findings on completion of its work.

The Commission submitted its report on April 5th and recommended that for one year's requirement they would need:

20,000 40 para stamps
200,000 20 para stamps
12,000 10 para stamps
6,000 2 para stamps
4,000 1 para stamps

Before receiving their report Cukich had taken steps to have stamps ready for May 1, 1866, the date set for their introduction under the new law of January 25th. In a letter [A 1470] dated March 17th, to the Foreign Secretary, he explains the difficulties incurred by having the stamps printed at the Belgrade Printing Works and suggests that they be ordered from the Imperial Printing Works in Vienna. There, they could be printed faster, better and at lower cost, provided permission could be obtained from the Austrian government. He proposed that a representative of the Belgrade Printing Works be sent to Vienna to assist with the design, inscriptions and colors. At the same time he could familiarize himself with their methods so that future printings could be carried out in Belgrade. The letter stresses the urgent need to obtain such permission and quickly. Without it the stamps would have to be prepared in Belgrade.

The Foreign Ministry dispatched an immediate request to the Austrians. Not waiting for a reply, Cukich, on April 8th, ordered Stevan Raichevich, an official from the Printing Works, to leave without delay for Vienna. There he was to get in touch with the banker, Theodor Tirke, who would recommend a designer and en-

graver. From one of Tirke's letters to Anastas Jovanovich, dated April 16th, it appears that the idea for the design of the new stamps originated with Jovanovich and it was he who gave final approval before printing.

The Austrian government, thinking the interests of their Belgrade post office would be affected, delayed giving permission to produce the stamps using every excuse possible. On May 30th (June 11th) Cukich, annoyed by the Austrian roadblock, wired Raichevich to come home. Raichevich, however, made one last effort which met with success. He dispatched a telegram stating that printing would start the next day, June 2nd (13th), and would be completed shortly afterwards.

The Coat of Arms Issue

Arguments have been going on about the nature of the "Coat of Arms" stamps since the day they were issued. Derocco's first published article in a 1905 issue of Senf's, "Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal," dealt with the subject under the title, "Are the Serbian Newspaper Stamps of 1866 Postage or Tax Stamps?." The catalogs of the world classified them as Newspaper Stamps, Revenues, Newspaper Dues or Newspaper Tax stamps. Even today they are listed as such in the Scott Catalog. In 1940, Derocco, in his last work, states that the method of usage of these stamps proves that they were a kind of Postage Due. His contemporaries, De Smeth and Dorning-Beckton, were of the same opinion.

A great Yugoslav philatelist, the late D. Novak, published an article in 1952 in the, "Berner Briefmarken Zeitung," and correctly stated that the stamps were, "newspaper stamps to prepay postage." Perhaps, to describe them more precisely, the expression, "Newspaper Delivery Stamps," would be more appropriate. They were definitely not Dues nor Newspaper Tax Stamps such as Austria had at that time. Novak's article prompted a reaction from the late Edwin Mueller in his, "Mercury Stamp Journal." He expressed the opinion that the stamps were, "Newspaper Postage Dues." "At the same time," Mr. Mueller added, "the deciding factor should be whether the revenue received was in favor of the post office or of the fiscal authorities. We shall see later that the revenue went to the post office.

The peculiar character of these stamps is due to the fact that

Serbia was a vassal state which could not have direct relations with other countries. Mail was handled, as mentioned before, by the Austrian Consular Service at Belgrade, while that from the Turkish Empire was delivered to the Serbian post office at the border. According to the law of January 25, 1866, subscribers to foreign newspapers had to pay, in advance, a tax of 2 para for a weight of 10 drams (32 grams) plus another para for each additional 5 drams. As a direct postal service from abroad did not exist, the tax could be paid in advance only by depositing cash at the border point.

From that deposit the postal employees paid for stamps used and had to account for them to the subscriber. Since there were very few subscribers, it was not an onerous task.

In my opinion, these stamps could not have been postage dues. If they were, the due tax would have been paid on receipt. The law expressly stated that the tax had to be paid in advance. Since the recipient could not pay it himself, it was done either by the post office or by a forwarding agent on behalf of the sender or the recipient. The law further stated that it was a postal tax in favor of the Postal Authority. The stamps themselves answer the question affirmatively.

Appearing over the coat of arms was an inscription that read, "K. S. Posta," (Principality of Serbia Post). Further proof of the character of these stamps, is the fact that foreign newspapers coming in at Belgrade for delivery to subscribers in the city did not require payment of the tax, which would have been charged had it been fiscal.

Some advocates of the theory that the tax was fiscal may ask why the Minister of Finance was so involved in the preparation of postage stamps and why did he, and not the Home Secretary, order the printing? Here again, we have to consider the peculiar situation of Serbia as a vassal country. Serbia had no national currency of its own, but was using Turkish grosh and paras as well as Austrian silver and copper coins for small change. These were bulky and impractical. Merchants and authorities both were hoping that postage stamps would, in a way, replace or reduce the use of these coins. A letter in the State Archives from Home Secretary Hristich [#855] dated June 15, 1865, states: "... as the postage stamps will be replacing money, they will be your responsibility. For this reason I ask you to think about the matter . . . order, as soon as possible, the quantities of postage stamps needed."

The First Printing of the Arms Issue of May 1, 1866

The first printing of the 1 and 2 para newspaper stamps took place soon after the commission submitted their report to the Minister of Finance (April 5, 1866). The order to print was given on April 25th [A #2250], when Cukich realized that the stamps could not be printed in Vienna in time to meet the May 1st deadline as prescribed by the law of January 25th.

That same day he informed the Home Office that: "An order has been issued to print tomorrow and to deliver to you, stamps of 1 and 2 para values which are most urgently required by our post offices. Stamps of the 10, 20 and 40 para values cannot be printed in time. And, for this reason, until they are ready, the post offices will continue to accept payment in cash."

Indeed, in #47 of the "Srpske Novina," dated April 26, 1866, an announcement appeared stating that postage for letters would continue to be prepaid in cash. This announcement by the Home Office, informed the public that newspapers liable to postal tax would, from May 1st, be prepaid by newspaper stamps which would then be available.

The commission, which was appointed on March 7th, submitted, on April 26th, the following report: (Fig. NS. 3)

"To the Minister of Finance.—Referring to your order, [A #2250] the Commission, composed of the undersigned, reports that in their presence, at the State Printing Works, 1944 copies of 2 para stamps and 2040 of 1 para stamps were printed. The first are on lilac-grey paper and are printed in dark green color. The others are on pale-rose paper, printed in yellowish-green color.

The work of the Commission completed, the non-usable material has been destroyed and the stamps handed to the management for safekeeping.

Signed: Radoje Sarcevic
Nikola Petrovic
Adolf Jaksa

It is surprising that the color of both stamps is described as green. In the catalogs the 1 para stamp of the first printing is never listed as yellowish-green and the 2 para dark green is rarely found—probably less than a dozen copies exist. More copies exist of the dull greyish green shade, usually listed in the catalogs as a color error. It would seem from the above report that the 2 para dark green is the

Господину Министру Свѣдѣній

Прародител на Габриел Министър на Финансите
се одоказва во 1944. Ком. марк. во 2. парти 2040
Ком. од едн. парти вредност; Марк. су
марк. на арм. комбинации до и по
таме парови угасти-земни, а оне дру
ге су на арм. автореке рудичке до
печатне су парови мути-земни.

Помѣстѣ Помѣстца заданъ имъ посягъ
дѣлать укупительнѣ матеріи неовреда
а и рѣзке марке предана ѣ Зоравителю
сѣмъ дѣлать въ нѣбогосудитѣ на угоднѣ
дѣлѣ. А и по томъ въ формѣ у дѣлать
овреда сѣмъ имъ ѣ подъ своимъ пера
имъ и марке имъ предана реченомъ Зоравителю

Всѣмъ членамъ Комисіи извѣстно, что въ
Комисіи уполномочены извѣстны и Губер-
наторъ и Министръ.

26. *Agave* 1866. in
y. *Agave*

Киевн Ромск:

Two maps
The same as above by J. J. J.

Докл. Петрову
12-е м. 1844 г.

St. Louis, Mo.
August 1st 1892

regular 2 para stamp of the first printing. Some philatelists now advocate this theory. Nineteen hundred and forty four stamps could not disappear that easily. Possibly the colors were mixed up in the report. One or two sheets of the dark green stamps from the color trials, placed accidentally or purposely on top of sheets of the 2 para red brown, might have caused such an error. The Commission probably checked the more important guaranty and not the shades.

The following facts indicate that the colors mentioned in the report is an error"

- (1) On November 10, 1866, [# On 2855] (Fig. NS. 4) the Home Office recommended that the State Printing Works print, without delay, 10,000 copies of the 2 para and 6,000 of the 1 para stamps in the old design, on the same paper and in the same colors as those used in the first and second printings (April 26th and May 19th). This letter, written by Sarceвич, head of the Post & Telegraph Section, would not expressly mention the first printing if the two values had both been printed in shades of green. Sarceвич was a member of the Commission during both printings and had first hand knowledge about them.
- (2) In his order [A #2250] of April 25th, the Minister of Finance asked the Commission to record in writing before starting to print, what color, paper and ink would be used for each of the stamps. It is not likely the Commission chose shades of green for both stamps, something bound to cause difficulties during usage.—(Unfortunately this document is still missing)

The commission, in whose presence the first printing was executed, was obviously anxious to get as large a quantity ready for distribution as possible since the stamps had to be sent out the next day for use in Kladovo and Aleksinatz on May 1st. In the quantity of 1944 2 para stamps might have been purposely included the green color trials of this stamp because the order of the Ministry of Finance of March 7th, 1866 called for 6000 of the 2 para stamps. It is also possible that the sheets of these trials might have been placed accidentally on top of other sheets in the red-brown shade which might have caused Mr. Petrovic to make the error. From the reproduced picture of the document (NS. 3) it appears that same was written by Mr. Petrovic.

The stamps were distributed among three post offices: Belgrade

Printed by Wm. Roberts.

Off 7855.

10. Nov. 1866.

Wm. Roberts



My dear Mr. Roberts,
I have received your letter of the 7th inst. regarding the printing of the new coat of arms. I am sorry to hear that you are unable to print it, but I am glad to hear that you are willing to print it at a reduced price. I have no objection to this, and I am sure that you will be able to print it at a price that will be acceptable to the public. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. Roberts

I have also received your letter of the 7th inst. regarding the printing of the new coat of arms. I am sorry to hear that you are unable to print it, but I am glad to hear that you are willing to print it at a reduced price. I have no objection to this, and I am sure that you will be able to print it at a price that will be acceptable to the public. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. Roberts

The new coat of arms is of a very simple design, and I am sure that it will be well received by the public. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. Roberts

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. Roberts

received 1500 copies of the 1 para and 1404 of the 2 para; Aleksinatz got 300 of each; and Kladovo 240 of each. The post offices were advised by an accompanying letter that they could sell the stamps to the public, but not for less than the 10 para "charshia" rate.

The stamps were printed by typography in sheets of 12. 170 sheets of the 1 para and 162 sheets of the 2 para were printed.

Twelve separate engravings were made in wood, one for every stamp. These were cast in type metal. As can be expected, each of the stamps showed different flaws, making them very easy to plate.

The stamps are rectangular in shape, 17½ mm by 22 mm. The coat of arms of the Principality of Serbia within a circle of 77 white pearls is in the center, framed by a double line. Over the arms is the inscription, "K.S. Posta," in colored lettering. Below it is the value, "1 Para 1," or "2 Para 2," in similar lettering. The overall rectangular frame is composed of two lines, the outer one being thicker. The entire inner background surrounding the circle is filled with 24 horizontal broken dotted lines. The impressions are divided from each other by three unbroken vertical lines and two broken horizontal lines on each sheet.

One of the broken horizontal lines was damaged before the second printing of the 2 para stamps was made. This line, between the 7th and 11th stamp of the first printing, is very thin and is continuous. In the later printings it is thick. The break is always about 1½ mm in length and is just below the letter "E" of "PARE" on the 7th stamp. This damaged plate, the thin paper and the surface color are characteristic of the sheets of the later printings. (Fig. NS. 5 and NS. 6)

The stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper purchased across the border. The 1 para values of the first printing are mostly on thin hard paper and, rarely, on soft thick paper. The 2 para is always on thick paper. In addition to the dark green shade on surface-colored pale-rose paper, the 1 para stamp is found in a slightly different deep bronze-green shade with the surface-colored paper in a little stronger lilac color. Occasionally, this paper is nearly white, perhaps caused by fading. A very rare variety on soft thick paper is listed by Stanley Gibbons. The normal stamp, in good condition with gum, is scarce and it is doubtful that an entire sheet has been preserved.

The 2 para stamp of the first printing is normally red brown on thick surface-colored lilac-grey paper. It is the only stamp of all the



NS.5. Sheet of 2 para of the first printing.

NS.6. Sheet of 2 para of the second printing.



printings which has been recorded with the "Naplaceno" cancellation. About two dozen entire sheets are known. (Fig. NS. 5)

The 2 para stamp is also known in dull greyish green on grey-rose and in deep bronze-green on pale rose. The paper is usually thick. It is mostly described as an error of color. The main reason for this catalog listing (see footnote 2a in Stanley Gibbons) is Derocco's statement that he has seen two single copies of such stamps with the boxed "Naplaceno" cancellation of the Belgrade post office. If these copies had been genuinely used it would then be correct to consider the dark green 2 para stamps color errors. However, I have inspected the two copies reported by Derocco, and while I agree that the cancellations are genuine, this does not prove they were genuinely used. These two stamps were in the Ferrari collection when it was auctioned and it is also possible that he had them cancelled when visiting Belgrade. Remembering the story narrated by De Smeth in his handbook, I believe these cancellations are probably fakes. According to him, during criminal proceedings in 1894, a witness testified that, on behalf of a Belgrade Book & Stationery store acting for a stamp dealer in Saxony (Senf?), he arranged with a postal employee to have certain quantities of the newspaper stamps cancelled with the "Naplaceno" canceller. This, and the fact that they come in two dull green shades, plus a deep bronze-green shade on different papers, supports the contention that they are color trials. An error can occur once, but not three times. Also important, is the confirmation given by Stevan Popovich, an inspector of the Serbian Postal Administration who in 1896 published much information about the first Serbian postage stamps in the "Austria Philatelist." Newly published documents from the State Archives about the first issue of Serbia all confirm Popovich's statements as correct.

It should also be pointed out that the 2 para dull greyish green is a very fine impression, probably printed from the first plate. The deep bronze-green shade is not clear and might have occurred during a later printing. I have seen more than two dozen copies of the dull greyish green shade and six or seven of the deep bronze-green, two of which were cancelled.

The Second and Third Printing of the Arms Issue (May 20th and Nov. 15th)

On May 11, 1866, the Home Office requested the Minister of Finance to issue orders to print, as soon as possible, 18,000 copies each

of the 1 para and 2 para values. Printing started on May 13th in the presence of the same Commission in which Mr. R. Sarcevic was replaced by Mr. Malden Z. Radojkovic, a Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Section of the Home Office. While the stamps were still on press, a request was received from the Aleksinatz post office for 1,000 2 para stamps. Documents now published, show that 85 sheets (1020 copies) were sent to them on May 19th and were received on May 22nd. The entire printing, consisting of 18,360 copies of the 1 para (1530 sheets) and 18,300 copies of the 2 para (1525 sheets), was also completed on the 19th.

Belgrade received 17,300 copies of the 1 para (Fig. NS. 7) and 17,340 copies of the 2 para stamps. From this quantity Aleksinatz got 1,020 of the 2 para stamps and 1,000 of the 1 para stamp. The respective receipts are in the State Archives and it appears from these documents that the stamps were placed on sale between May 20th and 25th.

Again, as at the time of the first printing, the post office at Karantin Raca at the Bosnian border did not receive any stamps, although the mail from Bosnia had been entering Serbia at that point since

NS.7. Sheet of 1 para of the second printing.



1852. It has been established that correspondence from Bosnia before 1875 for destinations in the Monarchy in addition to Turkish, was on most occasions mailed with Austrian, and after July 1871, Hungarian stamps. Therefore, it is possible that newspapers from Sarajevo were mailed prefranked with Serbian newspaper stamps, as was the case with letters for destinations in Austria and Hungary.

The 1 para stamps of this printing are always on thick soft paper and the 2 para stamps are always on thin paper. The 1 para stamp is either bistre or olive-green on surface-colored pink paper. The 2 para is copper red on lavender. The sage green shade of the 1 para stamp and the chocolate brown of the 2 para stamps were also considered to belong to this printing. However, Mr. Vukovic discovered documents revealing a third printing of the 1 and 2 para stamps on similar paper and shades. The quantities of the third printing are smaller, consequently we can only assume that the rarer sage green shade of the 1 para stamp and the chocolate brown shade of the 2 para stamp belong to this later printing.

Until recently, it was thought that the 1 para deep green on lilac colored paper belonged to this printing. A letter from the Home Office [ON 2855] dated November 10, 1866, (Fig. NS. 4) to the State Printing Works revealed that a printing of another 6,000 1 para stamps and 10,000 2 para stamps in the same design and colors was ordered. As mentioned before, it can only be assumed that the 1 para stamp was in the sage green shade and the 2 para was in the chocolate brown shade on papers similar to that of the previous printing. These two shades of the May and November printings are the rarest. Because of their smaller quantities they may be attributed to this printing. It is, however, very doubtful that we will ever know for sure which stamps belong to which printing.

It is apparent from the same document that in July a quantity of the 1 and 2 para stamps with the portrait of Prince Michael, printed from clichés brought home by Raichevich, were kept from use by the Home Office. This was because the postal law made it mandatory that any new issue be announced three months in advance. At that time 60,000 copies of the 1 para and 59,050 of the 2 para stamps had been printed. The 1967 Jugofilatelija catalog lists these quantities as the third printing of the "Coat of Arms" issue. The catalog further states that none of the 2 para stamps have been preserved. It seems to me impossible for that many stamps to disappear without a trace. It seems even more impossible that such a large quantity

would be printed, considering their meager usage and the small amounts previously prepared.

My written requests to friends in Belgrade for clarification met with failure. So, during my trip to Yugoslavia in the summer of 1970, I decided to try and get a satisfactory explanation. Again, I met with failure. Fortunately, V. Ercegovic, editor of, "Filatelija," of Zagreb, promised to help me. Indeed, in January 1971, he put me in touch with M. Vukovic, who on his own initiative not only has been able to clarify this mystery, but also has managed to find in the State Archives a large number of unpublished documents relating to the early issues of Serbian postage stamps.

This printing was completed on November 14, 1866, and that day the Commission reported that 6,000 copies of the 1 para stamps and 10,000 copies of the 2 para stamps were handed to Raichevich for distribution.

At the moment no information has been found concerning the delivery of these stamps to the post offices. The new law of October 31, 1866, transferred the project to the Printing Works, but their archives could not be traced.

In future, if these documents are found, the sequence of these printings will have to be revised. However, in view of the present catalog listings, I would not like to suggest any premature changes. I am mostly concerned with the fact that at least 20 sheets of the "first" printing of the 2 para stamps exist and none, not even a pair, of the 1 para. This, in spite of the printed quantities being nearly the same. This might be an indication that more than 1,944 copies of the same stamp were printed and that the stamp belongs to a later printing. Perhaps it should be mentioned that a few single copies of the 2 para chocolate brown on lavender were found on thick paper.

The Fourth Printing of the Arms Issue December 15, 1866

This printing was originally called the "third" and it includes only the 1 para stamp. The color of this stamp is deep green and the paper is lilac on both sides. The two qualities of paper used were thin, and in lesser degree, thick. It was printed from old plates. The work was completed on December 14th, 1866, before a commission composed of M. Belesevich, K. Lazarevich and G. Stojicevich who re-

ported that the required quantity of 10,000 copies was handed to Raichevich for distribution. However, the stamps were never placed on sale.

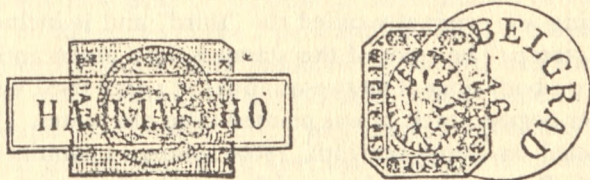
Usage of the Newspaper Stamps of 1866

S. V. Popovich also supplied the "Austria Philatelist" with information concerning the use of the Newspaper Stamps of 1866. According to him, the postal tax for newspapers coming from abroad to subscribers in Serbia had to be paid in advance. This is in line with article 23 of law of January 25, 1866. The postal employees at the point of entry on the border had to apply the stamps, using as payment the deposit made by the subscribers. There were four points of entry: Belgrade, Aleksinatz in the south, Kladovo in the northeast for mail from Moldavia and, in isolated cases after 1852, Karantin Raca for mail from Bosnia.

Since article 16 of the implementing law of March 13, 1866, prescribed that the stamps had to be placed partly on the wrapper and partly on the contents so they would be torn when removed, many students believe these stamps were not supposed to be cancelled. This is not necessarily so. The law says nothing about *not* cancelling these stamps. It is true that for postage stamps it expressly states that they *must* be cancelled with the "Naplaceno" postmark of the pre-stamp period. Nevertheless, it cannot be logically concluded from this that newspaper stamps should *not* be cancelled. The reason why so few cancelled stamps have survived is very simple. The issue was in use about ten months and there were very few people in Serbia who subscribed to foreign newspapers.

De Smeth and Derocco both mention a copy of "Danica," a newspaper published in Novi Sad, addressed to a Mr. Ostojic in Kragujevatz. A reconstruction of it is shown in Fig. NS. 8.

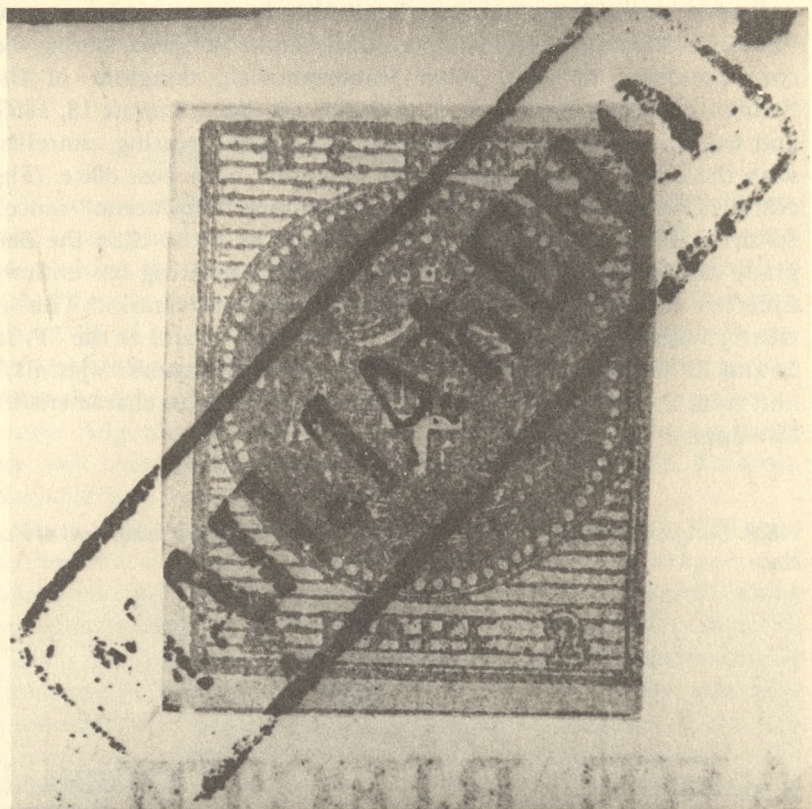
NS.8. Reconstruction of stamps on "Danica" newspaper.



During World War I an Austrian soldier found an entire copy of "Bosanski Vjestnik," a newspaper published in Sarajevo, among the correspondence of Mrs. Mina Vukomanovich, daughter of the Serbian poet Vuk Karadjich. The paper was dated August 13, 1866, and was franked with a 2 para stamp of the first printing, cancelled with the boxed "Naplaceno" of the Karantin Raca post office. (Fig. NS. 9) This cancel is different from any other "Naplaceno" cancel. Its size is 37 mm by 101½ mm, which is slightly wider than the Belgrade cancel which is 37 mm by 10 mm. The lettering has entirely different characteristics from other "Naplaceno" marks. This is clearly visible, particularly at both the letters "A" and at the "P, L, H and E." Enlargements of the stamp from the "Bosanski Vjestnik," and from a single stamp (Fig. NS. 10) show that these characteristics also appear on the single.

NS.9. Sarajevo newspaper of August 13th, 1866. And another stamp used at Kar Raca.





NS.10. *Enlargement of stamp.*

Two, or possibly three, stamps off newspapers have been recorded in addition to the "Bosanski Vjestnik" copy. They may be counted among the great European rarities. That on the newspaper is the greatest surviving rarity of this issue.

Lot 487 of the Ferrari sale of June 15, 1923, was a 2 para stamp off newspaper with a horizontal strike of the Belgrade post office of which the letters, "NAPL" are visible. This may be one of the favor cancels obtained in the 1890's by the stamp dealer in Saxony mentioned before and not the one seen by Derocco from "Danica." That copy had a vertical strike. The Belgrade cancellations are all off newspaper and, with the exception of the "Danica" copy, it is impossible to say if they were genuinely used or not. "Danica" was franked with an Austrian newspaper stamp of 1864 (Coat of Arms),

cancelled by the Austrian post office at Belgrade 16.11 and a 2 para Serbian newspaper stamp of the first printing of 1866, cancelled vertically to prepay postage to Kragujevatz.

For a long time it was believed that the stamps of this issue could not be sold to the public because they had to be applied by the postal employees at the border. Actually, the only restriction in the implementing regulations was that the minimum amount that could be sold was 10 para, as the government wished to avoid handling small change which, of course, was in Austrian or Turkish coinage.

Forgeries

There are three types of forgeries found in this issue: The Fournier of Geneva, reproduced here. (Fig. NS. 11) and another one with a different shaped crown, the cross on the shield very thick and the background of lined dots giving the appearance of regular broken lines. Both of these forgeries are lithographs. The third forgery is of the 1 para value, executed by a Belgrade lithographer. Very close to the original, it was manufactured by photolithography. However, the printing is unclear and the paper and colors different from the genuine. All three are crude and can be easily recognized.

NS.11. *Forgeries.*



The Prince Michael Issues (1866–1869)

The Vienna Printing of Prince Michael Stamps

Steven Raichevich of the State Printing Works, left for Vienna on April 8th (22nd) with instructions to have the Imperial Printing Works print the 20,000 copies of the 40 para; 200,000 copies of the 20 para, 12,000 copies of the 10 para, 6,000 copies of the 2 para and 4,000 copies of the 1 para stamps recommended by the Commission on April 5th. He was further instructed to become familiar with the printing methods used to produce the stamps and to purchase all materials necessary for future printings in Belgrade.

Raichevich was ordered to contact Tirke, the banker who was used for financial transactions by the Serbian government and by the Obrenovich family. Tirke engaged Wincenz Katzler to prepare a die from a design suggested by Anastas Jovanovich. Katzler made the engraving in wood. A master die in copper was cast from it. (Fig. 1) Then, from the master die, plates of 100 were cast in lead. Printing started on June 1st (13th) and was completed on June 4th (16th).

Raichevich returned to Belgrade on June 8th with the entire printing of the 10, 20 and 40 para values, gummed and perforated. He also brought with him all the cliches, including those for the 1 and 2 para stamps as well as the plates and the printing apparatus. Cuckich sent the stamps to the Home Office with the recommendation that future orders be given directly to the Printing Works which was now equipped for the printing of postage stamps.



1. *The basic die of the approved design.*


Issue #71 of "Srpske Novine" (the official gazette), dated June 21, 1866, contained the following announcements:

"Beginning July 1, 1866, the tax for letters will be paid in advance with postage stamps in accordance with article 5 of the Implementing Law of April 13, 1866. The stamps will be sold by the Administration Printing Works and all post offices. The Printing Works will give buyers a discount, but not the post office."

Initial quantities of stamps were sent to all 43 operating post offices based on a prepared list. There was one exception, Rzana. (Fig. 2)

The list is interesting because it shows how the various post offices were rated. Belgrade received 1,000 each of the 10 and 40 para stamps and 5,000 of the 20 para. The smallest post offices, Misljenovac and Neresnica, received only 10 copies of the 10 and 40 para and 20 of the 20 para stamps. However, in July 1866, the post offices of Raska and Ivanica ran out of stamps and had to accept cash for postage. Letters were stamped with a "Naplaceno" canceller. A similar cover has also been recorded from Negotin dated September 1866.

The stamps were rectangular in shape and measured $20\frac{1}{4}$ mm by $25\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Each depicts the head of Prince Michael Obrenovich II in left profile within a circular medallion. The lower part of the background is composed of horizontal lines and the medallion is encircled by white pearls. A ribbon over the medallion contains the inscription, "K. SRPSKA POSTA," between two rosettes. The ends

 *Република Српска*

11. Копије су штампане на вилна папиру поштомачког завода у Београду 1866. год. 64

Поштомачко	Београд				Поштомачко	Београд			
	100	200	500	1000		100	200	500	1000
1. Авансажна	400	1000	500	1200	12. Манастир	3400	1300	2300	12400
2. Бана	50	200	50	212 20	13. Милановац	70	200	70	20
3. Београд	1000	5000	1000	3250	14. Обреновац	100	200	50	212 20
4. Брзак	50	200	50	162 20	15. Паламар	100	500	50	362 20
5. Брзаканка	50	200	50	162 20	16. Пожаревац	100	1000	100	615
6. Давид	100	1000	100	615	17. Радич	50	100	25	105
7. Драгачин	100	200	100	225	18. В. Мана	50	100	25	105
8. Дрочка	50	100	50	112 20	19. Сарајев	20	60	10	52 20
9. Давид	100	600	100	425	20. Радич	100	200	50	262 20
10. Манастир	100	250	100	250	21. Мана	"	"	"	"
11. Јовановац	70	400	70	46	22. Црњевац	50	100	10	102 20
12. Карањевац	100	200	100	225	23. Обилановац	100	500	50	362 20
13. Кинго	50	200	50	162 20	24. Сусељевац	200	1000	100	715
14. Кинговац	200	1000	200	750	25. Сусељевац	50	100	10	105
15. Крањевац	400	4000	200	2450	26. Мокри	50	100	10	105
16. Крњевац	200	1000	200	750	27. Милановац	50	200	10	155
17. Мана	100	500	100	375	28. Мана	100	500	50	362 20
18. Манастир	50	200	50	162 20	29. Мана	100	1000	50	612 20
19. Милановац	100	500	100	375	30. Мана	100	1000	50	612 20
20. Милановац	50	200	50	162 20	31. Мана	200	1500	100	975
21. Манастир	70	400	70	46	32. Мана	200	1500	100	975
22. Манастир	200	1000	200	750	33. Мана	100	500	50	362 20
	3450	1300	2300	12400		3450	1300	2300	12400

2. Original list of the first distribution.

of the ribbon are turned up. Below, within a rectangular value tablet, is the denomination—10, 20 or 40 para—and in all four corners are small squares containing the figures in white on a colored background. Between the upper figures, and at the sides, are leaf decorations. The space above and below the medallion is filled with undulated vertical lines.

This design is definitely the most attractive of any Serbian postage stamp issued in the 19th century. Naturally, it was suited to the taste of those times.

Soft, medium thick (0.006—65mm) paper was used and the stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (10 by 10) without margins. The space between the stamps was 3 mm and they were line perforated 12.

The printing is clean and clear, but the line perforation causes size variations and perfectly centered stamps are rare. The color is consistent due, obviously, to better quality ink. The 10 para comes in two distinctly different shades, yellow and orange yellow. The 20 para is found in pale rose and rose and the 40 para in several shades that range from blue to a very dark, nearly black blue, which is rare.

The clichés, probably because of the rush in preparing them, had many flaws, particularly in the 10 para stamp. These are concentrated mainly in the lower central part of the design at the figure "10" and the word "Para." The top line of the first letter "P" of para usually consists of dots and never shows a straight line as it should. It appears, from a recently discovered block of 76 of the next (Belgrade) printing of this stamp, that the top line of the "P" on 34 stamps consists of two dots. It consists of one dot on a single stamp, four dots on a single stamp and three dots on the remaining 40 stamps. The letter "R" of the word "PARA" is open at the top on all stamps with the exception of numbers 52 and 92.

There are, of course, many other constant flaws—broken lines on the lower left side and on the inner frame on the top left below the figure "10" and others.

The Vienna printing has a very interesting accidental flaw which caused the first letter "K" of "K. SRPSKA POSTA" to appear as a cyrillic "Б." (Fig. 3)

3. *Plate flaw B instead of K. The rosette before the flaw is not visible.*



The 20 para stamp normally has two dots below the figure "2" in the lower middle. Some, however, have only one dot. Stamps without dots are rare.

The 40 para stamp also has a number of constant plate flaws in the lower part, particularly in the figure "40" in the middle stamp.

Most of the stamps of the first printing were used up before the end of 1866. Early in October the Administration of the Printing Works asked the Post & Telegraph Section of the Home Office to send a commission in whose presence more 10 and 40 para stamps could be printed, since these denominations were nearly exhausted.

In perfect mint condition the rarest value is the 10 para stamp. It is underpriced in all catalogs. There is one pair of the 20 para in mint condition, but unfortunately it is stained. Besides those, no other pairs exist. There was an imperforate 10 para mint in the Ferrari collection. (Fig. 4)

There are hardly more than two dozen pairs of the 10 para in used condition on record. The vertical ones are the rarer. Larger multiples of the 10 para simply do not exist. Used pairs and strips of the 20 para are also rare, the largest listed being horizontal strips of five. (Fig. 5) Only two are known. Two used blocks of four have also been listed. (Fig. 6) Horizontal and vertical strips of three of the 40 para stamp are the largest multiples. No blocks have turned up so far.

A used single 10 para, imperforate vertically, (Fig. 7) a used imperforate 20 para, (Fig. 8) and a used 20 para with a $9\frac{1}{2}$ perforation at the left, (Fig. 9) were found in the Ferrari collection. A horizontal bisect of this stamp on piece was also included.

The 10 para stamp on cover is a major European rarity, (Fig. 10) and less than half a dozen have been found. Between the two wars I saw, at a stamp exhibition in Zagreb, a cover with two 10 para and one 20 para stamp which has disappeared since. A mixed franking of three 40 and two 10 para stamps, on the front of a cover from Svila-jinac, was sold at Harmer's in New York in December 1966 for \$3400—ex-Lichtenstein. (Fig. 11)

The Belgrade Printing of the Prince Michael Stamps

Derocco and his contemporaries had always believed that the first Belgrade printing of the Prince Michael stamps made its appearance between November 1866 and February 1867. There had been

4. Impeforate mint 10 para stamp.



5. Used strip of five.



6. Used block of four.





11. Front of cover from Svilajinatz.

no special announcement. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Vukovich, a receipt dated October 29, 1866, and signed by Raichevich, was found in January 1971 in the archives of the Ministry of Finance. It confirmed that belief and showed an order for:

539 sheets of 10 para stamps	(53,900)
1079 sheets of one grosh (40 para)	(107,900)
3099 sheets of 20 para stamps	(309,900)

These stamps were printed on pelure paper and the Printing Works, remembering its mistake of the past July, reported in a letter [DN 91] dated November 5, 1866, that stamps of the 40 para value were completely sold out and were in great demand by the various post offices and the merchants. They asked permission to place the stamps they had just printed on sale. These were the same as those printed in Vienna with one exception. The paper was thinner. The Home Office gave its approval on the same day and we can assume that the 40 para stamps came into use about November 6th. The two other values were released a little later. The first recorded use of a stamp from this issue is found on a cover from Pozarevatz with a 20 para cancelled, "5.X."

This first Belgrade printing was made with new plates from the clichés brought by Raichevich from Vienna.

The spacing between stamps was as follows: The 10 para stamp, $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2 mm; the 20 para stamp, 3 to $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm; the 40 para stamp, 2 mm. The paper is pelure (0.004–45) and the perforation, line $9\frac{1}{2}$. It is possible that the pelure paper was used as a protection against forgeries. The impression is neither as clean nor as clear as that of the first Vienna printing. Very often overinking, plus the poor quality of the ink itself, causes the lines behind the head to disappear.

The color of the 10 para is orange and deep orange, that of the 20 para is pale rose and deep rose. The latter shade is scarce. The stamps were typographed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) without sheet margins.

The issue was used up completely in about two years and mint multiples are rare. The largest known is a block of ten of the 20 para and a block of 30 of the 40 para. Not long ago, in the safe of a Boston stamp dealer, a nearly complete sheet of 76 of the 10 para and another one of 73 was discovered. With the help of the larger piece, I tried to establish whether the positions of the stamps were the same as those of the Vienna print. I had, unfortunately, only four pairs of the Vienna print for comparison and all I could show was that the position of the vertical pair of stamps, numbers 52 and 62, remained unchanged.

There is little hope that a strip of three or larger multiple of this denomination of the Vienna printing will ever turn up. The situation is much better with the 20 para stamp. I asked Mr. Brodtbeck of Switzerland to compare the positions of his strip of five from the Vienna printing with his sheet of 100 from the second Belgrade printing. He not only established that this strip came from the sixth row, as do types 56 and 60, but also that another strip of three of the Vienna printing remained in position as did the first three stamps of the first row. He established further, that a block of eight of the first Belgrade printing remained as such in the second Belgrade printing in positions 51–54 and 61–64.

Therefore, it is very likely that the positions of individual stamps were retained for all three printings, although new plates were made with different spacings between each stamp. Naturally, this does not exclude the possibility that some stamps had their positions changed.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to check the positions of the 40 para stamps. The largest block of the first Belgrade printing contains thirty stamps. The largest of the second printing, twenty-five stamps. If these blocks were available perhaps something could be established about the 40 para printings as enough strips of three of the Vienna printing can be obtained.

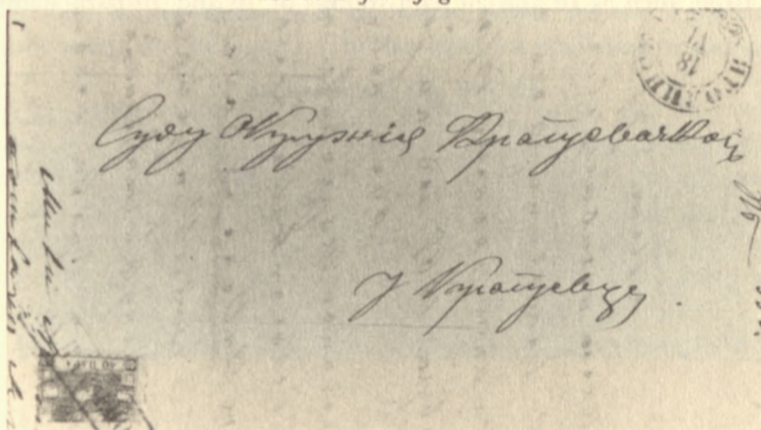
Four mint horizontal pairs of the 40 para stamps, imperforate between, have been recorded. Two were in the Ferrari sale of June 15, 1923, (lot 490). They were sold for 1,600 francs. Only one has been listed in used condition (ex-Rothschild). (Fig. 12) These stamps were bisected for use as 20 paras at some of the smaller post offices when they ran out of 40s.

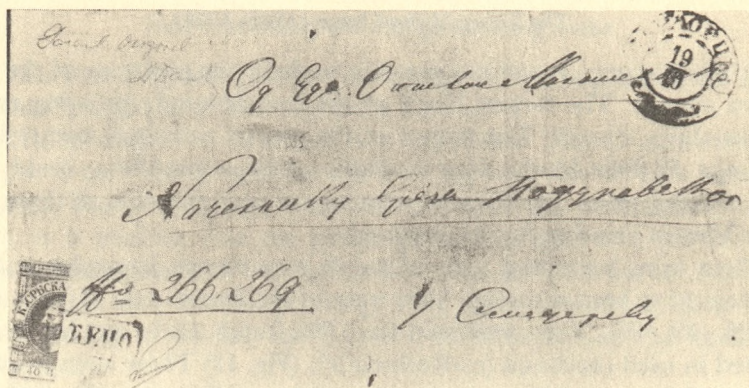
Most of the bisects emanate from the Pozarevatz post office, which cut them horizontally. Single examples are known from Paratchin and Jagodina both cut horizontally. (Fig. 13) Those from Karanovac,



12. Imperforate between.

13. Cover from Jagodina.





14. Cover from Saraorci.

Raska and Saraorci (Fig. 14) are cut vertically. A bisect from Raska on piece, cut horizontally, has also been recorded. They are all rare and almost never come up for sale at auctions.

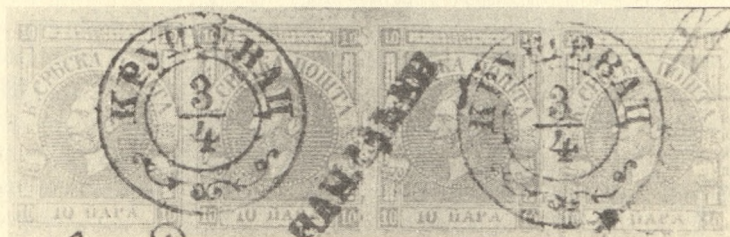
Used multiples have been recorded of the 10 para stamps, notably two strips of four (Fig. 15), one of which is on cover. Only one block of four (not on piece) used at Krusevatz has been recorded.

A strip of seven on piece of the 20 para stamp, used at Kragujevatz, is known in addition to several strips of five. Of these, one is on cover and a block of eight is on piece. The largest used multiples of the 40 para are a horizontal strip of five and a few blocks of four.

This issue on pelure paper can be found used together with stamps of the Vienna printing. These combinations are rare. More often, we find them with the 20 para of the second Belgrade printing.

Combinations of mixed frankings of two of the denominations of this issue, such as 10 and 20 para stamps or 10 and 40 para stamps

15. Strip with blue Krusevatz.



are rare either on cover or on piece. More common, is the use of the 20 and 40 para stamps together.

Newspaper Stamps of March 11, 1867

Raichevich brought the cliches for the 1 and 2 para Prince Michael stamps from Vienna in June of 1866. The Printing Works wasted no time with tests. On July 12th Vasa Berar, its director, informed the Minister of Finance that plates were being prepared for the production of those stamps. On July 21st a commission, composed of Mladen Z. Radokovich from the Post & Telegraph Section of the Home Office; N. Petrovich, a secretary of the Ministry of Finance; and Adolf Jaks of State Control, watched as 59,050 of the 2 para and 60,500 of the 1 para stamps were printed. They gave their report to the Home Office that same day. [DN 3011]

It was wasted effort since the postal laws required that every new issue be announced three months in advance. Release of the stamps was withheld. A letter from the Home Office dated Nov. 10, 1866, ON 2855 (Fig. NS. 4) advised the Printing Work of the situation and recommended that they print 10,000 2 para and 6,000 1 para newspaper stamps in the old design (Coat of Arms), using the same paper and the same colors of the previous two printings to fill the gap.

The announcement of the "Prince Michael" issue appeared in No. 145 of the Official Gazette, "Srpske Novine," on December 10, 1866.

"The Home Secretary has decided to exchange existing newspaper stamps for new ones on March 11, 1867. The head of his Highness the Prince will appear upon them in place of the Coat of Arms. The color of the stamps will be brown yellow for the 2 para and yellow green for the 1 para. The last date for exchange of stamps is June 11th."

The stamps were typographed from new plates cast in lead in sheets of fifty (5 x 10). The paper was smooth wove of medium thickness (0.0055-06 mm). Both values can be found on pelure paper, but are rare. The sheets have no margins. The space between the stamps is $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm horizontally and $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm vertically for the 1 para and $3\frac{1}{2}$ horizontally and 3 mm vertically for the 2 para. They were line perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$.

The 1 para stamps are olive green in various yellowish shades.

The 2 para stamps are in several shades ranging from yellow-brown to dark brown. A rare olive-brown shade has been recorded.

The 1 para stamp is known in imperforate condition and probably comes from printer's waste.

Quite a number of entire sheets of the 1 para are known to exist. The largest known piece of the 2 para was in a Jugoslavian collection before World War II and was a block of 15. Thanks to the Boston stamp dealer, there are now available a couple of sheets and half sheets. (Fig. 16-17) Unfortunately, they are mostly mutilated. Stamp No. 34 with the plate flaw, "PAPF," is missing. Nevertheless, it is now possible to establish the positions of the most characteristic plate flaws.

We are now certain that at the second printing the position of practically all the stamps was changed. We shall discuss this later.

Both the 1 para and 2 para stamps have special characteristics and can be plated. We shall not discuss the 1 para plate flaws in detail because a fair number of sheets are in circulation. However, the 2 para denomination has, in addition to the "PAPF" flaw, nine other constant plate flaws as shown in plate I.

16. *Left half of sheet.*



17. *Right half of sheet.*



Plate I.

Some constant plate flaws of the 1 Para stamp, first printing.



Stamp No. 24.



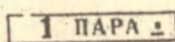
No. 39.



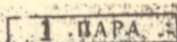
Stamp No. 42.



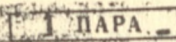
No. 44.



No. 4. & 23.



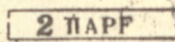
No. 41.



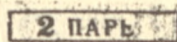
No. 27.

No. 23 stamp has besides the flaw after the word Para, also broken the lower frame below the figure 1 in B.R. corner.

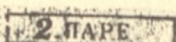
Some constant plate flaws of the 2 para stamp. First Printing.



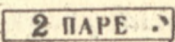
Stamp No. 34.



No. 36.



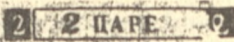
No. 8.



No. 2.



No. 29.



No. 7.

The main plate flaws of the 2 para are:

Stamp No. 2—2 dots after PARE.

- “ No. 7—the figure 2 in the bottom right corner is mutilated and looks like a small “8.” The left corner of the small square is missing.
- “ No. 8—There is a stop after figure 2 before “PARE.”
- “ No. 9—has a flaw similar to No. 7, but the left corner of the square with the numeral is missing.
- “ No. 11—has a white spot above the “E” in “PARE,” in the vertical lines of the background.
- “ No. 29—has three dots after “PARE.”
- “ No. 32—has shading in front of head inside medallion.
- “ No. 34—“PAPF” instead of “PARE.”
- “ No. 36—Broken “E” in “PARE.”
- “ No. 40—at the right side where the ribbon is turned up, the cliché is badly damaged.
- “ No. 49—the left two frame lines, just below the “K,” are broken for approximately 2 mms.

There is no doubt that the ink used for this printing was of inferior quality. The color of the 1 and 2 para newspaper stamps deteriorated even more at the next printing.

The Second Printing of the Prince Michael Stamps

According to Derocco and all the catalogs, even including “Jugofilatelija,” the second Belgrade printing of the 20 and 40 para stamps took place in July 1868. However, documents from the State Archives discovered by M. Vukovich and published in the March 1971 issue of, “Filatelista,” show that it really was as late as November.

After receiving a report from the State Printing Works that the supply of stamps at hand was running out, the Home Office—in a letter dated Oct. 16, 1868, ON [2049]—informed the Minister of Finance that on October 28th a new printing would take place and asked that one of his officials be appointed to the commission. The printing began on November 4th and the commission reported as follows:

“As instructed by the Home Secretary on October 16, 1868, [ON 2049] in the presence of the undersigned members of the Commission at the Print-

ing Works, the stamps mentioned below were printed between November 4th and 14th 1868 and handed to the Printing Works for distribution. The waste resulting from misprints and bad perforating was destroyed.

269 sheets of one para, that is	26,900
238 sheets of two para, that is	23,800
2008 sheets of 20 para, that is	200,800
518 sheets of 40 para, that is	51,800

[ND. 1285]—February 1, 1869, Belgrade.

3 signatures of the members of the
Commission"

Although the printing was completed on November 14, 1868, the report of the Commission is dated, February 1, 1869. It appears that it was on that date the printed quantities were given to the Printing Works for distribution. However, in isolated cases these stamps can be found used before that date, but not earlier than November 1868. It would seem from these facts, that the Printing Works issued stamps to certain post offices on demand. A cover from "Pozega," dated Jan. 1, 1869, has been recorded with a 20 para stamp on it. One from Belgrade with a 40 para stamp, dated Jan. 25th is also on record. A strip of three 2 para imperforate with an Austrian "Mercury," is also known, cancelled "Beograd," January 30, 1869. Still another on record is a single 2 para imperforate, postmarked "Beograd" and dated September 12th. It is likely, in this case, that the stamp was used in 1869 and not in 1868, since we know that the Milan stamps were late and that a cover with a 20 para Michael stamp, used at Belgrade, is dated August 26, 1869.

We can only speculate why the Commission's report was delayed for two-and-a-half months. One of the possibilities is that Prince Michael died in May 1868 and a change of postage stamps was expected.

According to Derocco, De Smeth saw a 20 para stamp used on cover on June 17, 1868. He must have been mistaken as this is impossible.

The stamps were printed on wove paper of medium thickness in sheets of 100 (10 x 10). They were line perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$ without margins. The space between the stamps is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm for the 20 para and 2 mm for the 40 para. The color of the 20 para ranges from pale to dark rose. That of the 40 para ranges from blue to ultramarine. The

20 para can also be found on a soft, buff paper of porous structure which makes the impression unclear and smudgy. This stamp, also a product of the same printing, is by its appearance completely different and is so listed in most catalogs. It is incorrect to assume that the yellowish paper is a chemical reaction of the gum. Under ultra-violet rays the paper shows a different structure. The same applies to the 2 para newspaper stamp of the same printing. This stamp, on buff paper, is listed in all catalogs as a separate entity.

The impression of the 20 para is rather heavy and quite often over-inked. The flaws are similar to those in previous printings but, due to overinking, there are also color spots which appear on the cheek and the beard. (Fig. 18)

As mentioned previously, new plates with a narrow setting were prepared from the old cliches for the 20 para, but apparently the positions remained unchanged.

The 20 para stamps were remaindered and a number of sheets were preserved. None are on yellowish paper.

The 40 para stamp on cover is very rare. This stamp has been recorded bisected for use as a 20 para stamp from both the Pozarevat and Karanovatz post offices. Such bisects are great rarities.

The 20 para is known horizontally imperforate in pairs or strips of three. (Fig. 19) A horizontal bisect on a small piece, cancelled, "Krusevac 3.2.," has also been recorded.

Used multiples of both stamps are rare. There is a block of eight of the 20 para on piece, cancelled with a boxed, "Naplaceno," in intense black, which puts its genuine use in question. Two blocks of four, used at Pozarevat, one with a boxed, "Naplaceno," off cover,

18. *Spot on cheek.*



19. Imperforate between.



plus a block of six on piece, cancelled in blue, "Ub 3.4.," (Fig. 20) came up for auction at Brussels in September 1929.

The largest used multiples of the 40 para are strips of three on and off cover. (Fig. 21) The largest unused piece is a block of 25. A few blocks of six and four have also been discovered.

The 20 para stamp can be found used together with the 40 para on pelure paper. Combinations of the 20 para on ordinary paper and the 20 para on pelure paper are very rare. Such a piece has been recorded used at Negotin on 12.3.



20. Block with blue Ub.

21. Strip on cover.





22. Cover from Shabatz.

The 20 para on buff paper is scarce used on cover. A cover with a strip of five, used at Shabatz on March 16th, 1869, has been listed. (Fig. 22)

The Second Printing of the Prince Michael Newspaper Stamps

The 1 and 2 para newspaper stamps were printed for the second time, together with the 20 and 40 para stamps of the second Belgrade printing, between the 10th and 14th of November 1868. It was not in June as always stated. They were handed to the Printing Works for distribution by the Commission on February 1, 1869. However, the Printing Works had been supplying them to the post office in Belgrade on request before that date, according to the practice established for other values.

No announcement was made, although the issue was considered a new one. The color of the 1 para stamp was dark green in several shades that include a yellowish olive green. It is not possible to establish whether this particular shade was a color trial because copies exist with original gum and without. No used copies have ever been recorded. This stamp was not mentioned by Derocco and, judging by the condition of the clichés, was produced later. Another very rare shade is the brown olive green printed with very inferior ink on the same paper. This stamp had been thought to belong to the so-called February 1869 "third" printing of this value which

actually never took place. After the discovery of the Commission's report of February 1, 1869, it became obvious that there were only two printings of the 1 and 2 para Michael newspaper stamps.

Less than ten unused copies of the 1 para brown olive green are known. (Fig. 23) There are, as well, five copies with the forged "Beograd" cancel, "24.VIII." (Fig. 24) It is questionable, and probably never will be established, whether this particular stamp is a color trial, printers waste or is just badly printed.

The paper used for this printing is medium wove. The space between the stamps is the same as that of the first printing and so is the gum. Both values are imperforate.

New plates were prepared for this printing from the cliches used for the first printing. The position of the cliches was changed and, for the 1 para stamp, some horizontal rows were shifted. The largest recorded multiples of the 1 para value are blocks of nine. (Fig. 25) A partial reconstruction of the new plate with changed positions is shown in Fig. 26. Two blocks of nine, two of six, one block of four, two vertical pairs and a horizontal strip of three were used for it. During the reconstruction no stamp was ever found which was not contained in a complete sheet (50) of the first printing. The report of the commission shows clearly that the second printing was made in sheets of one hundred. This would only be possible if we assume that the new plates consisted of two sheets of fifty with, or without, gutter between.

The 2 para stamp is red brown in two shades. The printing is

23. *Olive-green second printing.*



24. *Forged cancel "Beograd 24.VIII."*





25. Positions: 41, 42, 43

21, 22, 23

1, 2, 3

26. Part of reconstructed sheet.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		18	19			37			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		38	39			17			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
41	42	43	44				8	9	10
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
21	22	23	24	25			28	29	30
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
1	2	3	4	5			48	49	50

Sheets of the 1 Para Michael stamps of the first and second printing.

Figures at top of squares indicate the positions of the first print, and figures at R.B. the positions the stamps received at the second print. Two blocks of 9, two of 6, one of 4, and 2 vertical pairs have been used, for the reconstruction.

spotty, due to bad inking. Here too, new plates were prepared from the clichés of the first printing. Again the composition of the plate was rearranged. Unfortunately, there are not enough multiples of this stamp available and only a small part of a sheet could be reconstructed.

Together with the 2 para red brown, a certain quantity of the 2 para bistre on buff paper were printed. This stamp was believed to belong to a separate (third) printing of February 1869, but newly discovered documents show that a third printing never took place. Under ultra-violet light, the yellowish porous paper appears to be the same as that on which a quantity of the 20 para stamps of this printing were produced. The 20 para stamp on buff paper can be found used, on and off cover, after March 1869. We must, therefore, conclude that the 2 para buff paper is not waste, although no used copies have been recorded. A block of ten (Fig. 27) and one of six are known.

The Use of Prince Michael Newspaper Stamps

What has been said about the use of the "Coat of Arms" issue is valid for the newspaper stamps with the portrait of Prince Michael. These stamps could be used only on foreign newspapers sent to subscribers in the interior. In Belgrade, subscribers received their copies delivered to the house through the Austrian post office. The "Prince Michael" newspaper stamps are nearly as rare as the used "Arms" stamps. Genuinely cancelled copies come only from the Belgrade post office in black or blue. I have not seen a copy of the 1 para imperforate of the second printing, although De Smeth reports one in

27. *Left top corner of the sheet.*



the collection of H. R. Oldfield with a "Beograd 18.9." cancel. This is probably from the Ferrari sale of June 15, 1923, (Lot 495) which sold for 1,000 francs. The present whereabouts of this stamp is unknown. I have seen several used copies of the second printing, the rare brown olive green, one of which is on piece. All have the forged "Beograd" cancel, "24.VIII." This forged cancel with ornament is similar to one which did not come into use until 1873. The cancelled stamps are all better preserved than the few unused copies. Five copies of the 1 para first printing, all cancelled with a blue "Beograd 29.10." with ornament, have been recorded. (Fig. 28) They probably all come from a wrapper franked with six copies.

Only a small number of the 2 para first printing have been recorded with the black "D.C. Beograd" with ornament. Considered the greatest rarity of the Prince Michael issue is a strip of three of the 2 para imperforate on part of a wrapper, together with an 1867 Austrian Mercury. The Serbian stamps are cancelled with a black "D.C. Beograd 30.1." and the "Mercury," in addition to the Serbian cancel, has the cancel of the Austrian post office at Belgrade, "10.2.," which corresponds to the old calendar, "30.1." According to De Smeth, this item once belonged to a member of Prince Michael's household, probably Anastas Jovanovich who proposed the design of the stamps. (Fig. 29)

28. Blue "Beograd 29.10."

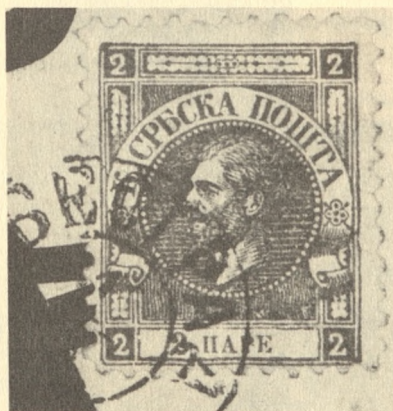


29. Strip with Mercury.



There was a used 2 para first printing in the Ferrari sale (Lost 494) which sold for 450 francs. Gelli and Tanni, S.A., held what was probably the most important sale of Serbian stamps in Brussels on September 21, 1929. It contained the following used "Michael" newspaper stamps: 1 para first printing, cancelled, D.C. "Beograd 29.10." in blue; a 2 para first printing cancelled with a black, D.C. Beograd, and a 2 para second printing cancelled with a black, D.C. "Beograd 12.9." used late in 1869.

The 1 and 2 para stamps of the first printing can sometimes be found with the boxed "Naplaceno" of the Belgrade post office. It can easily be distinguished from the boxed cancel used at the post offices of Karantin Raca, Kladovo and Aleksinatz. These were the only places where these stamps could have been used on newspapers since they were the only ports of entry. The "Beograd" cancel has a 3 mm space between the first two letters, "NA," (at the top) and the rest of the word, PLACENO." Years ago I saw, at an auction in Germany, each of these stamps on pieces of Serbian newspapers printed in cyrillic and nicely tied with this "Beograd" canceller in blue. The faker who perpetrated this bit of thievery did not know that the stamps could only be used on foreign newspapers, and, unfortunately for him, the faked items showed that the newspapers were printed in Serbia. I drew the auctioneer's attention to this fact and the lot was subsequently withdrawn. Collectors have to be very alert when they are offered these stamps with the boxed, "Naplaceno." It may be the original canceller was used as a favor or a forgery. (Fig. 30)



30. Forged Double Circle Beograd cancel.

Prince Michael Stamps Were for Internal Use Only

This is one of the very few cases where the stamps of an issuing country were not allowed to be used for mailing abroad. This was, of course, because Serbia, a vassal state, could not make postal agreements with other countries. Thus, covers with Michael stamps addressed abroad may only be found sent via the Austrian post office at Belgrade. They bear the "S.C." postmark of that office and somebody, usually a forwarding agent, paid the Austrian postage fee in cash.

A single cover, franked with a 10 para stamp of the first Belgrade printing mailed directly from Tekia to Florence, has been recorded. It somehow got through although underfranked even for internal use. (Fig. 31)

The Prince Michael stamps were demonetized on June 30th (old calendar) 1869, but in some cases these stamps can be found used well into the month of September. Their use was tolerated because some values of the Milan stamps were delivered late.

The Postal Convention, agreed to by the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, recognized Serbia's right to handle its foreign mail. It did not come into force until September 19, (30) 1869, because ratification was delayed. The date excludes the possibility of finding Michael stamps used on letters addressed abroad.

Naturally, combination covers using Prince Michael stamps to prepay postage from the interior of Serbia to Belgrade and Austrian stamps to prepay Austrian postage were possible. However, for most

31. Cover from Tekia to Florence.



of the period that the Michael stamps were in use the Austrian postage was prepaid in cash and marked in manuscript. I have heard of only one example of such a combination—a cover from the interior of Serbia, with a 20 para stamp and a 5 kreuzer Austrian stamp of 1867, which was stolen from its owner in 1945. It has not been seen since.

A pair of 10 para Vienna printing, cancelled in blue at "Krusevatz, which was stolen from Derocco in 1915, took about fifty years to make its reappearance.

New values of the Prince Milan design were issued on June 19, 1869, in 15, 25, 35 and 50 para denominations. These stamps were needed to meet the new rates set by the Postal Convention and were scheduled to come into use on that date. This has lead many philatelists to believe that mail could be sent directly to Austria from then on. It was announced in No. 115 of "Srpske Novina," dated September 16, 1869, that the post office at the Austrian Consulate would be closed on September 19th, and that mail for abroad would be accepted at local post offices beginning that day.

S. Ostojic, in issues 9-10 of "Filatelista," (1959) of Belgrade, describes a cover he saw before World War II which was franked with Michael and Milan issues. This letter, from Belgrade, was addressed to the Despinich Brothers in Kovin, (Kubin) Hungary, and was franked with a 10 para Michael on pelure paper and a 15 para Milan stamp, to make up the new rate of 25 para for Hungary set by the Convention.

I doubt that the cover was genuine. Mr. Ostojic probably did not have an opportunity to examine it closely. Further, I believe that the man who faked it did not realize that the Convention did not come into force on June 19th, which would allow the possibility of 12 days for such franking.

No first or last day covers of the prince Michael issues have been documented. De Smeth reports July 7, 1866, as the earliest recorded use by the Svilajinatz post office. I have seen a cover with a 20 para on buff paper of the second printing used from Belgrade on August 26, 1869. Such a cover cannot be called a "last day" cover, it is rather an unauthorized use after demonetization.

Prince Michael was assassinated on May 28, 1868, but the stamps bearing his image remained in use for another year. They were finally demonetized on June 30, 1869. His successor was his 13-year-old nephew, Milan, who ruled under a Regency elected by the

National Assembly. Its members were: Colonel Milivoje Blaznavac, Jovan Ristich and Jovan Gavrilovich.

Three types of forgeries of Michael stamps are known. They can be easily recognized because they are printed by lithography, whereas the genuine are typographed. The design of the head is different and the letters "B" and "K" in "Srbska" have a different shape. The third type of forgery, known as Fohl's and found on the 2 para value, finds Michael's ear conspicuously. The 1 para has several vertical lines in the medallion in front of the face.

Cancellations on the Prince Michael Stamps

An implementing law of March 13, 1866, required that postage stamps be cancelled with "Naplaceno," the same obliteration that had been used during the preadhesive period for prepayment of postage.

There were three main types of the Naplaceno cancellation: Without frame, boxed and with an oval frame. After the introduction of postage stamps the latter type was used only at Shabatatz and Cupria.

The boxed type can be found in two styles—normal, with the spelling, "Naplaceno," and without the "o" at the end with one or two periods. The variety with two periods was used at Majden Pek, Karanovatz and D. Milanovatz. The variety with one period was used at Tekia.

The double framed boxed type comes in different sizes, the lengths varying from 26 to 36 mm and the height from 9½ to 10½ mm. (Plate II)

The colors of the cancellations were black, blue or bluish green. When the letter required registration, the marking, "PREPORUCENO," was usually placed across the stamps with "Naplaceno" and the postmark containing the name of the town alongside. Some smaller post offices did not have cancellers and the stamps were cancelled in manuscript, either with the name of the town or with the word "Naplaceno" or, "Placeno je." The rarest are the round town cancels found on the stamps of the Vienna printing.

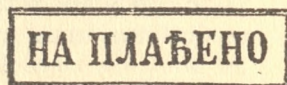
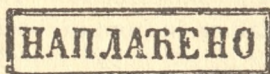
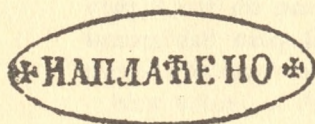
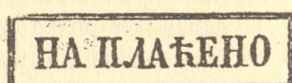
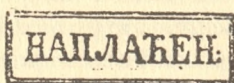
Some larger post offices, particularly those with greater amounts of mail, did not always adhere to regulations and began cancelling stamps using round town cancellers with date (month and day only).

Stamps of the Vienna printing are recorded with this type of cancellation from Kragujevatz, Jagodina, Negotin, Obrenovatz, Para-

Plate II.

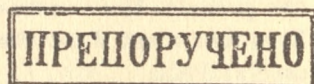
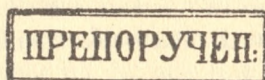
Cancellations of the Prince Michael Stamps.

НАПЛАЋЕН



1. Used at Banja, Cacak, Krusevatz, Negotin, Neresnica, Ub and Uzice.
2. Used at Karanovatz, Majoanpek, D.Milanovatz and Tekia.
3. Used at Beograd.
4. Used at Cupria and Shabatz.
6. Used at Jagodina, Kragujevatz, Pozarevatz, Pozega, Raska and Smederevo.

ПРЕПОРУЧ.



The framed PREPORUCEN: was used at Karanovatz, Majdanpek, D.Milanovatz and Tekia.



7. The occasionally used double circle preadhesive cancel of Beograd.

chin, Pozarevatz, Shabatz, Studenica, Tekia, V. Plana and Vel. Gradiste. An example of Krusevatz in blue on a pair of 10 para Vienna print was in Derocco's collection and is pictured on page 18 of his handbook.

The Belgrade printings of the Michael stamps are often found with town cancels. Apparently, the postal administration did not object to this use.

There were no regulations requiring postage stamps to be placed on the face of a letter and we often find registered covers with the stamps on back. This was probably due to the practice of neighboring Austria-Hungary where stamps paying registration fees *had* to be placed on the back of the letter. That regulation was abolished in the sixties, but the habit hung on at some post offices.

In addition to the different sizes of the boxed types, the cancels had different lettering. (For a description of the boxed, "Naplaceno," of Karantin Raca, see the Chapter on—Use of Newspaper Stamps of 1866).

During the Prince Michael period, Belgrade had only one boxed, "Naplaceno," cancel—shown as No. 3 in plate II. It is quite similar to the Naplaceno cancel used at Jagodina, Kragujevatz, Pozarevatz, Pozega, Raska and Smederevo (shown as No. 6) because it had the same spacing between the letters "A" and "P" at the top. The main difference is that, by error, it contained the letter " " instead of " ." Both types of cancellers, number 3 and 6, had the same size—37 x 10 mm.

The illustrated type of boxed, "Naplacen," without the letter "o" at the end, can be found in the following sizes:

Majdan Pek	29 x 9½ mm
Karanovatz	30 x 9½ mm
D. Milanovatz	30 x 10 mm
Tekia	36 x 10 mm

Later types of the boxed, "Paid," stamp with the spelling changed to "Placeno" were introduced at the time the Prince Milan stamps were put into use and are described with the cancellations of that period.

Three types of registration markings were used. The boxed, "Preporucen," without the "o" at the end, was used at Karanovatz, Majdanpek, D. Milanovatz and Tekia.

The Prince Millan Issues (1869–1880)

The death of Prince Michael and the Postal Convention with the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy made it necessary to print new stamps. New values of 15, 25, 35 and 50 para were issued on June 19, 1869, (old calendar) when the Convention was supposed to become law. The other values followed gradually, but it was the end of October before the 1 para was put on sale. Difficulties experienced by the State Printing Works caused the delay. It is, therefore, not surprising that Michael stamps were used after June 30, 1869, the date set for their demonetization. The 1 para stamps were the last to be issued since they were least required and I have seen a Michael newspaper stamp used at Belgrade as late as September 18, 1869.

It appears from recently published documents that the Home Secretary, in a letter dated February 8, 1869, [ON 246] advised the Ministry of Finance that the Printing Works had been ordered to cast plates from a master die engraved by Professor Carl von Radonitzky of Vienna. They were also asked to appoint a representative to be present at the printing on February 12th.

The work on the plates began on February 14th and lasted until the end of March. The actual printing started after that date, as stated in the Commission's report of October 28, 1869, when the printing of all the values had been completed. The report reads as follows:

"After the lead plates were cast for this printing in the presence of this Commission and after printing, they were packed into nine closed pack-

ages, all signed by the members of the Commission and given into the safe-keeping of the Administration of the Printing Works.

"The packages contained:

8 copper dies for casting
100 cliches of 1 para
100 cliches of 10 para
100 cliches of 15 para
100 cliches of 20 para
100 cliches of 25 para
100 cliches of 35 para
100 cliches of 40 para
100 cliches of 50 para

"As ordered by the Home Secretary on March 29, 1869, [ON 683] the following quantities of stamps were printed under the control of the Commission:

170,000 of 1 para
99,000 of 10 para
214,000 of 15 para
766,500 of 20 para
196,300 of 25 para
406,600 of 35 para
434,000 of 40 para
206,900 of 50 para

"The Commission has the honor to advise the Minister of Finance that the work for which the Commission has been designated has been completed.

In Belgrade, October 28, 1869.

Commissioners:
Milan Kujundzich
Jov. S. Markovich
Mih. S. Beleseovich

An official announcement concerning the new issue appeared in No. 39 of the, "Srpske Novine," on April 1, 1869:

"The Home Secretary has ordered present postage stamps to be exchanged for new ones on July 1, 1869.

"The new stamps will bear the portrait of His Highness Prince Milan IV Obrenovich in the following colors," 40 para, violet; 20 para, blue; 10 para, brown; 1 para, yellow. New denominations for the prepayment of letters to go abroad, also with the portrait of His Highness the Prince of Serbia, will be introduced. The colors

and values will be: (1) 50 para, dark green; (2) 35 para, light green; (3) 25 para, cherry; (4) 15 para, blue. The stamps will be issued on June 19th, this year.

"This announcement is made in accordance with Par. 6 of the Law for Postage Stamps, Letters and Newspapers of October 31, 1866."

The 15 para stamps were issued in orange, not blue. This was probably to avoid similarity with the 20 para stamp which had to be blue. No announcement was made about the change of color.

Radonitzky's design for the stamps is similar to that of the 1867 issue of Austria bearing the head of Emperor Franz-Joseph, except that the head of the Prince is facing left. The design of the Michael stamps is much more attractive, but from a philatelic point of view, the Prince Milan issue is more interesting and challenging. It can be compared with the Hermes head issue of Greece with this difference, some of the "Milan" stamps are rarer and more elusive. The issue remained in use until October 31, 1880, 11 years and 4 months in all. During this period numerous printings took place using different papers, colors and perforations.

Research on this issue is not complete and it offers the collector a wide scope and much satisfaction. Most of the Milan stamps are still modestly priced, although some rare perforations, particularly combinations on cover, fetch high prices.

The design of this stamp is rectangular, $19\frac{1}{4} \times 23$ mm. The head of the boy prince is in the center against a solid color background. Below, is an oval ribbon with the word, "Para," in uncolored letters. Uncolored numerals in small squares of solid color are in all four corners. The frame consists of woven white lines, and the rest of the stamp is filled with lattice-like white lines.

Most catalogs have accepted the Derocco groupings of five printings, which is correct from a philatelic point of view. We shall designate each group by a letter. A for the first, B for the second, and so on up to E. The printings are described in chronological order with a tabulation showing to which group that printing belongs.

Early in 1971, a century after the stamps were issued, most of the documents pertaining to these printings were found in the State Archives. Unfortunately, documents pertaining to groups B and E are still missing. They are probably somewhere in the archives of the State Printing Works. It is for this reason we still cannot be certain about the number of printings the 20 para stamp had. It

has, however, been established that between 1869 and 1880 the 1 para was printed twice, the 10 para 7 times, the 20 para 9 or 10 times, the 15 para and 35 para only once, the 25 para twice, the 40 para 3 times and the 50 para twice. All were printed at the State Printing Works in Belgrade.

GROUP A

The First Printing (June 19th–October 28th 1869)

All printings of the Milan stamps were typographed. The first one is the best because the quality of the paper and the ink was much better than that which followed. The perforating was not good, although it was better than that of later printings. The worn perforating combs in these later printings were repaired without regard to the spaces between the perforating pins.

Thin to medium hard paper (0.055–0.060 mm) was used for this printing. It is smooth, slightly transparent, and sometimes yellowish under the influence of the gum. The space between the stamps is 2 to 2½ mm, giving them a narrow margin. They are line perforated: "Narrow" 11½–12½; "Wide" 9½; "Compound" 9½ x 12 and "Compound Reversed" 12 x 9½. The narrow sides of both "compounds" vary between 11½ and 12½.

The paper used for this printing, with the exception of a slight difference in thickness, is constant. The inks are superior to those used later, making the appearance of the stamps clean and clear. Prince Milan's neck is always clearly separated from the background. Stamps of this printing can occasionally be found on vertically stitch-watermarked paper (Ladurner Streifen), named after a drug-gist of Innsbruck who discovered a similar watermark on the 1867 issue of Austria. The quality of the paper and the stitch-watermark may be an indication that it was supplied by the same mill which supplied the Imperial Printing Works at Vienna. Stamps with this watermark are rare and are not mentioned in any catalog.

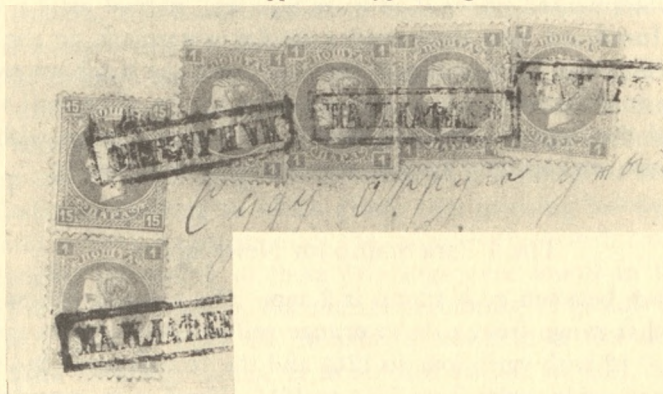
The 1 Para Stamp for Newspapers

The space between each stamp is 2 mm. The color is yellow with shades that range from pale to orange yellow. Perforations are the "narrow" 12 with variations to 12½ and the "compound" 9½ x 12. The narrow side varies from 11½ to 12½. There were considerable

remainders of the compound perforation and they are not rare unused. The "wide" and "reverse compound" perforations do not exist on this value. Genuinely used, these stamps are rare because their use was very limited.

One of the reasons for their rarity, is the fact that after the Convention with the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy on September 19, 1869, there was no further use for them. Newspapers for the interior went free of charge if sent to subscribers without a wrapper. Newspapers arriving from the Monarchy also were not subject to the postal tax for foreign newspapers. A law was passed on October 23, 1871, for the interior, setting a postal rate of 2 para for printed matter and newspapers weighing up to 10 drams (32 grams) with an additional 2 para charge for every added 5 drams (16 grams). This rate applied only to papers mailed by the publisher and without a wrapper (Amendment to Art. 19.v. of the Postal Law). These newspaper stamps were used mostly in an emergency as additional prepayment for letters, since mailing of newspapers was free until January 1, 1872. Not a single newspaper with a 1 para stamp of the first printing has been recorded to my knowledge. Covers with these stamps used for additional franking are also very rare. Only one entire letter—with ten 1 para stamps perf. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, and five 10 para stamps of the second printing to make up the rate of 60 para—is known so far. It was used at Kar. Raca. Two partial fronts, each with one 15 para, perf. 12 and five 1 para, perf. 12, to make up the rate of 20 para, have also been recorded. (Fig. 32)

32. *Supplementary franking.*



It appears that this stamp with a compound perforation, used, is equally rare, although in mint condition it seems quite common. A pair of these stamps on piece, with two 35 para stamps to make up the unusual rate of 72 para, is also known. This odd rate was probably for a registered parcel of newspapers weighing 160 drams requiring postage of 32 para, plus 40 para for the registration fee. (Fig. 33)

The 10 Para Brown

99,000 copies of this stamp were printed, the smallest amount of any of the printed values. It is, therefore, not surprising that it was the first value to run out. Recently discovered documents reveal that a new printing took place in May 1870.

The color of the first printing is always reddish brown. The paper is sometimes yellowish buff. The second printing is in a lighter shade that is slightly greyish or yellow brown. As far as I can determine, the first printing is always perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, whereas the second printing comes in all four combinations. The space between the stamps is 2 mm and it is rare in mint condition. Because of the small differences between the two printings, they both belong to group "A."



33. Above: 72 Para franking. Below: 20 para fifth and 1 Para second printing.





34. *Overlapped franking.*



35. *Mint 10 para Group "A" 12 x 9½ perf.,
(see Second Printing - 10 Para Stamp. Page 76.)*

The 15 Para Orange

This value was printed only once as shown by recently discovered documents. 214,000 copies were issued. A record of the stock held by the Printing Works on November 1, 1877, shows the quantity on that date to be as low as 2,661 copies.

The space between the stamps is 2 mm and they may be found in various shades and all perforation combinations. The rarest is the 12 x 9½ of which only two or three used copies are known. Next in rarity is the "narrow" 12 perforation, particularly in mint condition. Multiples of the "compound" 9½ x 12 exist in strips of five and blocks of four, both on covers. A block of four is known unused. The stamp is also known with a freak 9½ perforation on the left side.

The latest recorded use of this stamp is in 1878. There were no remainders. The value has a constant flaw in the top left corner, "16" instead of "15." The stamp is known also on paper 0.075 mm thick.

The 20 Para Blue

The space between the stamps is 2¼ mm. This stamp and the 40 para are the commonest. It served to prepay postage on ordinary

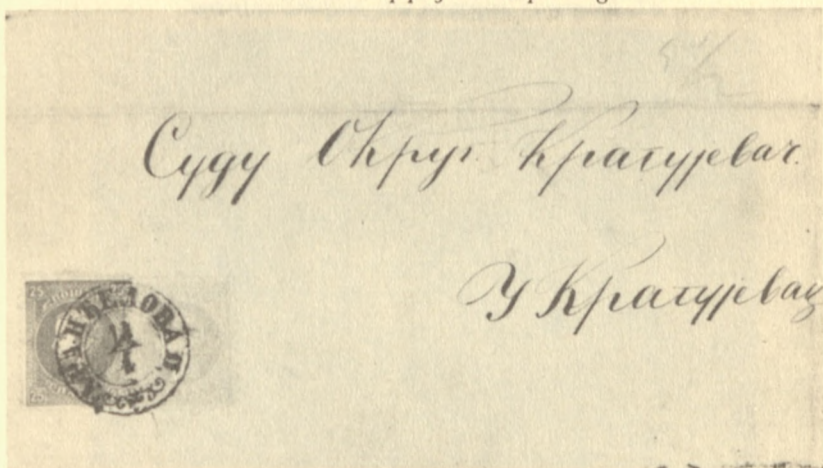
letters weighing three drams. A great variety of shades exist, ranging from light to deep blue. All perforation varieties can be found on the narrow side, varying from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$. The rarest is the $12 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ and it is known in mint and used condition. Used multiples exist in strips of five and blocks of six. In mint condition, even pairs are rare. An imperforate copy has been listed, unused.

The 25 Para Cherry

The color of this stamp ranges from pale to dark cherry. It can be found with all four perforations. The space between the stamps is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Rarest of the perforations is the "narrow," or $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. Only two pairs have been listed by Derocco and one, cancelled at Brzan, is pictured in his handbook. He also mentions that one of the pairs in his collection was lost in 1915. He also knew of a cover with a single stamp. Its whereabouts is now unknown. A cover from Arandjelovatz with this stamp perforated, "narrow," together with a 15 para, Perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$, is now in a collection in Yugoslavia. (Fig. 36)

No copy of this stamp with the "narrow" perforation is known mint. Multiples of other perforations do exist, but they are extremely rare. The largest is a strip of four and a block of four perforated "wide" and "compound." Covers with this stamp with $9\frac{1}{2}$ perforations are scarce.

36. Cover with 25 p.perf.12. 1st printing.



De Smeth doubted that the 25 para stamp existed with a "Narrow" perforation. He obviously did not have enough material at his disposal. This is not an isolated case, as we shall see when he describes later printings.

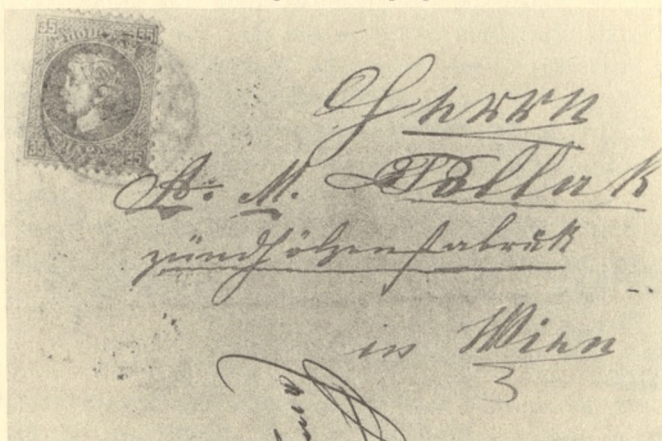
The 35 Para Light Green

The 35 para was printed only once. A total of 406,000 copies of this stamp was issued, which was more than enough since it had no further use after 1875, the rate for Austria having been reduced from 35 to 25 para. The records show that on November 1, 1877, the Printing Works had 92,028 copies in stock. There were remainders when the stamp was demonetized in 1880.

The space between the stamps is $2\frac{1}{3}$ mm. Their color is pale bluish green, which sometimes appears yellowish under the influence of the gum. The stamp comes in all four basic perforations. The narrow side varies from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 13. Derocco thought that the stamps with the narrow side perforated 13 were from a second printing, but recently published documents prove that the value was printed only once.

The commonest perforation is $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. Next, is the "narrow" followed by the "wide." Finally, there is the "reversed compound." The last two are very rare in mint condition as is the "reversed compound" on cover. (Fig. 37)

37. *Reversed Compound with purple Smederevo.*



Only pairs of used multiples have been recorded, no blocks or strips. With the exception of the $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ perf. all mint multiples are rare. The stamp, perforated 12, is known in pairs imperforate horizontally. This value has been recorded with the stitch watermark, having (when clearly visible) about 26 vertical lines which gradually develop into stitches towards the top.

The stamp is known also with a freak perforation of $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. One constant plate flaw is found in the bottom right corner numeral, which reads "36" instead of "35." (Fig. 38)

The 40 Para Violet

The space between the stamps is $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm and the color ranges from light to dark violet. They exist with all four perforations, the rarest being the "narrow." Of those, not more than 5 or 6 copies, perf. 12, in mint condition are known. The stamp used with the "narrow" perforation is also rare. However, horizontal and vertical pairs do exist and are also known horizontally or vertically imperforate. Freak perforations have been recorded such as $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12 \times 9\frac{1}{4} \times 12$, and $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$. The commonest is the $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. The stamp also exists with a double vertical perforation.

Constant plate flaws, which appear in the figure "40" in one or both left corners, are sought by collectors. The numeral looks like a

38. *Constant plate flaw.*



double print. Another plate flaw found in all the 40 para printings is a round white spot between the letters "PA" and "RA."

The largest used multiples are a block of six and strips of three of the "compound" perforation.

The 50 Para Dark Bluish Green

The space between the stamps is $2\frac{1}{3}$ – $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm and the paper is sometimes yellowish under the influence of the gum. The printing is very clear and neat and it is the best of all values, probably because of the good quality of the ink. The 50 para does not exist in the "narrow" or "reversed compound" perforations, but freak perforations and examples perforated double vertically have been recorded. The best known constant plate flaw is the figure "56" in the top right corner. (Fig. 39)

The largest used multiples are pairs. Records show that on November 1, 1877, 53,267 copies were in stock. There were remainders when the stamps were demonetized in 1880.

The Second Printing of the 10 Para Stamp

The Home Secretary ordered the second printing of the 10 para stamp on May 12, 1870, [ON. 1244] and the appointed Commission submitted a report on September 4, 1870, stating that 200,000 stamps had been printed.

The stamps were printed on the same paper, and with the same spacing as those of the first printing. They belong, from a philatelic point of view, to group "A." The only difference is a slightly lighter and greyish toned shade of the brown or yellow brown color. It exists with all four perforations. The rarest is the "reversed compound," particularly in mint condition. The narrow side is sometimes $12\frac{1}{2}$. The stamp is also known with freak perforations—3 sides 12 and $9\frac{1}{2}$ vertically on one side. The "narrow" perforation is known on cover in a pair, imperforate between. (Fig. 40) Mint or used blocks of this stamp are rare. (Fig. 41) A plate flaw showing the figure "10" as "40" in the upper left corner exists. (Fig. 42) The stamps with "compound" perforations and a double perforation horizontally are also known.

39. Constant plate flaw.



40. Imperforate between pair of 10 para.



41. Straight Trstenik on Block.



42. Constant plate flaw.



GROUP "B"

The Third Printing—1872

This printing embraces the group which was originally called the "Second Printing," and includes the 1, 10, 20 and 25 para. Unfortunately, the documents pertaining to this printing have not been found. The only records we have are the order of the Home Secretary, dated November 12, 1871, [ON. 2802] ordering the printing of the 1 para stamp for newspapers and the Commission's report on the completion of the printing on May 6, 1872. Printing dates and quantities produced are not known. The mesh type paper used for the printing of this group ("B") is much thicker and stronger than that previously utilized.

The Group "B" 1 Para Stamp for Newspapers

The color of this stamp is yellow with shades ranging from pale yellow to greyish yellow. The space between the stamps is 3 mm vertically and $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm horizontally. The perforation is "narrow" from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$. Only a small quantity were perforated, and in used condition this stamp is much rarer than that of the first printing. Derocco said that he had never seen a genuinely used copy, but several have been recorded since. (Fig. 33 bottom)

The decree of November 1871 established a rate of 2 paras per 10 drams for local newspapers and 1 para more for each additional 5 drams. The law went into effect January 1, 1872, making it necessary to provide postage stamps with a 2 para value. An implementing decree in February 1873 authorized the printing of such a value in a design similar to the 1 para, but in black. It was to be issued on June 1, 1873.

The same law authorized a further printing of 100,000 copies of the 1 para yellow, as it was felt that the available stock would not last until the appearance of the new 2 para stamp. No information could be found in the archives that this further quantity was ever printed. There were remainders from this printing and several sheets of 100 still exist. All are bright or reddish yellow, which might indicate that the additional quantity was printed. Derocco was of the opinion that stamps with a reddish yellow color belong to that extra printing.

The stamp can be found in strips imperforate vertically or hori-



43. *Tête-Beche ex Ferrari.*

zontally. It is probable that such varieties were made later. Derocco believes that they were manufactured for collectors. He calls them forgeries.

An imperforate tête-bêche pair was in the Ferrari collection (lot 496) sold on June 15, 1923, for 5,000 francs. (Fig. 43) This item now rests in a collection in France. Derocco considered it to be printer's waste, but under the circumstances this may not be the case. If two printings took place, there is a possibility that such a tête-bêche pair did exist in the sheets of the first printing and that the error was discovered and corrected before the second printing.

The imperforate 1 para stamps are certainly more valuable used than unused. They can be found in large blocks, but are rare. (Fig. 44) Used on letters, newspapers or wrappers, they are great rarities.

44. *Used on money order at Arandjelovac.*



Derocco, in his long experience, had seen only one, a pair on a copy of "Resavski Postonosa," a newspaper. It was dated February 29, 1872. I have seen another pair on the April 30, 1872, issue of "Radnik," a Belgrade newspaper. It had been mailed to Kragujevatz, but with the stamps uncanceled.

The 10 Para Cinnamon—Group "B"

The printing of this value was done from new plates and new clichés. A constant flaw below the ear in the form of a white spot appears in this and the four printings that followed. The space between the stamps is $3-3\frac{1}{2}$ mm and the paper is nearly always 0.065–0.070 mm thick. The quality of the paper and the cinnamon color are the main characteristics of this printing. The quantity printed is not known.

Perforations are "narrow" and "compound" with little discrepancies in the narrow side from 11–12½. The "wide" 9½ perforation does not exist.

Due to poor quality ink, the printing is spotty.

The "compound" perforated stamps are rare, particularly mint copies and on cover. Not long ago a mint block of eight of the "compound" perforation was discovered. Used multiples in strips of five and blocks of six are recorded in the "narrow" perforation.

The 20 Para Blue—Group "B"

This printing was executed from new plates and old clichés. There is a space of $3-3\frac{1}{2}$ mm between stamps. The paper is thick and occasionally medium thick. The color is mostly light blue. Deeper shades probably belong to the next printing. There is also a rare greyish ultramarine shade very similar to the color used for the 1877 printing of this denomination. The print is neat and clear and the neck of the portrait is always clearly separated from the background. The quantity printed is not known.

All four perforation combinations were used. The "narrow" varies from 11½ to 13. A vertically unperforated pair is mentioned by Derocco and freak perforations exist: i.e. 9½ on three sides and 12 below; 12 on three sides and 9½ above or right. The stamps are rare in mint condition, particularly the "wide" and "reversed compound" perforations.

The 25 Para—Group "B"

As with other values of this printing, the space between the stamps is 3-3½ mm, but the paper is always very thick (0.070-0.075 mm). The color is rose, mostly pale. Darker shades are also common. The print is less neat than that of the first printing, probably because of the inferior quality of the ink. All four perforations; "narrow," "wide," and both "compounds" are common. Several freak perforations have also been recorded as well as double perforations.

The printed quantities are not known, but they must have been large. The Printing Works, on November 1, 1877, had a quantity of 189,219 copies in stock and there were remainders after demonetization on October 31, 1880.

Horizontally and vertically imperforate pairs and strips are listed. One pair, imperforate between, has been recorded on cover. (Fig. 45) The stamp is also known imperforate. The 25 para was used on ordinary letters to Hungary until 1875 when the rate was reduced to 20 para.

45. Imperforate between pair of 25 p.



The Fourth Printing (February 16–June 14, 1873)

Newly discovered documents show that the Home Office was notified by the Printing Works on January 31, 1873, that their stock of 1 para stamps would soon be sold out. This was obviously the result of the introduction of the 2 para rate for newspapers sent to the interior. The Home Office on February 5, 1873, [ON. 261] asked for a Commission to oversee the printing. Earlier, [ON. 260] the printing of 20 para stamps had been ordered, and later, [ON. 342] the printing of the new 2 para newspaper stamps.

Derocco states that the order also gave the Commission authority to print another 100,000 1 para stamps if necessary. Derocco, as mentioned above, is of the opinion that this subsequent quantity was indeed printed, but the report submitted by the Commission does not mention this fact. It reads as follows:

“Acting on the orders of the Home Secretary, the Commission reports the printing on February 3rd and 16th 1873 of: [ON. 260 and 342]

- (1) One million, five hundred and ninety thousand two para stamps.
- (2) Two hundred thousand twenty para stamps.
- (3) Thirty one thousand and six hundred postal stationery cards of 10 para each (31,600), and
- (4) Ten thousand postal stationery cards of 20 para each.

These stamps and postal stationery cards were handed to the Administration of the Printing Works.

The printing was completed on June 14, 1873.”

The 2 Para Black Newspaper Stamps (June 1, 1873)

The law of October 23, 1871, ordered that, starting January 1, 1872, postage would be paid for newspapers that went through the mail. Until then, under the law of January 26, 1866, newspapers went free of charge if sent by publishers to subscribers in the country without wrappers. The rate was set at 2 para for 10 drams (32 grams). A new cliché for the 2 para stamp was prepared. It was quite different from the design of the other Milan stamps. The size was larger—19¾ x 23¼ mm. The head of the Prince is drawn differently and the background is white, not solid color. Above the head is the inscription,

"Knj. Srp. Posta" (Principality Serbia Post). The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) with a space of 3 mm between. The paper is wove and of medium thickness. Derocco reports having seen several copies perforated 12, but could not establish if this was done by the Printing Works or privately.

An announcement about the new stamps appeared in No. 41 of the Official Gazette, "Sluzbene Novine," on February 21, 1873:

"The Home Secretary has decided to introduce 2 para stamps for newspapers as of June 1, 1873, and will exchange them for 1 para stamps, which will not be valid after that date.

"The new stamps will carry the image of His Highness, the Serbian Prince Milan M. Obrenovich IV, and will be in black.

"This announcement is made in accordance with Par. 6 of the Law for Postage and Newspaper Stamps of October 31, 1866."

Entire newspapers with these stamps used are rare because they usually remained uncanceled. Multiples are rare mint (Fig. 46) or used.

There was no established cancellation practice. I have seen some newspapers with the stamps cancelled on arrival and some can-

46. First printing of 2 para black.



celled at the point of mailing. I have seen an 1875 copy of "Oslobodjenje," a Belgrade newspaper, cancelled with the round "Beograd" postmark and an 1874 copy of "Javnost," a newspaper from Kragujevatz, mailed to Jagodina and cancelled with the "Naplaceno" marking of that city. I have seen, further, a copy of "Javnost," from the year 1873, also cancelled with the "Naplaceno" marking on arrival at Jagodina. Yet, on other newspapers the stamps remained uncanceled.

The largest multiple is a strip of five, making the 10 para rate for franking newspapers to Austria, on a copy of "Glas Javnosti," from Kragujevatz. It was dated October 24, 1874, and was addressed to Zara and forwarded to Ragusa. (Fig. 47) The strip is cancelled, "Kragujevatz 25.X." (old calendar), corresponding to November 6th (new calendar), with the transit mark, "Beograd 8.XI." (new calendar). It is interesting to note that the Belgrade post office at that time cancelled newspapers for abroad via the new calendar. This practice is confirmed by a copy of "Vidovdan," issued in Belgrade. This newspaper, dated September 29, 1874, and addressed to Hungary, has the 10 para stamp cancelled, "Beograd 10.X." (September 29th of the old calendar), and the transit mark of Semlin on a pair of Hungarian newspaper tax stamps of 11.10. (Fig. 48)

47. Strip on Newspaper.





48. *New calendar cancelling.*

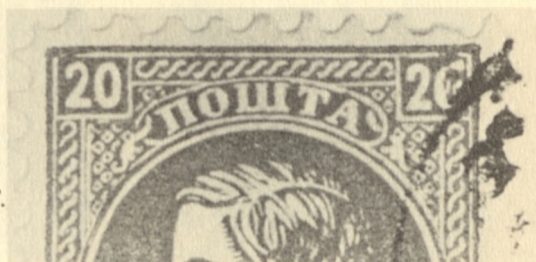
The rate for Switzerland was 15 para and sometimes a 10 para Milan with three 2 para newspaper stamps was used to make up the rate (16 instead of 15 para). Three newspapers franked this way are in the State Archives at Belgrade, but in only one instance are the newspaper stamps cancelled.

There were no remainders of these stamps.

The 20 Para Stamp of the Fourth Printing—(Group “B”) February 16–June 14, 1873

These stamps have the same characteristics as the 20 para of the third printing. Therefore, they too belong to Group “B.” Small changes are noticeable in the quality of the paper which is not quite as smooth as that of the previous printing. The blue color is deeper, sometimes even resembling the dark ultramarine of the 1877/78 printings.

The plate flaw, “2C” in the top right corner instead of “20,” found in this printing can also be found in the last printing group, “E.” (Fig. 49)



49. *Plate flaw 2C group “B”.*

GROUP "C"**The Fifth Printing—June 4–July 15, 1874**

On June 4, 1874, the Home Secretary [ON. 1132] requested a Commission be appointed to go to the Printing Works to oversee the printing of 10 and 20 para stamps. The Commission reported on July 15th that:

97,400 of the 10 para stamps and
200,000 of the 20 para stamps were printed.

This printing should include Group "C" (in catalogs the third printing), but the quantity of the 10 para is too high to justify the relative rarity of this ocher-yellow stamp on thin or normal paper. The first 10 para stamps with these characteristics are found on covers from Petrovac, dated December 10, 1874; from Prnjavor, dated December 19th; and from Smederevo, dated December 20th. One is on normal, and two are on thin paper. We can only assume that the quantity listed (97,400) includes a certain amount of 10 para stamps which belong to the previous "B" printing in order to use up the paper and ink. It is apparent from this, that it is very difficult to draw a line between the various printings of the Milan stamps as they sometimes overlapped each other. This is also true later, both for the 10 and 20 para value.

The 10 para stamp in ocher-yellow was printed from plates used for the Group "B" printing. (Fig. 51) The space between the stamps is 3–3½ mm. The perforation is "narrow" and varies from 11½–12½. A few copies with "compound" perforations may or may not

50. Group "B" Printing.
Color Cinnamon



51. Group "C" Printing.
Color Yellow Brown



be fakes. The paper is mostly porous and thin (0.045–0.050 mm), but copies on paper of medium thickness have also been recorded. The latter are very rare.

The stamp is known horizontally imperforate and with double perforation vertically. The stamp, in mint condition with gum, is one of the rarest mint stamps of the Milan issues, particularly on medium thick paper. The stamp on cover is scarce. Multiples are very rare. The largest recorded is a used horizontal strip of four.

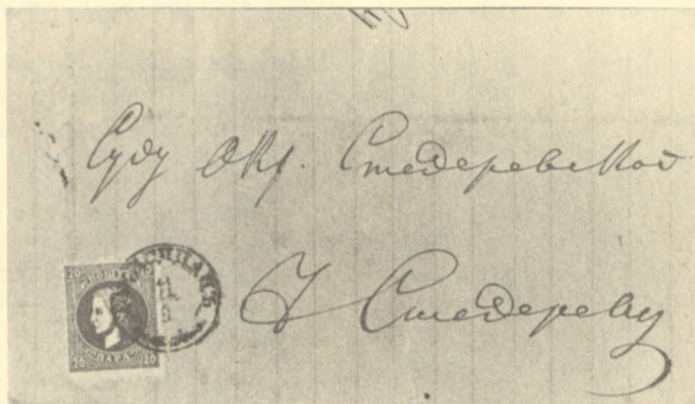
The 20 Para Stamp of the Fifth Printing

During this printing—June 4 to July 15, 1874—two kinds of paper and ink were used. Either thin porous paper (0.045–0.050 mm) and cobalt ink, or medium thick paper (0.055–0.060 mm) and blue ink of a deeper shade. Derocco reports a cover of August 1874 with a cobalt colored stamp on thin paper. Mr. Brodtbeck has in his collection a cover with a stamp on normal paper in a deep blue shade that was used on December 2, 1874. Another one with the same characteristics used early in January 1875, has also been listed.

The impression of the design on these stamps is blurred and the lines at the bottom of the neck, clearly visible in previous Group “B” printings, form a solid block of color on most examples.

Perforations are normally “narrow” with variations from 11 to 13. “Compound” perforations do exist, but are extremely rare, particularly on cover. (Fig. 54) Collectors are well advised to consult

54. Group “C” 20 p. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. (1875)



experts when dealing with them. It is not too difficult to forge 9½ perforations on stamps having margins as wide as these. The 20 para stamp of this, and of the next printing, is also known imperforate. Here again, great care should be exercised, since fakes abound.

A cover with such an imperforate stamp on the reverse, exhibited in 1937 at ZEFIB in Belgrade as a great rarity, was found to be a fake in the fifties. The Friedl Expert Committee, to whom the cover was sent for an opinion, found, when the stamp was removed from the cover, a pencil mark with the old number of the Senf catalog on the back of the stamp. An imperforate pair used at Uzice is also known.

The stamp also exists vertically or horizontally imperforate. In mint condition the stamp is rare in both the cobalt and deep blue shade. A mint block of seven is known to exist in the cobalt shade. 200,000 of these stamps were printed.

The 20 Para Stamp of the Sixth Printing

Between March 10th and May 19th 1875, a new printing of this value took place. It too, belongs to Group "C." It was ordered by the Home Secretary [ON. 513] and the Commission reported that 380,000 copies were printed. The demand was largest for this value because it paid the ordinary letter rate and, after 1875, the ordinary letter rate for Hungary.

The stamps of this printing are on thin porous yellowish paper. They are a distinctly greyish blue or cobalt color.

The Seventh Printing—November 28, 1875–April 22, 1876

This printing was ordered by the Home Secretary on November 26, 1875. [ON. 3137] The Commission reported its completion on April 22, 1876. The late date was caused by urgent work for the Minister of War which the Printing Works had to complete.

The report states that:

(1) 2,900 sheets of stamps of 10 para, 100 per sheet	290,000
(2) 4,200 sheets of 20 para	420,000
(3) 2,150 sheets of 40 para	215,000

were printed.

While the 10 and 40 para stamps belong philatelically to Group "D" (in catalogs the "fourth" printing), the 20 para still belongs to

Group "C." There is no doubt that the 10 and 20 para stamps were printed first and the 40 para afterward.

The 10 Para Red Brown—Group "D"

Although the printing of this stamp started on November 28, 1875, and was reported completed about five months later, the stamps were used at certain post offices in December 1875. It was established practice that when a post office ran out of a certain value the Printing Works would supply the value if available against receipt, even before the Commission's report was issued. A cover with a pair of these stamps from Raca (Krag.) has been recorded used on December 28, 1875.

Philatelically a member of Group "D," this printing is, in fact, the fifth time the value was printed. The paper used was white, soft, smooth and of medium thickness (0.055–0.060 mm). The color is reddish brown in different tones that range to dark chocolate. In extremely rare cases the color is identical with the ocher-yellow of the previous printing, showing again that the printings overlapped. In this specific case some ink remained unused from Group "C" and was put to use. I have seen only three copies in this color. (Fig. 53)

The stamp was printed from old plates and the space between each one is 3–3½ mm. Perforations are mostly 12 with the 9½ being scarce and the "compound" extremely rare. Special care should also be taken with this issue because of the perforation fakes which the wide margins make possible. The perforating pins were already worn and sometimes they did not break through the paper. We can find these stamps both horizontally and vertically doubly perforated.

52. Group "D" Printing,
9½ × 12.

Color Red-Brown



53. Group "D" using ink of
"C".

Color Yellowish-Ocre



Mint or used multiples with the "narrow" perforation are common, but the dark chocolate stamps are rare.

The 20 Para Greyish Blue of the Seventh Printing

This is actually the sixth printing of this value and belongs to the philatelic Group "C" (in catalogs the "third" printing). The difference between it and the previous two printings is so negligible that it cannot be given a grouping of its own.

The color is greyish blue and rarely, is so dark that it can be described as blue black. The paper is of medium thickness, white and smooth. The impression is very smudgy. The blue black stamp closely resembles the 20 para of Group "E." So close is this resemblance that unless it is on a dated cover, it is difficult to establish the printing to which it belongs. The blue black stamp on cover is rare.

There are three constant plate flaws in the Group "C" printings of the 20 para which must be mentioned. Two of them occur on all subsequent printings. The third one is only found on Group "D" printings. They are as follows:

(1) Below the figure at the top left corner the plate is cracked in the shape of a cone. (Fig. 55) The narrower part is wedged inside the stamp. This flaw is found in position #38 of the first, and position #87 of the second setting in the group "E" printing.

(2) At the right side of the neck the crack in the plate resembles a sea gull with spread wings. It is called in Yugoslavia, "ptica" (bird). This flaw is found in position #84 in the Group "D" printing, position #71 in the first and position #53 in the second setting of Group "E." (Fig. 56)

55. *Constant plate flaw.*
Group "D".



56. *Plate Flaw "Bird".*



(3) In front of the neck the crack in the plate resembles an inverted bird and is called “zmija” (snake) in Yugoslavia. The crack can be found in the Group “D” printing, but not in Group “E.” It is possible that the damaged cliché was replaced.

The 40 Para Mauve of the Seventh Printing—Group “D”

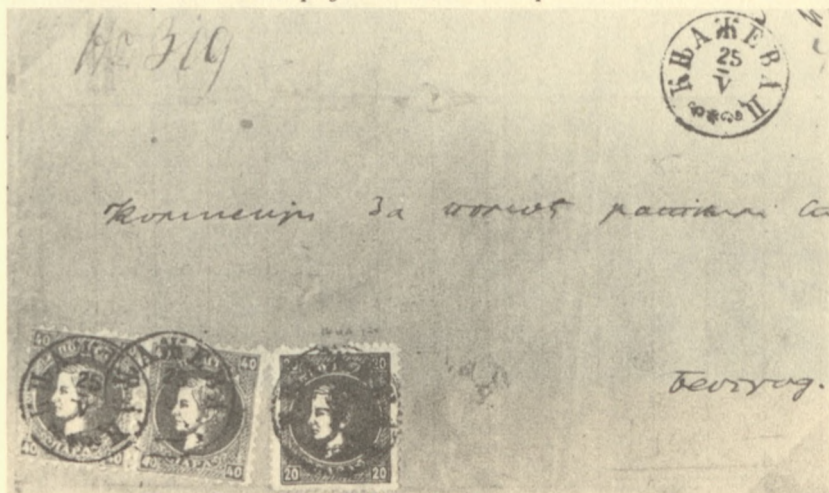
This, actually the second printing of the 40 para stamp, is listed in the catalogs as the “fourth” printing.

This value was, in addition to the 20 para, the most commonly used stamp. Every letter weighing more than 3 drams (9.6 gr) and up to $4\frac{1}{2}$ drams necessitated a 40 para (1 grosh) stamp. The registration fee was also 1 grosh.

Although the Commission reported on April 22, 1876, that a quantity of 215,000 stamps were printed, hardly any of them were used in 1876 because there were enough stamps remaining from the first printing.

The setting is narrow and the old plates of the first printing have been used. The paper is soft, white and of medium thickness, very often transparent and oily. It is of a pronounced type that Derocco describes as “mrezaste struktura” (mesh structure). The impression is always blurred and smudgy. The color ranges from pale to dark mauve with a more or less accented reddish tint. The “narrow” perforations vary from $11\frac{1}{2}$ to $12\frac{1}{2}$ and all four perforations have been recorded. The “narrow” is the commonest and all other perforations are scarce to rare. (Fig. 57) Mint copies and “compound” perfora-

57. Imperforate Between Group “D”.



tions on cover are practically nonexistent. Multiples, mint or used, are rare. A vertically imperforate between pair, on cover from Belgrade, exists. (Fig. 58)

Constant plate flaws in the corner figure "40" have been recorded as in the first printing.

The Eighth Printing—Group "D"
(April 11–August 22, 1877)

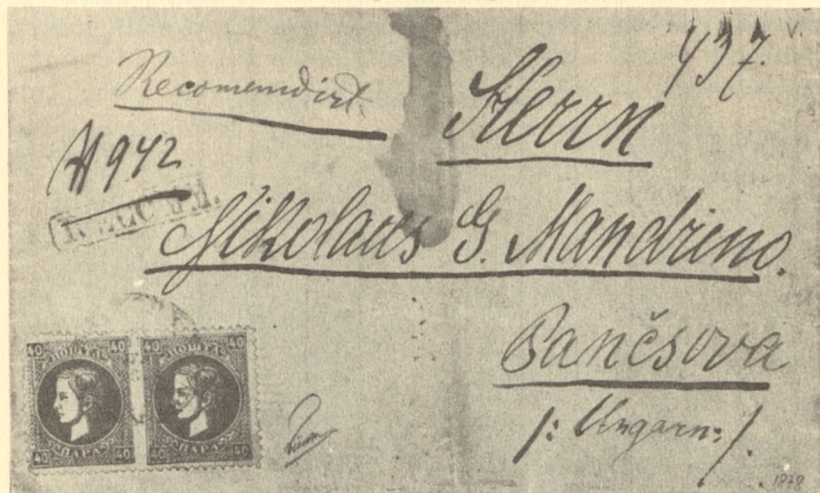
The supply of 10 and 20 para stamps ran short in April 1877. On the 11th, the Home Secretary ordered a Commission [ON. 689] to oversee a new printing. They reported from the Printing Works on August 22nd that:

326,300 10 para stamps, and
513,300 20 para stamps were printed.

The 10 para stamps belong, from a philatelic point of view, to Group "D" and it was, in fact, the sixth time the value was printed.

Everything that has been said about the 10 para stamps of the previous printing applies to this issue with the exception of the ink. It is yellowish brown in this printing, not red brown.

58. Pair 40p. 9½ Group "D".



The 20 Para Untramarine of the Group "D" Printing

This is the seventh printing of this value, but it belongs to the Group "D" printings. The characteristic of this printing is its ultramarine color. The paper is soft white or yellowish and of medium thickness (0.055–0.060 mm). The impression is rather spotty and blurred as is the 10 para of Group "D." Prince Milan's neck is not clearly separated from the background.

A great variety of perforations have been recorded, particularly the "narrow" which varies from 11 to 13. The 9½ is rare, but copies have been recorded in mint condition and on cover. The "compound" perforations are known only in used condition on and off cover. They are extremely rare. Here again, collectors should beware of fakes.

The stamp has been listed vertically and horizontally imperforate between and with double perforations. The stamp was used until the end of October 1880. We illustrate a cover, postmarked "Belgrade, October 7, 1880, with this stamp used together with the 10 and 40 para of the last printing. (Fig. 59)

The paper is sometimes so transparent that the ink penetrates, giving the appearance of an oily print.

As with the Group "C" printings—1874–1877—of the 20 para, this printing also shows the constant plate flaw to the right of the

59. Late Use 20p. Group "D" with "E".



neck which looks like a bird (ptica). The position is #84 and becomes #71 or #53 in the Group "E" printings. Three stamps before this flaw is another, the "snake" (zmija), on the left side below the figure "20."

The Ninth Printing—June 29th–December 29th 1878

The Home Secretary ordered new printings of the 2 and 20 para stamps on June 29, 1878, [ON. 1715]. The Commission reported its task completed on December 29, 1878, having overseen a printing of:

(a) 642,540	20 para
(b) 1,044,000	2 para

The 20 para stamp of the ninth printing belongs to Group "D." It has the same characteristics of paper and perforation as the other stamps in this group. The ultramarine color has a greyish tint.

The Second Issue of the 2 Para Newspaper Stamp

This stamp, a part of the ninth printing, was printed from new plates and clichés. The inscription above the head, "POSTA," always has the letter "T" broken and a white spot behind the ear. (Fig. 60) The stamp was printed in sheets of 100, but the vertical space between the stamps is now only 2 mm, sometimes $2\frac{1}{2}$, toward the top of the stamp. The horizontal space remains 3 mm as before.

The paper used for this printing is thin and the stamp is sometimes transparent. The impression is not as clear as that of the previous printing.

60. Forged cancel on 2nd Printing.



This stamp was in use a very short time. The law of December 19, 1879, reintroduced free mailing of newspapers to the interior of the country, beginning May 1, 1880. Genuinely used copies of this stamp are very rare. None are known on newspapers. Many forged cancellations are being circulated. There were large remainders and entire sheets are not difficult to find.

GROUP "E"

The Tenth Printing—February 8, 1879-?

The only document discovered by Mr. Vukovic relating to this printing, is a letter by the Home Secretary dated February 8, 1879, [ON. 351] to the Printing Works. It asked for the printing of the 40 para value. Based on the archives of the Ministry of Finance, it seems that a member of the Commission was appointed by that authority. Nothing further could be found and the report of the Commission is also missing. We therefore, do not know when the printing was completed or how many stamps were printed.

The 40 Para Mauve—Group "E" Printing

This is the first value of the last issue to be printed. It made its appearance in May 1879. The next to be printed was the 10 para in June and July. This was followed in December by the 20 para. The 50 para was issued in 1880.

All of these values were printed on soft smooth white paper of medium thickness (0.055-0.060 mm). The impressions are extremely blurred and smudgy due to the inferior quality of the ink and the worn plates. With some exceptions, they are perforated "narrow" with different variations.

This was the third time the 40 para was printed and it was done from the plates used for the previous two printings. We have, therefore, the same constant flaws plus new ones caused by the increasingly worn plates. The "narrow" perforations vary from 11½ to 12½ and pairs and blocks imperforate between horizontally or vertically have been recorded. "Compound" perforations, excepting 9½, have also been listed. A used copy with a freak perforation of 9 x 12 x 9½ x 12 has been seen as well as an imperforate copy.

There were large remainders and entire sheets exist. Used multiples or covers are not common.

The 10 Para Orange—Group "E" Printing

The general characteristics of this value have already been described. It abounds in new plate flaws which did not exist in the previous six printings. A constant plate flaw is "1C" in the top right corner instead of "10." (Fig. 61) Double prints are not rare, nor are oily ones, due to the transparent paper. The gum used at the beginning was white and later became yellowish and coarse. No "compound" perforations have been reported except that of 12 x 13. Imperforate, imperforate between horizontally or vertically and double perforations have been recorded. Very rarely the stamp can be found in a distinctly yellow color. Paper folds have been recorded. (Fig. 62)

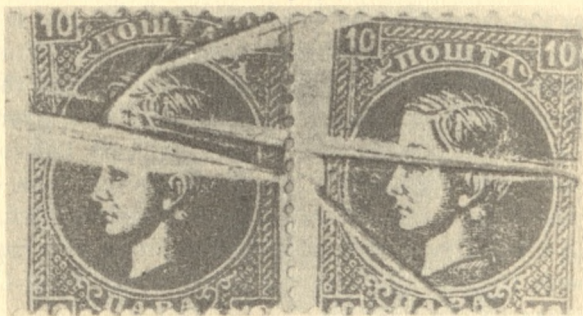
Used multiples are also rare. A block of four on a registered letter from Belgrade dated November 1, 1880, has been reported. This is after the Milan stamps were supposed to have been retired.

This stamp on cover commands a higher price than normal. Reminders were large as in all values of the last printing.



61. Flaw 1C of Group "E".

62. Paperfold.



The 20 Para Blue—Group “E” Printing

This stamp appeared in December 1879 and the general characteristics of the paper, ink, impression and gum mentioned for the other values of the Group “E” printings apply. The 20 para was printed in a great variety of shades, ranging from milky blue (rare) to greyish and black blue. The last one can easily be mistaken for the black blue shade of 1877 printing, Group “C,” which is considerably rarer.

The old clichés were used for this printing, but in two different settings. The most characteristic plate flaw, the crack at the right side of the head, which made its appearance in the Group “C” printings in the shape of a seagull with spread wings (*ptica*), is in position 71 in the first setting and position 53 in the second. It was in position 84 in the previous Group “D” printing.

The “2C” plate flaw in the top right corner which appeared in the Group “B” printing, is in position 84 in the first setting of Group “E.” (Fig. 49)

The printing impression is very blurred and smudgy and the neck of the portrait is never separated from the background. The perforation is “narrow,” with variations from 11 to 12½ in different combinations. Some “compound” and double perforations have been recorded.

The stamp is known imperforate between horizontally and vertically, with double perforations and imperforate. Used multiples are rare. There were large remainders. The stamp on cover is not scarce since it was in use nearly one year.

The 50 Para Light Green

This is the second printing of this denomination. It is the last of the Milan stamps and appeared early in 1880. The stamp on cover is rare. The printing impression is even more blurred and smudgy than the other values and the ink quite often penetrates the transparent paper giving the appearance of an oily print.

Printed from old plates it, too, has some plate flaws. The figure “50” in the top right corner reads “56.” There is a similar flaw in the right bottom corner. The stamp has been recorded imperforate in pairs and strips of three imperforate between vertically. This was

due to worn perforating pins which did not break through the paper. The shades range from light to dark bluish green.

Perforations are "narrow" 12, ranging from 11½ to 12½. Derocco reports having seen a copy with "reversed compound" perforations.

There were large remainders of this value. A used block of four cancelled, "Pozarevat 27.4," exists.

Emergency Frankings of the Milan Issue

The emergency frankings of this period, caused by the shortage of certain values, can be grouped as follows:

- (1) Use of newspaper stamps instead of postage stamps on letters.
- (2) Use of postal stationery (cut squares) instead of postage stamps on letters
- (3) Bisected postage stamps.

The first group was covered in the section of this book dealing with the use of 1 para stamps for newspapers.

The emergency use of postal stationery (cut squares) and bisects was, no doubt, influenced by similar usage in the neighboring Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. This influence is also visible in the practice of affixing a stamp paying a registration fee to the back of a letter. This was required in Austria at the beginning of the postage stamp era, but was abandoned in the sixties. At the end of the Milan period this practice also ceased in Serbia.

In Austria, and even more so in Hungary, cut squares of postal stationery were used throughout the life of the 1860 and 1867 issues, sometimes quite extensively. Only one such usage is recorded in Serbia. That was on a cover from Brza Palanka, dated September 1874. (Fig. 63) This is a very long letter written to a priest in Negotin. The sender could not get it all in the limited space offered by postal stationery so he cut the stamps out of the letter pages and used them for postage.

Two fakes have been recorded; one from Shabatz with a double circle 16.10 (Fig. 64) and another one from Cupria with a double circle 23.6. Both have no arrival dates and the cancellers are slightly different from the genuine.

The Bisects of the Milan Issue

This is one of the most interesting areas of this issue. At smaller post offices in the interior the stock of 20 para stamps was often used up. In such cases, as during the Michael period, the postal employees bisected 40 para stamps without authorization.

The stamps were bisected horizontally, vertically, and at Krusevatz both diagonally and horizontally. Those perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ were the most commonly used. Much rarer, are the $9\frac{1}{2}$ and "reversed compound."

Bisects from the following post offices have been recorded:

Aleksinatz,* Arandjelovatz, Banja,* Brzan, G. Milanovatz,* Ivanjica, Karanovatz, Knjazevatz, Krusevatz, Kragujevatz, Palanka, Pozarevatz, Pozega, Raska, Smederevo, Svilajnatz, Sabatz, Vel. Plana,* Cupria* and Uzitze.*

Covers with bisects seldom appear at auctions and when they do, fetch high prices, especially in the case of a single recorded use.

The 50 para stamp is known bisected and used as a 20 para, probably because 40 para stamps were not available. Covers from Smederevo and Pozarevatz have been recorded. (Fig. 65)

The 10 para has been listed in two instances bisected and used as a supplementary franking of 5 para. They are:

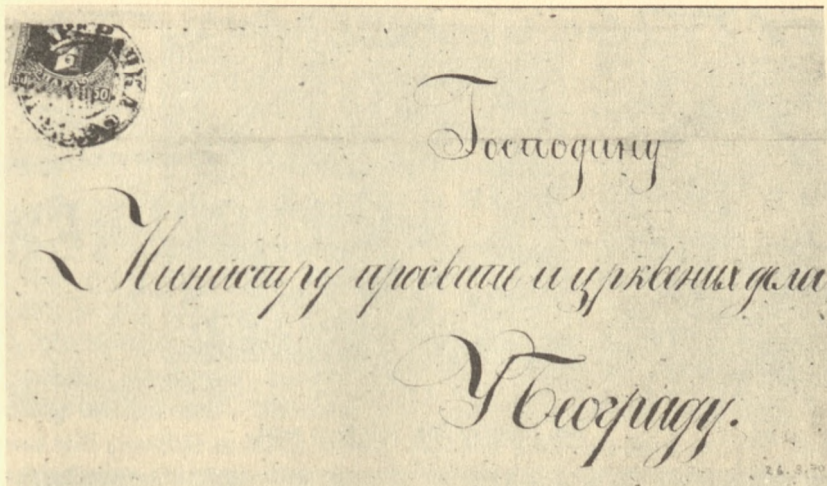
- (1) A front of a cover from Ivanjica with a 35 para, perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$, plus a vertical bisect of the 10 para, perf. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, to make up the rate of 40 para. (Fig. 66)
- (2) A piece with three 20 para stamps, one 35 para and a 10 para bisected vertically to make up the rate of one dinar.

A piece with two 25 para stamps and a vertical bisect of a 20 para stamp to make up the rate of 60 para, cancelled with "Preporuceno," (Fig. 68) has been established by me as having originated in Ivanjica. A piece with a bisected 20 para stamp used as a 10 para franking printed matter from Knjazevatz is also known.

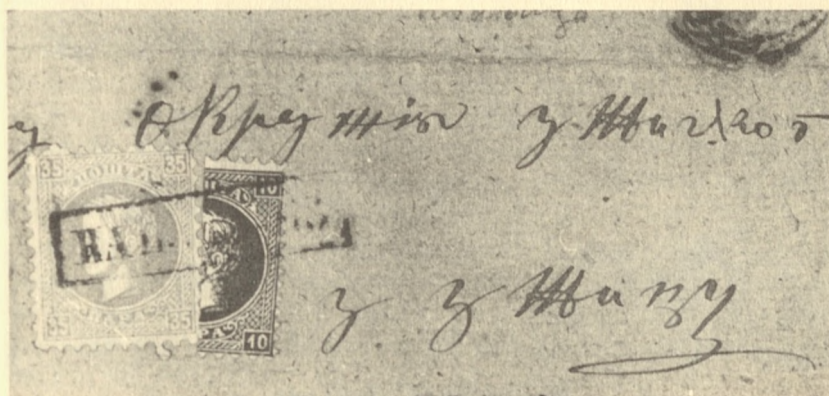
A bisect of a 15 para stamp with another 15 para stamp, making a rate of $22\frac{1}{2}$ para (obviously for 20 para), on a small piece has been recorded cancelled with a boxed "Naplaceno." This item was in the Ferrari sale.

All bisected stamps on record are from the first printing and were used in 1869 and 1870. The only exception is the use of a bisected

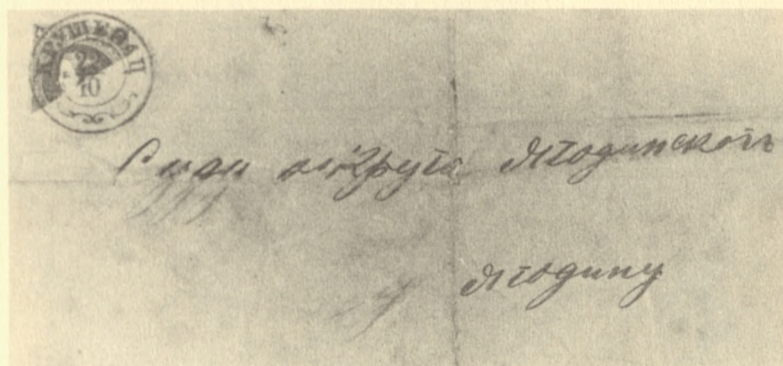
* Only one example known.



65. Bisect of 50 para.



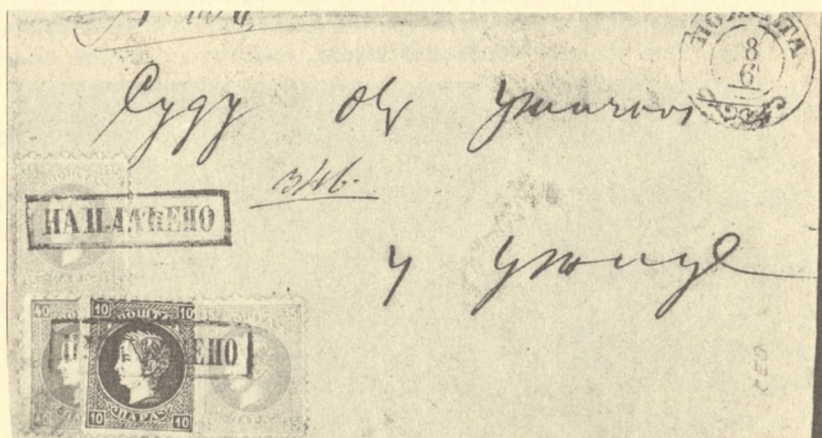
66. Bisect of 10 p. (40 para rate).



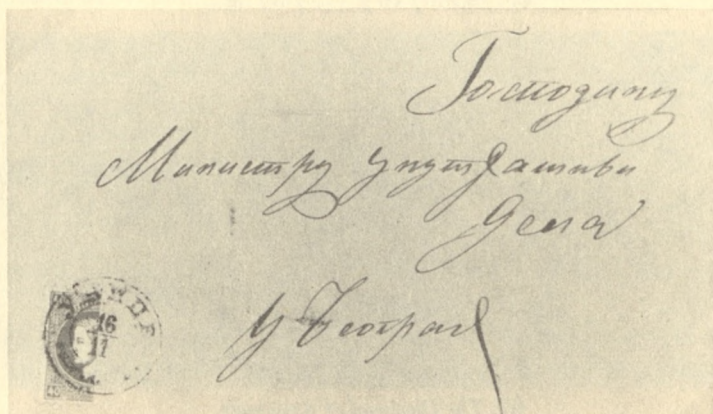
67. The Diagonal of Krusevatz.



68. Bisect of 20p. (60 para rate).



69. Bisecting for 1 dinar rate.



70. The only recorded of Uzice.

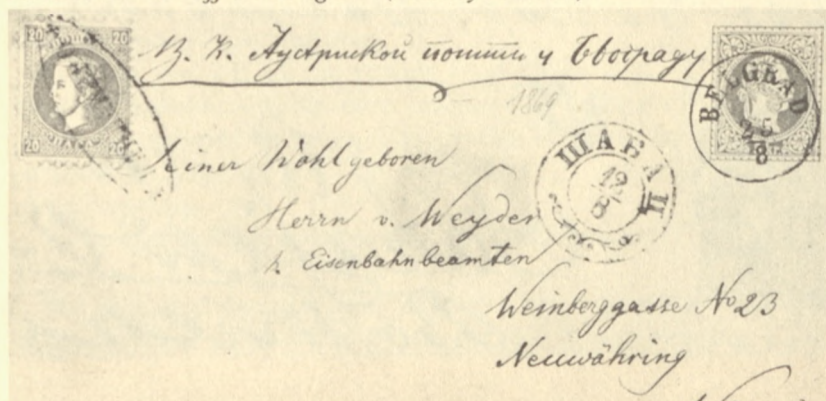
stamp at Ivanjica in 1872, a 40 para with two other 40 paras and a 20 para of the second printing.

The Combination Covers of the Milan Period

Covers with Milan stamps plus additional stamps from foreign countries are exceedingly rare, even though the possibility for such use existed for a number of years.

The first Milan stamps were introduced on June 19, 1869 (old calendar) while the Austrian post office at Belgrade was still handling foreign mail. Between then and September 19, (30) 1869, it was still possible to frank covers with the Austrian issue of 1867 and with Serbian stamps. The late Edwin Mueller, in his monograph on the stamps of Hungary in the September 1959 "Mercury Stamp Journal," reports that combination covers containing Hungarian and Serbian stamps and Turkish and Serbian stamps exist. It is obvious that, by "Hungarian," he meant the 1867 issue of Austria which, when used in Hungary, is considered by Hungarian collectors to be a stamp of that country. Unfortunately, he did not write of what he had seen in his long experience. Such covers should exist, but all I have seen is a 5 Kr. 1867 Austrian Postal Stationery envelope. The sender, from Shabatz, used it to prepay the Austrian postage from Belgrade to Vienna and added a 20 para Milan stamp for postage to Belgrade. It went through the mail in August 1869, and bears the Shabatz 12.8. postmark and that of the Austrian post office at Belgrade, 25.8. (13.8. of the old calendar). (Fig. 71)

Fig. 71. Austrian 5 Kr. Letter Card mailed from Shabatz August 12th (24th), 1869 via Austrian Post Office at Belgrade. (Courtesy Mr.F.See)



It is absolutely impossible for combination covers to exist bearing Hungarian stamps of 1871 because the Convention with the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy went into effect on September 19, 1869, and after that date Serbian stamps could be used for any Hungarian destination.

The time during which combination covers with Turkish stamps could be used was longer. That possibility existed from September 19, 1869, to February 1875, when both countries became members of the U.P.U. Only two examples of such combination covers have been recorded to my knowledge. Both were mailed from Belgrade via Brod to Sarajevo. Both have a 25 para Milan stamp, first printing, to cover the postage from Belgrade to Brod, together with a 1 piaster yellow and a 20 para green turkish stamp. They were cancelled on arrival at Sarajevo. The first cover is postmarked April 25, 1870, the second, September 4, 1871. (Fig. 72)

Combination covers with the stamps of the Danube Steamship Company, which operated from several Serbian ports (Belgrade,

Fig. 72. Cover dated Smederevo September 4th, 1871, carried to Beograd and mailed September 5th.—On reverse transit marking Semlin 18.9. and Brod 21.9.



Radujevatz, Smederevo, Tekia, etc.), may exist, but none have been recorded.

Remainders of the Milan Stamps

Exact figures on the amount of stamps on hand on November 1, 1880, when the Milan issue was demonetized, are not known. However, from an article by Bogoljub Jovanovich, "Poste i Postanske marke u Srbiji," published in 1878 in the "Srpske Novine," we do know the stocks held on November 1, 1877, by the Printing Works were:

50 para	53,267
40 para	96,320
35 para	92,028
25 para	189,219
20 para	392,889
15 para	2,661
10 para	365,306
2 para	129,170

A small quantity remained of the 1, 35 and 50 para, all perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ and of the first printing. All other values were used up and are difficult to obtain in mint condition. Not a single mint copy of the 15 para "reverse compound" perforation, or of the 25 para "narrow" has been recorded. The remainders were sold by the Postal Administration at Belgrade to a French syndicate together with the remainders of the later printings of the 1890's.

A fair quantity remained of the 1 para, imperforate greyish yellow, from the Group "B" printing, and even more of the reddish yellow shade. A much larger quantity remained of the 25 para stamps in various perforations.

Nothing was left of the stamps from the Group "C" printing. However, considerable amounts remained of the 20 para Group "D" printing, and smaller quantities of the 10 para, both "narrow" perforations. The 40 para of the Group "D" printing was completely used up.

Large quantities remained from the final Group "E" printing of all values.

We have already mentioned that very large quantities remained of the 2 para newspaper stamp from the 1878 second printing.

Essays and Color Proofs of the Milan Issue

A number of black on white essay die proofs from the master die have been preserved. They are without numerals. (Fig. 73) The originals are all on white cardboard. Those printed on soft white paper are private reprints made after World War I by a Budapest stamp dealer who, somehow, managed to get hold of the master die.

Imperforate color trials on thin paper are known of the 10, 20, 25, 40 and 50 para in their original colors of lemon yellow, mauve, brown and the unissued red. They are not easy to obtain and prices are one hundred dollars and up for each, depending on quality.

Cancellations of the Milan Period

The official postal map for the year 1880 was published in the May 1971 issue of "Filatelista." (Fig. 74) Not counting the projected ones

73. Die proof from master die.





74. Official postal map of 1880.

of Boljevac and N. Obrenovac, there were 68 post offices in operation on November 1, 1880. According to Derocco, a post office was operating at Supovac during the war against Turkey between 1876 and 1879, but no postmarks have been found from there. Probably, only military ones were used. I have never seen the postmarks of five other offices: Golubac, Dzep, G. Krusevica, Radujevac and Zabare. Of two others, Debric and Vel. Orasje, I have only seen cancellations in manuscript. (Fig. 75)

This reduces the number of cancellations to be described to 61.

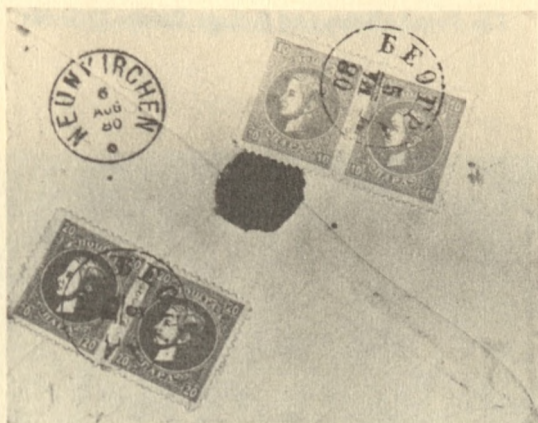
At the time the use of Prince Michael stamps came to an end, post offices in the country cancelled stamps with town cancels, but there were some post offices that still adhered to the old regulation that stamps had to be cancelled with the "Naplaceno" (paid) marking. In some cases, this was because a town canceller was not available. Banja, for instance, received a town canceller as late as 1877.

75. *Manuscript Debrc.*

Even after the introduction of the Milan stamps this practice was continued, up to 1870 and even later at some post offices. The practice of cancelling registered letters with "Preporuceno" across the stamps was retained much longer. By the end of the Milan period in 1880, the majority of registered letters no longer had this marking across the stamps, but alongside. However, in the next issue of 1880, "preporuceno" is rarely used at all.

Most of the post offices used a double circle with the name of the town, an ornament and the date without the year. With the exception of Belgrade, they all used only one handstamp. Belgrade, between 1869 and 1880, used seven different types of double circle cancellers. Each had different lettering, and size of ornament. After 1875, five different single circle postmarks were introduced at Belgrade. The double circle was replaced with single circle types after 1876. In 1880, the Belgrade post office received a single circle canceller without ornament, containing the last numerals of the year (80). (Fig. 76) The double circle postmarks contained the day and the month in either Arabic or Roman numerals. The single circle handstamp had only Roman numerals. At Banja, Karanovac (for a short time), Kar. Raca, and Trstenik, the post office used straight line postmarks without date that had been in use in the prestamp period. Jovanovac used a boxed one until it received a double circle in 1878.

By the end of 1875 the Belgrade post office included the year, as well as the date, in the bi-lingual "Beograd-Beograde", postmark. Two more cancellers were introduced that same year: KNJAZ. SRP. POSTA U BEOGRALU and KNJAZ. SRP. POSTA BEOGRAD. The last types of postmarks to appear, are from Razanj, Pirot and



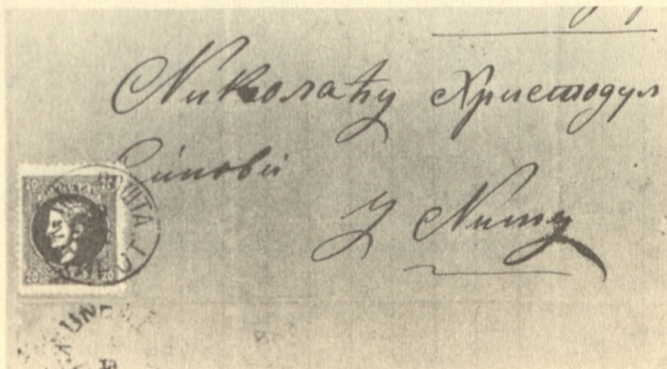
76. Registered to Austria.

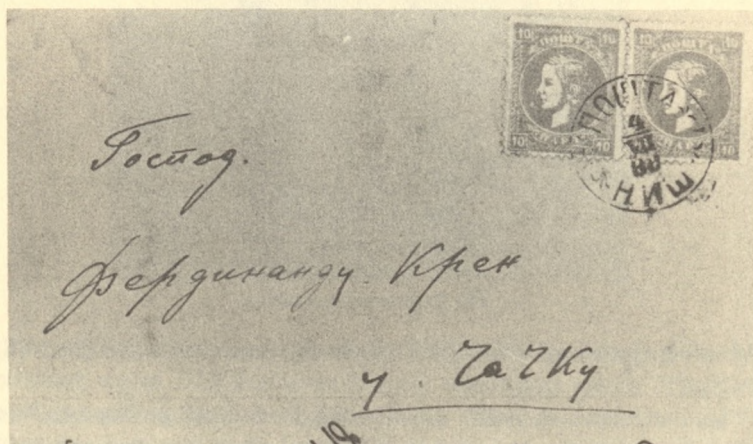
Nish with the word "POSTA" before the name with the date. (Figs. 77-78)

The cancellations were usually black, but blue was also used. Green is rare. Obrenovac used a brown color, but the purple cancellations of Smederevo, Rzana and Raska, and the red cancellations of Aleksinac and Saraorci, are the great cover rarities.

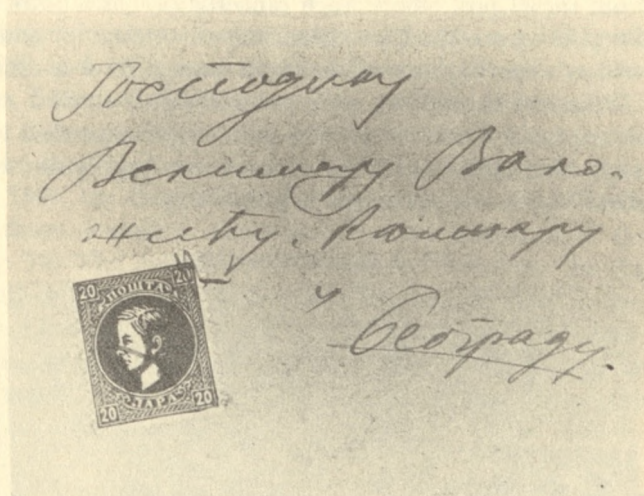
No handbook exists that deals with the handstruck cancellations and their evaluation. We shall, therefore, list all recorded cancellations from the 61 post offices. Each cancellation has a point value to show its relative worth. Part cancellations, unclear or smudgy impressions, or cancellations on damaged stamps have a much lower value. Collectors should use such examples only until a more presentable copy can be obtained. The point value expressed in money at current rates (1975) is: Off cover on piece—one point equals 30 cents: On Cover—one point equals \$1.00.

77. K.SRB.POSTA PIROT.

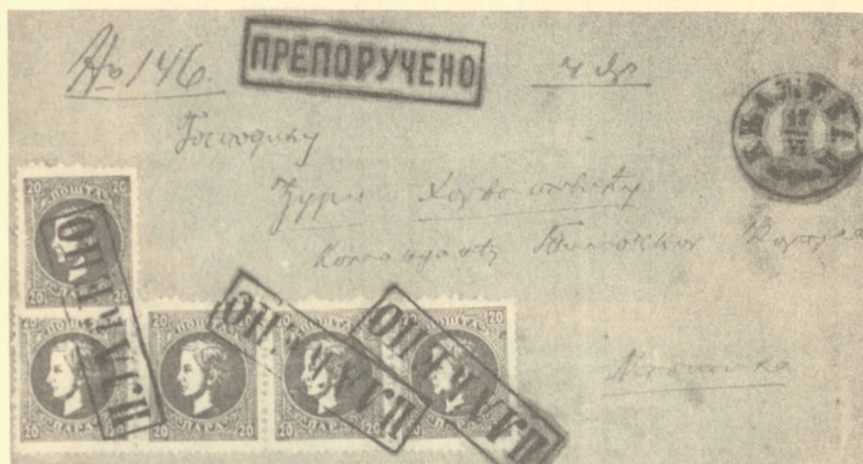




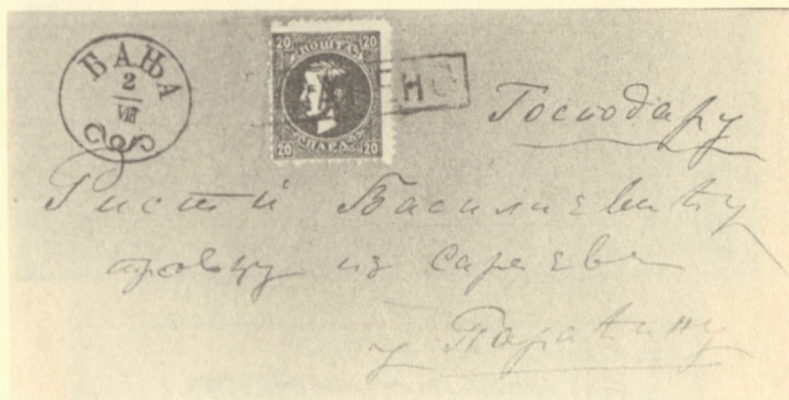
78. Posta Nish. (1880)



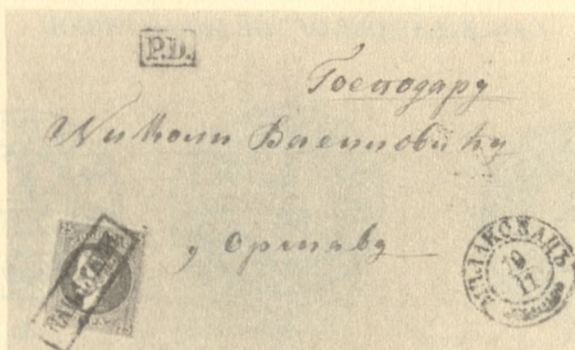
79. Manuscript Prokuplje. (1879)



80. New Postmarkings of Knjazevac. (1880)



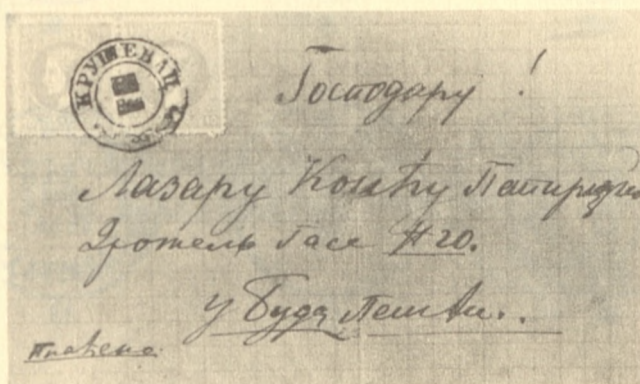
81. New Postmark of Banja. (1879)



84. Blueish-Green of D. Milanovac. (Nov. 1869).



85. Cover from Misljenovac (1877).



86. Dateless Krusevatz.

PLATE III

CANCELLATIONS OF THE MILAN PERIOD.



1.



2.



3.



4.



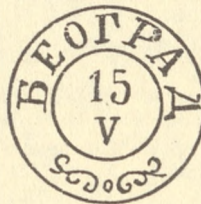
5.



6.



7.



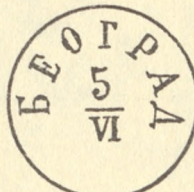
8.



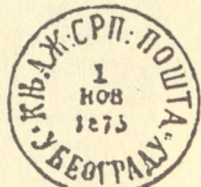
9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



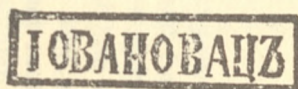
14.



15.



16.



17.



18.



19.



20.



21.

ТРСТЕНИК

22.



23.

Six types of cancels are listed in the following tabulation:

Type A—Double circle with ornament and date. Fig. 1, Plate III

Type B—Single circle with ornament and date. Fig. 2, Plate III

Type C—Single circle without ornament and date. Fig. 11

Type D—Single circle without ornament, with year and date. Fig. 12

Type E—Straight unframed cancel without date. Fig. 22

Type F—Straight boxed cancel without date. Fig. 17

No.	Town	Inscription
1. (a)	Aleksinac	
(b)	"	
(c)	"	
(d)	"	
(e)	"	
2. (a)	Arandjelovac	
3. (a)	Banja	
4. (a)	Beograd	
(b, c, d, e, f, g)		
(h)		
(i)		
(j)		Knjaz. Srp. Posta u Beogradu.
		"
(k)		Knjaz. Srp. Posta Beograd.
(l)		Bilingual: Beograd-Belgrade.
5. (a)	Bela Palanka	K. Srp. Posta
6. (a)	Brzan	Brzanske
7. (a)	Brza Palanka	Brzopalanacka
8. (a)	Cupria	
9. (a)	Cacak	
(b)		
10. (a)	Gradiste Veliko	Vel. Gradiste
11. (a)	Grocka	Grocanska
12. (a)	Ivanjica	
(b)		
(c)		
13. (a)	Jagodina	Iagodinska
(b)		
14. (a)	Jovanovac	
(b)		
(c)		

Type	Color	Value	Used Since
Fig. 1. A.	Black	35	1859
A.	Green	125	
A.	Red	300	1871
Fig. 2. B.	Black	35	1877
B.	Blue	60	
A.	Black	10	1870
B.	Black	150	1877
Fig. 3. A.	Black	5	1859
Fig. 4-9. A.	Black	5	1869-1874
Fig. 10. B.	Black	35	1880
Fig. 11. C.	Black	250	1880
Fig. 12. D.	Black	10	1876
D.	Blue	25	
D.	Black	10	1876
Fig. 13. D.	Black	5	1875
D.	Blue	35	
Fig. 14. B.	Blue	300	1880
Fig. 15. A.	Black	25	1860
A.	Black	50	1866
A.	Black	25	1866
A.	Black	10	1866
A.	Green	100	
A.	Black	50	1860
A.	Black	40	1863
A.	Black	30	1864
A.	Blue	60	
B.	Black	100	1880
Fig. 16. A.	Black	40	1863
A.	Blue	60	
Fig. 17. F.	Black	400	1860
A.	Black	200	1878
A.	Blue	200	

No.	Town	Inscription
15. (a)	Karanovac	
(b)		
16. (a)	Kar. Raca	
17. (a)	Kladovo	Kladovska
18. (a)	Knjazevac	
(b)		
(c)		
19. (a)	Kragujevac	Kragujevacka
(b)		
20. (a)	Krepoljin	
21. (a)	Krupanj	
(b)		
(c)		
22. (a)	Krusevac	
(b)		
(c)		dateless
23. (a)	Kursumlje	
24. (a)	Leskovac	
(b)		
25. (a)	Lesnica	
26. (a)	Loznica	
27. (a)	Majdan Pek	
(b)		
28. (a)	Milanovac Donji	Milanovac
(b)		Milanovac
(c)		
29. (a)	Milanovac Gornji	D. Milanovac
(b)		G. Milanovacke
30. (a)	Misljenovac	
31. (a)	Negotin	
32. (a)	Neresnica	
33. (a)	Nis	Posta Nis

	Type	Color	Value	Used Since
	A.	Black	25	1873
	A.	Blue	50	
	E.	Black	175	1851
	A.	Black	80	1865
	A.	Black	25	1859
	A.	Blue	40	
	B.	Black	25	1877
	A.	Black	5	1863
	A.	Blue	30	
	A.	Black	400	1873
	A.	Black	60	1872
	A.	Blue	125	
	A.	Green	150	
	A.	Black	10	1866
	A.	Blue	25	
	A.	Black	150	1879
			(photo 86)	
	B.	Blue	125	1880
	B.	Black	150	1880
	B.	Blue	200	1880
	B.	Black	150	1876
	B.	Black	30	1866
	A.	Black	60	1852
	A.	Blue	100	
	A.	Black	100	1857
	A.	Green	200	
			(photo 84)	
	B.	Black	100	1880
	A.	Black	40	1864
Fig. 18.	B.	Black	60	1880
	A.	Black	300	1872
			(photo 85)	
	A.	Black	25	1861
	A.	Black	350	1877
Fig. 19.	B.	Black	125	1880
			(photo 78)	

34. (a)	Obrenovac	Obrenovacke	A.
(b)			A.
(c)			A.
35. (a)	Palanka		A.
(b)			A.
36. (a)	Paracin	Paracinske	A.
37. (a)	Petrovac		A.
38. (a)	Pirot	K. Srb. Posta Pirot	B.
(b)			B.
(c)		and date only.	B.
39. (a)	Plana Velika	V. Planska	A.
(b)			A.
40. (a)	Pozarevac	Pozarevacka	Fig. 20. A.
41. (a)	Pozega		A.
(b)			B.
42. (a)	Prnjavor		A.
43. (a)	Prokuplje		B.
44. (a)	Raca	Racanska	A.
45. (a)	Raska		A.
(b)			A.
(c)			A.
46. (a)	Razanjanj	(Posta Razanjanj)	Fig. 21. B.
47. (a)	Rzana		A.
(b)			A.
48. (a)	Saraorci		A.
(b)			A.
49. (a)	Salas		B.
50. (a)	Svilajinac		A.
(b)			A.
51. (a)	Smederevo	Smederevska	A.
(b)			A.
(c)			A.
(d)			A.
52. (a)	Studenica		A.
(b)			A.
53. (a)	Sabac		A.

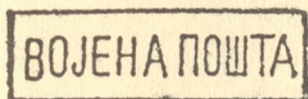
Black	40	1859
Brown	15	
Green	100	1870
Black	50	1874
Blue	80	1879
Black	35	1860
Black	70	1874
Black	150	1879
Blue	175	
Black	200	1880
Black	25	1863
Blue	50	
Black	10	1863
Black	60	1864
Blue	100	1879
Black	150	1869
Black	125	1880
Black	50	1873
Black	80	1864
Green	100	
Purple	400	1878
Black	200	1878
Black	500	1860
Purple	500	1878
Black	50	1860
Red	300	
Black	500	1880
Black	40	1862
Green	100	
Black	10	1860
Blue	100	
Green	60	
Purple	400	
Black	300	1864
Blue	400	
Black	10	1861

No.	Town	Inscription	Type	Color	Value	Used Since
	(b)		A.	Green	60	
54.	(a) Tekia		A.	Black	200	1860
55.	(a) Trstenik		Fig. 22. E.	Black	40	1862
					(photo 41)	
	(b)		B.	Black	150	1880
56.	(a) Ub		A.	Black	30	1857
	(b)		A.	Blue	100	1870
57.	(a) Uzice		A.	Black	10	1866
	(b)		A.	Blue	60	
	(c)		A.	Blue	150	1880
				(without date)		
58.	(a) Valjevo		A.	Black	10	1866
	(b)		A.	Blue	60	
	(c)		A.	Green	40	
59.	(a) Vranje	(Vranja)	B.	Black	150	1880
60.	(a) Zajecar	(Zaicarske)	A.	Black	25	1860
			A.	Blue	50	1869
61.	(a) Zagubica		A.	Black	400	1874
62.	(a) Derven		B.	Black	400	1880

On my trip to Yugoslavia in June, 1972, I saw, on a 50 para stamp of the fifth printing, the cancel DERVEN 15.10.1880. this town changed its name in 1907 to Svrlijig and therefore has to be listed:

PLATE IV

MILITARY POSTMARKS OF THE MILAN PERIOD.
(1876-1878)



1.(a)



1.(b)



3.(a)



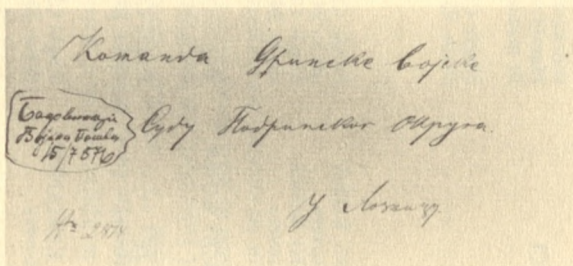
8.(a)



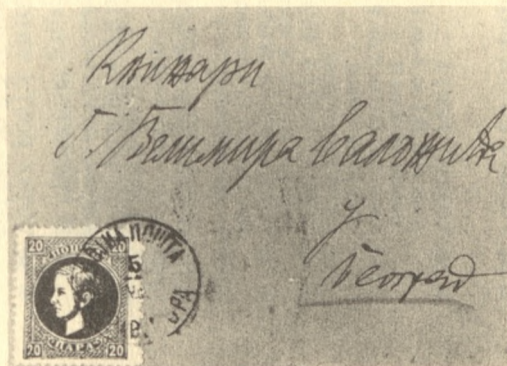
7.(a)



10.(a)



2.(a)



5.(a)

MILITARY FIELDPOST CANCELLATIONS AND POSTMARKS (1876-1879). (PLATE IV.)

No.	Town	Type	Color	Value	Used Since
1. (a)	VOJENA POSTA (alongside stamp on P/S only)	Boxed 37 x 11 mm	Black (Fig. 1(a))	100	Aug. 1876
(b)		Single Circle w. ornament	Black (Fig. 1(b))	150	Apr. 1878
2. (a)	VOJENA POSTA BADOVINCI	Handdrawn w. date in manuscript	Purple (Fig. 2(a))	500	July 1876
3. (a)	VOJENA POSTA (date and #1 to 8 on P/S or stampless covers)	Single Circle diam. 23 mm	Black (Fig. 3(a))	250	1877
(b)	(date and #1 to 8 on P/S or stampless covers)		Green	250	
(c)	(on Milan stamps)		Black	500	
4. (a)	VOJENA POSTA TIMOCKOG KORA and date on P/S or stampless covers	Single Circle diam. 24 mm	Black	200	1878
5. (a)	VOJNA POSTA MORAVSKOG KORA and date on P/S or stampless covers	Single Circle diam. 24 mm	Black	200	1878
(b)	on Milan stamps		Black (Fig. 5(a))	500	
6. (a)	VOJNA POSTA SUMADIJSKOG KORA	Single Circle	Black	150	1878
(b)		diam. 25 mm	Green	250	
(c)	on Milan stamps		Black	300	
7. (a)	VOJENA POSTA PROKUPLJE and date on P/S or stampless covers	Single Circle diam. 23 mm	Black	150	1878
(b)	on Milan stamps		Black (Fig. 7(a))	300	
8. (a)	VOJNA POSTA VRHOVNE KOMANDE and date on P/S or stampless covers	Single Circle diam. 25 mm	Black (Fig. 8(a))	50	1878
(b)			Blue	80	
(c)	on Milan stamps		Black	80	
9. (a)	VOJENA POSTA VRHOVNE KOMANDE and date in manuscript on P/S or stampless covers.	Oval	Purple	100	1878

10. (a) VOJENA POSTA TIMOCKOG KORA on P/S or stampless covers	Oval	Black (Fig. 10(a))	350	1878
11. (a) INSPEKCIJA VOJNIH POSTA on P/S or stampless covers	Single Circle with Coat of Arms diam. 28 mm	Purple	100	1878

From the above listings it is apparent that some postmarks have not been recorded as cancellations on postage stamps. In fact, #3 has been recorded as a cancellation on stamps only from "Vojena Posta 4" and "7." #2 has been recorded on two covers, one dated July 15th 1876, and another, dated July 20th 1876. (Plate IV)

Postmarks 1(a) & (b) were used as additional markings on P/S of 1873 to create a provisional Military Fieldpost Card and not to cancel the imprinted stamp.

PLATE V.

POSTMARKS INTRODUCED DURING THE MILAN PERIOD.

ПЛАЋЕНО

5.(a) At Raca and Beograd.

ПЛАЋЕНО

6.(a) At Aleksinac, Knjazevac,
Krepoljin(?) and Zaicar.

ПЛАЋЕНО

7.(a) At Leskovac, Prokuplje and
Vranja.

ПЛАЋЕНО

8.(a) At Banja only.

ПРЕПОРУЧЕНО

4.(a) At Aleksinac, Banja, Knjazevac,
Nis and Zaicar.

ПРЕПОРУЧЕНО

5.(a) At Raca and Beograd.

ПРЕПОРУЧЕНО

6.(a) At Leskovac, Prokuplje and
Vranja.

RECOMM.

1.(a) At Beograd only.

PD

2.(b)

P.D.

2.(c)

FRANCO

3.(a)

"PAID" (NAPLACENO) POSTMARKS ON MILAN STAMPS. (PLATE V.)

No.	Type	Color	Value	Used Since
1. (a) "NAPLACEN"	unframed, 29-30 mm by 3.5 mm	Black Green Blue	25 100 100	1866 at: Banja, Cacak, Krusevac, Loznica, Negotin, Neresnica, Ub, Uzice.
2. (a) "NAPLACENO"	Oval (40 mm)	Black Green	25 100	Cupria, Sabac.
3. (a) "NAPLACENO" (or "Napladjeno")	Boxed	Black	10	at towns not mentioned
(b)	Sizes: 33-37 mm	Blue		for other types.
(c)	by 9-9½ mm	Green		Brown used at
(d)		Brown		Obrenovac only.
4. (a) "NAPLACEN"	Boxed	Black	30	
	Sizes: 29-36 mm	Black	100	Karanovac, Majdan Pek, D. Milanovac, Tekia.
	by 9½-10 mm	Green		1874 at Raca and
5. (a) "PLACENO"	Unframed	Black		Beograd.
	30 mm by 6 mm	(photo 45)		
6. (a) "PLACENO"	Boxed			
	Size 42 by 12 mm	Black	150	1878 at Aleksinac, Knjazevac, Kre- poljin(?), Zaicar.
		(photo 80)		
7. (a) "PLACENO"	Boxed			
	Size 34 by 9 mm	Blue	100	1878 at Leskovac, Prokuplje, Vranja
		(photo 82)		1879 at Banja only.
8. (a) "PLACENO"	Boxed	Black	250	
	Size 40 by 10 mm	(photo 81)		

REGISTRATION POSTMARKS ON MILAN STAMPS

No.	Type	Color	Value	Used Since
1. (a) "Preporuc"	Unframed	Black	35	1869 at: Cacak,
(b)		Blue	60	Cupria, Jagodina,
(c)		Green	75	Loznica, Negotin,
				Neresnica, Sabac,
				Ub, Valjevo
2. (a) "Preporucen"	Boxed	Black	25	Karanovac, Majdan
	(33½ x 9 and			Pek, D. Milanovac,
	35 x 9 mm)			Tekia
3. (a) "Preporuceno"	Boxed	Black	10	at towns not men-
(b)		Blue		tioned as other
(c)	(Sizes 36 x 9½	Green		types
(d)	up to 40 x 10	Brown		Brown at Obrenovac
	mm)			only
4. (a) "Preporuceno"	Boxed	Black	50	1878 used at:
	(44½ x 9½	(photo 80)		Aleksinac, Banja,
	mm)			Knjazevac, Nis,
				Zajecar
5. (a) "Preporuceno"	Unframed	Black	50	1874 used at: Raca
	(42 x 6 mm)	(photo 45)		and Beograd, latter
6. (a) "Preporuceno"	Boxed	Blue		for interior only
	(45 x 8 mm)	Violet	125	1879 used at:
	In double		125	Leskovac, Prokuplje,
	frame	(photo 83)		Vranja, Vojena
				Posta 4, 7 and 8

Special Postmarks of the Belgrade Post Office

The majority of mail from the interior addressed abroad had to pass through Belgrade. There, registered letters received a new registration number and a special "RECOMM" postmark. Most of the mail addressed to destinations abroad, however, originated in Belgrade. It was for this reason that the post office in that city used some special postmarks which other post offices did not have. The values indicated below are for stamps with those postmarks.

No.	Type	Color	Value
1. (a) RECOMM. Boxed 33 x 7½ mm		Black	Never on stamps
		(Plate V)	
2. (a) P.D. Inclined large letters.		Black	100
(Pay a destination, 15 x 8 mm)		(Plate V)	
(b) P.D. Inclined letters (10 x 11 mm)		Black	100
(c) P.D. Boxed (7 x 11 mm)		Black	100
		(Plate V)	
3. (a) FRANCO. Boxed (32 x 9½ and 35 x 11 mm)		Black	—
		(Plate V)	
4. (a) "AFFRAN. INSUFF." Boxed		Black	—
(Affrancatura Insuffiente, Insufficient			
Franking)			

Forgeries of Milan Stamps

Only one type of forgery has been recorded. It is of unknown origin and is very crude. Its main characteristic is that it is lithographed.

The paper is of medium thickness and the portrait of Milan is different, particularly the neck. The lower part of the ear is extended and the numerals are thicker.

The Luder-Edelmann Sale of November 1928

The Luder-Edelmann sale of 1928 remains to this day the most important disbursement of any collection in Serbian philately. Listed below are rare items of the Milan issues which were in this sale and have since disappeared.

- Lot 4712—Cover with five 1 para stamps, perf. 12, and a single 20 para, perf. 12 x $9\frac{1}{2}$, cancelled Beograd 2.XII. addressed to Hungary.
- Lot 4713—Front of cover with 18 copies of the 1 para stamp, perf. 12, and remainders of two similar stamps, cancelled Ivanjica 27.I. and addressed to Uzice.
- Lot 4770—Piece with a bisect of the 20 para, perf. 12, cancelled Negotin 21.II.
- Lot 4817—Piece with one quarter of the 40 para stamp, perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$ x 12, cancelled Pozarevatz 26.XI. used as 10 para franking.
- Lot 4846—Block of 25 newspaper stamps of the 2 para, Type I.
- Lot 4859—Cover with 4 copies of the 20 para stamp and 20 one para imperforate newspaper stamps, consisting of two blocks of 6, one of four, a vertical pair and a single, cancelled Svilajnicke 21.4. addressed to Cupria.
- Lot 4869—2 copies of the 10 para, group B. imperforate, used on piece. Cacak 29.4.
- Lot 4871—Used block of 6 of the 10 para, group B., cancelled Sabac 24.5.
- Lot 4909—Used strip of 4 of the 10 para, group C. with a 20 para, cancelled Karanovac 20.III.
- Lot 4910—Used block of 4 of the 10 para, group C. with three 20 para, cancelled Beograd.
- Lot 4920—Mint block of 25 of the 10 para, perf. $9\frac{1}{2}$, group D.
- Lot 4940—Cover with an imperforate 20 para, ultramarine.
- Lot 4978—Strip of 6 of the 40 para, group E, used on a money order.
- Lot 4988—Block of 4 of the 50 para, group E, cancelled Posta Nish 31.VIII.80.

PRINTINGS VALUE	I. June 19, 1869- October 28, 1869	II. May 12, 1870- September 4, 1870	III. May 6,- November 12, 1872	IV. February 16,- June 14, 1873	V. June 4,- July 15, 1874	VI. March 10,- May 19, 1875	VII. November 26, 1875- April 22nd, 1876	VIII. April 11th- August 28, 1877	IX. July 29th- December 29, 1878	X. February 8th- 1879 (for 40 p) Other values dates unknown
1 p.	(A) 170,000		(B) Quantity unknown							
2 p.				(1) 1,590,000					(2) 1,044,000	
10 p.	(A) 99,000	(A) 200,000	(B) Quantity unknown		(C) 97,400		(D) 290,000	(D) 326,300		(E) Quantity unknown
15 p.	(A) 214,000									
20 p.	(A) 766,500		(B) Quantity unknown	(B) 200,000	(C) 200,000	(C) 380,000	(C) 420,000	(D) 513,300	(D) 642,540	(E) Quantity unknown
25 p.	(A) 196,300		(B) Quantity unknown							
35 p.	(A) 406,600									
40 p.	(A) 434,000						(D) 215,000			(E) Quantity unknown
50 p.	(A) 206,900									(E) Quantity unknown

* Figures show printed quantities.

A, B, C, D, and E indicate the 5 groups of printings.

Statistical Data on the Volume of Postal Services

Adolph Jaksa, who was a member of the Commission to oversee the printing of the first Serbian postage stamps and an accountant in State Control, supplies valuable information on the development of Serbian postal services and the volume of mail handled by individual post offices in his monograph, "The First Postal Statistics of the Inland Postal Services of the Kingdom of Serbia," Belgrade, 1882.

Year	LETTERS	
	Official	Private
1858.	98,773	146,420
1859.	107.897	165.874
1860.	144.372	177.111
1861.	146.215	175.613
1862.	160.448	176.879
1863.	169.006	193.224
1864.	196.286	215.513
1865.	208.811	234.962
1866.	234.190	317.603
1867.	323.493	421.333
1868.	372.687	456.770
1869.	364.606	640.212
1870.	382.527	549.352
1871.	389.661	699.337
1872.	393.148	710.139
1873.	399.148	633.710
1874.	430.866	677.032
1875.	575.821	710.064
Total	5,098.517	7,300.824
Average		
1858-1875	283.251	405.601
1881.	391.420	1,156.960
1891.	1,196.803	4,069.222

THE VOLUME OF POSTAL SERVICE IN 1875

POST OFFICE	LETTERS		MONEY ORDERS & VALUABLES	
	Official	Private	Official	Private
1. Aleksinac	18.245	16.782	685	1,115
2. Arandjelovac	9.166	5.074	—	—
3. Banja	1,415	4.268	48	303
4. Beograd	213.819	270.909	13.819	11,002
5. Brzan	228	7.960	52	332
6. Brza Palanka	487	1,580	38	146
7. Valjevo	7.336	20.140	816	1,016
8. Veliko Gradis-te	1,748	4.303	262	266
9. Velika Plana	582	5.668	326	212
10. Gornji Milanovac	10.785	8.144	386	686
11. Grocka	1,502	2.470	368	190
12. Debrč	57	350	10	50
13. Donji Milanovac	1,110	2,470	368	190
14. Zagubica	956	1,431	—	—
15. Zajecar	5.075	7.938	602	1,187
16. Ivanjica	1,106	4.937	83	117
17. Jagodina	6.128	14.578	583	1,510
18. Varvarin	675	273	11	72
19. Karanovac (Kraljevo)	4.013	9.387	325	638
20. Kladovo	2.987	5.492	562	617
21. Knjazevac	4.765	9.355	416	1,464
22. Kragujevac	42.638	59.591	1,855	2,956
23. Krepoljin	266	467	—	—
24. Krupanj	975	3.007	156	375
25. Krusevac	18.822	18.203	966	1,759
26. Loznica	8.532	12.263	582	1,312
27. Majdanpek	1,211	1.606	178	272
28. Misljenovac	597	420	12	62
29. Negotin	24.516	15.593	1,216	1,590
30. Neresnica	126	328	124	89
31. Obrenovac	2,611	7,231	382	244
32. Paracin	5.715	8.883	442	1,044
33. Petrovac	412	2,171	—	—
34. Pozarevac	97.311	33.132	1,302	1,309
35. Pozega	1,262	2.773	101	250
36. Prnjavor	26	666	12	48
37. Raca (Drina)	516	246	21	35
38. Raca Krag.	1,523	2,881	—	—
39. Raska	1,239	2,423	89	133
40. Razanj	—	—	—	—
41. Saraorci	496	1,878	39	181
42. Svilajnac	1,517	7.556	134	417
43. Smederevo	13.748	29.658	1.094	1,172
44. Studenica	95	433	10	54
45. Tekija	521	940	82	98
46. Trstenik	1,121	8,363	235	748
47. Ub	582	7.165	289	369
48. Uzice	30,346	15.989	817	1,605
49. Cacak	6,184	26.329	937	1,561
50. Sabac	10.017	23.929	923	1,231
51. Cuprija	9.433	9.445	952	884
52. Palanka	826	92	—	—
53. Radujevac	1,426	2.661	—	—
54. Salas	26	70	2	19

The Issue of 1880–1890

Last Issue of the Principality and First Issue of the Kingdom

The last stamps of the Principality were issued November 1, 1880, (Julian calendar) and remained in use until March 3, 1890, even though Serbia was declared a Kingdom, February 12, 1882. Philatelists who limit themselves to the issues of the Principality should not fail to include these stamps in their collections.

The new issue was brought about when Serbia, in 1880, converted to the metric system and changed its currency to para and dinars. Under the new monetary system, 100 para was worth 1 dinar. The old Turkish grosh used previously, was now worth only 20 para or 5 per dinar.

These changes made it necessary to introduce postal rates geared to the new currency and to metric weights. Accordingly, a law was enacted May 1, 1880, which did just that. The rate for an ordinary letter weighing 20 grams now became 10 para inland, 25 abroad. The rate for each 50 grams of printed matter now became 5 para inland and 10 para abroad. Newspapers and other local publications remained free of charge.

An announcement made in the "Srpske Novine," on July 19, 1880, stated that new stamps and postal stationery would be issued November 1st. It further stated that current stamps and postal stationery would no longer be valid as of that date. The public was given until January 31, 1881, to exchange invalidated stamps for new ones.

The new issue consisted of six values: 5, 10,*20, 25 and 50 para

and 1 dinar. The design for these new stamps and the basic steel die was the work of C. Dumont, an engraver from Paris. The focal point of the design was an oval with a portrait of Prince Milan in a general's uniform, facing left. It was set against a background of solid lines. Above the oval, a white curved ribbon contained the inscription, "Srbija." Below it was the framed word, "Posta." The stamp is decorated on the left with bay leaves, on the right with oak leaves. White ornaments on a colored background are found in the upper corners. White squares containing the numerals of value are found in the lower corners. The stamp is $17\frac{1}{2} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$ mm, measuring from the outer lines. The letter "P" was omitted in the para values, but the dinar stamp shows the letter "D" for dinar. C. Dumont, the designer's name, is engraved at the bottom left below "Posta." "Paris" is inscribed on the right.

The cliches were also made in Paris. However, all printings, including essays and proofs, took place in Belgrade at the State Printing Works.

The stamps were typographed on white paper of medium thickness (0.060-.065 mm). They were printed in sheets of 100 in panes of 25 divided vertically by an unprinted gutter $9\frac{3}{4}$ mm wide. Horizontally, they were divided by a gutter the height of a stamp. (Fig. 97) The sheets have no margins. The space between the stamps is 2 mm and they were perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. The perforations go through the unprinted gutters.

Several printings took place during the nine-and-a-half years the stamps were in use. The paper was of the same quality throughout, with the exception of the last printing of the 5 para stamp. Printed in 1888, it was on a little thinner paper.

The various printings can be distinguished by the different gum, rough perforations, colors and transparent print. The first impressions are always clear. The three lowest denominations, the 5, 10 and 20 para, were printed 5 times. The 25 para was printed 4 times, the 50 2 or 3 times and the 1 dinar twice.

Characteristics of the printings:

First 1880	Second 1882	Third 1883	Fourth 1885	Fifth 1888
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The gum is white unless otherwise stated.

5 para—clear print bluish green	deep green	olive green	transparent deep green, rough perfs	pale bluish green, thinner paper
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It is possible that another printing took place in 1881 or 1882 that could be distinguished by a brown gum used on the 10 and 20 para stamps of the period.

10 para—clear print rose pink	brown gum carmine red	pale rose rough perfs	transparent print	salmon
20 para—clear print ocher yellow	brown gum pale orange	orange- yellow	transparent print, red orange	pale orange, rough perfs
25 para—clear print cobalt blue	ultramarine	pale blue, transparent, rough perfs	transparent deep blue	
50 para—clear print purple brown	1887 deep sepia brown	about 1888 pale sepia brown		
1 dinar—clear print violet	print less clear deep violet			

These classifications were arrived at by making a study of a large quantity of covers that range through the whole period, plus stamps with the year in the cancellation. It is subject to correction because there were insufficient quantities of used copies, particularly of the 50 para and 1 dinar stamps.

Between June 1st and 24th 1881, the stamps of this issue were used as revenue stamps. True revenue stamps did not exist, but were now necessary because of the new tax laws enacted that year. Special revenue stamps were introduced after that date.

About the same time it was discovered that a certain quantity of the 5, 10 and 20 para stamps in unfinished imperforate sheets were being used by the public, mostly as revenue stamps. An investigation by the Government established that personnel of the State Printing Works were involved. The sheets had been perforated by an ordinary sewing machine.

News of this scandal was released in the September 8, 1881, issue of the, "Srpske Novine," with an appeal to the public not to buy or use any such stamps. The same announcement contained details about the perforations, stating that some of the stamps were cut by scissors. Included among the 10 para stamps were a quantity of the red carmine. The public was also warned about this and was asked to give information to the police which would affect the recovery

of the missing stamps and aid in the apprehension of those persons involved.

Interestingly, the red carmine stamps were issued and used after the affair was cleared up.

Such privately perforated (sewing machine) or imperforate stamps when postally used, are very rare.

As stated before, the issue remained in use until March 3, 1890, when it was replaced by a new one with a portrait of the boy-king, Alexander. Large quantities remained unsold, mostly from the last printings. There were on hand, according to Derocco, 173,076 of the 5 para; 232,384 of the 10 para; 197,183 of the 20 para; 757,076 of the 25 para; 290,943 of the 50 para and 195,673 of the 1 dinar. They were sold at public auction in April 1890.

The low price of these stamps make them very attractive to collectors and especially suitable for study. The 5 para olive green in mint condition is, by far, the rarest. It is still underpriced in all catalogs. The largest piece recorded of this stamp is a horizontal strip of five. Next in rarity is the 50 para purple brown in mint condition from the first printing.

Stamps gummed on the printed side come from printer's waste and are worth much less than normal stamps. Large blocks are in circulation.

Used multiples of the lower values, such as strips of four and blocks of four and six can be found, but not of the 50 para or 1 dinar.

Covers of this issue are not plentiful, but with patience can be acquired. Exceptions are covers with the 1 dinar stamp and covers with three or more different values. Covers with the 1 dinar stamp are money letters which required high franking. (Fig. 90)

A first day cover from Belgrade with a 10 para stamp has been recorded.

There are no characteristic plate flaws of importance in this issue except on the 10 para stamp. There is a round white spot above the figure "10" in the bottom right corner. It is only found on the red carmine stamps with brown gum used in 1882. Whatever the reasons for this flaw, it was removed and has not been found in any other printings of this stamp.

New regulations in September 1884 made it necessary for each stamp to be cancelled with a circular canceller. By that time new types with the last two numerals of the year included, were avail-



90. Money Letter (1883).

able for nearly all post offices. Most of the cancellations had ornaments and were of the single circle type. The stamps of this issue cancelled with the "Naplaceno" or "Preporuceno" cancellers are scarce since they were cancelled this way only during the first year this issue was in use and at only a few post offices.

Postmarked Revenues of the Period After 1884

Serbia's economic condition in 1884 necessitated the negotiation of loans from abroad and, to guarantee repayment, a special revenue office, "KASA SRPSKE RENTE," or, "K.C.P.," was set up. Current revenue stamps were overprinted, "K.C.P." and these stamps may occasionally be found postally used. They are rare on entire documents. (Fig. 91)

91. Revenue Stamp used on Parcel Docket.



Essays and Proofs of the 1880 Issue

Dumont had his proposed designs rejected twice before the final one was approved. The first depicted Milan in profile and was later used for postal stationery. The second was never used. The third, and approved design, was a better likeness of his Highness, showing him in half profile.

A series of essays and proofs were prepared by the State Printing Works at Belgrade from that design. Some of them are extremely rare. Of that series, the following groups are known:

- (1) Essays without numerals printed on thin white paper in 17 colors (6 are basic) in different shades. They are imperforate and very rare.
- (2) Essays without numerals in 10 colors on the same paper, but with trial perforations. Rare.
- (3) Essays without numerals, printed in black on yellowish thick paper. They are imperforate. Rare.
- (4) Essays of the accepted design, including the unissued 1 para value, printed on thin white paper in 9 colors. Some of these colors were not accepted for issuance. They are imperforate. Scarce. (Fig. 87)
- (5) The 1 para essays printed on yellowish paper in several colors: dark blue, carmine red, light olive green and purple brown. They are gummed and perforated. Rare. (Fig. 88)
- (6) Proofs in black of the 20 para stamp on thick yellowish paper.
- (7) Proofs of the 5, 10, 20, 50 para and 1 dinar with visible traces of the protective plate showing the heads of 8 screws. They are in 7 different colors on thin white paper, perforated and gummed. Rare.
- (8) Color trials with numerals, some in unissued colors. They are printed on thin white paper and are imperforate. The number of colors used has not been established. Common. (Fig. 89)

It is possible that other essays and proofs are in existence.

Military Fieldpost During the War Against Bulgaria—1885

War broke out between Serbia and Bulgaria on November 25, 1885, caused mainly by Serbia's territorial aspirations at its eastern bor-



87. Essay type (4).



88. Perforated Essay.



89. Imperforate essay of 1 para.

ders. King Milan hoped for an easy victory which would improve his personal popularity in Serbia. His standing, however, dropped even lower when at the battle of Slivnica on December 6, 1885, the Serbian Army suffered a humiliating defeat. Only the personal intervention by the Czar of Russia saved the country from severe territorial losses. An armistice was declared during which the Bulgarian Army occupied the towns of Pirot and Knjazevac for a few weeks.

Fieldpost correspondence of the Serbian Army during this short war is rare. No special cancellations were used, but military post-cards without stamps have been recorded from the following places: Bela Palanka, Brza Palanka, Zajecar and Nish. They bore ordinary cancellations.

Kingdom of Serbia

The First Issue of the King Alexander Stamps—March 3, 1890

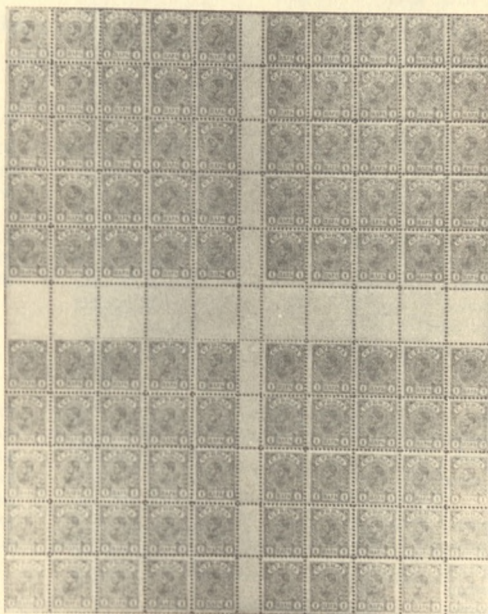
After the defeat at Slivnica in 1885, the regime of King Milan became more and more unpopular. His political methods and his personal life, which culminated in his divorce from Queen Natalie, all contributed to his abdication in favor of his son, Alexander, on February 21, 1889 (March 5th). Alexander was still a minor.

An announcement in "Srpske Novine" appeared in December of that year. It said that new stamps and postal stationery bearing the portrait of the young king would be issued on March 3, 1890. It stated further, that on that date the current issue would be demonetized.

The design and engraving for the new issue was executed by an unknown engraver in Berlin. The clichés were also made there. The printing took place at the State Printing Works in Belgrade.

The stamps are rectangular in shape and the design measures $17\frac{1}{2} \times 21\frac{1}{4}$ mm. It depicts the young king in a colonel's uniform against a background of horizontal lines. He is facing left. The portrait is within a rectangular frame which is curved top and bottom. Above it, in a white ribbon, is the word, "Srbija." Bay leaf decorations are on the right and the left. White rectangular spaces with the numerals of value are found in the bottom corners. Between the numerals is the word, "Posta" on stamps of the para values and "Din" on the 1 dinar value.

The stamps were typographed on white paper, mostly of medium thickness (0.085–90 mm) in sheets of 100 in the same arrangement as



97. *This is the arrangement of the sheet for the 1880, 1890 and 1894 issues.*

the previous issue. (Fig. 97) The space between the stamps is 2 mm and the comb perforation measures 13 horizontally and 13½ vertically.

Seven values were issued instead of the previous six. The 15 para violet, which was the rate for the neighboring Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, was added.

The issue was in use until November 5, 1894, a period of four-and-a-half years, while the previous issue was in use more than twice as long. This is the main reason why covers with stamps from this issue are scarce, particularly the 50 para and 1 dinar values.

During this period these stamps were reprinted several times, but nobody has attempted to classify the printings. In fact, it has not yet been established how many times each value was printed. An accurate picture of these printings is difficult since covers are scarce and because some towns still did not have cancelling devices with

the year date. We believe, from the material available, that the 5, 10, 20 and 25 para values had four printings each, the 15 para, three, and the 50 para and 1 dinar, two.

They can be distinguished by the shade, gum, perforations and clarity of printing. The first impression is always clear.

	First	Second	Third	Fourth
5 para	green med. paper grey gum clear print	blueish green thinner paper white gum	blueish green med. paper white gum rough perfs	dark green med. paper white gum
10 para	rose red med. paper grey gum clear print	deep rose med. paper white gum	salmon thinner paper white gum rough perfs	carmine red med. paper white gum
15 para	reddish lilac med. paper grey gum clear print	mauve white gum med. paper	violet white gum med. paper	
20 para	orange med. paper grey gum clear print	orange yellow thinner paper white gum	orange yellow thinner paper grey gum	orange med. paper grey gum rough perfs
25 para	blue grey gum med. paper clear print	ultramarine white gum thinner paper	ultramarine grey gum thinner paper	deep ultramarine rough perfs med. paper
50 para	pale sepia grey gum med. paper	deep sepia white gum med. paper		
1 dinar	yellow gum pale violet	white gum rough perfs		

All values are often badly perforated. There are shifted perforations which sometimes run through the middle of a stamp. Part perforations also exist. Sometimes the perforator did not penetrate the stamps at all, leaving stamps imperforate. (Fig. 92) Rarest of these is the 5 para of which an imperforate block of 10 has been recorded. Some sheets of the 15 and 20 para values remained imperforate. They come with and without gum.

The 15 and 20 para imperforate on yellowish paper are probably color trials. The 1 dinar imperforate on grey paper is also a proof.

The 20 para has been recorded with a double impression. (Ferrari sale, June 15, 1923, lot 497)

No essays for this issue have been recorded.

Large quantities were left unsold at the time of demonetization. Remaining in stock, according to Derocco, were 455,829 5 para stamps, 541,691 10 para stamps, 140,492 15 para stamps, 209,637 20



92. Imperforate Block.

para stamps, 210,161 25 para stamps, 49,482 50 para stamps and 18,032 1 dinar stamps. They were sold at public auction in May 1899.

The 1894–1900 Issue on Granite Paper

The stamps of the 1890 issue were not satisfactory in several respects. The portrait of the young king was not well produced. It lacked expression and made him look younger than he was. Between the numerals in the lower values the word, "Posta," appeared instead of "Para," which required correction. Further, the young king, whose vanity was large, resented being shown in a colonel's uniform. So, on November 5, (15th) 1894, a new issue was announced in, "Sluzbene Novine," That very day the previous issue was demonetized.

The postal authorities, unsatisfied with the work performed in Berlin, turned to Vienna for the new stamps. Fearing forgeries, they decided that a more expensive granite paper interwoven with red

threads such as was used for the Austrian issue of 1890 would be used for these stamps. Seven values were prepared: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50 para and 1 dinar. All were in colors similar to the previous issue but the 1 dinar deep blue green. The color of this stamp was changed on January 1, 1900, to red brown on blue.

No essays of this issue have been recorded. The basic design and the engraving are the work of an unknown Viennese. The cliches were also prepared in Vienna.

The stamps are rectangular in shape and the design measures $16\frac{1}{2} \times 21\frac{1}{2}$ mm. A portrait of King Alexander Obrenovich in a general's uniform fills a framed oval in the center of the stamp. He is facing left. The word, "Srbija," within a curved white ribbon is found above the portrait. Bay leaf ornaments are on both sides of it. Value numerals in framed circular white spaces are in both bottom corners. Between them, in a white rectangular space, is the word, "Para," for the lower values and "Dinar," for the 1 dinar value.

The stamps were printed by typography at the State Printing Works in Belgrade in sheets of 100. The arrangement is the same as the previous issue—four panes of 25 stamps with interpane gutters. The sheets had narrow margins all around. The space between the stamps is 2 mm horizontally and 3 mm vertically. The comb perforation is $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, but on the outside margins of the sheet the perforation is $11\frac{1}{2}$.

We do not know the quantities printed. The 5 and 10 para, which were used for postcards and ordinary local letters, were used up very quickly and a second printing took place. The same granite paper was used for this printing, but the stamps were line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. These stamps in mint condition, particularly the 10 para, are rather scarce.

The 10 para stamp, perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, and the 15 para are known imperforate between vertically. The 10 para stamps have also been recorded with double perforations. The 5 and 25 para values exist imperforate, although none are known on cover. Stamps of this issue may also have perforations that are shifted and, occasionally, stamps that are not perforated on all sides. This issue is the first to show spacing bars. (Fig. 93)

Only one characteristic plate flaw is found on the 10 para stamp, a white spot below the first letter "A" in "Para." (Fig. 94)

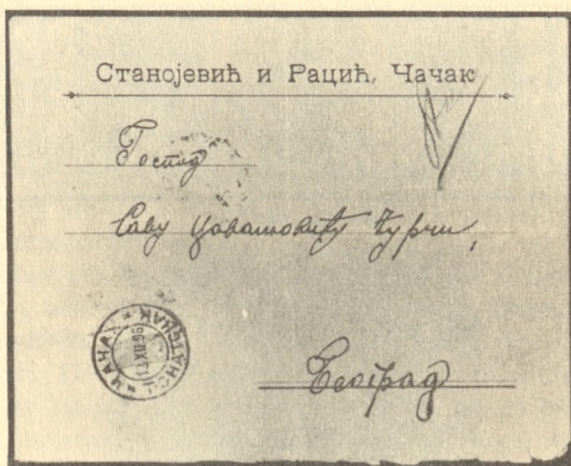
93. *Spacing Bar.*94. *Constant Plate Flaw.*

Mint and used multiples of this issue are scarce, except for the 1 dinar blue green mint which is common. The 1 dinar value on cover is rare.

All denominations are known in lighter and darker shades than the basic colors. A 15 para stamp in a pink shade, used at Vel. Gradiste, has been recorded. There is a possibility, however, that this color is not genuine.

The 20 para was bisected on December 12, 1896, at the Cacak post office when 10 para stamps became unavailable. (Fig. 95) Such covers are rare and probably not more than a half dozen have been recorded. Derocco states that they were unauthorized.

The 5 para stamp of this issue was demonetized on June 19, (July 2) 1901, the 1 dinar blue green on December 31, 1899, and all the other values on June 24, (July 7th) 1903, together with all subsequent issues bearing the portrait of the assassinated king. As mentioned before, although the quantities printed are not known they must have been large since, with the exception of the 5 and 10 para

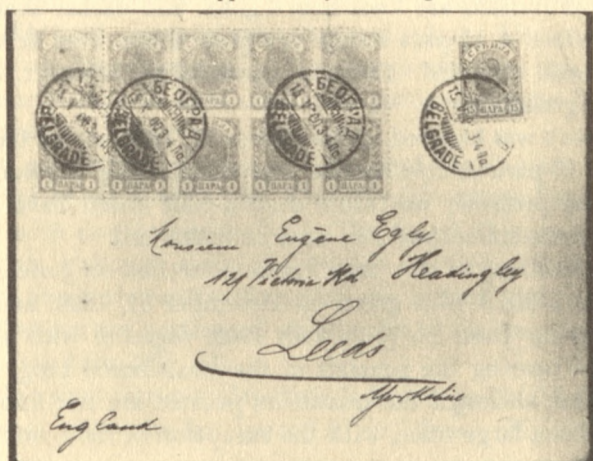


95. Bisect of Čačak.

stamps, they were in use until June 1903. When the 1 dinar blue green was withdrawn 232,118 copies remained unsold. They were sold at public auction in February 1901.

A new canceller of the double circle type was introduced in 1894. It contained the name of the town in Cyrillic at the top and in French at the bottom. There was space for the date in the center with vertical shading lines above and below it. (Fig. 96)

96. Supplementary Franking.



The last stamp produced on granite paper was the 1 dinar in a new color. The change was necessary because the bluish green of the 1 dinar strongly resembled the green of the 5 para stamp. The new color was red brown on surface colored light blue paper.

The stamp was printed in 1896 but, because of an economy measure, was not issued. There were large quantities of the 1 dinar bluish green on hand and the Postal Administration intended to use them up. The stamp was finally issued on January 1, 1900, although large numbers of the bluish green still remained. The public was given 90 days to exchange them for the new ones.

The One Para Stamp of 1896 and 1898

A law, enacted on December 19, 1879, abolished the postal tax on newspapers if they were sent by the publishers to subscribers in Serbia. A new law, enacted February 1, 1896, reversed this policy and decreed a postal tax be paid for mailing newspapers, magazines and literary advertisements. The charge was one para for each copy up to 50 grams weight. This made it necessary to print 1 para stamps. These were ordered by a decree of the Ministry of National Economy, February 24, 1896.

The new 1 para stamps were issued March 1, (13th) 1896, in the same design as that of the 1894 issue. New cliches were made for this stamp, but they did not turn out very well and the impression was very blurred. Granite paper was not used because of the cost and the stamps were printed on white paper of medium thickness.

The color of the new stamp was brick red with shades ranging from light to dark. The comb perforation was $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ at first, and later line $11\frac{1}{2}$. The arrangement of the sheet was the same as that for the postage stamps; four panes of 25 stamps with interspace gutters, but without margins. (Fig. 97)

A second printing took place near the end of 1898. The old cliches had deteriorated and were unusable, making it necessary to prepare new ones. For this reason the second printing should be considered as a new issue. Unfortunately, the new cliches were not much better than the old, making it apparent that the State Printing Works in Belgrade did not have the experienced personnel needed for this type of work.

The second printing is on the same paper as the first and also has

the same perforations. It can be recognized by its different reddish brown color.

The stamp used, on very rare occasions, to supplement other postage stamps on letters. Such covers are scarce. (Fig. 96)

It is known imperforate and imperforate between horizontally or vertically. The imperforates are either proofs or come from unfinished sheets. An imperforate block of ten was in the Ferrari sale and sold for 6,500 francs (lot 497).

The remainders of these stamps were sold at public auction in 1911. There were 385,245 copies mostly from the second printing.

The Issues of 1896–1902 on Ordinary Paper

Serbia's financial position in the late '90s was none too good and the government tried to save money wherever possible. So, when the 1894 issue on granite paper was almost exhausted, particularly the lower values, they turned to less expensive paper and the old clichés to print new stamps. The various denominations of this new printing were released only after each one's counterpart on granite paper was used up. There is, therefore, a different date of issue for each denomination.

The main difference between this and the previous issue was the paper which was of medium thickness (0.008). All the values exist line perforated 11½, but the 5, 10, 15 and 25 para values were also comb perforated 13 x 13½. They are scarce in mint condition. These four values also come with the bottom line perforated 11½. This occurs because the bottom row of the sheet was so perforated. The 10, 15 and 25 para values with such perforations are very rare in mint condition.

The first stamp to be issued was the 10 para rose on July 20, (August 1) 1898. This was followed by the 5 para green on September 1, (13th) 1898. An announcement in the official gazette on September 1st, stated that new 20 para postage due stamps and 10 para postage stamps had been issued on July 20th and the 5 para stamps on September 1st. The gazette further advised that old stamps of these denominations on granite paper would remain in use until completely exhausted.

The 5 and 10 para stamps were printed in sheets of 100 in the same arrangement as those on granite paper; four panes of 25

stamps with gutter. The perforations were line 11½. The margins were also perforated.

The next stamp to be issued was the 15 para in March 1900 after that value on granite paper had been used up. The color is distinctly pale lilac and it is line perforated 11½. The sheet is layed out in the same manner as the first printings of the 5 and 10 para stamps. (Plate VII)

Later, probably in September 1900, the 20 and 25 para stamps were issued, followed by the 50 para in December. The color of the 20 para is yellow and the 25 para dark blue. The 50 para remained dark brown.

The 20, 25 and 50 para stamps were printed on the same white paper as the 5 and 10 para values in sheets of 100, but were arranged differently. The sheet was divided into two panes of 50 stamps with ten horizontal rows of five stamps. The vertical gutter is one half a stamp wide as is the margin around the sheet.

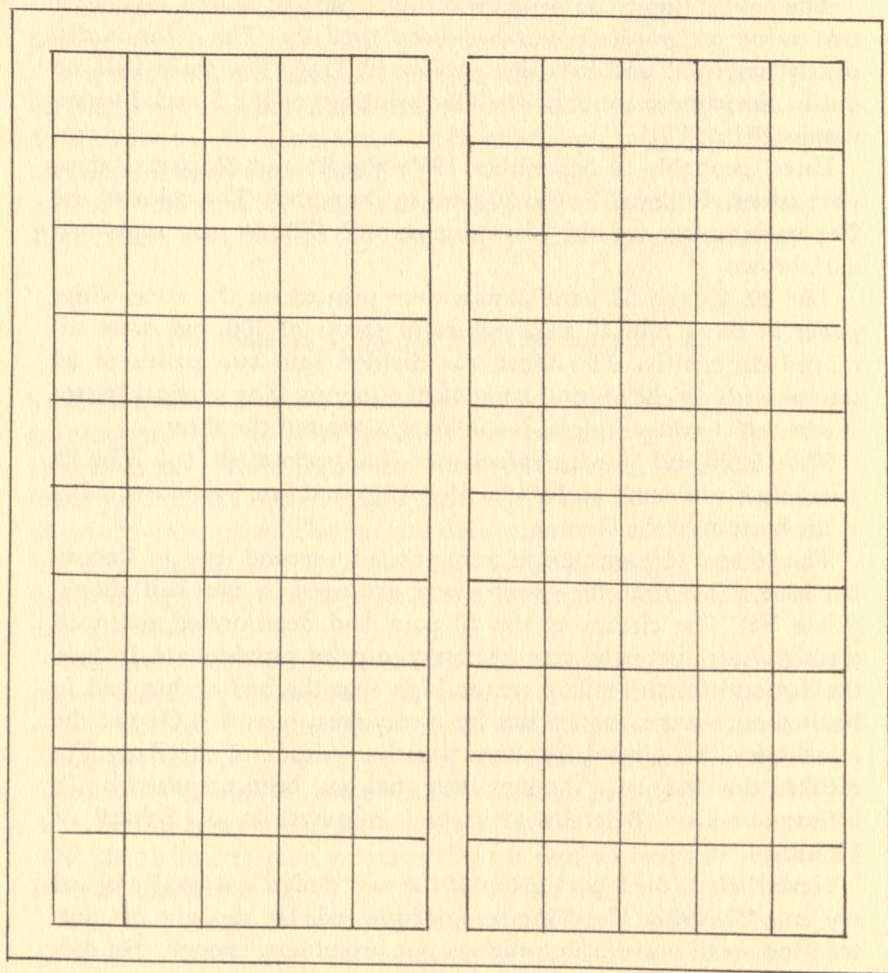
The 15, 20 and 50 para values were line perforated 11½. The 25 para value was comb perforated 13 x 13½ and line perforated 11½ at the bottom of the sheet.

The 10 and 15 para stamps were printed a second time in December 1901. This time the stamps were arranged in two half sheets. (Plate VI) The cliches of the 10 para had deteriorated so much through hard use, it became necessary to print provisionals. In fact, the demand for this stamp was so high that the bad cliches had to be used once more, though not for a very great quantity. One of the reasons for this absurd situation was the attitude of the King. He disliked the design for the new issue that had been prepared by D. Milovanovich, a Belgrade artist and engraved by A. Scharff of Vienna.

Nevertheless, the 5 para green of the new design was finally issued on June 20, 1901. The King was not pleased. He thought his portrait too small and his decorations not prominent enough. He did, however, give his approval for the high values of this design—the 3 and 5 dinar—because the size of these stamps was larger and his picture was more visible. He strongly objected to the printing of the 10 para and it was that objection that caused the printing of the provisionals and the printing utilizing the old worn cliches.

The 10 para stamp of the second printing is in red carmine, is comb perforated 13 x 13½ and line perforated 11½ at the bottom. The second printing of the 15 para is in lilac, is comb perforated 13

PLATE VI.

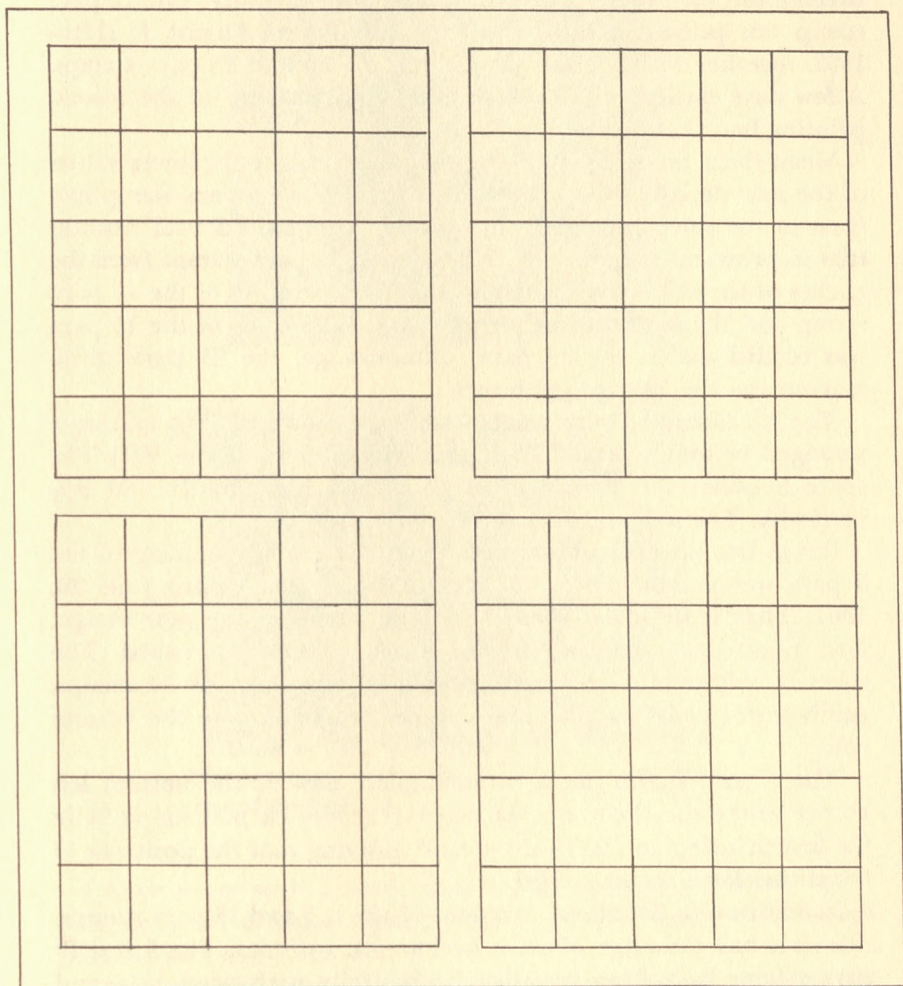


The arrangement of the sheet of the 1898 issue:

(a) The second print of the 5, 10 and 15 para values.

(b) the first print of the 20, 25 and 50 para values. The vertical space between the two halves and the margins, had the width of one half of a stamp.

PLATE VII.



New arrangement of the sheet for the last printings of the 1898–1902 issue:

- (a) for the third print of the 15 para, and for the second prints of the 20 and 25 para. The space between the stamps is horizontally 3 mm, vertically 3½ mm. The stamps are larger.*
- (b) for the second print of the 50 para. The space between the stamps is horizontally 2 mm, and vertically 3 mm.*

x $13\frac{1}{2}$ and line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ in the bottom row. The space between stamps is 2 mm horizontally and 3 mm vertically. The 15 para stamp was printed a third time and was issued August 1, (14th) 1902, together with the last printing of the 20 and 25 para stamps. A few days earlier, on July 26th, the 50 para stamp of the second printing had been issued.

Meanwhile, the King stubbornly refused to allow the lower values of the new design to be printed, even though the 5 para stamp had been in use since June 1901. His refusal forced the Postal Authorities to print, once again, the 15, 20, 25 and 50 para stamps from the clichés of the old design. This was the third printing of the 15 para stamp and the second of the other values. The color of the 15 para was reddish-violet, the 20 para yellow-orange, the 25 para ultramarine and the 50 para red brown.

The 20, 25 and 50 para values were line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ and were arranged in four panes of 25 stamps with gutters. (Plate VII) The space between the stamps is larger, 3 mm horizontally and $3\frac{1}{2}$ vertically. The paper is thick (0.011).

It was not possible to establish when the second printing of the 5 para stamp took place, but it must have been before June 20, 1901. That is the date when the 5 para stamp of the new design, later rejected by the King in the 10 para value, was issued. The sheet in this second printing consisted of two panes of 50 stamps, comb perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ in the bottom row.

The 5 para stamp has a constant plate flaw at the bottom left corner where the cliché was damaged. (Fig. 98) Its position is 91 in the first printing and 95 in the second, proving that the positions of the clichés have been changed.

In addition to double perforations of the 1, 5 and 15 para stamps, this issue has a number of other perforation varieties. The 5 and 10 para stamps have been recorded horizontally perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 13 vertically. The 10 para has also been recorded imperforate and used bisected at Beograd on June 10, 1901. That item is on piece.

The 15 para is known comb perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ with an $11\frac{1}{2}$ double perforation vertically. According to Derocco, a horizontal pair of the last printing exists vertically imperforate between.

The 25 para exists perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and imperforate vertically at the right side of the sheet, or comb perforated 13 horizontally, $13\frac{1}{2}$ vertically from the left side and $11\frac{1}{2}$ at the right.



98. Constant Plate Flaw above first printing below second printing.

I have never seen a cover with the 25 para ultramarine, and I only know of a single cover dated July 26, 1902, from Belgrade franked with a 50 para red brown.

The 5 para stamp was the first to be demonetized on June 19, (July 2) 1901. The following day the new 5 para stamp was issued. All other values were demonetized on June 24, (July 7) 1903, when all stamps bearing the portrait of the assassinated king were withdrawn.

All printings of the 1898-1902 issue have been recorded imperforate without gum. They are either proofs or come from unfinished sheets which fell into enemy hands at the time of the occupation in World War I.

The 10 Para Provisionals of November 1, (14) 1900

The two stamps used most were the 5 para for postcards or local letters and the 10 para for ordinary letters. When it became necessary to replenish them, the old clichés were so worn they could not be used much longer. It was decided, therefore, to print stamps in the red rose color of the 10 para from the 20 para clichés. These were then overprinted, "10 para." They were the first Serbian provisionals and were released November 1, 1900.

All other 10 para stamps remained in use with even a second printing made from the old worn clichés. Those stamps were issued in December 1901, about a year after the first provisionals were released.

They were printed in the same color as the 1898 stamps and on the same white paper. The typographed overprint was black, although some essays in blue have been recorded. Another type of essay, with a black "10" over each "20" in the lower corners, is also known. The sheet is laid out in the same manner as that shown in Plate VI—two panes of 50 stamps separated by a gutter half the width of a stamp and with sheet margins measuring the same. The separation between the stamps is 2 mm horizontally and 3 mm vertically.

The provisionals are classified according to type and perforation. (Fig. 99) They are priced (1975 pricing) as follows:

Type	A		B		C	
	Comb 13 x 13½		Comb 13 x 13½ below line 11½		Line 11½	
I Length of overprint, 15 mm. The word, "PARA," is 10 mm. The "10" is small, figures close together. The "1" has straight foot bar	\$2.50	\$.25	\$ 20.00	\$1.00	\$ 7.50	\$.25
II Length of overprint, 14 mm. Height of numbers same as letters. Space between numbers, 1 mm. Foot bar is missing. Word "PARA" is 9 mm long.	\$4.50	\$.25	\$100.00	\$4.50	\$ 8.00	\$.50
III Length of overprint, 14 mm. Word, "PARA," 9 mm. Space between numbers, 1½ mm.					\$10.00	\$.25



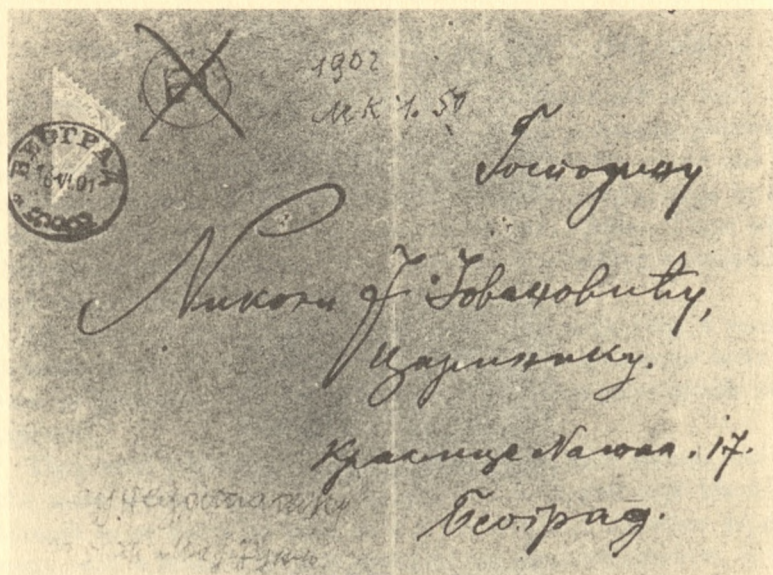
99. *The 3 Types of Overprint.*

The first recorded appearance of Type II was November 9, 1901. Type III was issued early in 1902. It comes only with line 11½ perforations.

Type II is not a separate printing. Some stamps in the Type I sheets had damaged clichés of that overprint replaced with Type II overprints.

Essays with the overprint in blue or black with numerals only and without "Para" are valued at \$15.00 each. Imperforates without gum from unfinished sheets are valued at \$30.00 in any type.

The shortage of 5 para stamps became so great about the middle of June 1901 that bisected 10 para provisionals were used as 5 para stamps on local mail. (Fig. 100)



100. Bisected overprint used in Emergency.

The 15 Para Provisionals of October 16, 1901

The need for 15 para provisionals was as strong as that for the 10 para provisionals. As with that stamp, the first printing was used up in March 1900 and the clichés were not in good shape.

Pera Velimirovic, Minister of Building Construction (Gradjevina), under whose jurisdiction the Postal Administration fell, had had a difficult time with the King over the new 5 para stamp. The situation grew worse as the King stubbornly refused to allow the printing of the other values. In desperation, it was decided to overprint some 200,000 of the 1 dinar red brown on blue paper in black with a typographed, "15 PARA."

It was merely a stopgap measure and the provisionals soon ran out. Once again, the Postal Authorities had to turn to the old worn clichés of the 1894 issue. They were used two more times—in December 1901 and July 1902—by which time all the provisionals had been used up.

Derocco established that four different types of overprints exist. They are distinguished by the length of the overprint and by the space between the figure "15" and the word, "Para."

Type I	Length 15	mm	space between "15" and "Para"	2½	mm
" II	" 14½	mm	" " " "	" 2½	mm
" III	" 15½	mm	" " " "	" 3¼	mm
" IV	" 15	mm	" " " "	" 2¼	mm

It was first thought that the different overprints were the consequences of different printings, but it was established that all four types could be found in a single sheet of 100. Multiples of this stamp are rare and it was difficult to establish the positions of the types. Derocco claims that the rarest is Type II, the most common Type I, with Types III and IV about equal in value.

The largest preserved multiple is a block of 25 in a collection in Jugoslavia. It comes from the left half of the sheet and has the following distribution of Types: Type I, 8 copies; Type II, 11 copies; Type III, 4 copies; Type IV, 2 copies, for a total of 25. (Fig. 101)

It appears from this, that Type II is the commonest and Type IV, the rarest. The distribution of these types in other parts of the sheet must be different since a block of four with one Type III and three Type IVs has been recorded.

Inverted overprints have also been recorded. (Fig. 102) This brought up the question as to whether just one stamp in a sheet had the overprint inverted or the entire sheet. The answer came at the "ZEFIB" Exhibition in 1937 at Belgrade. A Budapest stamp dealer showed his collection of Serbia, and in it were vertical and horizontal mint pairs of the stamp with inverted overprint. I understand

I	IV	II	II	IV
I	II	II	I	III
II	II	II	I	I
II	I	III	I	III
II	III	II	II	I

4 mm margin.

Fig. 101. —Distribution of types of the 15 Para overprint in quarter of sheet.



102. Inverted overprint.

that another one, used at Cacak is now in the collection of Mr. Brodtbeck. The inverted overprints are very rare, although at least three sheets were overprinted this way. They have been found in used condition emanating from the post offices at Cacak, Kragujevac and Belgrade.

Covers with this stamp are not common.

The stamp has also been recorded imperforate, probably from unfinished sheets.

Collectors are warned that forged double and inverted overprints exist. They can be distinguished from the originals by the difference in the numerals and letters and by the length of the overprint.

The King Alexander Issue of 1901–1903

While the previous issue was still in use, some values of the new 1901–1903 issue made their appearance. The design, prepared by Djoka (George) Milovanovich of Belgrade, was engraved in steel by the well-known Austrian engraver, A. Scharff, the man who engraved the 1867 issue of Austria. The cliches were made in Vienna, but all printing was done in Belgrade.

On December 10, 1900, the Ministry of Construction which also controlled the Postal Administration, ordered the tax on telegrams and the settlement of accounts between postal department to be made in postage stamps. This necessitated the printing of 3 and 5 dinar stamps which were issued on January 1, 1901.

These stamps were larger than those of the lower values. They measured $18\frac{1}{2} \times 24$ mm from outside border line to outside border line. An oval in the center framed a rather small portrait of the King in a general's uniform. He is facing left. The background is dotted. Royal robes are draped above the picture together with the royal crown from the coat of arms. Both sides are decorated with branches of bay leaves. At the top is the word, "Srbija," in colored letters on a white rectangular background. Both bottom corners contain the numerals of value in color in white shield-shaped spaces. Between the numerals are the letters, "DIN," in white on a colored background. (Fig. 103)

The stamps were printed at Belgrade by typography on medium thick white paper (0.008 mm). Derocco mentions only two printings of the 3 and 5 dinar values, but later studies showed there was a third printing. No information is available as to when this printing



103. The 5 din. First Printing.

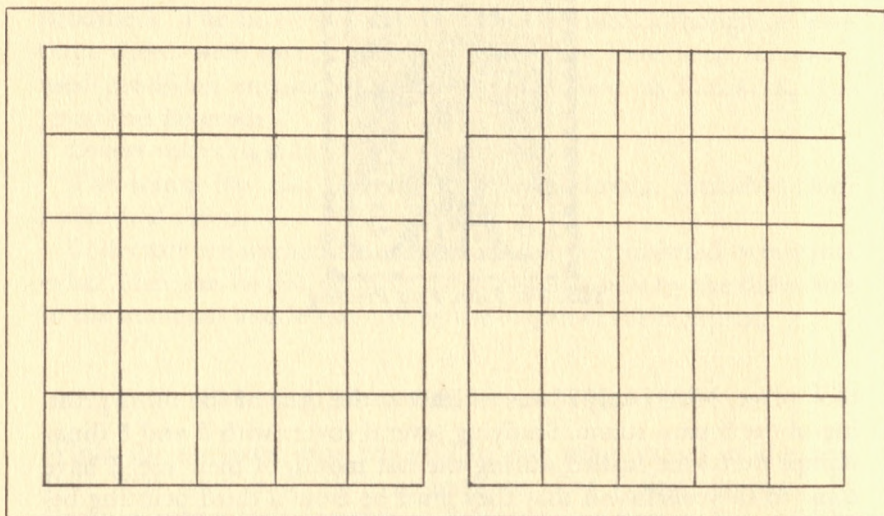
took place. Most likely it was in 1903 at the time of the third printing of the 5 para stamp. Studying several covers with 3 and 5 dinar stamps that were mailed during the last month of their use, I have come to the conclusion that they must be from a third printing because all the used stamps came from the same printing.

1st Printing: These were printed in sheets of 100 in two panes and were so supplied to post offices. The panes are divided by a vertical gutter the width of one stamp. (Plate VIII) The sheets have no margins. The color of the 3 dinar is dark pink, rarely of a lighter shade. The 5 dinar is always dark violet. The space between the stamps is horizontally $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm and $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm vertically. They are line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ across the gutter. The gum is white.

2nd Printing: This took place about the middle of 1902 on the same medium thick white paper. Both stamps are in lighter shades. The sheets have a narrow margin and the gutter is narrower than the width of the margins. (Plate VIII) The space between the stamps is $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm horizontally and 4 mm vertically, making the stamps larger than the first printing. The gum is white.

3rd Printing: Here, the horizontal space between the stamps is $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm, but the vertical is now only 3 mm and the stamps are smaller in size. The colors are the same as those in the second printing. The gum is yellowish.

PLATE VIII.



Arrangement of the sheet of the second print of the 3 and 5 dinar stamps of the 1901–1903 issue.

The dividing space between the two halves, has the width of the narrow margins.—the space between the stamps is $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm horizontally and 4 mm vertically.

The first print of these stamps, has no margins, and the dividing space between the two halves has the width of one stamp.—The space between the stamps is $2\frac{1}{4}$ horizontally, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm vertically.

The third print has the same arrangement as the second, only the horizontal space between the stamps is now $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm, and the vertical only 3 mm. Therefore the stamps are of a smaller size.

This same design was later adopted for the para values, but in a smaller size. A decree, dated April 17, 1901, stating that postage stamps in the new design, and in denominations of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50 para would be issued, appeared in the "Postal-Telegraph News." They were to be printed from new clichés in the colors of the current issue and on the same paper. The date of issue was to be decided.

Another decree, published in the "Srpske Novine" of May 10th, announced that the 5 para stamp would be issued on May 20th. Simultaneously, it was announced that on the same day the 5 para of the 1894 issue would be demonetized.

The day of issue was postponed because of the King's dislike for

the stamp. A new decree, published in the "Srpske Novine" on May 24th, stated that for the time being the old 5 para stamp would remain in use and the new one would be withheld.

The stamp was finally issued on June 20, 1901, after Velimirovich, the minister responsible for it and Dr. Vujich, the Prime Minister, got the King's grudging approval. He would, however, allow no other value to be issued.

As a result, negotiations were begun with the well-known French artist and engraver, E. Mouchon for the preparation of a design with a much larger portrait of the King and with clearly visible decorations.

The 5 para stamp was dark green and it measured 16 x 21 mm. It was printed by typography on medium thick white paper and was line perforated 11½. There were two more printings of this stamp which can be distinguished by the colors—yellowish green and greyish green.

Next to be issued was the 10 para rose red. The quantity of the 1902 10 para provisionals was very small and the supply was fast running out, leading us to believe that the new 10 para was probably prepared without the knowledge or approval of the King. His consent was obtained later and the stamp was officially issued on June 12, 1902. Mr. Ostojic reports in the "Filatelista" of December 1953, that he had seen a copy of the new 10 para used at Grocka as early as February 7, 1902. It would seem from this fact that the stamps were sold "unofficially" to the public before the King's consent was gotten. It is possible, therefore, to find the 10 para provisional and the new 10 para stamp used together during 1902. (Fig. 104)

Near the end of 1902 the supply of 1 dinar stamps ran low, since

104. Mixed Franking.



200,000 copies had been overprinted as 15 para provisionals. Consequently, a new 1 dinar stamp was issued on January 15, 1903. The announcement appeared in the January 16th issue of "Srpske Novine." The design was the same as that of the 3 and 5 dinar stamps and the color was brown. The sheet arrangement and the space between the stamps was the same as that of the 3 and 5 dinar values of the second printing—horizontally, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm and vertically, 4 mm.

Shortly thereafter, the remaining values were issued. The 25 and 50 para on February 4, 1903, and the 20 para on February 21st. The 15 para came into use sometime in March. The exact date is not known, since no announcement of its release was made.

The colors were: 15 para, purple; 20 para, yellow orange; 25 para, ultramarine; 50 para, yellow ocher. All were printed on medium thick white paper and line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ in sheets of 100. The sheet was made up of four panes of 25 stamps divided by gutters. The 5 para stamp of the first printing was the only one to be printed in sheets of 100 without gutters.

The 15, 20, 25 and 50 para stamps were in use a very short time and they are all very rare on cover, particularly the 15 para. (Fig. 105)

The high values are also scarce on cover. They can be found on philatelic covers to Germany. The 3 and 5 dinar stamps of the first printing are rare in mint condition.

105.



The 5 para, second printing, has been recorded with double perforations. The whole issue imperforate, comes from unfinished sheets which fell into enemy hands during World War I. Essays of the 1 para stamp are extremely rare. They are pink or grey lilac. Imperforate color trials of all values have also been recorded.

The Obrenovich dynasty came to an abrupt end the night of May 29th 1903, with the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga by a group of army officers. A provisional government was formed and one of its first decisions was to replace all stamps bearing the portrait of the unpopular king. Consequently, the King Alexander stamps were demonetized June 24, (July 7) 1903.

New stamps, from a design prepared by E. Mouchon, and bearing a large portrait of the late king, had already been printed in Paris. They were to be released on his birthday early in August. The stamps were issued, but overprinted with the Serbian coat of arms.

There are two types of forgeries in this set, according to Derocco, and both are good.

The oldest lithographic forgeries are of the 3 and 5 dinar stamps, executed by Fournier of Geneva. They can be recognized by differences in the lettering. In the original, the medium curved line of the letter "B" is always detached from the vertical line. In the forgery, it is fused. Further, in the original, the bottom right end of the letter "D" has sharp edges. In the forgery, it is rounded.

Forgeries were also made by photographic reproduction and the design is identical to the original. However, the impression is more blurred and the shades are a little different. The letters "DIN" on the 5 dinar value are slightly thicker.

Because of the early demonetization of these stamps, large stocks remained on hand. The entire issue was sold for philatelic purposes by the Belgrade post office between April 1908 and July 1910 at a reduced price. What was left was sold at public auction in 1911. The lot consisted of 385,345 copies of the lower values, 4,025 of the 1 dinar and 4,225 each of the 3 and 5 dinar values. The rest were then destroyed.

The Provisional Issue of 1903 Essays and Proofs

As noted before, when Alexander was assassinated, a new issue designed and engraved by the noted French artist E. Mouchon, had

already been printed and, with the exception of the 3 and 5 dinar values, perforated. Instructions were transmitted to the French Printing Works ordering them to dispatch everything to Belgrade as fast as possible.

They arrived with the lower values and the 1 dinar stamp completely finished and perforated 13½. The 3 and 5 dinar were imperforate and mostly without gum.

Preparation for this issue, which was to be released on August 2nd, the King's birthday, had been going on for some time. Every effort had been made to keep the King happy. In fact, Mouchon had been forced to change his engraving of the monarch twice before it met with his approval. The basic engraving (Fig. 106) showed the shape of the nose and chin differently and the shading on the face pointed. After the retouch (Fig. 107) this was partially replaced with lines. It was unsatisfactory and another photograph of the king was sent to Mouchon to enable him to get a better likeness. (Fig. 108)

Fifty numbered proofs of the retouched design were printed, all in small sheets measuring 55 mm x 112 mm. They were without value and in a different color combination than the actual stamps. The centers were mostly in black. About twenty have been preserved. Ten proofs were also made on chalky paper with value. They were also made in small sheets.

The design that was finally accepted depicts the king in full profile in an oval frame. The stamp measures 20 mm x 26 mm and was printed by typography. A curved white ribbon above the portrait contains the word, "Србија." An oak branch is on the left, a bay leaf decoration on the right. Below the portrait is a double headed white



106. Basic Engraving.



107. Retouched Engraving.



108. Final Engraving.

eagle with crowns and spread wings and the word, "Para" or "Din" in white on a rectangular block. White numerals on a shaded background framed with thin white circular lines are in the bottom corners. Below, at the extreme right, is the designer's name, Mouchon.

The paper used for these stamps was 0.0095 mm thick. The values prepared in Paris were the 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 50 para and the 1, 3 and 5 dinar. The centers of all the stamps are in black with colored frames as follows: 1 para, red violet; 5 para, yellow green; 10 para, red; 15 para, olive green; 20 para, orange; 25 para, blue; and 50 para, grey. The 1 dinar is bluish green, the 3 dinar, violet and the 5 dinar, yellow brown.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 150 in 15 horizontal rows of 10 without interpane. The space between the stamps is 2 mm in both directions. The sheets have wide margins with only the bottom comb perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$. The 3 and 5 dinar stamps, which arrived in Belgrade imperforate, were line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. Only two sheets of the 3 dinar value (300 copies) arrived from Paris perforated by a $13\frac{1}{2}$ comb perforator.

A small quantity of this issue was not overprinted. All values perforated in Paris from the 1 para to the 1 dinar, inclusive, have been recorded in this condition with gum. The 3 and 5 dinar have been recorded imperforate and line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. The latter are very rare.

When the 5 and 50 para and the 1 dinar value were reprinted in Belgrade in mid-1904 the paper used was thicker and the impression of the king less clear. The 5 para and 1 dinar of this new issue have been recorded imperforate and line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ without overprint. The 50 para probably also exists in this condition.

The First Overprinted Issue of June 25, 1903

As soon as the new stamps arrived from Paris they were overprinted with the Royal Coat of Arms, which blotted out the portrait of Alexander. At the same time the 3 and 5 dinar stamps were perforated and gum was added to those sheets that needed it. White gum was used. Those stamps gummed in Paris had dark brown gum.

Two types of overprints were used:

Type 1, 12 mm wide and 15 mm high, the larger of the two, was used for the lower values. (Fig. 109)



109. *First Type of Overprint.*

Type 2, 10 mm wide and 14 mm high, the smaller overprint, was used for the dinar values.

The lower values were at first overprinted by lithography, but it soon became apparent that this was not the best method. It was summer and warm. When the stones were wiped the gummed sheets started to curl and became glued together. Many sheets became unusable due to the heat and were discarded, particularly those of the 1 para stamp.

The entire quantity of the 1 and 20 para were lithographed, but part of the 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 para values were overprinted by typography. Zinc plates made from a transfer from the type 1 stone were used. The dinar values were overprinted by typography from similar plates of the type 2 overprint.

The overprinted stamps were issued June 25, 1903. New 5 and 10 para postal stationery was issued at the same time. All stamps and postal stationery of the previous issues were demonetized on June 24th, but could be exchanged for the new issues.

The overprints were made in the following colors:

The 1 para stamps (type 1) were lithographed in dark blue. Inverts and extreme shifting are known.

The 5 para stamps were partially lithographed and partially typographed with type 1 overprints in blue.

The 10 para stamps were overprinted in black (type 1) in both methods. Double overprints are known. They are also found with the imprint of the portrait on the reverse.

The 15 para was overprinted in black by both methods and double overprints have been recorded.

The 20 para was overprinted in black by lithography only. Badly shifted overprints are on record.

The 25 para was overprinted in black (type 1) by both methods. An overprint in type 2, typographed, has also been recorded on this value. Double overprints exist, either twice on type 2, or once on type 1 and once on type 2. Both are typographed. Such overprints are rare. Copies with the imprint of the portrait on the reverse are also known. By error, two entire sheets did not receive the overprint, making the 25 para stamp the commonest without it.

The 50 para was overprinted in brick red by both methods. The lithographed overprint can be found in carmine red, which is rare. It is not always easy to distinguish between the lithographed overprint and the typographed on this value.

The dinar values were all overprinted by typography in type 2—the 1 dinar in black, the 3 dinar in dark brown and the 5 dinar in blue.

The smallest quantity issued was of the 1 para value because, as explained before, many sheets were wasted. This, and its low nominal value caused the stamp to be sold out in a very short time. German stamp dealers bought large quantities of the stamp and the Postal Authorities were forced to issue a new 1 para stamp by overprinting 60,000 copies of the 5 dinar. (Fig. 110) This was done by adding the numeral "1" and the word "PARA" to the coat of arms.

110. One Para Overprint.



The overprinting was done by lithography (type 1) and special regulations were formulated regarding the future use of the stamp. It was issued on July 20, 1903. An announcement on June 19th, stated that no sales would be made to private buyers and that franking would be handled exclusively by postal employees on all items requiring less than 5 para postage. The ruling resulted in speculation by postal workers who began mailing printed matter to fictitious addresses. Again the entire quantity was used up in a few days. Genuinely used, these stamps were only cancelled between July 20th and July 24th. About 32,000 saw service.

After this experience the Ministry of Construction put out a directive (on July 26th) stating that in future all printed matter would be accepted by the post office for dispatch only when accompanied by a list of consignees. Further, postage was to be paid in cash. This regulation was already in existence for newspapers and accordingly, from July 27th, all printed matter was treated equally.

Except for a very small quantity, probably one sheet, all the 1 para overprints were line perforated 11½. Stamps perforated 13½ are very rare and are listed in the "Gibbons," "Michel" and "Jugofilatelija" catalogs. The stamp has also been recorded used.

The Second Overprinted Issue of July 10, 1904

A definitive issue bearing the portrait of the new king, Peter Kara-georgevich, was being prepared in Paris. It was to be a commemorative issue celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Serbian uprising. The work was slow and by the middle of 1904 a new emergency arose. The supply of 5 para, 50 para and 1 dinar stamps containing the overprint began to run out. To forestall the issuance of more provisionals, the authorities ordered a new printing of the old stamps from the cliches sent from Paris. Again, they were overprinted with the Coat of Arms.

The Paris cliches consisted of two parts, the oval with the portrait of the king and the frame. The stamps of this printing are, in many ways, different from those produced in Paris. The paper was thicker, the printing, particularly the portrait of the king, not as clear, and the shades of the frame darker. The overprinting was done by typography (type 1) and the colors were different than those used before. The stamps were line perforated 11½.

The sheets were layed out in two panes or 50 stamps, 5 rows by

10, and were divided by a narrow horizontal gutter without margins.

The 5 para stamps were issued on July 10, 1904, the 50 para and 1 dinar on August 21st. They were demonetized on September 7, 1904, when the commemoratives were finally released.

The 5 para stamps are light green and the overprint, ultramarine. The 50 para has a dark grey frame with a carmine overprint. The 1 dinar has a dark blue green frame with a black overprint. 824,000 5 para stamps, 90,000 50 para and 44,700 1 dinar were produced.

Covers or cards with these stamps are rare because of the short time they were in use. All three stamps are known without overprint and imperforate. The 5 para and 1 dinar perforated are listed without overprint. All three values may be found without the King's portrait perforate and imperforate.

After demonetization, between April 1908 and August 1910, the stamps were sold below face value in sets at the post office in Belgrade. The remainders were sold at public auction in January 1911 with those of the previous issues. According to Derocco, 36,650 sets of 5 to 50 para were sold. 36,750 1 dinar and 86,345 3 and 5 dinar stamps were also sold. Some sets had the normal 1 para and some had the overprinted 1 para.

3,350 1 dinar stamps were printed in Paris and 33,400 in Belgrade. 4,650 50 para stamps were printed in Paris and 32,000 in Belgrade.

The remainders were bought by a group from Paris and were later acquired by a Parisian stamp dealer. Among the stamps, he found two sheets of the 3 dinar comb perforated 13½.

Forged overprints have been recorded, particularly of the double and inverted. The 1 para overprints and the 50 para and 1 dinar of the last issue exist with forged or favor cancellations.

The 50 para and 1 dinar of this last issue were in use just 17 days. Covers with these stamps are scarce.

The Coronation Issue of 1904

A special set of stamps commemorating the crowning of King Peter and the first Serbian uprising under Kara George, was issued the day of the coronation, September 8, (21st) 1904.

The stamps were designed by Djoka Jovanovich of Belgrade. The engraving was done by E. Mouchon in Paris where the cliches were also prepared.

A large medallion in the center of the 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50 para

stamps, contains the heads of Kara George and King Peter. A plaque in relief at the left of the medallion is inscribed, "1804." One on the right is inscribed, "1904." In the center of the left plaque are the words, "Kara George." In the center of the right one, "Kralj Petar." Underneath the medallion is a two-headed white eagle and a ribbon inscribed, "Spes mihi prima Deus." The numerals of value are in the left bottom corner and the word, "Posta," in the bottom right corner. The left upper corner contains the word, "Kraljevina," and the right upper corner the word, "Srbija." Bay leaf branches have been added to the decorations.

All the values are rectangular in shape and measure, overall, 40 mm by 27 mm. The design measures 37 mm by 23½ mm. The dinar values are the same size, but have an allegorical picture of the uprising at Orasje in the central medallion showing Kara George with a raised sword in his right hand and a flag in his left. A chained woman represents Serbia and above Kara George an angel shows the way to freedom. All the stamps have the name, "Dj. Jovanovich in cyrillic in the lower left corner and E. Mouchon in Latin letters in the lower right.

The issue was announced on September 4, 1904, in the, "Srpske Novine." The colors were: 5 para, green; 10 para, rose; 15 para, purple; 25 para, blue; 50 para, brown; 1 dinar, buff; 3 dinar, emerald; and dinar, deep violet.

The paper used for this issue is mostly thin, smooth and transparent, but certain values can sometimes be found on thicker stock. It was printed at the new Stamp Printing Works of the State Monopoly by typography. The space between the stamps is 3 mm from both sides and they are line perforated 11½.

The sheets are arranged in four panes of 25 stamps, five rows by five rows, with gutters of varying width. For this reason, the sheets are of different sizes, the smallest being the 15 para value. (Fig. 111) This value has a horizontal gutter measuring 16 mm and a vertical one of 18 mm. The gutters of the 5, 10 and 50 para sheets measure 22 mm both ways. On the 25 para sheets the width is 24 mm horizontally and 41 mm vertically. The horizontal gutter of the 1 dinar is 21 mm and the vertical 32 mm. The largest sheets are those of the 3 and 5 dinar stamps which have a 20 mm horizontal gutter and a 54 mm vertical gutter. The sheets have no margins.

The 10, 15 and 5 dinar stamps exist imperforate on one side. Complete sets also exist with all values imperforate. These come



111. Gutter Pair.

from unfinished sheets taken from the Stamp Printing Works during World War I.

There are small differences in shades in this issue, particularly of the 5 para stamps. Offsets exist of the 5 and 25 para values.

Used, these stamps are much rarer than unused, and many forged cancellations are being circulated. Genuine non-philatelic covers are not common, since the stamps were in use a little over three months, September 8th to December 31st 1904.

The following quantities were printed according to Derocco: 1,950,300 copies of the 5 para; 1,962,800 copies of the 10 para; 491,000 copies of the 15 para; 493,600 copies of the 25 para; 489,500 copies of the 50 para; 196,400 copies of the 1 dinar; 98,850 copies of the 3 dinar; and 99,100 copies of the 5 dinar.

After demonetization, sets of these stamps were sold at a reduced rate at the Belgrade post office from April 1908 to August 1911. The remainders were sold at auction in January 1911. 72,479 complete sets and larger quantities of lower value singles were sold.

An interesting thing about the lower values of this issue is that when the stamps are turned upside down a ghostly face may be seen

112. *Forgery.*

in the space where the two heads overlap. Many stamp collectors believe that this was the death mask of Alexander, the assassinated king. This coincidence has been attributed to the macabre humor of Jovanovich, the designer, or Mouchon, the engraver. The story was repudiated by Mouchon.

Although these stamps are inexpensive, two kinds of forgeries exist. The first, produced by lithography on thick strong paper, is very unclear. The second (Fig. 112) is on paper similar to the above, but the shades are slightly different. Both forgeries are smaller than the original stamps.

Green and black color proofs exist in de luxe ungummed sheets (173 mm x 141 mm) consisting of four different values; the 5, 10, 15 and 25 para, and the 50 para, 1, 3 and 5 dinar. Black proofs without value have also been recorded. Both are very rare. A color proof of the 25 para stamp on white cardboard in the color of the 5 dinar stamp has been recorded.

The Definitive "King Peter Bareheaded" Issue of 1905

Preparation for a new issue depicting Peter Karageorgevich had been going on for some time. The design was created by the French engraver, Tasset, who also engraved the basic die in steel. The clichés were also prepared in Paris, but the printing was done in Belgrade by the State Printing Works in typography.

The stamps were issued on January 1, (14) 1905, in 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50 para and 1, 3 and 5 dinar denominations. Issue of the 30 para value was delayed until March 23rd because the color, rose, was too

much like the red rose of the 10 para. The stamp was finally issued in a grey green shade. Other colors were: 1 para, pale grey; 5 para, pale green; 15 para, violet red; 20 para, yellow; 25 para, blue; 50 para, deep brown; 1 dinar, yellow brown; 3 dinar, blue green; and 5 dinar, deep violet. All the stamps have a central medallion with the portrait of the king in black.

The design measures 20 mm by $25\frac{1}{2}$ mm, the whole stamp, 23 mm by 27 mm. The King, in profile, faces left with branches of bay leaf on either side of the medallion. The Royal Coat of Arms is in the top left corner with the inscription, "Srbija," in white lettering to the right. Colored numerals of value in white shields with the word, "Para," or "Din," are in the bottom corners.

The stamps were printed in two operations. The frames, in different colors, were done first, then the medallion in black.

During the six-and-a-half years they were in use, the stamps were reprinted several times. The space between each is $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm and they were printed in sheets of 100, ten rows by ten. The first printing was on the same thin transparent paper that was used for the preceding issue. The sheets of the first printing had the upper part separated from the lower by a horizontal gutter 17 mm wide. In the second printing, which was on pre-gummed thick wove paper, this space is 21 mm wide. The first printing was line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$ and the sheets had no margins. The second printing was comb perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. The space between stamps is, therefore, only 2 mm as against $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm in the first printing. The sheets are layed out in two panes of 50 stamps divided by a horizontal gutter 21 mm wide.

A small quantity of the 5 para stamps of the first printing were comb perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, and a small quantity of the 1 para and 1 dinar stamps of the second printing were line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

The 15, 20, 25 and 50 para values were printed provisionally during the second half of 1905. The printing was on soft porous paper which absorbed the ink, making the colors seem darker. The first stamp of the second printing was the 1 para, issued in October 1905. This was followed by the 1 dinar and the other values in March 1906.

At the end of 1907, when the supply of thick pre-gummed paper ran short, a horizontally laid paper, which was not pre-gummed, came into use. The first stamps to appear on this paper were the 5 and 10 para values, followed in 1908 by the other para denominations. The dinar values were not printed on this paper, since there

was not much use for these stamps after January 1, 1907, when the tax on telegrams ceased to be paid with postage stamps.

A new, smooth, somewhat transparent paper of medium thickness was used in 1910. It resembled the pre-gummed paper used between 1905 and 1907. Due to the quality of this paper, the outlines of the design are slightly blurred. It was used for the para values only.

The last printing took place in 1911 on vertically laid paper, but only for the 1, 5, 10 and 30 para values. These stamps, particularly the 30 para, are scarce in mint condition. The 1 para of this printing come in two distinctly different shades of grey.

The catalog mentions only four printings, but taking into account the different papers that were used, there were six.

- 1st Printing: Thin paper, line perforated 11½.
- 2nd Printing: Thick wove, pre-gummed paper, comb perforated 12 x 11½—all values.
- 3rd Printing: Made in second half of 1905. On soft porous paper that absorbs ink, making colors appear darker. 15, 20, 25 and 50 para only.
- 4th Printing: 1908. Thick, horizontally laid paper. All para values.
- 5th Printing: Smooth slightly transparent paper, medium thick. Design appears blurred. All para values.
- 6th Printing: Thick, vertically laid paper. 1, 5, 10 and 30 para values only.

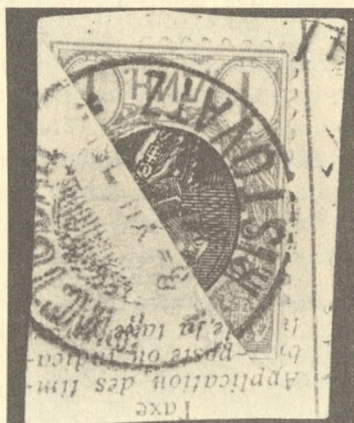
An announcement in the Official Gazette on February 8, 1905, stated that the regulations of July 18, 1903, concerning the use of the 1 para stamp had been changed. Once again, these stamps could be used to frank printed matter and newspapers.

The large number of varieties found in this issue offers the collector much scope. The 5, 10 para and 3 dinar stamps have been recorded imperforate on one side. A number of values are known with the medallion printed on the reverse. Many values can be found with double perforations.

The sheet margins of some values show spacer imprints (Fig. 113) or partly blind print. The 1 para has been recorded with a paper fold and the 3 dinar with a color spot in the medallion. The 1 dinar stamp has been recorded bisected used on a money order as a 50 para stamp. It stems from the post office at Ristovatz and is dated December 1905. (Fig. 114) The 10 para, bisected, was used at Cacak and



113. Spacing Bar and Gideline.



114. Bisect on Money Order.

the 50 para at Krupanj. A pair of 10 para stamps, imperforate between and used at Razanj, has also been recorded.

All values, with the exception of the 3 and 5 dinar stamps, were demonetized January 27, (Feb. 9) 1914. The 3 and 5 dinar were demonetized May 30, (June 12) 1914.

According to Derocco the following quantities of each value were printed: 1 para, 7,160,300; 5 para, 28,404,200; 10 para, 26,147,800; 15 para, 2,409,100; 20 para, 2,968,800; 25 para, 4,721,800; 30 para, 2,463,000; 50 para, 3,244,800; 1 dinar, 857,600; 3 dinar, 177,400; and 146,200 of the 5 dinar.

The entire set on thin paper exists imperforate and without gum on ordinary and laid paper. A few values are known imperfo-

rate with gum. It is likely that these unfinished stamps are from those looted from the State Printing Works during World War I. The original cliches were also stolen. According to Derocco, various printings of the frames by private individuals have been offered for sale in Germany.

A very dangerous forgery of the whole set (Fig. 115) appeared after World War II. The fakes can be recognized by their larger size due to wider spacing. The original stamps measured, with perforations, 23 mm x 27 mm. The forgeries are 24 mm x 30 mm. The difference in size is striking when an original block of four is compared with a block of forgeries. The paper used for the forgeries is not the same for all values. The 15 and 30 para fakes are printed on slightly thinner paper. The colors are much stronger than those of the genuine stamps, particularly in the 5 and 15 para and the 1 and 3 dinar values. The gum used on the forgeries is entirely different from the gum on the genuine stamps. They are printed by lithography, the genuine by typography. These forgeries are good enough to fool many dealers. I was shocked when I found some of them on sale as genuine, not only by stamp dealers in New York,

115. *Lithographed Forgery.*





116. Essays.

but offered as a wholesale lot (in sheets) by a reputable auction house in Europe.

Essays in different color combinations and with a different "en face" portrait of the King have been recorded. (Fig. 116) Black proofs in the accepted design and a color trial of the 5 para red rose, imperforate, are also known.

High values, strips and blocks on cover are not easy to find. Mixed frankings between this and the next issue (Fig. 117) are of interest,

117. Mixed Franking.



since the issue was not demonetized until two-and-a-half years after the introduction of the new one.

The issue we have been dealing with is called by collectors, "Kralj Petar Gologlav." (King Peter Bareheaded)

The 1911 Issue—"King Peter with Cap"

The design for this issue was prepared by Miodrag Markovich, a lithographer employed by General Staff of the Army. The die for it was cut in wood by Peter Anicich, an employee of the State Printing Works. The work, modeled after a photograph of Peter, was crude and simple. The ear is particularly conspicuous in the design.

The cliches were prepared by the State Printing Works and the stamps were printed there by typography on medium thick chalk surfaced paper. They were printed in two panes in sheets of 100, 5 rows by 10, and were divided by a horizontal gutter the height of a stamp. The space between the stamps is $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm horizontally and $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm vertically. The side margins of the sheets from the first printing are blank. There are 12 thin vertical lines at the sides in the later printings. They were comb perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ horizontally through the margins. (Fig. 118)

The design measures $19\frac{3}{4}$ mm by $25\frac{1}{2}$ mm and shows the king in left profile. The background is made up of horizontal lines and the value, in a white square, is in the top left corner. The word, "Para" or "Din," is in the top right corner. An inscription reading, "Srpska Kralj. Posta," in two lines is set between the two squares. The entire design is contained within a double frame.

118. *Strip of the 3 Din. Yellow.*



The 5, 10 and 25 para were the first values to be issued. The date was June 11, 1911. They were followed by the 1 para in August, the 2 para in September, the 15 para in October and the 20 para in November. The 30 and 50 para and the 1, 3 and 5 dinar values were issued December 26th.

The colors were: 1 para, olive black; 2 para, deep violet (first printing) and black violet (second printing); 5 para, yellow green; 10 para, red carmine; 15 para, purple; 20 para, yellow; 25 para, blue; 30 para, blue green; 50 para, grey brown; 1 dinar, red orange; 3 dinar, lake; and 5 dinar, violet.

About ten copies of the 2 para have been recorded in greyish brown, unused. Until recently it was not possible to classify this stamp. Now, a used copy has been found, consequently the stamp has to be listed as a color error.

The 3 dinar in the color of the 2 para (black violet) is a different story. As can be seen from the strip of three in Fig. 119, the 3 dinar stamp is between two 2 para stamps. Since only one copy of this error has ever been recorded, we must assume that the incorrectly inserted cliché was quickly discovered and the mistake rectified.

The only constant plate flaw is a deformed figure "1" on the 1 dinar stamp. Caused by a damaged cliché, it appears only once in each sheet of a hundred.

10,000 copies of each of the dinar values were printed. The quantities printed of the other values are not known.

Although the lower values were printed several times, there are no noticeable differences, except for the 5 para and the 2 para stamp mentioned earlier.

119. Three Dinar Error of Colour.



Excellent forgeries of the high values, printed from the original cliches, were found after World War II. Privately printed copies of the other values, also from the original cliches, have appeared both perforate and imperforate in different colors.

Imperforate stamps from the original printing, but without gum, are from unfinished sheets which fell into enemy hands during World War I.

Genuine stamps from the first vertical row often have a double perforation on the left side.

The 1914 Issue—"King Peter with Cap"

Around the end of 1913, an overzealous employee at State Control reported the existence of forgeries of the 20 para stamp. Several copies of such stamps, used, were submitted to officials of the Stamp Printing Works for examination. The minister in charge, without waiting for the result of the investigation, ordered the demonetization of the issue, as of January 28, 1914. He further ordered the printing of a new issue in all values from the 5 para up. The old cliches and new colors were to be used.

The stamps were printed as soon as the new inks, which had to be ordered out of the country, arrived. A guarantee from the supplier went with them that they would be sold to no one else. The same paper as before was used. The new colors were: 5 para, yellow green; 10 para, vermillion; 15 para, slate black; 20 para, brown; 25 para, deep blue; 30 para, olive green; 50 para, red brown; 1 dinar, slate green; 3 dinar, yellow; and 5 dinar, blue violet. The colors least changed, in comparison to the first issue, were those of the 5 and 25 para and the 5 dinar values. The perforation, layout of the sheet and thin control lines at the side margins remained the same as in the first printing.

The 3 and 5 dinar values were delayed and they were not issued until June 1, (13) 1914, a scant few weeks before the start of World War I. The cause of the delay was the poor color of the 3 dinar stamp, which was rejected. A new ink had to be supplied.

40,000 copies of each stamp was supposed to be printed and there were that many produced of the 5 dinar. The full quantity of the 3 dinar stamp was never achieved due to the outbreak of the war and the removal of the State Printing Works from Belgrade to Nish.

Only 7,000 copies were completed, a great part of which was destroyed.

The destruction came about in 1915 at Prizren. The Serbian government, threatened by the rapidly advancing Austro-Hungarian Army, ordered all postage to be burned and fled the town in panic. As soon as they were gone the local Moslem population extinguished the flames and salvaged some of the stamps. An alert soldier in the Austrian Army, a stamp dealer in civilian life, heard about the rescued stamps and bought them.

Supposedly, 6,500 3 dinar yellow stamps were in the lot. Unfortunately, they were destroyed by another kind of fire in France several years later. Pairs or multiples of this stamp are very rare.

But, back to 1914 and the investigation into the forged 20 para stamps, it was a false alarm. The original 20 paras were good and the 1914 issue entirely unnecessary, a waste of time and money.

According to Derocco, the 15 para stamp exists in the vermillion shade of the 10 para, an error of color. The stamp is listed as such in several catalogs. Mr. Ostojic is the only one after World War II to have seen such a stamp in a collection. No one has seen the stamp used, nor in a pair with the 10 para vermillion, nor in a large block. This raises some doubt as to whether the stamp was printed in vermillion by the State Printing Works, or by private persons from the original clichés.

Covers with stamps of the 1914 issue are rather scarce. The 3 dinar, used, is particularly scarce on cover and is a great rarity. I have seen only one cover with a pair of these stamps, and of that pair, the left stamp was damaged. They are on a large registered envelope, mailed from Kragujevatz to Geneva by the Postal Section of the Ministry of Construction. Kragujevatz was the seat of government in 1915. There is a Bologna transit mark on the reverse. The 1 and 5 dinar stamps are occasionally found on money orders and parcel post receipts.

The constant plate flaw of the 1 dinar was repeated in this issue.

Proofs of both issues exist on yellowish paper, imperforate. Horizontally or vertically imperforate examples exist of all values. Those without gum, like the ones mentioned previously, probably come from unfinished sheets which fell into enemy hands.

The 10 para stamp is known bisected on piece together with a 20 para stamp (to make a 25 para rate) cancelled, "Saraorci 28.10.12." Tête bêche pairs of the 5 para stamps may also be found.

Derocco reports an essay with the Coat of Arms on the left side below the value. It was apparently rejected. He also reports a forgery of the 3 dinar yellow, made from the original cliché of another value by replacing the figure "3" and the word "Para" with "Din." This forgery can be recognized by the figure "3." The upper half is wider than the original and the letter "D" in "Din" is blunt at top left. The forgeries are line perforated 11½.

Mr. Velickovic reports from Belgrade some excellent forgeries of all the dinar values of both issues. They turned up in 1967, imported from Paris. It is obvious that they were printed from the original clichés which still exist somewhere in private hands.

Derocco reports some proofs prepared by a printer from Prague and submitted to the government in an effort to get a stamp printing contract. They can be recognized by the frame lines around the little squares containing the value. They are broken in the originals and continuous in the proofs.

The 1 and 2 para stamps of the 1911 issue and all the values of the 1914 issue were in use until the end of October 1915 when the entire country was occupied by the enemy.

Small quantities of these stamps were found at various post offices in 1918 after the liberation of the country. They were sold at public auction in May 1930 in the following quantities: 8,243 of the 1 para, 3,160 of the 2 para, 19,256 of the 5 para, 16,399 of the 10 para, 4,013 of the 15 para, 3,224 of the 20 para, 7,014 of the 30 para, 3,993 of the 50 para and 521 of the 1 dinar.

Considerable quantities fell into enemy hands and found their way into the market after the war.

The Newspaper Stamps of 1911

Special stamps, exclusively for franking newspapers, were issued on December 1, 1911. They are the only Serbian stamps not issued for postal use and it is difficult to find a similar example among the issues of other countries.

It is well-known that Serbia did not issue semi-postals or any stamps for non-postal purposes. It is for this reason that these stamps have a special interest in philatelic circles.

The issue was announced in the November 24, 1911, issue of, "Sluzbene Novine." It read:

By the decree of the Minister of Construction, P.T. No. 13506, dated October 7, 1911 A.D., in accordance with the law concerning postage stamps for letters and newspapers and Par. 11 of the General Convention, it has been decided that stamps to frank newspapers for Serbia and abroad will be issued on December 1, 1911.

There will be 11 values of these stamps to frank newspapers: 1 para, pale grey; 5 para, green; 10 para, yellow orange; 15 para, violet; 20 para, yellow; 25 para, blue; 30 para, slate; 50 para, strawberry; 1 dinar, yellow green; 3 dinar, red; and 5 dinar, blue-violet. A picture of a woman will be on all values. The upper part will be inscribed, "Srbija," the lower part will contain the value: "1 para 1," "5 para 5," "10 para 10," etc.

Every stamp will be overprinted in black with the State Coat of Arms.

These stamps and the regular stamps will serve to frank newspapers at the option of the public.

P.T. No. 37272. The Post & Telegraph Section of the Ministry of Construction. November 20, 1911, Belgrade.

Although the issue, according to the official announcement, consisted of 11 values, only those from 1 to 25 para could be obtained at the main post office in Belgrade and at the Stamp Depot of the Post & Telegraph Section. The other values were not sold to the public, nor were they intended to be sold at the post office.

The story behind these stamps (actually seals issued by the Union of Serbian Journalists to raise funds) for franking newspapers is an interesting one.

Originally the seals were issued on Whitsun, 1908, at a fair held at Ada Ciganlija where a branch of the Belgrade post office was in operation. Since their purpose was fund raising, they were sold with the hope that not only union members but the public and, especially, philatelists would use them on cards and letters. Of course, they had no official status and could only be used in addition to the regular postage.

They were not a success. The festivities at Ada Ciganlija lasted three days, but very few of the seals were sold. The stamp collectors, on whom the organizers counted on to purchase them in large quantities, showed little interest. In their eyes the seals were just that and had no philatelic interest. The union was left with a large amount of remainders.

The union leaders tried to salvage the deal by getting some

philatelic recognition for them. After several unsuccessful attempts they got the Minister of Construction, in consideration of their charitable purpose, to give the seals the official status of postage stamps. A special agreement between the Ministry, the union and the Post & Telegraph Section allowed the unsold remainders to be overprinted with the State Coat of Arms, making them legal for use as postage for newspapers. A provision of the agreement stated that only some of the seals were to pass through the post. The rest were returned to the union for sale.

The seals had the same values—from 1 para to 5 dinar—as regular stamps. The lower values—1 to 25 para—were sold at the fair for 5 para each, the 30 to 5 dinar values at 20 para each. The post office cancelled them with a special round postmark that contained the date and the inscription, "Trojicki Sabor-Beograd Ada."

They were printed for the union by the State Printing Works. The order called for 250 sheets of the 1, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 para values and 50 sheets each of the 30 and 50 para and the 1, 3 and 5 dinar values. The order was placed on the assumption that each sheet would contain 100 seals. Due to a misunderstanding, there were only 50 seals to a sheet. At the insistence of the union, a second printing was prepared.

The seals are a little smaller than the regular postage stamps then in use. The design measures 17 mm by 21 mm, is very simple and crude. It depicts a seated woman clad in a robe. She holds a sword in her right hand and a shield in her left. The letters, "S.N.U." the initials of the "Union of Serbian Journalists," are inscribed within it. The word "Srbija" is in the top right corner. At the bottom, in a small rectangle, are the figures of value in white on a colored background. Some of the seals had a similar rectangle at the top with the inscription, "Trojicki Sabor," also in white. Seals with that inscription are larger than the others and measure 17 mm by 25 mm.

The seals were printed by typography in sheets of 50 in 5 rows of 10. They were perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. The clichés consisted of two or three parts. The main cliché, containing the design of the stamp, was prepared from a master die cut in wood. It served for the printing of all values. The lower "value" cliché, used for each of the 11 values, had to be exchanged whenever another value was printed. In addition to this there was another cliché above the second half of the first row (Nos. 6–10 in the sheet) that contained



NS.12.



NS.13.

the inscription, "Troj. Sabor." (Fig. NS 12) The first five seals of the first row (Nos. 1-5 in the sheet) had a corresponding blank white space. (Fig. NS 13)

Because of the two printings, nearly all the values show differences in color. The greatest difference is found in the 10 para seals which are either deep red orange or pale brick red. The 20 para is found in deep or pale yellow. There is also a noticeable difference in the 1 and 5 para values in the shades of grey and green.

All the values were printed on an inexpensive mesh type paper. The 1, 5, 15, 20 and 25 para exist also on another kind of paper which is smoother.

It has not been possible to establish which stamps belong to which printing. Some errors occurred during the printing because of negligence in assembling the plates. The 1 para value in pale grey, has the value numeral upside down on the first stamp in the last row (the 41st). (Fig. NS 14) This error does not appear in the darker grey printing. An error also occurred in the printing of the 10 para deep orange. Again at the 41st stamp. There, instead of "10 Para 10," "1 Para 1" has been inserted. (Fig. NS 15) This error does not exist in the pale brick red shade. The seventh stamp in the third row (the 27th) in the 20 para deep yellow sheets was printed as "50 Para 50" instead of "20 Para 20." The error does not occur in the pale yellow shade. Whether the errors occurred in the first printing and were later corrected is not known.



NS.14.



NS.15.

The overprinting of these stamps was done at the State Printing Works by typography in sheets of 50. A small shield in black was imprinted on each stamp below the word "Srbija." Incomplete sheets and single pieces were destroyed with the waste. The upper margin, bearing the inscription "Troj. Sabor" above the 6th to 10th stamp, was removed by separating after perforation. It was not possible, however, to remove it completely and visible traces of the inscription remained at the upper perforations of the last five stamps of the first row.

The errors in the sheets of the 1 and 10 para stamps were removed and discarded as waste. A few of these errors remained in some sheets. This is especially true in the case of the "50 Para" error in the "20 Para" sheets. Due to the pale yellow color, they went unnoticed and were sold at the post office as 20 para stamps. The error was later discovered by a collector. In all, 2000 copies were found.

At that time, while the stamps were still on sale, Derocco learned from the President of the union that a few sheets containing errors remained of the 1 and 10 para values. He never actually saw them, however. One stamp from the 10 para sheet with an error—"1 Para"



NS.16.



NS.17.

—showed up during the enemy occupation. He saw the 1 para stamps with inverted values for the first time after World War I.

There were several so-called flaws in the plate for these stamps. One constant flaw found on the 5 para stamp is a small white circle with a green dot in the middle. Found in the value tablet, it is known as the "Sun." (Fig. NS 16) Another flaw in the top left corner looks like a flag. (Fig. NS 17) The 50th stamp of the sheet, it was apparently noticed quickly. Very few have ever been recorded.

The colors of the "Newspaper Stamps" did not always correspond to those in the official announcement. The 10 para is pale brick red or deep orange; the 15 para, mauve; the 30 para, black green; the 50 para, deep violet; the 1 dinar, olive yellow and the 5 dinar, black violet. The colors of the other values are as described: 1 para, grey; 5 para, green; 20 para, yellow; and 3 dinar, red.

According to Derocco, the overprinted stamps were delivered to the postal depot after deducting the copies sent to the U.P.U. in Berne. The depot received: 24,386 1 para stamps, 24,375 5 para stamps, 24,325 10 para stamps, 24,450 15 para stamps, 24,625 20 para stamps (together with the 50 para errors), 24,750 25 para stamps, 4,575 30 para stamps, 5,251 50 para stamps, 4,322 1 dinar stamps, 4,700 3 dinar stamps and 4,875 5 dinar stamps.

1,000 copies of each value was given to the Postal Museum. The Journalist's Union, in accordance with their agreement, received 2,000 copies of each value. The entire sheets of these stamps were cancelled by the main post office at Belgrade.

2,500 copies of the lower values—up to the 25 para—were put aside for the Union together with the entire amount of 30 and 50

para and 1, 3 and 5 dinar stamps. These were placed at the disposal of the Union after they were demonetized as were the remainders of the lower values which had not been sold by the postal depot.

As stated earlier, only stamps of 1 to 25 para were sold at the post office, while the entire quantity of 30 para to 5 dinar values were kept by the Union. In fact, these higher value stamps were never put on sale anywhere, although officially they were listed as valid for franking newspapers. Further, the 1 to 25 para stamps could only be bought at the main post office and postal depot in complete sets. Individual copies only became available later, after some of the stamps that had been printed in smaller quantities were sold out.

The Union realizing that it would be difficult to sell the high values to collectors, since they would not recognize the stamps as valid unless they were sold at the post office, made arrangements to do so. They got the Postal Administration to place 25 copies of each of these values in the Postal Depot where they were put on sale. Some of these copies were used to frank newspapers sent to prominent stamp dealers abroad as a method of advertising them. Thus, a small number of the 30 para to 5 dinar stamps were used for philatelic franking above the required rate. The foreign rate at that time was 5 para for every 50 grams plus 20 para for registration. The higher values, as can be seen, were certainly not needed to frank newspapers.

On November 16, 1912, nearly a year after the stamps were issued, "Srpske Novine," announced that by the decree of November 8th, P.T. No. 39,801, the 1 para to 5 dinar newspaper stamps for use in Serbia and abroad would be demonetized. The public was given 90 days from the appearance of the announcement to exchange them at any Post & Telegraph Station in Serbia for regular postage.

The stamps had been completely sold out long before and, according to Derocco, the total sales were: 18,886 1 para stamps; 18,875 5 para stamps, 18,825 10 para stamps, 18,950 15 para stamps, 19,125 20 para stamps, 19,250 25 para stamps, and 25 copies each of the 30 and 50 para and the 1, 3 and 5 dinar stamps.

2,500 small sets were turned over to the Union after demonetization by the postal authorities. These were the 1 to 25 para stamps reserved for them. They also got 1,550 30 para stamps, 2,225 50 para stamps, 1,275 1 dinar stamps, 1,673 3 dinar stamps and 1,850 5 dinar stamps, all unused.

Unfortunately, the journalist's fund did not make the profit expected from the stamps. World War I had started and the Union officials were forced to leave Belgrade. A good number of the 1 to 25 para stamps were bought at the post office for speculative purposes. Many were found by enemy soldiers during the occupation. After the war some of the stamps from this issue turned up in short sets. Also, a Belgrade stamp dealer bought a considerable number of all the values from the estate of Naum Dimitrijevic, former president of the union.

A few copies of the 1 and 10 para errors were found among these stamps and some completely unknown varieties. There were pairs and blocks with the imprint inverted, together with stamps that had a normal overprint. There was a whole sheet of the 20 para with inverted overprints, plus 1 and 30 para stamps in pairs, vertically imperforate between. Most curious, were stamps from the first row of the sheets with the "Trojicki Sabor" inscription. These exist in all values in complete sets. It is apparent from this dealer's price list, that 65 complete sets with that inscription existed.

It has been established in the last thirty years, that one entire sheet of 50 of the 15 para exists horizontally imperforate between. Only the upper and lower horizontal rows are perforate. This sheet was obliterated by the Belgrade post office with favor cancellations (14.XII.1911). The 5 dinar stamps have been found vertically imperforate in pairs, as has a block of the 25 para imperforate between horizontally. Double prints of the shield have been recorded on 1, 5, 10, 25 and 30 para stamps. Inverted overprints exist on all values.

Probably six copies of the 1 para error in the 10 para color exist. About the same number are known of the stamps with the "flag" plate flaw. These two are, no doubt, the star items of this issue. Stamps without overprint from the first row with "Troj. Sabor" are particularly rare in the higher values. The normal set without overprint has more value than with the overprint.

Wrappers that went through the post office are extremely rare. One used by Derocco when mailing a registered copy of the November 23, 1911 issue of the newspaper, "Politika," is shown in Fig. NS 18. It contained the announcement of this issue and is addressed to Gebruder Senf, editors of the German stamp catalog, in what was probably an attempt to prove the official character of these stamps.



NS.18.

The Commemorative Issue of 1915

This design is known as, "King Peter in the Battlefield," from the inscription found at the bottom of the stamp—"Kralj Petar na bojistu 1914." The stamp commemorates the victory of October 1914 when the Austrians under Field Marshal Potiorek, suffered a devastating defeat.

The stamp was made from a photograph of Peter observing the battle of Garevica (district of Kolubara). It was taken by a war photographer, V. Cernov. The king is shown sitting on a stone behind the trenches with three officers standing beside him. Crown Prince George, holding a map, is in the center. S. Stepanovic, Commander of the Army, holding binoculars, is on the right and the king's Aide-de-Camp, Lieutenant Colonel Knezevic, is on the left.

The stamp is rectangular and measures $35\frac{1}{2}$ mm by $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The numeral of value and the letter "P" is in the top left corner and the word "Srbija" is in the top right corner. At the bottom right corner we find the inscription, "Kralj Petar na bojistu 1914." The entire area of the stamp is filled by the picture and framed by a thin line.

Originally, the stamp was to be produced by Bradbury, Wilkinson of London and an essay engraved in copper was prepared by them. It differs from the issued stamp in that the letter "P" after the numeral of value is missing. The numerals also have heavier shading.

After due consideration, however, the design was submitted to a Serbian engraver by the Ministry of Construction at Nish, which in 1914 was the seat of government.

It was planned to issue only a small quantity of these stamps, since production costs were high. Other factors that influenced the decision to have the stamp printed at home, was the shortage of time and the slowness of communications.

Meanwhile, the Government Printing Works had been moved from Belgrade and had no facilities to produce the cliches and no expert engraver. It was decided, therefore, to have the die and the cliches made in Paris.

Although M. Daussy turned the engraving out quickly, poor communications and inferior printing facilities at Nish delayed the actual production of the stamps until early in October 1915.

An announcement in the official gazette stated that the stamps would be issued on October 15, 1915, but shortly after that date the Government was forced to leave Nish along with the retreating Serbian Army, hard pressed by concerted attacks of Austrian, German and Bulgarian troops.

The master die was engraved in steel. The cliches and essays were prepared in Paris. Color proofs with value, on cardboard, were also made there. Some of them are signed by Daussy. Black proofs of the 5 and 20 para have been recorded. They are on white cardboard in sheets of three different sizes.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100, ten by ten, with large sheet margins. They contained 15 thin control lines on both sides. The space between the stamps was $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm horizontally and 3 mm vertically. The chalky paper was medium thick and the stamps were line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. These perforations were sometimes shifted. In one case through this shifting, the inscription, "Kralj Petar na bojistu," is found at the top of a 10 para stamp.

The set consisted of 7 values: 5 para, yellow green (rarely olive green); 10 para, vermillion; 15 para, greyish black; 20 para, brown; 25 para, blue; 30 para, dark olive green; and 50 para, red brown.

Through an error caused by the insertion of a 15 para cliche at the position 33 of the 25 para sheet the 15 para is known in the 25 para color, blue. (Fig. 120) The error, also known imperforate in a block of nine, was not discovered until long after the printing.

Most post offices never received this issue because of the government's inability to deliver it. The war was going badly for Serbia



120. *The 15 Para Error.*

and enemy forces were rapidly moving into the country. Derocco was able to establish that the post offices at G. Milanovac, Ribarska Banja, Podujevo and Kriva Palanka, received supplies of the 5 and 10 para stamps. Other offices may have received them.

As the Serbian Army retreated, the supply depot for postage stamps was moved from Krussevac to Pristina where, with the exception of the 15 and 25 para stamps, all other values were on sale. A lot of the stamps were used by the local population for small change which was very scarce.

Things got worse and the supply depot was moved again, this time to Prizren. All values were on sale there. Shortly, the depot was moved to Pec, the last stop before Albania. There, the fleeing authorities ordered the total stock of postage stamps to be destroyed. Most of it was burned, but the hasty orders were not thorough and some of the stamps were saved by the townspeople who sold them to enemy soldiers. It was in this manner that some of them came upon the market.

At Nish the clichés and a number of unfinished sheets fell into enemy hands, which is how the color proofs on medium thick paper came to be prepared in Germany.

Only the 5 and 10 para stamps of this issue were used and, on



121.

cards and letters, they are very rare. Those postmarked "Obrenovac," were canceled later for philatelic purposes. A postcard with a 5 para stamp canceled at "Tirana" on December 5, 1915, has been recorded. (Fig. 121)

The issue was demonetized in November 1915, when the country was evacuated.

The Last Issue of Serbian Postage Stamps—1918

The Serbian government in exile at Corfu had no postage stamps available. However, a post office was established there to handle all Serbian mail through an agreement with the French postal authorities. Government mail, mostly to and from Military Departments at Salonika and other places in Greece and to diplomatic representatives in allied and neutral countries, did not require stamps.

The Serbian post office used French stamps for private mail. They were canceled with Serbian postmarks and occasionally with an additional, "POSTES SERBES," across the stamps.

Anticipating the liberation of the country Serbian officials, through their legation in Paris, ordered a new issue to be produced in France. The French government lent their assistance. This issue,

called the "Corfu," issue, appeared in September 1918 while the Serbian seat of government was still on that Greek island.

Not much was known about the preparation of these stamps. In fact, it was not until 1959 that the mystery was solved. Dr. Sava Petkovic, a prominent Serbian philatelist visiting in Paris, met the widow of Nikola Jeremic, the artist. She possessed papers and documents from the Serbian Legation which definitely established that her late husband had been entrusted with the design and engraving of this issue. They showed that Jeremic had worked on the design for about a year and Mrs. Jeremic had a large engraved essay of this stamp on a rectangle of white cardboard. It was without value, blue-black and measured 39 mm by 44 mm. She also had an engraved essay of the postage due stamp. It too, was without value, was red brown and measured 160 mm by 225 mm. It was on a rectangle of white cardboard. Since then, further essays without value, in actual size, have been discovered in light blue and red brown. They are on white cardboard. (Fig. 122)

Proofs in blue of the 1, 2, 5, 10, 15, 25 and 30 para stamps in strips of five, have also been recorded. They are dated March 17, 1917, and are signed by Vel. M. Stojanovich of the Serbian State Monopoly.

The essays and proofs were prepared by a private printing firm, but the actual printing of the stamps was done at the *Atelier de Timbres Postes* (French State Printing Works). This can be proved by the perforated rosettes in the margins. These can be found only on sheets printed at the *Atelier*.

122.



The clichés, for some reason, were kept by Jeremic until April 1919, when they were delivered to the Atelier to be shipped to Belgrade for later printings. Jeremic, incidentally, was not an accomplished engraver and he did the work on this stamp with the assistance of Paré, the French engraver.

The design was rectangular and measured 20 mm by 25 mm. It depicted the heads of King Peter and the Regent Alexander. Both faced left and are enclosed in an octagonal frame. Above is the Royal Crown and, at the sides, bay leaves. Below, is the white double-headed eagle of the Serbian Coat of Arms. A white ribbon at the bottom is inscribed, "Kraljevina Srbija," (Kingdom of Serbia). Value shields in the upper corners complete the design.

The stamps were printed on white medium mesh paper by typography in sheets of 100. The sheets were divided into four panes of 25 stamps in 5 rows by 5. Only the 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30 and 50 para values were printed in this manner. The 15 para and the dinar values were printed in sheets of 50 divided vertically into two panes of 25. The distance between the panes is the height or width of one stamp. The space between the stamps is $\frac{3}{4}$ mm vertically and 3 mm horizontally.

The sheets had wide margins and were line perforated 11. The perforated rosettes mentioned before, are in the bottom margins. The gum is grey in contrast to the later printings which used white gum.

The following colors were used: 1 para, black; 2 para, olive brown; 5 para, green; 10 para, red; 15 para, dark brown; 20 para red brown; 25 para, blue; 30 para, olive; 50 para, violet; 1 dinar, chocolate; 3 dinar, bluish green; and 5 dinar, red brown. The colors have few variations, with the exception of the 5 para green which comes in several shades.

The stamps were issued October 1, 1918, (new calendar) and were shipped to the Postal Department of the Military High Command at Salonica. They, in turn, supplied them to the Serbian post office on Corfu. They reached there October 5th. A week earlier, on September 28th, the Postal Department had sent the issue to the U.P.U. in Bern, to the Main Post Office of the High Command, to the Military Posts of the 1st and 2nd Armies and to the post office operating at Bitolj. The Department was also responsible for the supply of stamps sent to post offices in the liberated territories of Serbia and Montenegro. These postal services remained under

military administration until April 1919. They were then turned over to the newly created Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

The stamps were not sold to the public until June 30, 1919, because the supply was extremely short, postal employees put the stamps on the mail themselves. They were first put on sale at Belgrade.

The quantities printed were: 1 para, 725,000; 2 para, 1,460,000; 5 para, 4,080,000; 10 para, 4,100,000; 15 para, 280,000; 20 para, 280,000; 25 para, 700,000; 50 para, 720,000; 1 din, 44,000, 3 din, 45,000 and 5 din, 43,000. (Fig. 123)

The first "Paris" printing has no constant plate flaws of any importance. Pairs imperforate between vertically or horizontally, are known.

When the supply of 1, 15, 20 para and 1 dinar stamps ran short, a new printing was carried out with the cliches received from Paris. It is known as the "First Belgrade Printing," and was done at the new State Printing Works for Stamps. In fact, all issues were printed there after that time.

123. *Paris Printing.*



The Printing Works had difficulty in obtaining a proper supply of ink and had to change the colors of the stamps as follows: the 1 para was changed to greyish green, the 15 to dull brown, the 20 to violet and the 1 dinar to yellow brown. The paper used was thicker, the gum was white and the $11\frac{1}{2}$ line perforation, very rough. The sheets were small, 50 stamps in five rows of ten. They had a gutter measuring $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm vertically and 4 mm horizontally. The sheets had large margins and the para values had horizontal control lines 3 mm wide in the upper and lower margins. They consisted of two thick lines and one thin line. (Fig. 124) The 1 dinar value had no control lines.

The 1 para value had a constant plate flaw on the 15th stamp of the sheet, a white crooked line below King Peter's head. (Fig. 125) The 17th stamp was retouched below Peter's chin.

Every 50th stamp in the 1 dinar sheet had a flaw in the left corner value. The cyrillic "ДИН" in "Din" is ДИУ. This flaw was discovered and the cliché was replaced before the second Belgrade printing.

The quantities produced in the first Belgrade printing were: 60,000 of the 1 para, 53,000 of the 15 para, 117,000 of the 20 para and 65,000 of the 1 dinar.

The amount was not adequate and further printings were necessary. These printings are known as the "Second Belgrade Printing of the Corfu Issue." Several values had to be printed many times and they can be recognized by the various control lines or by the difference in paper and color. The $11\frac{1}{2}$ line perforations of this second printing are either rough or clean and sharp. Occasionally the sheets have both types of perforations, resulting in stamps with a combination of clean and rough perfs.

The 1 and 2 para stamps were printed on very thin pelure paper. The 1 para was black, the 2 para, yellow brown. The 1 para had 12 thin control lines 4 mm wide in both side margins. The 2 para stamp had the same border lines in this printing. Later printings, however, had two 2 mm thick control lines on the left and 12 thin lines 4 mm wide on the right.

The third printing has the 12 control lines at the left and at the lower right. The upper right contains a border line made up of three thick and two thinner lines.

The 5 and 1 para stamps were printed on thick white or smooth yellowish paper. The 5 para is either yellow green or pale green. A small quantity were perforated $9\frac{1}{2}$.



124.

125. First stamp has Flaw, the third shows Retouch.





126. *Second Belgrade Printing.*

Both stamps were printed several times. The borders on the early printings of the 5 para are the same as those of the 1 para. (Fig. 126) Later printings have two lines 1 mm thick on the upper part of the left margin, on the lower part and on the right margin as on the 1 para stamp with 12 thin lines 4 mm wide.

The upper part of the left margin and the right margin of the 10 para stamp is similar to that of the 1 para stamp. (Fig. 127) The lower left margin consists of one thick line.

127. *Second Belgrade Printing.*



The 15 para stamp was first printed on thick white paper and, later, on thin porous paper, which gave the printing an oily impression. The color in all three printings was black brown. Each printing can be distinguished by the control lines. The stamp on thin paper had single lines on both sides 4 mm thick.

The 20 para stamps were printed on both thick and thin porous paper in red brown. The control lines on all 20 para printings were the same as the 1 para.

The 25 para stamps were also printed on the same paper as that used for the 15 and 20 para values. It comes in two shades of blue. This value was reprinted four times with three different types of border lines. One type had 3 bars of one thick and one thin line each.

The 30 para stamps and the 50 para were printed only on normal thick paper. Each was printed twice. The first printings of both stamps had the same control lines as the 1 para stamp. The 30 para was olive and the 50 para, violet.

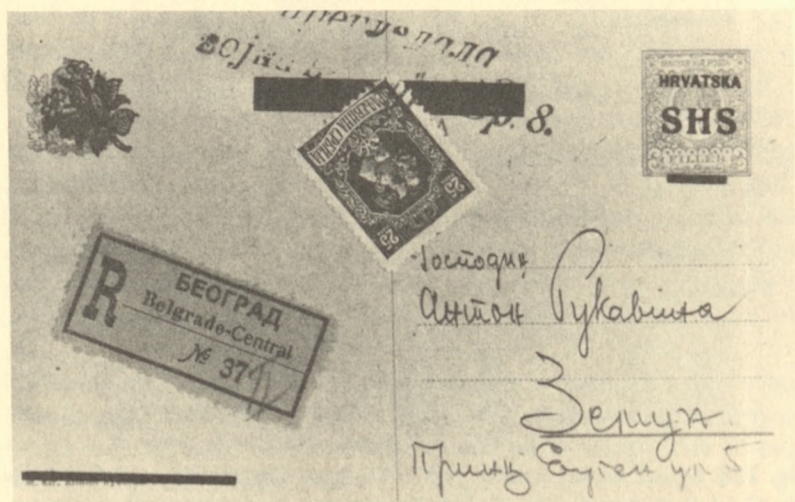
The 1 dinar, chocolate, was printed on normal white and smooth yellow paper. The control lines on this and the 3 dinar stamp are the same as the 1 para.

The 3 dinar blue green was printed only once and on normal white paper. The 5 dinar red brown was also printed only once, but on smooth yellowish paper. They are known only with rough perforations in used condition. However, when the remainders were sold clean-cut perforations were found. The border line at the left was partly like that of the 1 para plus two 1 mm thick lines. At the right border there was only one $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm thick line.

Some post offices, particularly in the southern part of the country and Obrenovac, used bisected stamps on money orders and receipts when there was a shortage of certain values. The 10, 20, 50 para and 3 dinar of the Paris and 5, 10, 20, 30, 50, and 1 din of the Belgrade printing have all been recorded in this condition. They are rare on entire documents. (Fig. 128)

The issue was valid for use from October 1, 1918, to April 15, 1921, in Serbia and Montenegro. On Corfu they were only good until March 1919.

The first general issue of Yugoslavia was issued on January 16, 1921. After that date Serbian stamps were rarely used on letters. However, the post offices at Leskovac and Prijepolje used the "Disabled Soldier's Fund" issue together with Serbian stamps in February and April of that year.



129. Registered SHS Overprinted Hungarian Postal Stationery.—Censorshipmark Used as Cancellor. (Nov. 1918).



130. Parcelpost Docket.



131. Serbian Parcelpost Docket with first issue of Yugoslavia.

Belgrade printings. They are on the original paper and without gum.

Covers are not plentiful. Those franked with high values and those which are non-philatelic are scarce. Used strips and blocks are hard to find.

Stamps cancelled by the post office on Corfu from the 5th of October 1918 to March 1919 are very rare. Scarce, are manuscript cancellations used by some post offices after the liberation because cancellers were unavailable. (Fig. 132)

132. Manuscript Kratovo.



The stamps of this issue on rare occasions have been used in other regions of Yugoslavia. I have seen a cover, mailed in 1920 from Ljubljana to Vienna, insufficiently franked with 10 para stamps. I have seen another one, sent from Bosanska Dubica to Belgrade, franked with two 15 para stamps and mailed on March 12, 1921. A postcard sent from Zemun to Paris and franked with a 25 para stamp has also been recorded.

The Balkan Wars—1912-13

The liberation of Serbia from Turkish rule and its unification into one sovereign state was the dominant desire and goal of all Serbs.

An important step towards that goal was made by Prince Michael. He succeeded in getting Turkish garrisons removed from Serbian towns and was able to enlarge Serbian territory by the addition of four districts, Nish, Vrania, Toplice and Leskovatz.

It was during Prince Milan's rule that Austria was allowed to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sandjak of Novi Pazar where many loyal Serbs lived.

Had he lived longer, Michael would have had the satisfaction of seeing his country obtain full Suzerainty and international recognition at The Congress of Berlin in 1878.

The Congress made it plain to the Serbs that unification with Bosnia and Herzegovina lay in the future. Most European countries, particularly Austria and England, did not want Russia to gain a strong foothold in the Balkans. Occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was a good way to circumvent it.

In 1908, when Austria suddenly declared the annexation of these provinces, the Serbs saw their fading hopes disappear altogether. Their immediate goal, therefore, was the liberation of those people still living under Turkish rule. Such a liberation could only be accomplished with the cooperation of the three remaining Balkan states which also had nationals in the same position.

The Italian attack on Tripolitania (Libya) in 1911 was the cat-

alist that precipitated matters. It disclosed how badly the Turkish Empire had crumbled.

Serbia and Bulgaria wasted no time. A secret treaty between them was consummated February 29, 1912. Soon afterwards, they were joined by Greece and Montenegro.

Serbia was prepared for war and her army was well equipped and highly trained. Mobilization began early in September and by the 17th, all four countries were ready to fight. War was declared by Montenegro on September 26th. The other three followed suit on October 4th. The first Balkan war had begun.

The main Turkish Army engaged the Serbian Danube and Drina Divisions on October 10th and 11th in a bitter battle at Kumanovo. It ended in total defeat of the Turks. Skoplje was entered on October 12th and the victorious Serbian Army continued its advance through Albania to reach the Adriatic. A small battle followed at Bitolj early in November and almost the entire territory that Serbia was to win in this war was already won. This, according to the treaty with Bulgaria, included northern Albania, the port of Dratch (Durazzo) and Scutari.

Bulgaria was less successful. Their assault on Adrianople was rapidly turning into defeat when Serbia, obligingly, sent its entire 2nd Army—about 50,000 men and artillery, to her aid. The Turks, in the face of such formidable opposition, were forced to surrender, making it easy for the Greeks to reach Salonica before the Serbians.

At this point Austria and Italy entered a protest. The upshot was the creation of a new country, Albania, an event which Serbia was forced to allow.

International troops were sent to occupy the new country in April 1913 and Serbia had to pull out of Dratch and abandon Scutari. This turn of events caused disagreement between Serbia and Bulgaria and on the night of June 16th, Bulgaria turned on her ally, Serbia, attacking without declaration of war.

Greece joined Serbia, defeating the Bulgarians at the battle of Bregalnica. Taking advantage of Bulgaria's weakened condition, Rumania and Turkey also attacked. Rumania wanted the province of Dobrutcha and the Turks wanted Adrianople.

It was over for Bulgaria. She surrendered unconditionally and through the peace treaty of Bucharest, ratified August 10, 1913, settled all claims of what came to be known as the second Balkan War.

The new Serbian border line now was south of Bitolj. In the south-east, the town of Strumica became Bulgarian. It was returned to Yugoslavia after World War I.

Serbian Military Post Offices During the Balkan Wars

Field post offices began to operate with the advance of the Serbian Armies into Turkish territory. Not all of them had military names.

Many post offices took the names of the towns where they were located. These postmarks had the added inscription, "Vojna Posta." Some took the names of the military units they were attached to. Others were temporary and operated in former Turkish territories which never became part of Serbia. All these postmarks can be put into three groups:

I. Postmarks of Military Units. (Plate IX)

1. Vojna Posta/Vrhovna Komanda, S.C.—29½ mm and date (1912) Fig. 1
2. Vojna Posta/Vrhovna Komanda, but with vertical shading lines
3. Vojna Posta/I. Armija (Fig. 1)
 - " " /II. Armija
 - " " /III. Armija
 - " " /IV. Armija

(2. and 5. were also used in World War I)

II. Postmarks of Towns With the Inscription, "Vojna Posta.

There are 26 towns using circular postmarks on record. They measure 27 mm in diameter, have the date and the last two figures of the year. (Fig. 3) They are: Bitolj, Debar, Djevdjelija, Ferizovic, Giljane, Gostivar, Kacanik, Kavadar, Kicevo, Kocane, Kratovo, Kumanovo, Mitrovica, Nova Varos, Ohrid, Priboj, Prijepolje, Prilip, Prizren, Radoviste, Sjenica. Skoplje, Stip, Tetovo, Veles and Vucitrn.

The postmark of Prilip was a Swiss type with "Vojna Posta" in white letters on a black background. (Fig. 4)

With the exception of the larger towns, these markings are all scarce, particularly on postage stamps.

After the Balkan Wars, some of the towns received the Swiss type postmark mentioned above, but without the words, "Vojna Posta."



1



2



5



6

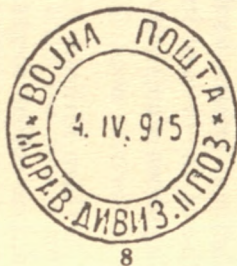
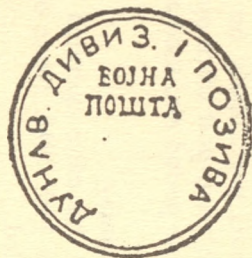


PLATE IX. CONT



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



Fig. W.1. Postcard from Salonica. (Courtesy Mr.F.See)

(Fig. 5) During World War I, and shortly after, some towns began to use postmarks with, "Vojna Posta," if they were available.

III. Postmarks of Serbian Post Offices Abroad.

(A) With the inscription, "Vojna Posta." (Cyrillic and Latin)

1. Drac Vojna/Posta Dratch (1913) A.
2. Djakovica Vojna/Posta Djakovica (1913) A.
3. Elbasan Vojna/Posta Elbasan (1913) A.
4. Ljes Vojna/Posta Lyesh (Dec. 5-31, 1913) A.
5. Plevlje Vojna/Posta Plevlje (1913)

These postmarks are all very rare.

(B) Without the inscription, "Vojna Posta."

1. Solun Srpska Posta—Soloun (March–August, 1913)
This cancel is very rare, particularly on covers or cards. (Fig. W1) A Bulgarian post office operating at Salonica during the same period also used a bilingual postmark.

2. Post office at Bican (Albania)

According to Derocco, this office operated from September 3rd to October 14th 1913. None of its postmarks have been recorded.

3. Post office at Istok (Albania)

According to Derocco, this office operated during the same period as the one at Bican. Only one money order with Swiss type postmark is known.

4. Post office at Djakovica (Montenegro)

This office operated in 1912 and 1913. A money order postmark (Postanska Uputnica-Djakovica) has been recorded.

Issue No. 5 of "The Post & Telegraph" (Vesnik) of 1913, page 51, announced the closing of post offices at Elbasan on April 21st, Ljes and Sv. Jovan Meduanski on April 8th, Kavaja and Siljan on April 6th, Tirana and Kroja on April 5th. It would appear from this announcement, that more post offices were operating than reported by Derocco. (PTT ARHIV 7, page 45)

World War I—1914–1918

The Balkan wars left Serbia with dangerously low medical supplies and practically no heavy ammunition. The Army had suffered considerable casualties and in 1914 many soldiers were still recuperating. The Austrian ultimatum in July of that year made untenable demands which the Serbian government could not accept without the country losing its independence. It was rebuffed and Austria declared war on Serbia starting the chain of events which plunged Europe into World War I.

The invading armies of Austria, under the command of Field Marshal Potiorek, met little resistance that autumn of 1914 and they succeeded in occupying the entire northwestern part of Serbia including the capital, Belgrade. The Serbs counterattacked in November 1914 and, after a battle at Suvobor, drove the enemy out. Belgrade was liberated on December 2nd.

It was a serious defeat for the Austro-Hungarian Empire and intense preparations for a new offensive against the Serbs was begun in 1915. German troops were brought in. Then, through diplomatic maneuvering, Bulgaria was turned against Serbia becoming an ally of the Central Powers.

Bulgaria's about face made it strategically impossible to defend the country and the Serbian Army was forced to withdraw. Their only avenue of retreat was through Montenegro and Albania to the Adriatic Coast. They reached their goal in two months.

Old King Peter, who had abdicated in favor of his son, Alexander, shortly before the war began, made the trip to Albania in a

cart and on foot. He arrived at the port of Lyesh, November 22, 1915. The remainder of the Serbian Army was ferried to the island of Corfu by the French and Italian Navies. By December 30th all of Serbia had been occupied by the enemy.

Recuperated and reequipped at Corfu, the Serbian troops were transferred to the front at Salonica. There, after heavy fighting against German and Bulgarian units, they succeeded in entering Bitolj on November 9, 1916, and occupying part of the territory. The government, however, remained at Corfu until the end of the war.

A Serbian post office operated at Bitolj from the time of its liberation to the end of the war, although postage stamps were not available there until September 26th 1918 when the Corfu Issue was finally delivered. For nearly two years mail was accepted franked with French, Greek and British stamps. They were cancelled by the old Serbian single circle postmark used during the Balkan wars containing Bitolj in cyrillic at the top and in Latin below with the date in the middle. "Vojna Posta" appeared in the segments above and below the date. (Plate IX Fig 3)

The Serbian Army, assisted by French troops, broke through the German and Bulgarian lines on September 15th. They advanced so fast that by September 28th, they had reached the Bulgarian frontier. The very next day the armistice with that country was signed.

The war against Austria and Germany went on and by November 3, 1918, the entire territory, including Belgrade, had been liberated and cleared of enemy troops. Four weeks later, on December 1, 1918, a union with those Yugoslav territories that had been part of Austria, was formed. It was called the "Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes."

Serbian Military Postmarks During World War I

Serbian military postmarks of World War I were used in Serbian territory until the end of December 1915, when the entire country became occupied by the enemy. They were in use at Bitolj after November 19, 1916, until the end of the war and at the Salonica front. They all bear the inscription, "Vojna Posta" (Military Post).

Military post offices were also operating from the end of 1914 to

early 1916. These postmarks do not have the inscription, "Vojna Posta."

I. Military Postmarks Used by Military Units on Serbian Territory According to Derocco, the following postmarks were used:

1. Vojna Posta I Armije (1915) (Plate IX.2) (type 1)
2. Vojna Posta II Armije "
3. Vojna Posta—Konb. Diviz, (1915) "
4. Vojna Posta—Uzicke Vojske (1915) "
5. Vojna Posta—Branic. Odreda (1914) "
3. Vojna Posta—Konb. Diviz. (1915) (type 2)
7. Vojna Posta—Sum. Div. II.P. "
8. Vojna Posta—Drin. Div. I.P. (1915) "
9. Vojna Posta—Drin. Div. II.P. "
10. Vojna Posta—Timoc. Div. I.P. (1915) "
11. Vojna Posta—Timoc. Div. II.P. (1914) "
12. Vojna Posta—Konjic. Divizije (1914) "
13. Vojna Posta—Uzic. Brigade (1915) (Plate IX.7) (type 2)
14. Vojna Posta—Limske Brigade (1915) (Plate IX.14)
double circle. (type 3)
15. Vojna Posta—Morav. Diviz. II. Poz. (1914) (IX.8) (type 4)
16. Vojna Posta—Dunav. Div. II. Poz. (1915) "
17. Dunav. Diviz. I. Poziva—Vojna Posta (1915) (IX.9)
rubber stamp. No date (type 5)
18. Komanda Odbrane Vojna-Posta Beograda (1915)
(IX.10) (Command Defence Beograd-Military Post (type 6)

II. Military Postmarks Used in Albania (1914–16) Derocco, in his handbook, "Die Poststempel von Serbian—1840–1921," published in 1936 by "Die Postmarke" in Vienna, enumerates the following post offices.

- 1a. Tirana / Tirana (1915). (See Fig. 120, page 191)
- b. Post. Uputnica / Tirana (1915). (Money order)
- 2a. Podgradac / Podgradac (1915) Same type as 1a.
- 3a. Elbasan / Elbasan (1915). (Fig. W2)
- b. Elbasan (straight cancel) (1915). (Fig. W3) Not mentioned by Derocco.
- c. Post. Uputnica / Elbasan (money order).
4. Piskopeja. Known to Derocco only as a manuscript cancel.



Fig. W.2.

After the publication of his handbook, Derocco established that the opening of an office at Cukas was announced in the autumn of 1915. However, because of the evacuation of the Army to Corfu, it never came into operation.

I have established the use of the (b) postmark of Elbasan, also that another office was actually operating at Scutari:

5 Skadar—Scutari (January 1916) (Fig. W4)

The postmark used by this office was the same one that saw service during the Balkan wars from April 13th to June 30th 1913, when the town was occupied by Montenegrin troops.

The postcard shown in Fig. W4 was written on December 17, 1915, (old calendar) but was probably delayed for censorship or other reasons. It appears from the content that the sender belonged to the Uzice Unit of the Serbian Army which was stationed there.

Postal history material from Albania is extremely scarce and hardly any of it has been preserved.



Fig. W.3. Registered letter from November 1915 Elbasan to Bucarest returned to sender.

W.4.



III. Military Postmarks Used at the Salonica Front (1916–18)

The Serbian Military Post began operating at Salonica in the second half of 1916 when the first troops arrived from Corfu. The earliest mailing date I have seen is on a post card dated, September 14, 1916, mailed to France. According to Derocco, there were two "rayons" or postal districts operating (Oa & XX), but he obviously had not seen much postal history material of that period. He mentions only 23 postmarks, but at least 40 different ones have been established. Five different types of postmarks were used:

- (1) Double circle with inner circle completely closed. (Fig 11 on Plate IX)
Numbers: 16, 20, 24, 68, 88, 89, 801, 889 and 999.
- (2) Double circle with date not enclosed. (Fig. 12 on Plate IX)
 - (a) Shading lines in segments are vertical.
Numbers: 12, 26, 28, 32, 36, 40, 58, 62, 76, 80, 92, 96, 111, 216, 222, 315, 414, 504, 603, 711, 801, 888, 889, and 999.
 - (b) Shading lines in segments are diagonal.
Numbers: VIII and XVI.
- (3) Double circle with date partly enclosed by inner circle. (Fig. 13 on Plate IX)
Numbers: XX, XVI and Oa.
- (4) Double circle with segments not enclosed. (Fig. 14 on Plate IX)
Numbers: 4 and IV.
- (5) Single circle postmark. (Fig. 15 on Plate IX)
Number: 208.

The rarest of the above postmarks is No. 208.

It is interesting to note that correspondence sent to Serbian troops at the Salonica front was often directed to these sectors. For example, "Secteur No. 999, Salonique."

IV. Military Postmarks Used in Tunisia

During World War I a camp of Serbian students existed near Bizerte in Tunis. They were also privates in the Serbian Army and a military post office, Number 1917, was operated for them.

Nothing, to my knowledge, has ever been written about it. All that I have ever seen relating to this office is a photograph of a post card dated July 1917, (the French, "Correspondence Militaire") without stamp. It was addressed to the Salonica front and had a Serbian Military Censorship Mark—No. 44—together with the

postmarks of post offices No. 803 and 999 on it. All were applied on arrival.

The sender gives his address as "Post. No. 1917, Bizerte, Camp Serbe." I have never seen a postmark bearing such a number, but I understand that it exists on one or two stampless covers.

I have seen a registered cover mailed on September 27, 1918, to Lausanne franked with two 20 and two 5 centime Tunisian stamps cancelled by a single circle canceller with the inscription "Poste Militaire Serbe—Bizerte" and date, also a loose 35c stamp, cancelled with the same postmark on 11.5.18.

Prisoner of War Mail in Serbia—1915

In the autumn of 1914, the Serbian Army took 42,000 enlisted men and 320 officers prisoner. In 1915, after nearly a year in captivity, these prisoners were liberated and all of Serbia was occupied by the enemy. While imprisoned their mail to their families went via the Red Cross. Although they used ordinary 5 para Serbian P/S cards they are of interest because the imprinted stamp, instead of being postmarked, was cancelled by a large double circle inscribed, "Zarobljenicka Komanda—Pregledano—Oficirsko Odelenje." (Prisoners Command—Censored—Officers Department). (Fig. W5)

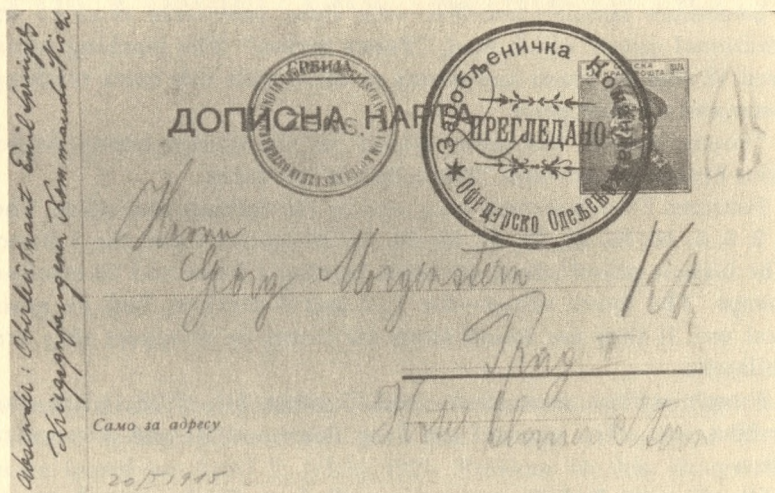
Similar censorship marks serving as cancellers were used for Austrian prisoners of war in the lower ranks.

The Serbian Post Office at Corfu—1916–1919

When Corfu became the seat of the Serbian Government early in 1916, a French post office was operating there using, of course, French stamps. An agreement was made with them by the Serbian Minister of Construction, who controlled the Serbian post office, to handle all official Serbian mail. Such mail did not require stamps. Private mail, however, had to use French stamps which the Serbian Government purchased from the French post office.

The Serbian post office at Corfu used two types of postmarks:

1. Double circle, "Ministarska Postanska Stanica." (Ministerial Postal Station) and date. (Plate IX.16) (Fig. W6)



W.5.



W.6.

2. Double circle, "Postanska Uputnica—Min. Postan. Stanica," and date. (money order postmark)

Sometimes stamps cancelled with these postmarks received an additional cancel which read, "Postes Serbes." The marking measured 42 mm by 4 mm and covers or cards with this extra marking command a higher price.

"Postes Serbes" was never placed on the stamps before usage. Mint French stamps with "Postes Serbes" are fakes.

Fourteen French stamps were used by the Serbian post office: The 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 centimes and the 1 franc. The highest priced covers are those bearing 1 franc and 35 centime stamps. The lower values—the 1, 2 and 3 centime, had no practical use. If they are found alone on covers or wrappers they are philatelic.

French stamps were used until October 5th 1918, when the Serbian post office received the King Peter and Regent Alexander issue.

Covers with Serbian stamps cancelled at Corfu are of much greater value than covers with French stamps. Only a few such covers have been recorded.

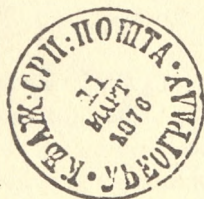
The Postage Due Stamps of Serbia

Shortly after the Austrian Monarchy introduced postage due stamps, Serbia followed suit with due stamps of its own. These were issued on April 1, (13th) 1895. Previous to this, charges for letters with postage due on them were collected in cash on delivery. During the Milan period letters sent abroad, which were insufficiently franked, were stamped with a special handstamp by the Belgrade post office that read, "Affrancatura Insufficiente." Domestic mail received either a due rate handstamp (Fig. 133) or a manuscript note. Only a few post offices had handstamps for postage due.

The official announcement of these stamps appeared in the March 24th, "Srpske Novine," (No. 67). Because of their restricted use, I reproduce the entire text:

"The Minister of National Economy, in accordance with the law

133.



for postage stamps, is issuing a special kind of stamp called, "Postage Due," which will indicate unpaid or insufficient payment of postage on arriving mail. They represent the tax to be paid on this type of mail.

"These postage dues will be issued in 5, 10, 20, 30 and 50 para values and will be introduced on April 1, 1895.

"Due to the fact that the postage dues will serve exclusively to tax unpaid mail, they cannot be used for any other purpose, not even for internal postal use. In the hands of the public they have no value whatsoever. However, their acquisition by private persons for their collections is allowed, but they cannot be used for payment of any postal taxes. (franking)

"The procedure to be used by postal stations from the stated day, will be as follows:

No unpaid or insufficiently paid mail may, in future, be paid for in cash unless provided with corresponding postage dues. Consequently, receivers of mail have the right to decline payment if the item does not have a corresponding postage due stamp."

The stamps are rectangular. They measure overall 20 mm by 24½ mm. The design measures 18½ mm by 21 mm. The double headed eagle and the crown of the State Coat of Arms is in the center. The value tablet is in the middle of the coat of arms. Ornaments with national symbols surround it in rectangular patterns. Above, are the words, "Porto Marka," on a white background. Below, is the value, "5 Para 5," etc. (Fig. 134)

The die was made in Vienna by an unknown engraver from a design by Djoka Milovanovic. The electrolytic clichés were also made in Vienna, but the stamps were printed in Belgrade by typography.

The colors are: 5 para, lilac; 10 para, blue; 20 para, red brown; 30 para, green; and 50 para, rose.

The stamps were printed on granite paper in sheets of 100. Four panes of 25 stamps are divided by a gutter that is 10½ mm vertically and the height of a stamp horizontally. The sheets have narrow perforated margins.

The stamps were comb perforated 13 x 13½, but a quantity of the 5 para were line perforated 11½. They can also be found in pairs horizontally imperforate between.

About ten sheets of the 5 para stamps were printed in rose, the color of the 50 para stamp. They were not issued and any used copy has a favor cancel.



134.

The 20 para was the first to be reprinted. The paper was ordinary white and the stamps line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. The sheet arrangement was the same. By error, an inverted cliché was inserted at the 98th stamp in the sheet resulting in a tête-bêche. (Fig. 135) Pairs have been recorded vertically imperforate between. The 20 para was issued July 20, (August 2nd) 1898.

135. Used Tete-Beche.



The third printing of the 20 para took place in 1902 together with the second printing of the 5 para stamp. Both were issued in 1904. The two values were printed on white paper and line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. The distance between the stamps is 3 mm vertically and $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm horizontally. They are, therefore, slightly larger than those of the previous issues.

The 5, 10 and 20 para stamps had to be reprinted in March 1909. Horizontally laid paper was used and the stamps were line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. They were laid out in two panes of 50 divided by a thin horizontal gutter. The sheets have no margins.

The final reprinting took place in March 1914. The values, on chalky paper, were the 5 and 10 para. The lilac color of the 5 para and the blue of the 10 para were more intense in this printing. The space between each stamp was 3 mm in both directions. They were line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$.

During World War I, small quantities of the first printing of the 30 and 50 para, and of the last printing of the 5, 10 and 20 para, fell into enemy hands together with some other postage stamps.

Some clichés of the 10 para stamps were stolen during the war and proofs from them in a different color have been privately made in Germany. Not long ago such a pair came up at auction in that country.

The Postage Due Stamps of the Corfu Issue

The design for these stamps was prepared by N. Jeremic helped, it is believed, by the engraver, Paré. (Fig. 136)

The design is rectangular—19 mm by 33 mm. Overall, the stamps measure $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm by 35 mm. The State Coat of Arms, in an oval, is in the center. The words, "Porto Marka," in white letters are in the curved space above the arms. Ornaments depicting national symbols are on either side. Below, in both corners, are the numerals of value. Between them, in the center, is the word, "Para," in white on a colored background. Essays are known without the value. A single essay engraved in a larger size is known, plus smaller ones in different colors on white cardboard.

The stamps were printed on the same mesh paper as the other Paris prints. They were typographed and line perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$. The sheets consist of 60 stamps divided into two panes of six



136. *Belgrade Print of Corfu Issue.*

horizontal rows. Each has five stamps divided by a vertical gutter the width of a stamp. The space between the stamps is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm vertically and $1\frac{1}{4}$ horizontally. The sheets have wide margins and the perforations do not go through. The margins contain the perforated rosettes found on other stamps printed at the Paris atelier.

The values produced were: 5 para, red; 10 para, yellow green; 20 para, olive brown; 30 para, blue green; and 50 para, chocolate. All values can be found with unperforated sides. Some pairs, imperforate between, have been recorded.

The 5, 30 and 50 para had to be reprinted about a year after the country was liberated. The reprinting was on different paper and in different colors and perforations. The paper is thicker. The sheets have 50 stamps in five rows of ten. The space between the 5th and 6th stamps of the vertical rows is $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Elsewhere in the sheet it is only 2 mm. The horizontal space is $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The sheets have wide margins with horizontal border lines that are different for each value.

The stamps were issued in September 1919 in the following colors: 5 para, red brown; 30 para, olive slate; and 50 para, yellow brown. The perforation was a rough line $11\frac{1}{2}$.

The quantities printed were: 600,000 of the 5 para and 75,000 each of the 30 and 50 para.

The postage dues of both issues were used from October 1, 1918, after the liberation of the territory that formerly was the kingdoms of Serbia and Montenegro, to November 1921, when the first post-



137.

age dues of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes were released.

Some post offices had quantities of these stamps left and used them up after that date. They were demonetized September 28, 1928. The latest use of these postage due stamps is probably a parcel post receipt on which a strip of three 30 para stamps have been used together with a 10 para postage due of the new Kingdom. It was cancelled at Niksic, Montenegro, in January 1927. (Fig. 137)

Some post offices, including Cacak, Pozarevac, Negotin, Vrnjacka, Banja, Priboj and others, used postage dues instead of regular franking and for supplementary franking. Probably, because of a shortage of stamps. Such items are scarce on entire letters.

There were small remainders of the 5 and 30 para postage dues. They were sold at public auction in June 1930.

Austrian Post Offices in Serbia

The Austrian Post Office at Belgrade (1841–1869)

In 1836, Austria, in agreement with the Turkish government, opened a Consulate General at Belgrade. It was at a time when Serbia was trying to modernize itself along European lines and, as previously mentioned, Austrian and Turkish officials realized the great political and economic benefits to be derived from operating a post office there. Indeed, the trade and external communications of the entire country were at stake.

The Serbian government viewed these plans with great misgiving. Unable to operate their own external postal service because they were a vassal state, they made special efforts to set up an internal postal service. On May 6th 1840, it became available to the Serbian people.

When, on August 1st 1841, Austria opened its Belgrade post office, they protested vigorously to both the Austrian and Turkish governments, but to no avail. As of that date, all incoming mail from Austria and other countries went to the Austrian post office in that city. The Austrians also distributed the local mail, charging the postage due if it was not prepaid. Mail for other cities was given to the Serbian post office in Belgrade for further transmittal.

The Austrian post office also accepted outgoing mail for Austria, Turkey and other European countries. Charges were based on the Austrian postal tariff. Turkey finally stopped the flow of Serbian mail to that country which went through the Austrian post office on July 3rd 1852.

After the first Austrian postage stamps were issued June 1, 1850, Serbian post offices began to accept private mail for Austria, handing it to the Austrian post office for transmission. The Serbian post offices collected the postage to Belgrade and the Austrian authorities collected the additional postage from the recipients. This was not always satisfactory or reliable. If the sender of a letter wanted to be sure it would be delivered safely to a foreign address, he mailed it through a forwarding agent who paid the Austrian postage at the post office at Belgrade.

The Austrians also had a branch agency at Aleksinatz on the Turkish border. There, a Captain of the Austrian Army supervised the arrival and dispatch of mail across the Serbian border. According to the late Edwin Mueller, this office was a relay station on the Vienna-Constantinople courier line and did not accept mail. This station also fumigated all incoming mail from Turkey.

The Austrian post office at Belgrade was first under the direction of the Austrian Offices in Constantinople. It was then run from Vienna until 1854. From 1854 to May 1, 1867, the office was under the postal direction of Temesvar. After that Vienna was in charge until it was closed.

With the introduction of adhesives, the post office began to use Austrian stamps and continued to do so until 1854. Between 1854 and May 1867, during the Temesvar regime, stamps were only used occasionally. Most of the time the postage was paid in cash and marked on the cover in manuscript.

Mueller thought that Austrian stamps were not used because of protest by the Serbian government, but admitted to me during a discussion, that there might have been another reason.

It seems to me that a more logical reason was the fact that the Hungarian postal authorities at Temesvar needed cash and could not make the advance payment that the purchase of stamps from Vienna required without it. It is certainly not a coincidence that when the Hungarians lost control of the post office at Belgrade, it started using postage stamps again. We should also bear in mind that a similar thing occurred in 1868 when the Hungarians were to supply Newspaper Tax stamps for the Croatian-Slavonian Military Border District. The costs and the income accrued by the sale of these stamps were to be divided between the Austrian and Hungarian governments. The printing of this 1868 issue was done at Budapest, but the Hungarians did not, as agreed in the Compromise

Treaty of that year with Croatia and Slavonia, supply these special stamps to the M.B.D. Instead, they supplied Hungarian Newspaper Tax stamps, the proceeds of which belonged to the Hungarian Treasury alone.

The Austrian post office delivered mail received to the Semlin post office twice daily—at 7 A.M. and 1 P.M. Mail from Semlin was also received twice daily—at 11 A.M. and 5 P.M.

Special uniforms were provided for the postmen who delivered mail to Belgrade and Aleksinatz.

The Austrian post office was first located in the Consulate on Karageorge Street at the Save Embankment. In 1859, the post office was moved to the Kolaratz building and remained there until it was closed September 19, (30) 1869.

The Cancellations of the Austrian Post Office at Belgrade

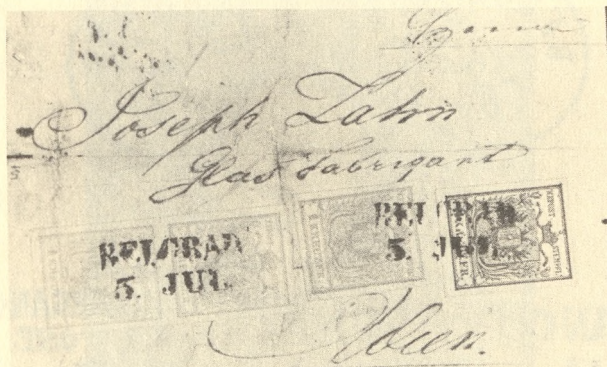
The first postmark of the Austrian post office, in use until 1845, was a straight line "Belgrad" with date (month and day) above. It is very rare. (A.1) Between 1845 and 1859 the same straight line was used, but with the date below the line. (A.2)

**10. DEC.
BEL GRAD**

A.1.

**BELGRAD
28. APR.**

A.2.



A.8. Cover from Belgrade with 3-1 Kr. pelure paper pink coloured stamps and single 6 Kr.

The single circle, type I, was introduced in 1860. Type II was introduced in 1865. The letters of the word "Belgrad" are a little wider and thicker in this type. The letter "A" in type I is pointed at the top. It is blunt in type II. Obviously the Austrian post office had both types of cancellers in use after 1865. As proof, we find the 1867 issue cancelled with both types in about the same proportion. (A.3-A.4)

During the period when no stamps were used, the post office usually imprinted letters with the word, "FRANCO." They also used the marking, "NACH ABGANG DER POST." (A.7)

Rarity

Some of the cancellations of the Austrian post Office are extremely rare, particularly those of the 1858 issue. I have seen only one 15 Kr. stamp of this issue cancelled with S.C. "Belgrad 20.10," and a few newspaper stamps of the same issue cancelled with the straight line and S.C. cancel. I have never seen a 2 Kr. of the 1850 issue, or a 3 Kr. of the 1867 issue cancelled, "Belgrad," and I doubt their existence. These stamps paid the local mail rate and such usage at Belgrade was not possible. Newspapers from Belgrade to Turkey required 3 Kr. postage, but after 1852 Turkey stopped handling this type of mail.



FRANCO
A.5

RECOM.
A.6

NACH ABGANG
DER POST.
A.7.

Edwin Mueller's point valuations are valid for the common values—3, 6 and 9 Kr.—of the first issue, the 5 Kr. of the 1860 and 1864 issues and the 2 and 5 Kr. of the 1867 issue. The same cancellations on other values are extremely rare.

I have never seen a cover with stamps of the 1858 issue. As for the 1860 issue, I know of only two covers, one with a 5 Kr. and another with a 2 and 3 Kr. stamp to make the 5 Kr. rate. I have seen only one cover of the 1864 issue with a 5 Kr. stamp.

Covers are more common after 1867. They are usually franked with 5 Kr. stamps. The 10 Kr. is surprisingly scarce, but not as rare as the 15 Kr. and 25 Kr. stamps. I have only seen one cover with a 25 Kr. stamp. It was addressed to Constantinople.

The blue Mercury newspaper stamps are not exceedingly rare. The later newspaper stamps—1858–1864—are all scarce. (A.9)

Newspapers sent from Serbia to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy required a 2 Kr. stamp and a fair number of these publications have been recorded. All have, beside the 2 Kr. stamp, a 2 Kr. newspaper tax stamp. These were Austrian until 1868, and later, Hungarian.

A.9. S.C. Belgrad on Austrian newspaper stamp of 1858.



The Postal Convention between Serbia and the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy

After a quarter of a century of protest, Serbia's efforts to close the Austrian post office met with success. A postal treaty between Serbia and Austria-Hungary was worked out. It was signed by both governments in Budapest December 2, 1868. Until that time the only agreement Serbia had with the Monarchy concerned telegraphic communication.

Six years before, on July 16, 1862, Serbia had concluded a postal treaty with the Principality of Moldavia. She also had some postal agreements with the Turkish Director of Posts. These were not on a diplomatic level, since Turkey considered Serbia a vassal state.

The delegate who represented Serbia at Budapest was Mladen Z. Radojkovich, who also acted in this capacity at the Universal Postal Union Congress, held in Berne in 1875.

According to the Budapest agreement, Serbia could handle foreign mail on and after June 19, (July 1) 1869. However, due to delays in ratification, the date was changed to September 18th (30th). The Austrian Consular Post Office and its branch at Aleksinatz closed that same day. Derocco incorrectly states that the June 19th date was the valid one for Serbia to begin handling foreign mail.

The announcement, which appeared in No. 115 of "*Srpske Novine*," on September 16, 1869, read as follows:

"Closing of the Austrian Post Office.—The Postal Convention which was concluded between the Serbian and Austro-Hungarian governments on December 2, (14) 1868, will take effect from the 19th Inst.—Accordingly, the Austrian Post Office, which is attached to the Austrian Consulate General at Belgrade, will be closed on September 18th and all letters and other mail for abroad will in future be handled by our Post Office. Also, everything arriving from abroad will be received by our Post Office. The Belgrade post office will, from September 19th, be operating in the building next to the old market where the offices of the Ministry of Justice were until now. All mail for abroad and for the interior of Serbia will in future be handled from there."

The announcement continued with details of the working hours, days and times when mail would be accepted for various destinations.

The treaty stipulated rates and established two postal districts or "rayons." The rates were as follows:

- (1) for Hungary: An ordinary letter weighing 5 drams or 16 grams—25 para or 5 Austrian kreutzers.
Charges for printed matter—10 para or 2 kreutzers for 12 drams (38.4 grams or 2½ lots).
- (2) for Austria: an ordinary letter weighing 5 drams—35 para or 7 kreutzers.

Charges for printed matter, the same rate as for Hungary.

Austrian Post Offices in Levant:

The rate for an ordinary 5 dram letter to Sofia was 50 para or 10 Kr. For others, 75 para or 15 Kr.

Printed matter was 15 para or 3 Kr. for 12 drams (38.4 grams). An additional fee, equal to that for an ordinary letter, had to be paid for every 5 drams overweight. Maximum weight was 75 drams or 15 lots.

Registration fees were 40 para or 10 kreutzer. The same rate applied to a return receipt for a letter.

The special delivery rate was 75 para or 15 kreutzer.

Five locations for the exchange of mail were established:

- (1) between Belgrade and Semlin
- (2) between Shabatz and Klenak
- (3) between Smederevo and Kovin (Kubin)
- (4) between Gradiste and Bazias
- (5) between Tekia and Orshova

The treaty remained in force until 1907, when it was replaced by two separate treaties, one with Austria and one with Hungary.

Postal Services of the Danube Steam Navigation Company

Historical Notes

The Danube River has been a main highway for trade and travel for many centuries. The second largest river of Europe, it flows 1,750 miles south-east through the central part of that continent.

One of the most interesting shipping companies to utilize this great waterway was The Danube Steam Navigation Company (Donau Dampfschiffart Gesellschaft or D.D.S.G.). It was founded by John Andrews and Joseph Pritchard, two British ship builders.

Early in 1829 they acquired exclusive rights to trade on the Danube for 15 years. Formed in 1830, the company received an Imperial Charter. Its headquarters was in Vienna.

It was well run and was backed by influential stockholders. Twenty-seven years later they had prospered to the point where they owned 101 steamships and 359 tugboats.

The companies charter was renewed in 1846, this time for 34 years or until 1880. In return the D.D.S.G. undertook the task of carrying the Austrian governments mail free of charge.

According to the agreement with the Austrian Postal Administration, the company was charged with forwarding all government postal packages to and from Austrian post offices on the lower Danube.

Since there were no postal agreements in the lower basin, agents of the D.D.S.G. accepted private letters for a fee and carried them to any place where company agencies were established. Because of this, friction grew between the company and the Austrian Postal Administration, since many of the places on the D.D.S.G. route also had Austrian foreign post offices. Sometimes D.D.S.G. agents even carried mail into Austria itself. The result was a decree forbidding the collection in any foreign port of letters destined for Austria where an Austrian post office was operating there.

The company received a considerable subsidy from the Austrian government for carrying packets of letters for its post office. The "Post Conductor," a postal employee assigned to accompany the letters, was given free passage on the ships. It was his duty to deliver the mail to the individual post offices and to get return mail from them.

Company agents accepted prepaid letters, but would not provide registration. Danube Steam refused to take the responsibility for handling such mail. If Austrian frontier post offices received registered letters for places in the lower Danube where there were only D.D.S.G. agents, only the delivery receipt was sent to them for signature and return. The registered letter would not be turned over to the agency for delivery until the completed receipt was safely back in the post office. This procedure was followed until 1868.

The services of Danube Steam agents were often in direct competition with the Austrian post office. Because of this the Ministry of Commerce obtained permission in 1863, to install letter boxes on express boats at points to be chosen by the "Post Conductors."

Boat letter boxes were of no concern to the company. The agency's postal service was operated by the agents at the agents' expense. It represented a nice supplementary income for them.

A new problem arose. Postage stamps had not yet been introduced at Austrian post offices abroad and the "Post Conductors" could not be expected to assess the cash charges for letters mailed at them. After much debate it was finally decided that they should not engage in the receipt of prepaid letters on express boats.

The company, to facilitate handling of letters given to their people, issued a 17 kreutzer stamp in 1866 which corresponded to the fees collected by the agents for forwarding a letter to the nearest Austrian post office. The charge was too high, since the letter rate from Vienna to Constantinople or Egypt was only 10 kreutzer. There were many complaints and the company was forced to reduce the rate to 10 kreutzer in 1868. The red 17 Kr. stamp was replaced by the 10 Kr. violet.

As a result of these complaints, a postal inspector named Kauffl was assigned to conduct an investigation of the matter. Kauffl's recommendations brought about a reorganization of services for the D.D.S.G. routes. Rates were formulated for deliveries between the various agencies of the company, and also for deliveries to the Austrian Consular Post Offices where the mail was received for transmittal to addressees.

The Hungarian postal administration, after separating from the Austrian post office, followed Kauffl's recommendations. They issued instructions in September 1867 on the routes the mail would have to follow as well as rules for franking. The agencies in Bazias, Orsova, Kubin (Kovin) and Klenak were instructed as follows:

- (1) The agency at Bazias would take care of all mail destined for Dubraviza, Pozarevac, Gradischte, Milanovaz, Radujevaz and other Danube ports as far as its estuary.
- (2) The agency in Kubin would take care of mail for Semendria.
- (3) The agency in Orsova would take care of mail for Bulgarian and Rumanian ports.
- (4) The agency in Klenak would take care of mail for Shabatz. The agencies had to settle all postal charges through their own means and had to take care of any further charges. Letters going to the above places could be prepaid or not.

From these instructions, it is obvious that relations between the Hungarian Postal Administration and the company were the same as those with any postal administration with whom no special treaty existed. Each party collected revenue up to the border. Further charges across the border were the responsibility of the other party. A letter from Budapest to Semendria, for example, required a payment of 5 Kr. for the postage stamp to carry it to Kubin. From there to Semendria, the company had to collect the postage from the recipient.

There were no Austrian Consular Post offices at any of the places where the transfer of mail was supposed to take place. Mail for such places went without the agent handling it, but it was carried on the company's steamers. There was no competition from the company in one direction, and in the opposite direction it did not have the right to accept mail for its own account, but had to carry the post bags received from the Austrian post office.

However, the agencies often disregarded the existence of the Austrian Consular post offices and accepted mail, not only for places where Austrian offices did not exist, but also for places that included Austria proper. Although this was in direct competition with Austrian post offices the Austrian Postal Administration was powerless to do anything about it, having no right to forbid these activities in foreign territory.

There were complaints, but to no avail. The sender was left to decide whether to use the company service or that of the Austrian post.

Merchants in Serbia were very happy to be served by the D.D.S.G. They had no postal services at all in the beginning of the 19th century, and later were restricted to a few time consuming routes that were not sufficient to satisfy the demand.

D.D.S.G. agencies in Serbia were at Schabatz, Belgrade, Dubroviza, Gradischte, Semendria, Milanovaz, Kladova, Grozska, Syp, Tekia and Radujevaz. The last named agency was used mostly by the merchants of Negotin, 10 miles away, to send letters abroad.

When Serbian postal communications improved, and when in 1875 Serbia became a member of the U.P.U., most of the agencies closed down. Moldavia and Valachia were the first to terminate the services of the D.D.S.G. in 1872. After 1875 only Belgrade, Grozska, Syp and Tekia remained open. Within three years the last agency, the one in Belgrade, closed its doors. A letter mailed from there with a 10 Kr of the 1878 issue on it would seem to prove the point.

The Postage Stamps of the D.D.S.G.

The Danube Steam Navigation Company stamps were printed by the Buch und Kunstdruckerei owned by H. Engel and Son. The plant was at 11 Weintraubengasse, Vienna II.

Several printing stones and two dies were used during the lifetime of the issue, which ran from April 15, 1866, to 1880. There were six printings in all;

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. 17 kreuzer, dull carmine-red, clean perforations line 12, very thin, hard, white, wove paper with thick gum. | April 15, 1866 |
| 2. 17 kreuzer, dull carmine-red, rough perfs. line 9½. (Fig. A.10) | November 1867 |
| 3. 10 kreuzer, lilac, rough perfs, line 9½. | March 1868 |
| 4. 10 kreuzer, (a) deep green | October 1868 |
| (b) olive green | November 1868 |
| (c) pale yellowish-green | September 1869 |
| (d) Very pale green, rough irregular perforation 9½. | 1873-1876 |
| 5. 10 kreuzer, red, rough irregular perforation 9½. (Fig. A.11) | October 1870 |
| 6. 10 kreuzer, green, rough irregular perforation 9½. | After September 1878 |

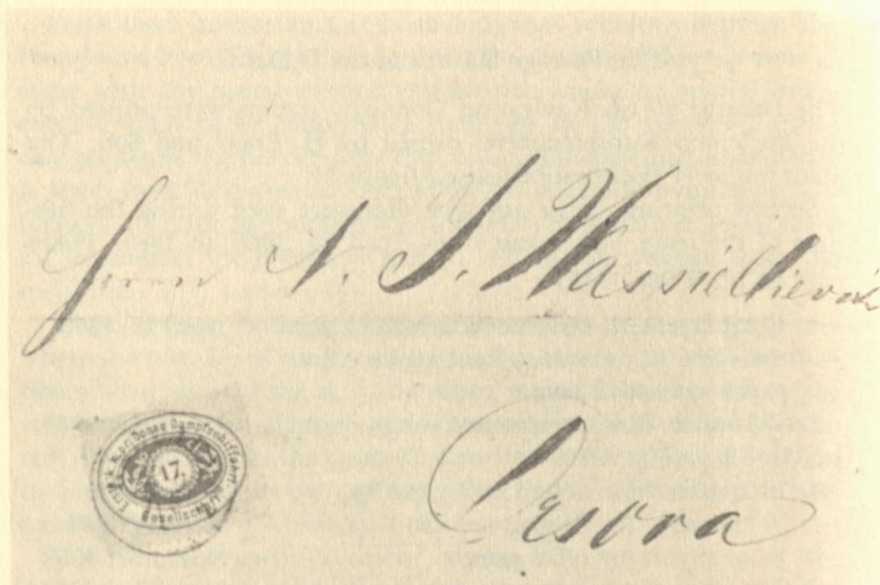
The paper is the same in all printings and the gum is always thick.

The sixth printing was executed from a second die and the letters in the inscription have a slightly changed appearance. The greatest difference is in the head of the letter, "f" which is now nicely rounded. Those of the first die were angular and flattened. Used stamps of the last printing are the greatest rarities of this issue.

The Postal Markings of the D.D.S.G.

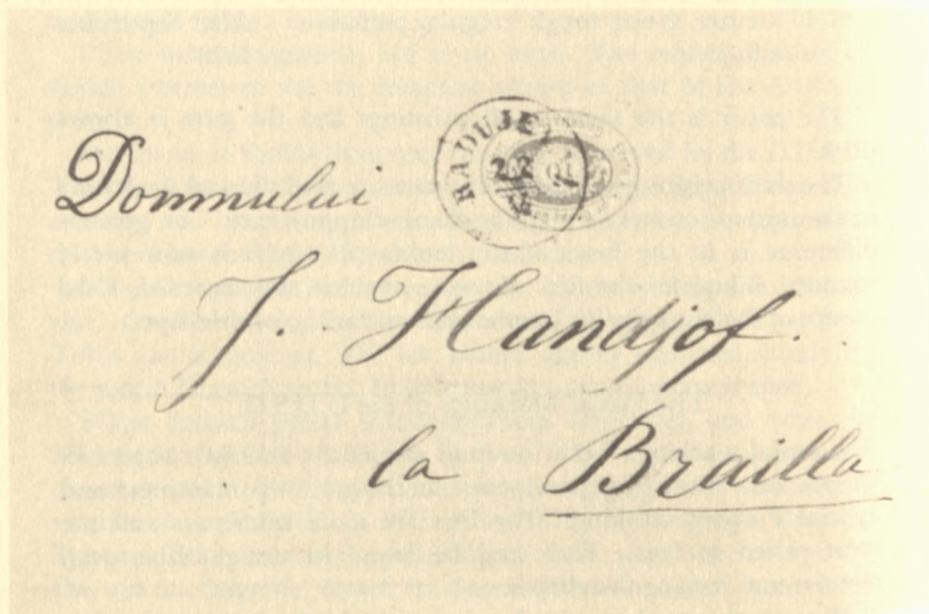
The postal markings found on mail carried by D.D.S.G. boats can be put into three groups: Agency markings; Ship markings; and Special Purpose markings. The first are more numerous and the most varied in form. They may be found in straight line, oval, circular and rectangular shapes.

Most of the markings used on mail from the Serbian territory



A.10. Cover mailed from Negotin via Radujevaz to Orsova (Sept. 1867).

A.11. Cover mailed on May 22, 1872 from Radujevaz to Braila.—This is the last recorded use of the red 10 Kr. stamp.



were blue. Black was used on rare occasions at Belgrade and Milovanovaz. All the cancellers are of the single circle variety. Early types contained the place name and the date—day and month only. Later the year was added. Stamps were also cancelled with markings that were for use on shipping forms, tickets, receipts, etc. As a general rule, the figures indicating the month are in Roman numerals (Semendria is the only exception). Government handstamps show the numerals in Arabic figures.

The following postmarks on postage stamps were recorded on mail from Serbian territory: (Plate X)

BELGRAD

1. Straight name without date.
2. Oval (K.K.Pr.lte D.Dampfschiffart, Agentie, Belgrad).
3. Circular (name and date—month and day only).
4. Circular (name and date with year).

GRADISCHTE

1. Circular (name and date—month and day only).

MILANOVAZ

1. Circular (name and date—month and day only).

RADUJEVAZ

1. Oval (D.D.S.G. Agentie Radujevaz).
2. Rectangular with name only—with rounded ends.
3. Circular (Name and date—month and day only).

SEMENDRIA

1. Rectangular (Name and date—month and day only).

These postmarks were in the collection of the late Julius Steindler, which was sold at auction in Basle in March 1972. Some of the prices realized are quoted below.

Lot 256: Cover from Radujevaz with 10 Kr. red.	S. Frs. 2,000
Lot 289: Cover from Belgrade with 10 Kr. matt emerald cancelled with single circle 18.6.1871	S. Frs. 4,200
Lot 313: Cover from Belgrade with 10 Kr. of last issue with oval cancel, "Agen- tie D.D.S.G. Belgrad."	S. Frs. 3,400

An additional charge of 10% was applied to these prices.

PLATE X.

THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF THE DANUBE STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

BELGRAD

1.



2.



3.



4.



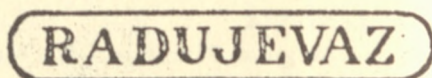
1.



1.



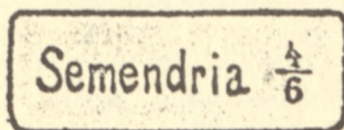
1.



2.



3.



1.

Austrian Post Offices in Macedonia After 1900

The Austro-Turkish Commercial Convention of 1784 granted the Imperial Government the "most favored nation" privileges that had been given to Russia in 1783. Under this treaty, Austria could open consular post offices in Turkish cities. One of the first of these was the office at Salonica, which had its status raised to that of an official Austrian post office in 1895.

Other countries, including Greece, France, Italy and Egypt, followed in short order and opened their own post offices abroad. Things went well until 1900, when a British post office was opened. There was a violent reaction and Turkish postal officials attempted to stop the many foreign posts from performing their normal duties.

Early in the nineteen hundreds Austrian banks financed the improvement and modernization of the Uskub railway to Salonica and the construction of a branch line from Monastir to Salonica. As a consequence, it became very important to the Austrians to maintain a safe and dependable postal service. Austrian Consular Post Offices were opened at Monastir, April 10, 1904, and at Uskub, April 11, 1904. Officially they were designated as "Receiving Post Offices" for the main Austrian post office at Salonica. It was a face saving solution designed to mollify the Turks whose badly run postal system was the object of much criticism.

These offices at Monastir and Uskub were actually created to handle the large volume of mail emanating from the local offices of the Railway Construction Company while the railroad was being built. After the road was completed they handled mail for the staffs

of the railway stations. The offices also serviced mail for Austrian and local business men who trusted the dependable Austrian post above the others.

It is not clear why, on January 11, 1906, a Consular Post Office was opened at Prizren, since the railroad did not touch that town. Perhaps the Austrians had commercial interests in the area, or perhaps the office acted as a relay station for an overland mail route between Uscub and Scutari in Albania. Such a relay would allow mail to reach Trieste much faster than if it were sent via Salonica.

An even greater mystery is why another Consular Post Office was opened at Mitrovitza on January 12th 1906. It wasn't until after World War I that the town gained importance, and then only through the lead mines at neighboring Trepca. Perhaps Austrian investors had already realized the importance of this area as a producer of minerals. Possibly, it was just part of the Austrian expansion towards Salonica.

According to the late Edwin Mueller, these post offices remained in operation until the outbreak of World War I. S. D. Tchillingirian, however, claims that they were closed after the occupation of the towns by the Serbs in October 1912. I do not believe either of them are correct.

A Serbian post card mailed from Uskub, February 21, 1913, and serviced by the local Austrian post office (Fig. A.14) shows clearly that these post offices were not closed immediately after the occupa-

A.14. *Serbian Postcard used from Austr. Post Office Febr. 1913.
(Courtesy Mr.F.See).*

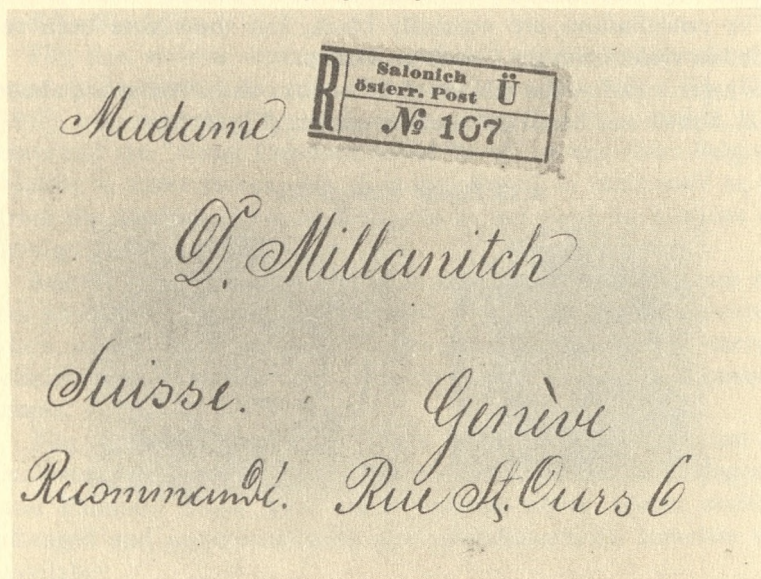


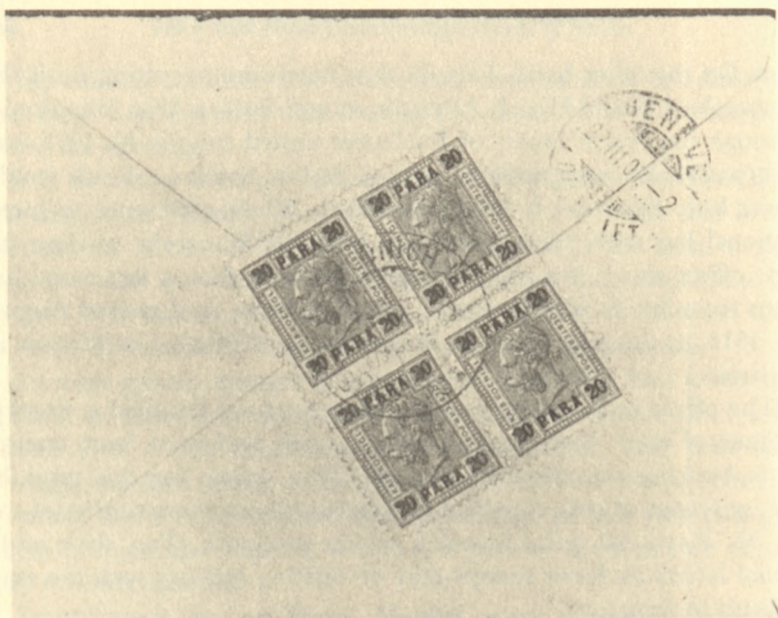
tion. On the other hand, I doubt that they were operating until the outbreak of World War I. After the second Balkan War Macedonia, through the Peace Treaty of Bucharest signed August 10, 1913, was internationally recognized as part of Serbia. Serbian officials would never have tolerated foreign post offices. Their adherence to international law must have forced the Austrian Monarchy to close the post offices about the end of August 1913. In fact, a last usage has been recorded. It is an Austrian 1 piaster letter card mailed August 30, 1913, at the post office in Prizren by an Albanian to his son in Austria.

The offices at Monastir and Uskub must have handled a sizeable volume of mail. Nevertheless, letters, cards and even loose stamps with Austrian cancellations are rare. One reason for this must be the ignorance of collectors and philatelists about the meaning of the U., M., P and Mi. after Salonich on the postmark. Too, these additional letters on loose stamps may be missing making such use very difficult to detect.

The post offices used special labels for registered letters—"SALONICH U," and others. (Fig. A.12, 13) In addition to stamps of

A.12. Front of registered from Uskub. (1907)





A.13. Reverse of letter from Uskub.

Austrian Levant, they occasionally used the stamps of Austria proper.

The cancellations are normally black, but they have been recorded in violet from the Uskub post office.

As regards rarity, the cancels of Mitrovitza and Prizren are about equal. Uskub and Monastir are both scarce. (Fig. A.15)

A.15. Cancel "Salonich MI."



Turkish Post Offices in Serbia (1841–1912)

A treaty dating back to the 16th century, granted Austria the right of passage for its couriers across Turkey to Constantinople. The natural and shortest route was to follow the Morava river via Belgrade, Nish, Sehir-Koey (Pirot), Sofia and Edirne (Adrianople). Turkish Janitchars, according to an official Austrian document dated 1720, were ordered to give protection to the Imperial couriers.

During disturbances in Serbia this service detoured via Bucharest and the Black Sea.

The first serious attempts to establish regular communications were made during the rule of Sultan Mustapha Selim III (1789–1807), who organized a postal service using Tatars on horses. They traversed the "Great Constantinople Road" to and from Belgrade. Mainly to move troops, this road also served to carry mail to and from the Turkish Wazir at Belgrade. It was used by Austrian and foreign couriers as well.

Austria employed its own Tatars who also handled private mail for payment. This was unauthorized, but had the tacit approval of their superiors. Their normal service was restricted to carrying official mail to and from the Austrian representative at Constantinople.

The autonomy granted to Prince Milosh included the care and maintenance of the Turkish "Mensulanes" at Belgrade, Jagodina and Palanka. These were coach stations where horses could be changed and accommodations and refreshments for travelers were available.

Serbia was granted a constitution in 1838 which, among other privileges, gave the country the right to organize a postal service. The Turkish government was also planning to introduce such services throughout its empire. Indeed, in 1840, a Ministry of Posts was formed in Constantinople to provide such services along the lines of other European countries. According to Orhan Brandt, the first official transportation of private mail in the European provinces took place, October 28, 1840.

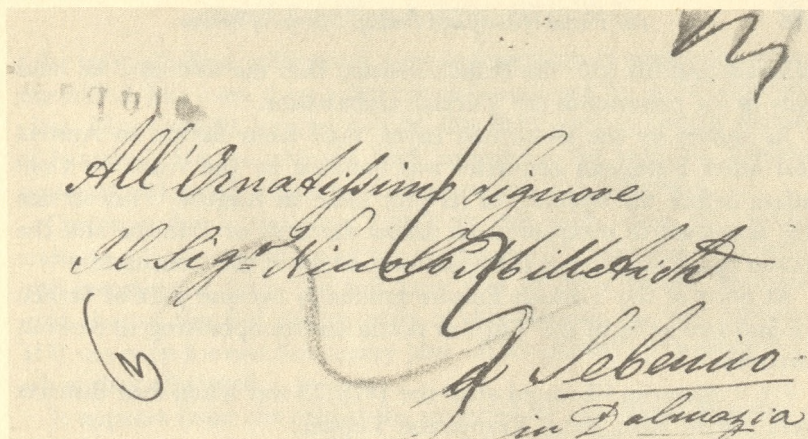
The first post office to be opened in Serbian territory before it became a Principality, was in 1841 at Nish, followed in 1843 by Monastir (Bitolj) and by Uskub (Skoplje) in 1849. There was no necessity to open such an office at Belgrade. Serbia had had its own internal postal service since May 1840. Foreign service was, of course, handled by the Austrian Consulate post office.

As we know, this post office opened August 1, 1841. However, some postal services existed prior to that date between Belgrade and Semlin, and between Belgrade and Pancevo.

Even before 1833, when the Belgrade Customs House was transferred to the Serbian authorities, a boat service for passengers and mail existed. The mail was handled by the boatmen who charged a tariff prescribed by the Turkish authorities. This changed on December 20, 1833, when Prince Milosh announced that the boatmen on the Belgrade-Semlin and Belgrade-Pancevo routes would henceforth be supervised by Panta H. Stoil.

The 5 para per letter tariff instituted by the Turks remained the same and had to be paid to the Consulate. They, in turn, had to dispatch the letters across the river without delay. They also had to deliver letters received to the addresses in Belgrade.

I am able to show such a letter, written at Belgrade on June 3rd 1841, prior to the opening of the Austrian Consulate on August 1st. (Fig. T2, T3) It is addressed to Signor Niccolo Miletich, Sebenico, Dalmatia (Austria). A black handstamp at the top left corner reads, "TURQUIE." It also bears a manuscript figure "6," obviously for kreutzer payment received by the post office at Semlin for postage to Sebenico. The cover is endorsed, "Prep.na G.P.Opoica u Zemunu," (Registered to Mr. Opoic in Semlin) on the reverse. It also has a cholera disinfection mark, "Netto di Fuera e di Dentro," together with a disinfection seal in red wax. The letter was endorsed to Mr. Opoic so that he could prepay the Austrian postage. We do not know if he was a forwarding agent or a friend doing a favor for the

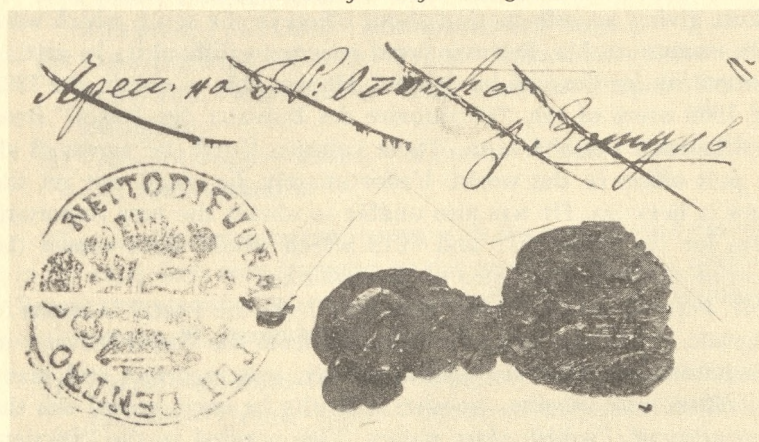


T.2. *Front of Cover from Belgrade (June 1841).*

sender. The sender, by the way, had already paid the fee for the boatman at the Austrian Consulate at Belgrade in cash. There is doubt that the handstamp, "TURQUIE," on the front was put there by the Austrian Consulate. The Serbians maintained that, although still a vassal state, they were not a part of the Turkish Empire. Prince Milosh and Michael used every opportunity to drive this point home to other European countries. They, with the sole exception of Russia, were reluctant to agree.

As an example, when Queen Victoria received a visit from Prince

T.3. *Reverse of cover from Belgrade.*



Michael and his wife the British insisted that the audience be held only in the presence of the Turkish ambassador.

As shown by the illustrated cover, mail from Serbia to Austria and other European countries was handled by the Austrian Consulate before the opening of its post office in August. This service was restricted to transportation across the Save or Danube and the sender could not prepay the Austrian postage at the Consulate.

As parts of the Turkish Empire gradually became part of Serbia, we find two areas of the Turkish postal service operating in Serbian territory.

(1) Territories liberated after the 1878/79 war when four districts were added: Nish, Pirot, Vranja and Toplice.

(2) Territories which became part of Serbia after the first Balkan war of 1912, which included the villayets of Uskub (Skoplje) and Monastir (Bitolj). After World War I, these lands were called, "Southern Serbia." Today, they are called the "Peoples Republic of Macedonia."

Information concerning Turkish post offices in Serbia was unavailable until fairly recently with the exception of some postmarks listed by Passer and Fritz Billig. Things changed in 1956 when Orhan Brandt showed his wonderful collection of Turkish postmarks at JUFIZ III, the International Stamp Exhibition held at Zagreb. It was this exhibit that gave Mr. Petrovic the inspiration for his article, "Turkish Post Offices in Yugoslavia before 1912," which appeared in 1960 in the Belgrade, "Filatelista."

The article deals mainly with post offices in Serbia north of Uskub, giving no information about offices in the south which were more numerous. Mr. Petrovic faced enormous difficulties in getting information for the area he covered. He was able to obtain the 1895 and 1909 issues of the, "Dictionnaire des Bureaux des Postes," from the Universal Postal Union. These volumes listed the names of all the post offices in the world. Unfortunately, he could not get the issues in between. He was also unable to obtain the very important issues for the years 1912 and 1913 which would have shown the situation during the last year of Turkish rule.

Mr. Petrovic received some assistance from the Postal Museum in Belgrade, which also had a list obtained from the Postal Director in Constantinople. That list, unfortunately, was incorrect and many post offices were missing. Another difficulty he encountered was the translation of Turkish place names. This applied to the "Dictionnaire" as well.

In spite of these difficulties, new information is gradually being assembled, but even these subsequent listings are by no means complete. Much credit for research in this field goes to Orhan Brandt of Istanbul. He was able, in 1963, to publish his work on Turkish postmarks (Arabic), which is of immense value to collectors.

Correspondence was very scarce in the early days of Turkish stamps with the exception of the large towns. There was little trade and commercial firms did not keep files of their letters. Material, even that of the first twelve years of this century, has not survived. It is not even known how many post offices existed in October 1912, when they all closed.

It appears from the official list supplied by the Postal Director of Istanbul, that a General Directory of Posts for the lands which are today part of Yugoslavia was established at Sarajevo in 1864. It was transferred to Pristina in 1876. It remained there until 1903, when it was removed to Uskub. There it stayed until October 13, 1912, when it was discontinued.

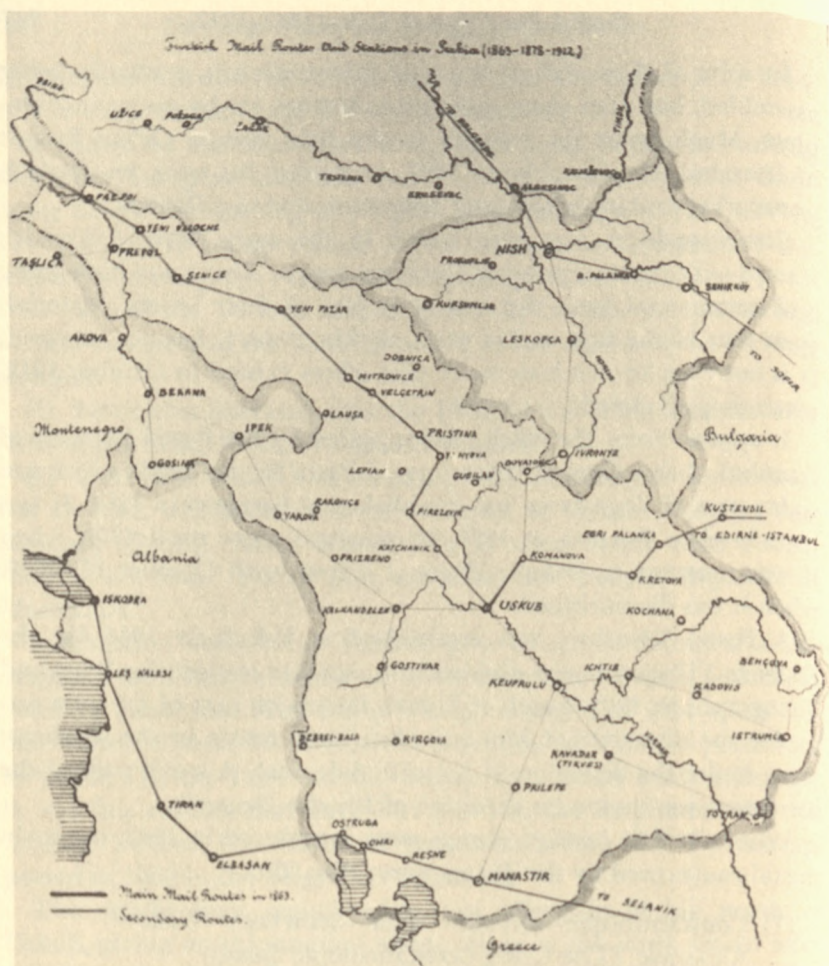
A Postal Directory was established at Uskub in 1864 for the Kossovo Villayet. It was divided into separate sections for Posts and Telegraphs in 1903. South of Uskub the major part of the area was under the direction of Monastir, but some towns in the southeast were under the direction of Selanik (Salonica). A small part of the southwest was under the direction of Iskodra (Scutari).

When the first postage stamps were introduced in 1863, the main postal routes used by the Tatars were: (Fig. T.1)

- (1) Constantinople—Edirne—Sofia—Sehirkoey—Nish—Aleksinac. (The Great Constantinople Road);
- (2) Constantinople—Edirne—Filibe—Komanova—Uskub—Pristina—Yeni Pazar—Senice—Yeni Varoche—Prepoi—Bosna (Sarajevo);
- (3) Constantinople—Selanik—Manastir—Resne—Ohri—Elbasan—Tirana—Iskodra.

The secondary routes connecting with the main postal routes had, in the early days only irregular service supplied by relay messengers. Regular connecting routes were established before the introduction of the new tariff, December 15, 1879:

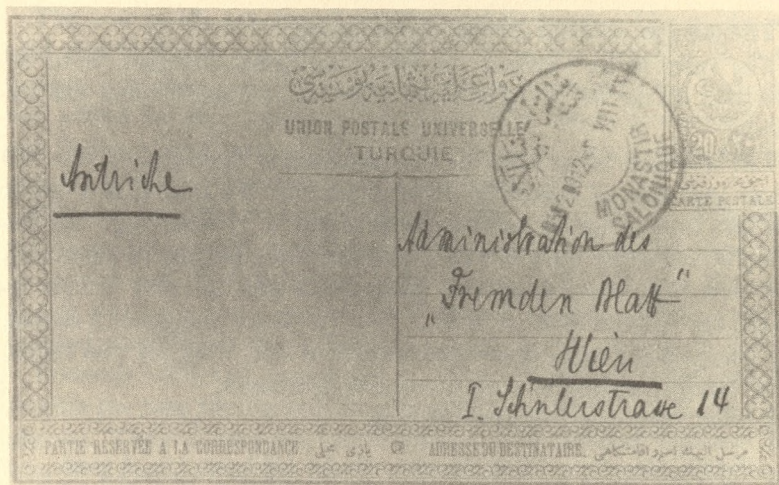
- (1) Uskub—Köprülu—Prilepe—Manastir—Resne—Ohrida—Elbasan—Tirana—Lyesh—Iskodra—Podgorica and reverse;
- (2) Uskub—Lepian—Prizrend—Yakova—Ipek and reverse;



- (3) Komanova—Ivranye—Leskofca—Nish and reverse;
(4) Pristina—Kursumlje.

When the railroad from Salonica via Uskub was opened in 1870, it was immediately used to carry mail. Service was available from Uskub to Köprülu as well. The trip from Uskub to Mitroviza took 24 hours. In some cases, postal services was partly by rail and partly by Tatar riders.

With the passing of time, and the construction of railroad lines in the early nineteen hundreds, more and more post offices were established and a better communication system evolved. During the



T.8. Travelling Post Office Monastir-Salonique (1912).

last year of Turkish rule there were even traveling post offices between Mitrovitz and Uskub, Zubeftche and Selanik and Monastir and Selanik. (Fig. T.8)

Very few of the opening dates of these post offices are known and much work lies ahead for philatelists if more information is to be obtained.

The Postal Rates of the Turkish Empire

Turkish postal rates were based on weight and time, and it is absolutely necessary for every student of Turkish philately to understand this method of prepayment of letters if they wish to have a good collection.

During the early years of the preadhesive period, one para was charged for the distance an ordinary single weight letter weighing 3 drams (1 dram = 3.2 grams) traveled in one hour. One piaster, kurus or grosh was divided into 40 paras. Thus, for the distance a tartar messenger covered in 100 hours, the charge for a single letter would be 100 para or $2\frac{1}{2}$ piasters. If the letter was heavier, fifty per cent of the single rate was added for each additional dram.

The rate for other types of mail (newspapers, printed matter, etc.) was one para for every 5 drams and 4 hours distance.

The fee was doubled for registered letters.

The rates to be charged for letters to Constantinople were determined by the Ministry of Posts. They were complicated. For example:

The distance from Nish to Constantinople (Dersaadet) was 135 hours and that of Uskub to Constantinople 125 hours. If a letter was sent only as far as Adrianople (Edirne), a 44 hour trip, the distance between Adrianople and Constantinople had to be deducted.

A new rate was introduced around the end of 1861 which replaced the original one of 1840. It kept the basic weight of 3 drams, but changed the basic distance traveled in one hour for 100 hours. This change resulted in a steep increase in charges.

A letter weighing 3 drams now cost:

For the distance traveled between	50 and 100 hours	3 grosh
" " " "	100 " 200 "	5 "
" " " "	200 " 300 "	7 "
" " " "	300 " 400 "	9 "
" " " "	400 " 500 "	11 "

Fifty per cent more per dram was charged for each letter weighing over 3 drams.

A letter weighing 3 drams mailed from Monastir to Constantinople, a traveling distance of 125 hours, required the payment of 130 paras (125 rounded to 130) or 3 piasters and 10 para before the rate was changed. The new charges were 3 piasters for the first 100 hours, 2 piasters for the second 100 hours for a total charge of 5 piasters.

This rate was reduced in 1868 by introducing 3 distance zones.

First zone	1 grosh, 20 para	for 100 hours distance
Second zone	3 grosh	" 200 " "
Third zone	6 grosh	over 200 " "

for the basic 3 dram weight per letter.

The rate in Serbian territory for a letter weighing 3 drams was always 1 grosh, 20 para, since the distance from any point was less than 100 hours. The rates were reduced again when Turkey became a member of the U.P.U. and instituted new tariffs on December 15, 1879.

The postage due fees now had to be prepaid. Letters that were not franked or were insufficiently franked were no longer forwarded to the sender unless he paid for the missing postage.

The new tariffs also introduced the metric system. The public was told that 3 drams would be rated as 10 grams (actually, it is 9.6 grams). For letters weighing over 10 grams, one half of the basic rate was added for each additional 5 grams. The newly introduced special delivery rate was very high: 25 grosh for every hour distance covered if the letter was entrusted to a tatar.

Changes in these rates occurred in 1882, and again in 1888, when postal stationery was introduced. Post cards containing an imprinted 20 para stamp, were good for domestic use or for abroad. Ordinary letters required the payment of 1 piaster (grosh). These rates remained unchanged until Turkish postal service ceased in 1912.

Between 1879 and September 1, 1888, the inland letter rate was double the rate for abroad. Registration was quadruple the rate for abroad. These disproportionate charges were created because Turkey, as a member of the U.P.U., was forced to set rates that corresponded with those of other member countries. They were so low that Turkey could not afford them, since most of her population was illiterate. Further, trade was undeveloped and many European countries had their own postal facilities in Turkish cities that the local population trusted more than their own. The sale of postage stamps was extremely low, forcing the administration to charge more for inland service.

Preadhesive Postmarks and the First Negative Postmarks of the Stamp Period

When the first postage stamp was introduced January 1, (13) 1863, only three post offices existed in Serbia. They were:

Nish-Nis

Nish was strategically located on the "Great Constantinople Road," the main highway connecting Turkey with Europe. It is not surprising, therefore, that this office was opened as soon as the first experiments with private mail were completed in 1841. This office had a branch at Aleksinatz on the Serbian border which accepted mail to and from Turkey via courier from Nish. Serbia also maintained a disinfection station there after a severe outbreak of Cholera in 1857. All incoming letters were marked with its cachet. (Fig. T.10)

The prestamp postmark of Nish (Plate XI—Fig. 19(a)) was in-

PLATE XI.

PRE-ADHESIVE

POSTMARKS

FIRST NEGATIVE

FIRST CANCELLATIONS

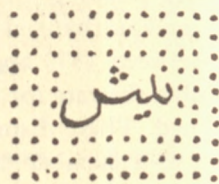
NISH



19.(a)



19.(b)



19.(c)

MANASTIR



17.(a)



17.(b)



17.(c)

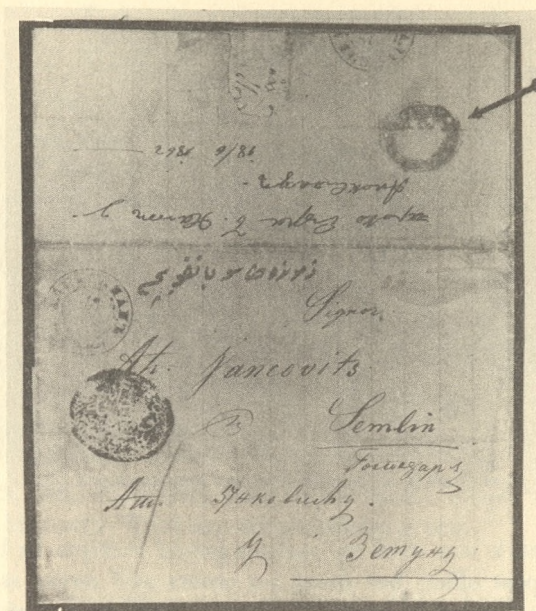
USKUB



32.(a)



32.(b)

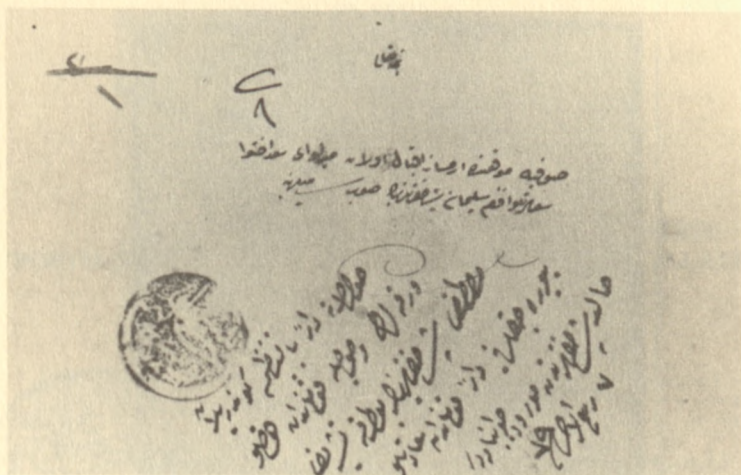


T.10. Cover from Nish to Semlin via Aleksinatz with cholera cachet. (1862).

scribed: "An Djanibi Postai Nish 257" (the Turkish year 1257). Translated, it reads: "From Post Office Nish 1841." It is usually in black, but after 1860 the color was either blue or green. Registered letters received an additional marking, "Tahrirati Muhimme."

Before they had issued the first postage stamps, the government had anticipated difficulties in supplying the more distant post offices. The problem was met by supplying them with special postmarks to indicate that postage had been paid.

These negative seal markings were supposed to be used only until the post office received a supply of postage stamps. They always included a crescent and can be considered as interim franking marks. Postage stamps were never cancelled with these seals because they were not cancelling devices. They were received at the various post offices by December 1862, and postal employees immediately put them into use. The seal of Nish read, "Nish Postahanae 1278" (Post Office Nish 1862). The color was bluish green. Nish crescent postmarks on cover are exceedingly rare. (Fig. T.11) (Plate XI. Fig. 19(b))



T.11. Cover from Nish to Sofia with Crescent type postmark (Jan.7,1863).

This postmark was used on various postal receipts in later years by the Nish post office, but never on covers and never as a canceling device. Its use on receipts is not rare. The color is either green or black.

Monastir—Bitolj

Monastir, in 1843 (1259), was the next office to open. Its postmark, "An Djanibi Postal Manastir 259" (From Post Office Manastir 259), is similar to the one used at Nish. (Plate XI—Fig. 17(a)) The colors are mostly bluish green or, in lesser degree, bluish black. Another cachet was added for registration.

An unusual thing about preadhesive covers from Manastir is that they are in a great number of languages: Turkish, Greek Serbian-Cyrillic and Hebrew, as well as in many different bilingual combinations. In most cases they bear manuscript markings referring to weight and postage.

The Manastir post office was supplied with the crescent type negative seals around the end of 1862. As with Nish, it was an interim franking mark.

The inscription on the Manastir seal reads, "Manastir Postahanae 278" (Post Office Manastir 1862). The color is bluish green. (Plate XI. Fig. 17(c))

A cover, dated March 7, (19) 1863, with the negative seal, proves that at this late date the Manastir post office had still not received postage stamps.

Uskub—Skoplje

The third post office to be opened was at Uskub in 1849 (1265). The postmark is similar to that of Nish and Manastir. It reads, "An Djanibi Postai Uskub 265" (From Post Office Uskub 1849). (Plate XI—Fig. 32(a)) The color is usually black.

The crescent type negative seal inscribed, "Uskub Postahanae 1278," was supplied in 1862 prior to the introduction of postage stamps. (Plate XI. Fig. 32(b))

Until now, no one has seen a postage stamp from the first issue that was used at Uskub. If they were supplied at all, they must have arrived very late.

A fair number of covers with the crescent type seal postmarks are known, indicating they were in use much longer than those of Nish and Manastir. They are always bluish green.

The First Cancellations—1863-1864

The first cancellations used by the Turkish Empire are:

- (1) Mute
- (2) Rectangle of dots with the word, "Battal," (Paid) in the center.
- (3) Rectangle of dots with the name of the town in the center.

All three types were only to be used on the three imperforate, "Toughrali," issues. Very rarely, type 2 can be found on the perforated stamps of 1865.

Type 1 was the first to be supplied and was used exclusively by the main post office at Constantinople (Deraliye). The third type, with the name of the town, was used only in Turkish European provinces: Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldavia, Greece and Turkish Europe. All were composed of rectangular shaped dots, mostly 12 by 10. They measured 25½ mm by 21 mm.

Only two such cancels are known to have been used in Serbia, one at Nish and one at Manastir. There is a possibility that a similar cancel existed for Uskub, but so far, it has not been recorded. It seems very unlikely, however, that the Uskub post office was not in operation at this period.

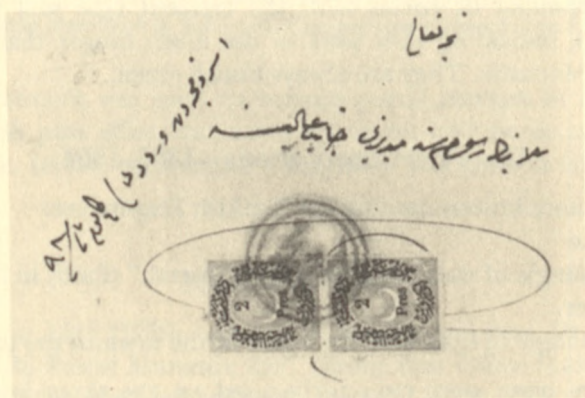
The cancellations of Nish (Plate XI 19(c)) and Manastir are extremely rare. Brandt reported that he had never seen a complete cover. A loose postage due stamp of the first issue with the Nish

cancel was shown at WIPA in 1965. I have seen a Manastir cancel (Plate XI, 17(c)) only once. That too, was on a postage due stamp.

The Seal Type Arabic Cancellations—1865–1909

The first perforated Turkish stamps, the Duloz type, named for the French engraver, Duloz, were issued January 1, (13) 1865. At that time new cancellations which had been prepared in France were also introduced. They were used as follows:

Double circle cancellers with the name of the town and the number, "81," for the Turkish year 1281 (1865) were used for European Turkey. Fig. (T.4), (T.6), (T.13) and (T.14)



T.4. Cover from Stroundje with red cancel. (1876).

T.6. Cover from Leskofca with bisect of the 1 Pia. stamp (1876).





T.13. The Arabic postmark of Yakova of pair of 20 p.1909.



T.14. Cover from Yeni Varoche to Sarajevo with only recorded "Battal" postmark. (May 1874).

A triple rectangular cancel was used for Asian Turkey. The ports of the Marmora and Black Sea and the island of Mytilene were given triple hexagonals.

All had the name of the town and the year, "81." Later this was changed and we find double rectangular, single circle, oval, double circle without year and other types of use in Serbia. (Plates XII and XIII.)

PLATE XII.

SEAL TYPE ARABIC CANCELLATIONS (1865-1909).



1.(a)



2.(a)



3.(a)



4.(a)



6.(a)



7.



8.(a)



9.(a)



10.(a)



11.(a)



12.(a)



13.(a)



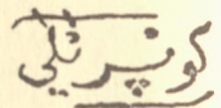
14.(a)



14.(b)



15.(a)



15.(d)



16.



17.(d)



18.(a)



18.(b)

PLATE XIII.

Continuation:

SEAL TYPE ARABIC CANCELLATIONS (1865-1909).



19.(d)



20.(a)



21.



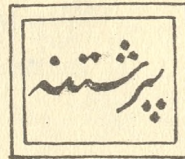
22.(a)



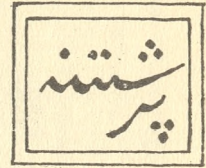
24.(a)



25.(a)



26.(a)



26.(b)



26.(c)



27.(a)



28.(a)



29.



30.(a)



31.(a)



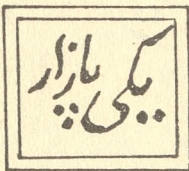
32.(c)



34.(a)



35.(a)



35.(b)



36.(a)

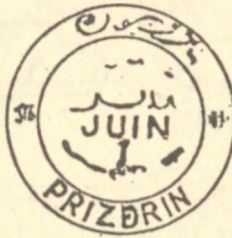


36.(b)

PLATE XIV.

TYPES OF BILINGUAL CANCELLATIONS.

Type 1.



25.(b)

Type 2.



25.(c)



25.(d)



25.(e)



26.(d)



35.(c)



36.(c)

Bilingual Cancellations

Bilingual Turko-French postmarks came into use from 1890 on in many towns. We can distinguish two types:

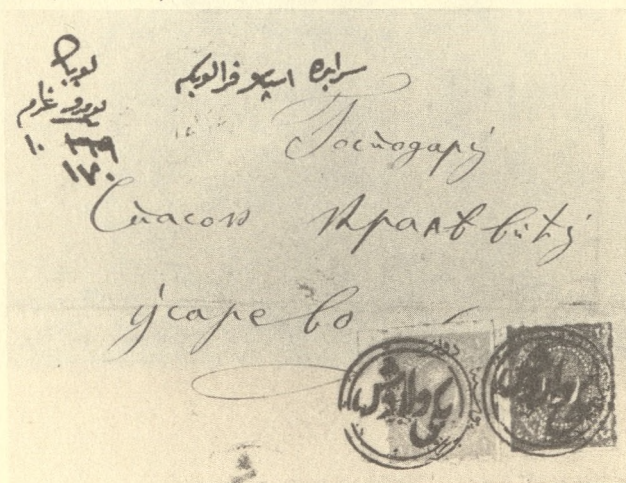
Type 1. Double circle with the name of the town in Arabic letters above, Latin below. The bilingual date is in the center. (T.9)

Type 2. Double circle with two horizontal lines for the date in Arabic and Roman numerals. The name of the town is in Arabic letters above, Latin below. (T.16–T.18)



T.9. The Negative postmark of Mitrovicza with bilingual type 1, alongside (1891).

T.15. Cover from Yeni Varoche to Sarajevo with Arabic cancel of town (Nov. 1874).





T.16. *Bilingual Type 2. of Resne.*

T.17. *Bilingual Type 2. of Mitrovitza.*





T.18. Bilingual Type 2. of Stroumdja.

A double circle postmark in French and Latin only was used on rare occasions in the same period, but only on correspondence for abroad. (Fig. T.7)

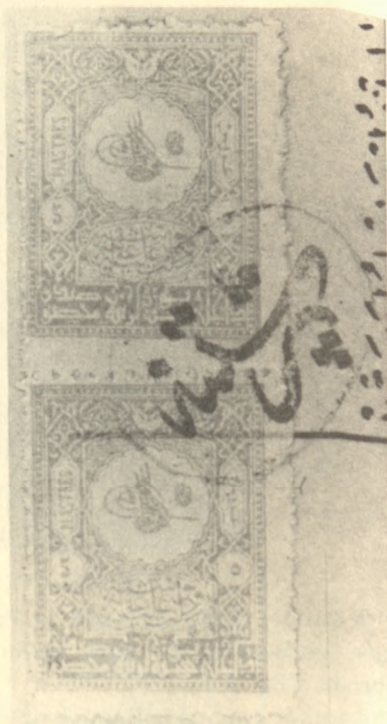
Another type of bilingual postmark had been in use since 1867, but only as an arrival (Arrivé) or departure (Depart) mark. Stamps have never been cancelled with it.

T.7. The French Monastir Turquie postmark. (1892)





T.5. *Special only recorded Arabic postmark of Keuprulu (1908).*



T.12. *The only recorded oval postmark Pristina on pair of 5 Pia. (1901).*

In some cases, the Arabic cancellers were used well into the 20th century. We illustrate one used on the 1901 and on the 1909 issue. (Fig. T.12, and T.5)

Since the Billig and Brandt handbooks deal exclusively with the Arabic cancellations, we shall try to list the bilingual ones used in Serbian territory. These have, so far, not been recorded and they should serve as a basis for future research. In fact, so little material is available that a start should be made at once.

The dates when post offices in the smaller towns were opened are not known. For this reason, I indicate the year of issue of those stamps on which bilingual cancellations have been recorded. The relative value of the cancel is given in points which are for clear, clean, full cancels on undamaged stamps. They represent a market price of 25 U.S. cents per point—on cover 75 cents, depending on the quality of the cover, attractiveness and other circumstances. (1975 value)

The towns listed below are in alphabetic order by their Turkish names.

		NAME
No.	Turkish	Today
1.	BECHCOVA	PEHCEVO
2.	BOYATOKCA	BUJANOVAC
	or BOYANAVDJA	
3.	DEBREI-BALA	DEBAR
	or DEBRA	
4.	GILAN	GILJANE
	or GUEILAN	or GNJILANE
5.	GASTOIR	GOSTIVAR
6.	ISTIB	STIP
	or ICHTIB	
7.	IVRANIYE	VRANJA
	or VIRANYE	
8.	ISTRUMCA	STRUMICA
	or STROUMDJE	
9.	KALDANDELEN	TETOVO
10.	KAVADAR 300	KAVADARCI
	or TIKVES	
11.	KIRCOVA	KICEVO
	or KIRDJOVA	
12.	KOCANA	
	or KOTCHANE	

Type of Cancel	On Stamps	Points
(a) Db. C. with year 300	1892	500
(b) Bilinguals probably exist		
(a) Single circle with name		
(b) Bilingual Type 2	1907-1912	50
(a) Bb. C. with name	1871-1892	350
(b) Bilingual Type 1	1892	150
(c) Bilingual Type 2	1901	50
(a) Db. C. with name	1882-1901	250
(b) Bilingual Type 2	1901	50
(a) Bilingual Type 2	1908	250
(a) Small db. Rectang. with name	1868-1892	250
(b) Bilingual Type 1	1892	150
(c) Bilingual Type 2	1901	50
(a) Db. C. with name	1868-1871	500
(a) Db. C. with name—red	1876	1000
(b) Db. C. with name—black	1876-1892	300
(c) Bilingual Type 1	1892	75
(d) Bilingual Type 2	1901	50
(a) Db. C. with name	1871-1892	400
(b) Bilingual Type 1	1892-1901	50
(c) Bilingual Type 2	1901-1912	50
(a) Db. C. with name and year 300	1884-1892	350
(b) (c) Bilingual both Types probably existed	1892-1912	
(a) Db. C. with name	1892-1901	350
(b) Bilingual Type 1		
(c) Bilingual Type 2	1908-1912	50
(a) Db. C. with name	1892-1901	350
(b) Bilingual Type 2	1901	50

No.	Turkish	NAME	Today	Type of Cancel	On Stamps	Points
13.	KOMANOVA	KUMANOVO		(a) Db. C. with name (b) Bilingual Type 1 (c) Bilingual Type 2	1868-1886 1892 1908	350 50
14.	KARATOVA or ABAT or KRETOVA	KRATOVO		(a) Db. C. with name Abat and year 86 (b) Db. C. with name (c) Bilingual probably both types existed	1866- 1876-1892 1901	1000 250
15.	KOPRULU or KEUPRULU	VELES		(a) Db. oval with name (b) Bilingual Type 1 (c) Bilingual Type 2 (d) Arabic special Type T.5	1875-1897 1901 1908 1908	250 50 50 400
16.	LESKOFCA	LESKOVAC		(a) Db. C. with name	1875-1876	500
17.	MONASTIR	BITOLJ or BITOLA		(a) Prestamp w. year 259 (b) Prestamp w. year 1278 (c) Rectangle of dots with name (d) Db. C. with name and year 81, black (e) Dd. C. with name and year 81, blue (f) Bilingual Type 1, diam. 29 mm (g) Bilingual Type 2, diam. 31 mm (h) Db. C. French only, Monastir Turquie (i) Bilingual Monastir (Gare) (j) Bilingual Monastir 1 or 2 (k) Bilingual Monastir with 6 or 7 in centre, diam. 28 mm (l) Bilingual Monastir—Salonique (T.P.O.)	1843-1862 1862-1863 1865-1892 1901 1900 1892 1908 1908 1908	25 300 1000 100 125 50 25 100 25 25 25
18.	MITROVICE or MITROVICZA	KOS. MITROVICA		(a) Db. C. with name (b) Nevativ "Telegraf ve Posta Hane" (c) Bilingual Type 1 (d) Bilingual Type 2	1912 1871-1890 1892 1892	50 250 500 50

19. NISH

NIS

20. OHRI

OHRID

21. OSTROGA 8

STRUGA 8

22. PALANGA

PALANKA KRIVA

or

EGRI PALANGA

23. PREBOI

PRIBOJ

or

PREBOI

or

PIRIPORI

or

PRIBOY

24. PIRLEPE

PRILIP

25. PRIZRIN

PRIZREN

or

PREZERIN

or

PRIZREND

(e) Negative unknown nature	1901	50
(f) Bilingual "Mitrovicza—Uskub" (T.P.O.)	1892	100
(a) Prestamp w. year 257 (black or blue)	1912	50
(b) Prestamp w. year 1278	1841-1863	250
(c) Rectangle of dots with name	1862	500
(d) Db. C. with name & year 81 (black or blue)	1863-1864	1000
(a) Db. C. with name (blue or black)	1865-1878	100
(b) Bilingual Type 1	1871-1892	150
(c) Bilingual Type 2	1892	150
(a) Db. rectangular with name & 8	1908	50
(b) (c) Both bilingual types probably existed	1892-1901	150
(a) Db. C. with name		
(b) (c) Both bilingual types probably existed	1884-1901	200
(a) Negative	1898	100
(b) Bilingual Type 2	1901	75
(a) Db. oval with name		
(b) Negative	1868-1892	200
(c) (d) Both bilingual types probably existed	1876	200
(a) Db. C. with name		
(b) Bilingual Type 1, PRIZDRIN, diam. 29 mm	1868-1905	200
(c) Bilingual Type 2, PRIZREND, diam. 31 mm	1902	50

No.	Turkish	NAME	Today
-----	---------	------	-------

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 26. PRISTINE
or
GLEODOR | PRISTINA |
| 27. RADOVIS
or
RADOVICHITA | RADOVISTE |
| 28. RESNO
or
RESNE | RESAN |
| 29. SEHIR-KOEY | PIROT |
| 30. SENICE
or
SINEDJE | SJENICA |
| 31. TOYRAN | DOJLAN |
| 32. USKUB | SKOPLJE
or
SKOPJE |

Type of Cancel	On Stamps	Points
(d) Bilingual Type 2, diam. 28 mm	1910	50
(e) Negative	1911	50
(f) Bilingual Type 2, PRIZREND 2, diam. 28 mm	1902	100
(a) Db. rectang. w. name	1912	50
(b) Db. rectang. w. name, larger size	1871-1901	150
(c) Single oval w. name, T.12	1901-1908	400
(d) Bilingual Type 2	1901-	300
(a) Db. C. w. name & year 299 (black, violet)	1901-1912	75
	1884-1892	200
(a) Db. C. with name	1892-	500
(b) Bilingual Type 2		
(a) Db. C. with name, black or blue	1908-1912	250
(a) Triple circle with name, black	1871-1878	150
	1871-1892	350
(b) Triple circle with name, blue		
(a) Db. C. with name, black, violet	1874	500
(b) Db. C. with name, red	1890-1892	250
(c) (d) Bilinguals probably existed		500
(a) Prestamp w. name and year 265 (1849)		
(b) Prestamp with name and year 1278	1849-1862	100
(c) Db. C. with name & 81	1862-1863	400
(d) Db. C. with name & 81 in blue	1865-1890	100
(e) Bilingual Type 1, 28 mm		150
(f) Bilingual Type 2, with 1, 2, 3 or 4 in centre	1892-	50
(g) Db. C. French only, Uskub Turquie, 25 mm	1908-	25
(h) Bilingual Uskub (Gare), type 2, 31 mm, black or violet	1887	50
(i) Negative	1892-	25

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 33. ZEBIGCE | ZBENAC |
| or | or |
| ZUBEFTCHE | ZIBEVCE |
| 34. YENI PAZAR | NOVI PAZAR |
| or | |
| YENI PAZAR | |
| (COSSOVA) | |
| 35. YENI VAROCHE | NOVA VAROS |
| 36. CSAROVA | DELCEVO |
| 37. FRIZOVIK | UROSEVAC |
| 38. PIREPOL | PRIJEPOLJE |
| 39. VILDJETRINE | VUCITRN |
| 40. GUEVGHILI | GJEVGJELIJA |

(a) Bilingual Type 2	1892	100
(b) Bilingual "Bur. Amb. Zibeftche-Salonique" (T.P.O.)	1890-1912	250
	1896	250
(a) Db. C. with name	1871-1873	300
(b) Db. rectang. with name, black	1870-1892	150
(c) Db. rectang. with name in green		200
(d) Bilingual Type 2	1901-1912	50
(e) Bilingual Yeni Pazar (Cossova)	1911	400
(a) Db. C. battal, green	1874	750
(b) Db. C. with name, black	1874-1892	300
(c) Bilingual Type 2	1911-1912	50
(a) Db. C. with name	1880	400
(b) Bilingual Type 2		
(a) Bilingual Type 2	1911	250
(a) Bilingual Type 2	1908	250
(a) Bilingual Type 2	1911	400
(a) Bilingual Type 2	1905	250

Turkish Post Offices that Are Unconfirmed, but Probably Were in Operation

The forty Turkish post offices listed above are those which have been firmly established. I have seen covers or cards with cancellations from them, or they have been confirmed by other philatelists.

A. Petrovich, as previously mentioned, reported in an article published in the Belgrade, "Filatelista," in 1960, that he had received a list of Turkish post offices from the U.P.U. that were operating in 1895 and 1909 in territory now part of Yugoslavia. He could not obtain lists for the years between, particularly for that of 1912, the last year of Turkish rule.

I have tried to obtain more information from the U.P.U., but without success.

According to Mr. Petrovich the following additional post offices were operating:

KACANIK or ORHANYE;
LEPIAN, today LIPLJAN;
PODIVA, today PODUJEVO;
PRESOVA, today PRESEVO;
REKOVICE, today ORAHOVAC;
ZARBINDJE, today ZABRINCE;
YANYOVA, today JANJEVO.

The Turkish administration in Ankara [No. 976/53] advised him that among the post offices operating in Macedonia after 1900 were: NOJKOVAC, VALANDOVO (VLANDOVO), DELCEVO (TCHAROVA) and UDOVO (HODOVO).

A post office was operating at Kursumlje, liberated in the 1878-79 war, according to documents preserved in the PTT Museum. [GDP 4140/59] It is my opinion that a post office must also have been operating at Prokuplje, because the Serbian authorities started postal service there immediately after liberation. (Fig. 79)

Mr. Petrovich also established that the Postal Museum in Belgrade had received another list of post offices operating in Yugoslavia from the Director of Posts at Istanbul. Unfortunately, the names of these offices are in Turkish and we do not know the corresponding names. It is obvious, too, that the list is incorrect and incomplete, because it does not mention the post office at Uskub.

The Turkish names from this list which have to be explored further, are: Azizye, Biladje, Blatch-Balata, Bretzovan, Deve-Baghirdan, Elais-Han, Glavidnje-Kalipoli, Glavoundj, Ichlikenya, Islikova, Kara-Tache, Kotourman, Leskovadj, Lesnova, Loma, Magore, Morgula or Mongole, Ragusna, Talashmandja, Vilva, Yavor and Zoralidje.

It is very doubtful that all these places were in Serbia.

Mr. Petrovich also found that post offices were operating in towns which are today known as, Vraniste and Lausha, but he could not establish the corresponding Turkish names. Neither, had he seen any correspondence emanating from those places.

In any case, he deserves great credit for the information he has supplied: We can only hope that with the passing of time, some documents or correspondence will be found which will throw light on this neglected philatelic field.

Turkish Numerals

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	0

Appendix

Coat of Arms Issue

Herbert Bloch, the well-known philatelic scholar and member of the Friedl Expert Committee, has recently discovered a vertical stitch watermark on a copy of the 1 para stamp from the fourth printing, the last. Checking a number of sheets and single copies of other printings, I have been able to establish that this watermark appears occasionally on stamps of earlier printings of both values, but never on stamps printed on thick paper. Very rarely, the watermark can be found in horizontal position.

Obviously the paper used for the stamps with the watermark was manufactured by the same Austrian papermaker who supplied some of the paper used for the Milan issues (see 25 and 35 para values) and the Austrian coarse print issue of 1867. It should be mentioned that this watermark sometimes appears on some values of the 1880–1890 Milan issue.

Milan Issue

In the description of the second issue of the 2 para newspaper stamp of the 1878 ninth printing, the following information was not included: Free mailing for newspapers printed in the Serbian language was reinstated on May 1, 1878. Foreign language papers continued to be charged for passage through the mails. The new 2 para newspaper stamps could be used for this purpose until October 31, 1880.

The Corfu Issue

On page 198, it is stated that stamps of the Corfu Issue were used bisected at certain post offices. As far as I have been able to establish, this was not done at the following towns: Beograd 1, Beograd 2, Bujanovac, Kos. Mitrovica, Kriva Palanka, Kursumlija, Laskovac, Obrenovac, Pec, Skopje and Valjevo.

The stamps were usually bisected horizontally or vertically. How-

ever, in the case of Pec (Montenegro) 5 para stamps were used, bisected diagonally and put on newspaper wrappers.

Manuscript cancellations with the name of the with or without date were used because cancellers were not available at the following offices: Aleksandrovac, D. Milanovac, G. Milanovac, Kacenik, Kratovo, Kucevo, Palanka, Petrovac, Pozarevac, Markovac, Pristina, Radovista, Smederevo, Saraorci, valjevo, Vel. Plana, Vrnjci and Zagubica.

Danube Steam Navigation Company

Not long ago I was able to confirm that the Agency in Radujevaz was the last one to be closed rather than the one in Belgrade. Two covers, one dated November 1878 and the other March 22, 1879, both franked with the 10 Kr. stamp, Die 2 and cancelled with the oval cancel of the Agency Radujevaz and showing Orsova transit and Vienna arrival postmarks prove this. The remarkable thing is that it took the second letter only one day to arrive in Vienna. This might be the reason why the sender chose to use the DDSG and not the Serbian mail.

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