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Polonus Prepares For POLPEX 88 –

March 12-13, 1988, the dates of Polonus Polpex 88 Exhibition, is approaching fast. Preparations for the Exhibition are in full swing. I would like to appeal to all Polonus members to help the Society in defraying the cost of the Exhibition. One of the best ways is to become a Polpex patron, and at the same time talk with your friends and urge them to become Polpex patrons as well. To be a Patron requires a donation of \$5.00 or more. To be a Well Wisher requires a donation of \$2.00. We'll publish your name in the Polpex Program Book. With this Bulletin we enclose a self addressed remittance envelope for your convenience. All donations should be sent to the treasurer, Fred Szebel, 9041 Emerson, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

Another way is to solicit advertisements for the Polpex Exhibition Program Book. If you own your business, why not advertise in the book. All of us are doing business in our local neighborhood stores, banks, etc. I am sure that the owners of those businesses would want to buy advertisements in the Polpex Program Book. All we need is a little effort. Ad rates are \$50.00 for a full page, \$40.00 for a half page, and \$25.00 for a quarter page. For advertisement forms write to me at 7353 W. Estes Ave., Chicago, IL 60631. The best time to start collecting advertisements will be right after the holidays.

A special Polpex cancellation is being designed and cachets, a souvenir card and souvenir sheets are also in preparation.

Let's all of us join together to make POLPEX 88 a successful and profitable affair.

—Art Walinski, Chairman

Interned Poles of World War II: The Hungarian Experience

by Thomas J. Gobby

Special thanks to István Gazda, of Budapest, Hungary, who provided valuable philatelic information and historical facts about the internment camps in Hungary.

This is the story of the Poles who were interned in Hungary during World War II.

It began on September 1, 1939, when Adolf Hitler unleashed the combined might of the German Navy, Luftwaffe, and Wehrmacht against Poland. Against overwhelming odds, the Poles fought with great courage; the Germans paid a heavy price for each inch of ground they gained.

But courage and heroism do not necessarily win battles or wars. On September 17, 1939, the Soviet Union entered Poland under the terms of a protocol contained in the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (concluded on August 23, 1939, just days before the German invasion). Caught between the Soviets and the Germans, the Poles continued to fight, but with the added incentives of escape and survival.

The Polish government, and the commander-in-chief of the armies, had relocated to the southeastern corner of Poland. There they continually assessed a steadily worsening situation. In the early morning hours of September 18, Ignacy Moscicki, president of the Polish Republic, and Marshall Rydz-Smigly, commander-in-chief of the armies, crossed into Romania. Their hope was to continue to France, there to form Polish units to continue the fight against the Germans.

Tens of thousands of Poles, both civilians and military personnel, crossed not only into Romania, but also into Hungary (Figure 1). In the case of the Polish Air Force, a number of aircraft and their crews flew directly into those countries. Some were part of specially selected crews who had assembled in the vicinity of the Romanian border to await the shipment of British aircraft sent by sea to the Romanian port of Galatz.

How many military personnel and civilians crossed into Hungary probably will never be known. Current estimates give the figures as forty-five to fifty thousand military and five to ten thousand civilians having entered Hungary. An International Red Cross report of late 1939 declared that there were 36,000 military personnel — 5,000 of them officers — interned in Hungary. This report also stated that there were 6,899 civilian refugees, of whom 1,450 were women and 268 were small children.

The Hungarian Internment Camps

From the first day that Polish military and civilians crossed its borders, the Hungarian government faced a formidable task. Tens of thousands of people had to be housed and fed, their arms confiscated, and the pressures of the Germans resisted. Though Hungary was a signatory to the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany, Adm. Miklos Horthy and Pal Teleki, the Hungarian prime minister, attempted to mark time and keep Hungary neutral. Passage of German troops across Hungarian territory was denied, and for a time this was successful.

Hungary and Poland had a long history and tradition of friendship. In the late fifteenth century, the Jagiellonian rulers of Poland were invited to be Hungarian kings. Two centuries later, Bathory (Batory), prince of Transylvania, became one of Poland's most famous kings. Symbolic of the bi-national friendship was that which bound the great Polish composer Frederic Chopin and his Hungarian counterpart, Franz Liszt. Poles had fought in the Hungarian revolutionary movements of the 1800's, and a monument to one Polish general of that time, Jozef Bem, had been erected in Budapest.

Before and after the First World War, Poles had settled in Hungary, and by 1939 numbered several thousand. Thus, when the Poles came in September 1939, they

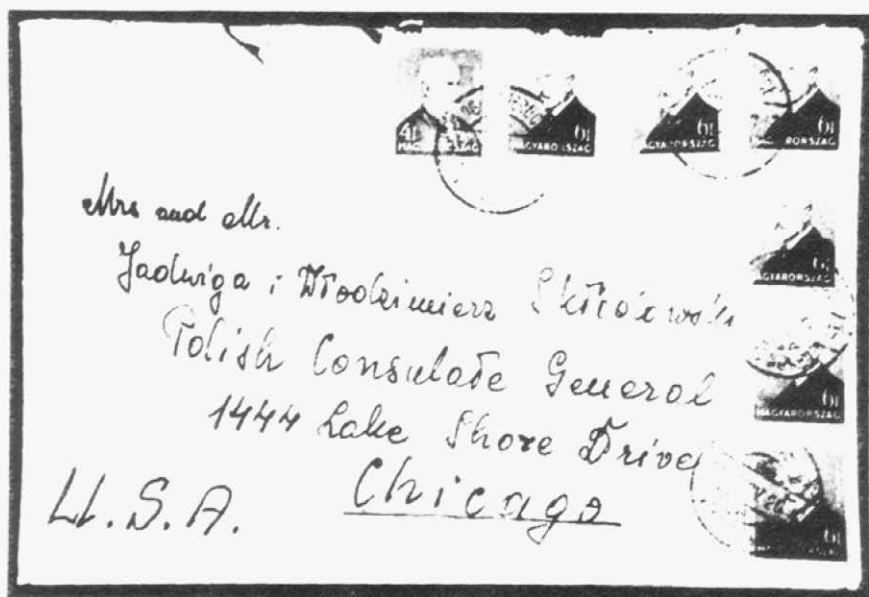


Figure 2. A rather ordinary-looking cover found in a dealer's box and purchased for a dime. However, the flap bears the sender's name and return address of "Nógradverőce, Internielager, Magyaroszag." This source information, combined with a postmark of November 20, 1939, identify it as an early internee cover.

were met by the Hungarians — politics and war aside — as friends in need.

On September 18, 1939, Hungary enacted a legal order that allowed it to demobilize Polish troops on its soil. "Camps" to house the Poles were set up; however, the word "camp" was a misnomer in some instances. Occasionally it meant a camp in the defined sense of a specially constructed unit, but generally it meant any buildings, hotels, and even castles that were pressed into service as internment centers.

Officers had the best of accommodations: recreation centers, small hotels, castles, and, in some instances, private lodgings. For the most part, civilians were in private lodgings. Soldiers were quartered in barracks, buildings, and actual camps.

The number of camps that housed the Poles totaled 140 or 141. (These camps were for military internees; civilians, except in the early days of 1939 and 1940, were not quartered in camps.) See Table I for an alphabetical listing. Readers should be advised that a camp did not necessarily exist *within* a listed town, but may have

been located nearby, and using the postal facility of that town. In addition to originating in these camps, mail from interned Poles might be found from other locations, as in Table II.

To administer the camps, the Hungarian Defence Ministry, Honvédelmi Minisztérium (H.M.), organized Special Unit XXI. All camps fell into one of the eight national military districts (see Table III). Lt. Zoltán Baló of the Hungarian Army commanded this unit, and reporting to him were Gen. Stefan Dembinski, Lt. Marian Steifer, and Second Lt. Alexander Krol — the "senior" Polish officers among the internees.

Command of Department XXI's administration of the military internees passed from Baló to Col. Lóránd Utassy (Hungarian military attaché in Washington, D.C., 1938-1941) in October 1943. A sub-department, Przedstawiciel Polskich Żołnierzy Internowanych w Królestwie Węgier, under Polish administration, operated until the liquidation of the camps in 1944. Civilian refugees were under the administration of Department IX of the Min-

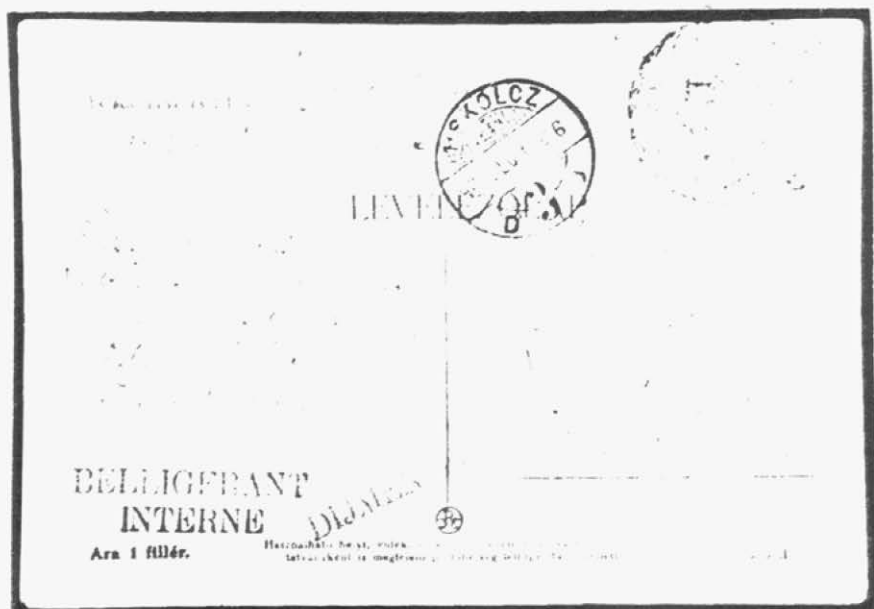


Figure 3. One type of postal card used by Polish internees. There were at least two types, distinguishable by the form number (630/3 II or 630/5 II) in the lower-right corner.

istry of the Interior.

Hungarian troops were assigned and stationed at these camps. The troops were commanded by regular Hungarian Army officers, but a large number of retired officers also were called back to duty for this monitoring task. In each of these camps, the ranking Polish officer or soldier was designated "elder" and camp commandant, and he worked with the Hungarian commander in the areas of compliance with rules and regulations, organization, hygiene, censorship of the mail, and work assignments. In the latter instance officers did not work, but all able-bodied soldiers did. Work was generally in agriculture or road building, and many were paid for their labors.

In researching this article, three distinct time periods for the operation of the camps have been delineated. The first period is September 1939 to September 1940. The height of the period was reached in December 1939, when eighty-eight camps and seventeen clinics and hospitals were being used to accommodate the internees. The largest camps were Esztergom (about 4,000), Sárvár (2,800), and Eger. Of the

officers' camps, in the Lake Balaton area, the largest were Balatonboglár and Balatonföldvár. Other large camps were Dömös and Rákocsa.

Over the course of this first period, to its end (i.e., September 1940), the number of Polish military internees had gone from 45,000 to 50,000 to 6,400, and the number of civilians from about 8,000 to 3,500. From the beginning of the second period in September 1940, until the German occupation on March 19, 1944, the number of operating camps has been estimated to be twenty to thirty. Which camps these were cannot be specifically confirmed at this time.

The third period began on March 19, 1944, and lasted until the end of the war. During the first weeks of the German occupation, about 5,000 Poles, both civilian and military, managed to escape with the help and assistance of the Hungarians and the Polish Underground. By April 1944 there were only 5,000 Poles left in the camps, and this number dwindled still more until the consolidation of the camps by Hungarian Nazis on October 15, 1944. Finally, the Germans took those still left

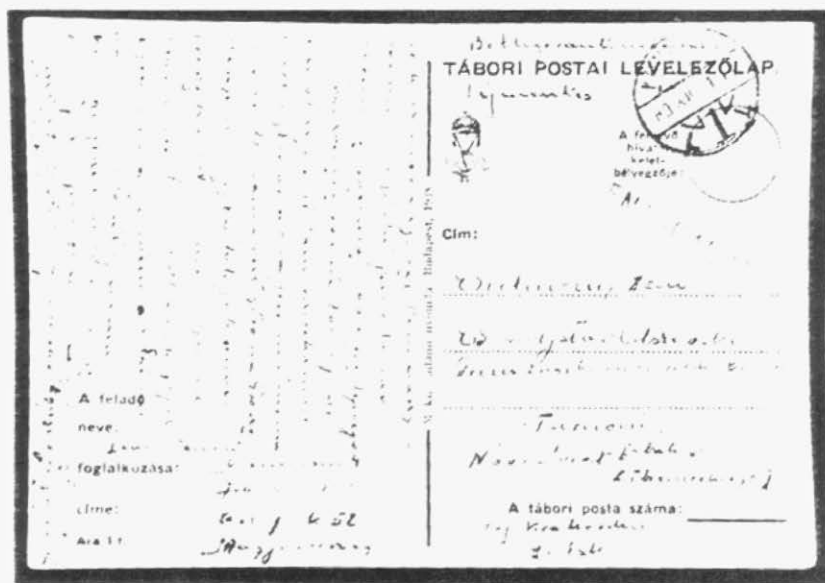


Figure 4. Hungarian fieldpostcard of the 1938 Issue used by Polish internees, posted from Komárom on December 21, 1939.

in the camps and sent them to Mauthausen and other concentration camps. Few survived.

Life in the Camps

Because of the historic ties of friendship, the Poles who were interned found humane and considerate treatment at the hands of the Hungarians. Both peoples have a fierce nationalistic pride and a common desire to throw off any oppressor. Indeed, the Hungarians helped the Poles to the point of directly working with the Polish Underground in aiding officers and soldiers to "escape."

Living conditions in the camps were clean and sanitary. Medical treatment was administered to the sick and wounded. Food was adequate and wholesome. And considerable freedom was enjoyed to move about. Internees in many of the camps had visiting privileges to the nearest town.

Elementary schools, and even a high school, were established in some of the civilian camps. Publishing was carried out and books and magazines printed. Cultural activities were organized which included orchestras and theatrical presentations. Communal life in the camps very much resembled that of small towns in Poland.

The Underground

Intimately interwoven with the story of these camps are the underground networks of the Poles and the Hungarians. Even before the last Pole crossed into Hungary, efforts to escape were being organized. In the chaos of the first week many managed to slip away without any official notice. Subsequently, escape was to become well-planned and orchestrated.

Escape required appropriate identity papers, clothing, and funds. Polish photographers and forgers worked long hours to keep pace with the demand. In Eger, one of the larger camps, the same shirt and tie were used to photograph all soldiers for their fake civilian identity card. The Polish Consulate, which still maintained its office in Eger, then furnished funds and clothing for the journey to France or the Middle East.

From December 1939 to mid-1944, liaison base "Liszt" (cryptonym "Romek"), for the Polish Government-in-Exile and the Underground movement in Poland, operated in Budapest. In mid-1942 the Tajne Dowództwo Żołnierzy (Soldier's Secret Headquarters) was established. Ostensibly, this organization controlled under-

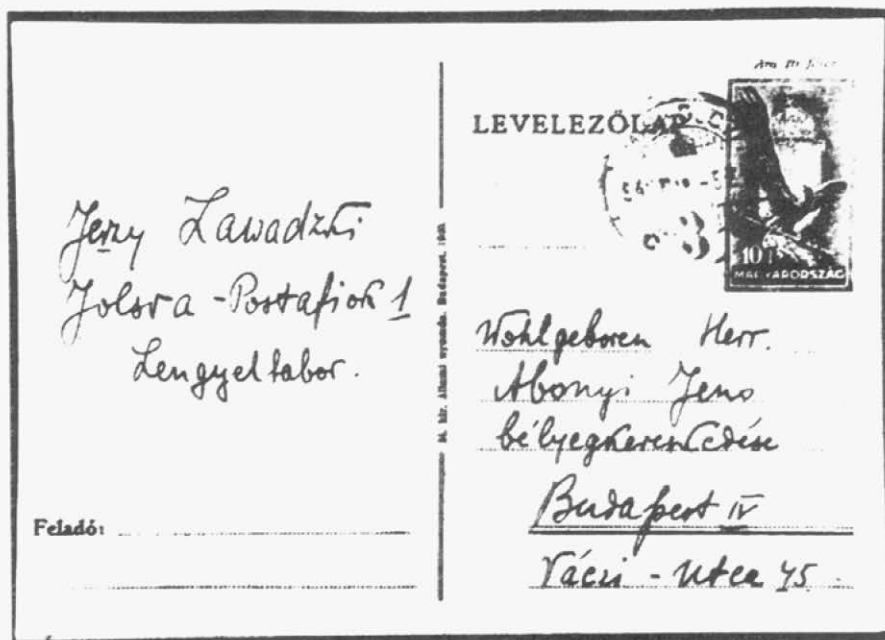


Figure 6. One of several types of Hungarian postal card issues used by Polish internees. This 1940 Issue card was posted from Miskolcz on March 5, 1942. Note the circular Jolsva hand-stamp above the address.

ground activity in military internment camps, and later, after these were shut down by the Germans in Spring 1944, in civilian refugee camps, where many servicemen found shelter.

Between 1940 and 1944, "Liszt" managed to evacuate about 23,000 people from Hungary to France, Great Britain, and the Middle East. The liaison base "Liszt" was reorganized in August 1944 and continued operation under the name of "Pestka."

Another escape network operated through the Polish Legation and office of the Polish military attaché in Budapest, where an underground evacuation bureau was set up to organize the transfer abroad of Polish servicemen and political refugees. It managed to operate until January 15, 1941.

Illegal sections also worked within Polish, Hungarian, and mixed Polish-Hungarian charity and welfare organizations and institutions. Some of these were the Hungarian-Polish Welfare Refugee Committee, the Hungarian Red Cross, and later the Citizen's Committee for Refugee

Welfare Affairs and the Hungarian-Polish Society.

In some instances, Poles who had escaped joined the Hungarian Underground and carried on rear-guard actions and acts of sabotage against the Germans. Others joined up with Tito's partisans. A small operation made up of Polish and Bulgarian partisans organized centers and transfer routes for Polish servicemen who had escaped from Hungarian and Romanian internment camps. Polish military and civilian refugees from occupied Poland also were aided by this joint Bulgarian-Polish force, who sent them by sea to Turkey, Greece, and Yugoslavia.

One notable link in the Polish evacuation network was that established in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, in the home of Dr. Bronislawa Galczyńska-Prasek, a native of Sanok, Poland, who had moved to Zagreb in 1913. Her home at No. 3 Svear Street became a transfer point for refugees and couriers traveling to and from Poland between 1939 to 1941. Thousands of letters and money orders from France, England, Switzerland, and other countries to Poland

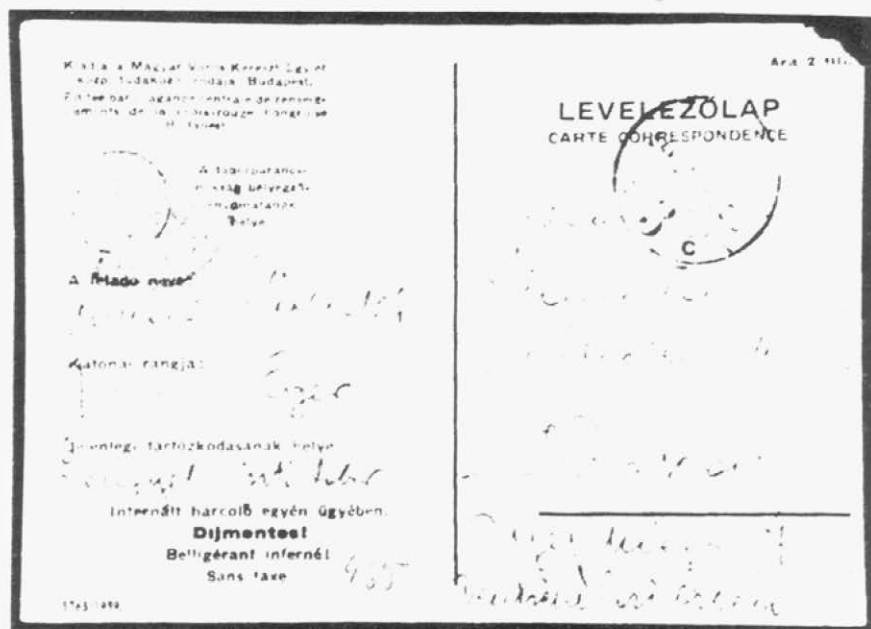


Figure 7. This is the "first edition" (note number in lower-left corner) of the special correspondence cards furnished to the Poles by the Hungarians. This item was sent from the camp at Eger, postmarked January 5, 1940.

and the internment camps in Hungary and Romania went through this house.

How many of the envelopes and letters to Dr. Galczynska-Prasek survived? Most likely, very few. Certainly any cover or card to or from this address would be a valuable historical document of the period. It's worth the hunt. Who knows? Someone might just come across such an item.

Postal Privileges

Within days of their internment, Poles were sending postcards and letters to their relatives and friends in Poland and other countries. There is nothing in terms of handstamps, censor markings, or labels to distinguish these early items as having originated in an internment camp (Figure 2). The only clue would be the return address, if it were to be written on the piece.

In those first days and weeks, the Poles simply put their correspondence into the Hungarian civil mail system. But, as the camps became established, so did a system for handling mail from and to the internees. However, many Poles continued to slip their mail into the regular Hungarian postal

system.

Internees did not seem to have been restricted in terms of the number of cards or letters that they could send. Military internees were given a free frank privilege for corresponding with relatives and friends in Poland and Hungary. However, fees for registration, special delivery, and for letters to other countries had to be paid in full by the internee.

Special Forms

In collecting material of this period, certain types of items, particularly postcards, are encountered with great frequency.

One common card is an unfranked item issued by the Hungarian postal system. Printed in green on beige card stock, it has a form number, "630/5 II," in the lower-right corner of the obverse, and "Ara 1 filler" (cost 1 filler) in the lower-left corner (Figure 3). This style of card also is known in white with form number 630/3 II.

Hungarian Fieldpost cards were distributed among the internees for their use. These were printed in black on pinkish or

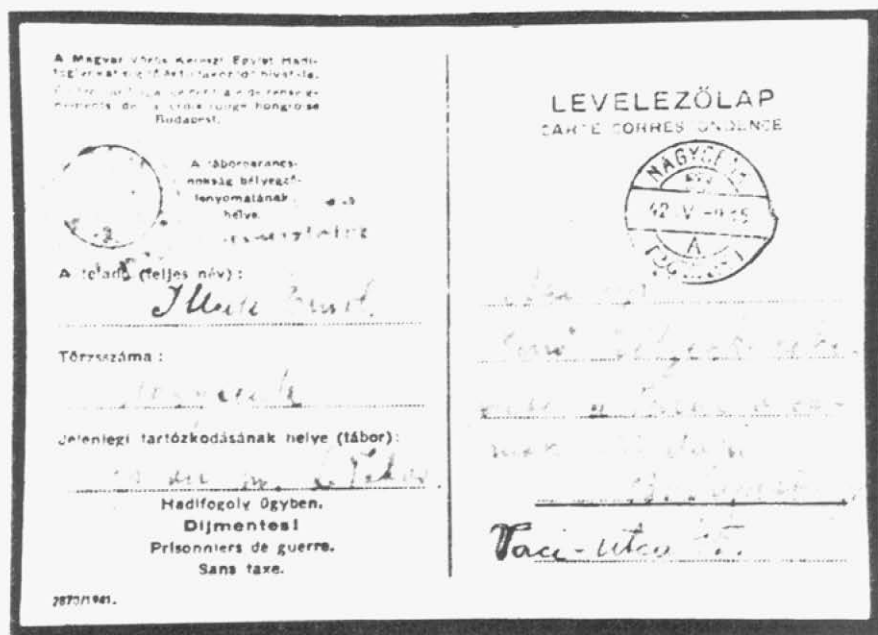


Figure 8. This is another edition, 2870/1941, of the special correspondence cards. Two others are known: 7263/1939 and 1342/1940. A special card for civilian internees was numbered 2871/1941. Note the variations in wording in Hungarian between this card and that in Figure 7.

pinkish-tan pulp-type card stock. "Ara 1 filler" or "Ara 1f" is inscribed in the lower-left corner of the obverse. The double-line vertical separation on the face of the card carries the inscription "M. kir allami nyomda. Budapest, 1938" (or 1939 or 1940; see Figures 4 and 5).

Hungarian stamped postal cards also were used. Printed on beige card stock, these had a vertical pictorial indicium in the upper-right corner of the obverse. In the indicium is an eagle with outspread wings, sitting atop a rock and clutching a sword. The Hungarian coat-of-arms is in the background, and at the bottom is the value "10f" and the inscription "Magyarország." Printed in green is a vertical double-line separation which carries the wording "M. kir allami nyomda, Budapest 1938" (or 1939 or 1940). In 1940 and 1941 the card was again issued, this time in a maroon printing. See Figure 6.

Pictorial Hungarian postal cards of the 1933 issue also were used by the internees. These cards, intended for foreign correspondence, were issued in a 16-filler denomination and carried various scenes of

Hungary in the upper-left quadrant of the card obverse.

In October 1939, special postal cards printed in black on tan card stock were issued by the Central Office of the Hungarian Red Cross in Budapest (Figures 7 and 8). These cards bore inscriptions in the French and Hungarian languages, and carried a free frank privilege inscription ("sans taxe"). These cards were sold to the internees for two filler each. There were at least three editions of these cards, determined by the numbers that appear in the lower-left corner of the face of the card: 5763/1939, 7263/1939, or 1342/1940. Two other types included 2870/1941, for military internees; and 2871/1941, for civilian refugees.

Envelopes and writing paper also were provided to the internees by Amerykanska Komisja Pomocy Polakom na Wegrzech (The American Commission for Aid to Poles in Hungary). If any reader knows anything about this group I would sincerely appreciate hearing about it. The envelopes were issued in white, sand, and light blue. The lower-fifth of these envelopes (face

side) was horizontally ruled and carried the Polish-language name of the American Commission. Its Budapest address, telephone number, and other information were printed in the Hungarian language. These items were intended for correspondence with Poland, and might be considered the rarities of the Hungarian internment camp period.

On August 5, 1943, the *Tygodnik Polski-Materialy Obozowe*, a paper issued by the Citizen's Committee to Aid Polish Refugees, reported a special service offered by the Central Agency of Military Prisoners in Geneva, Switzerland. This service provided for correspondence with family members with whom no one had been in contact for three months or longer. It required that a short letter, in French if possible, be sent to the Agency, with a request that it be sent on via "messages express." Special forms issued by the international and national Red Cross organizations were used for this purpose.

Other Postal Items

Besides the above relatively easy to iden-

tify material, a sharp-eyed collector should be able to find many other pieces. There are postcards, including many picture cards (Figure 9), and all manner of envelopes. These all bear some evidence of their origin.

Cancellations

There is nothing exceptional to be found here . . . at least, not yet. All cards and letters were canceled with the regular city and town devices used in Hungary during this time period.

Censor Markings

Here it gets more interesting, but first: a few words about who was doing the censoring. In each camp, a Pole was designated as a censor. In the large camps, sometimes several served as censors. These censors reported to the Polish "elder" in each camp as well as to the Hungarian commandant. It was their responsibility to see that outgoing mail contained nothing that endangered Hungarian security. Supposedly, some Hungarians fluent in Polish also acted as censors.



Figure 11. Material seldom encountered is correspondence between camps. This is a POW reply card from the Hungarian internment camp at Selyp to the German Polish POW camp at Murnau. Note the circular censor stamp containing the Hungarian coat-of-arms and the words "ELLENŐRIZVE/PEKIR." The circular stamp in the lower center is that of the Selyp camp. The rectangular censor stamp at upper left was applied in Murnau.

Once the censor did whatever he was supposed to do, the card or letter was stamped to indicate that the item had been censored. On the earliest items, a single-line stamp "CENZURALVA" is found. "ELLENÖRIZVE" is another single-line marking, appearing in all manner of type-faces, and also is found in a rectangular boxed frame.

Later, a three-line, rectangular-boxed marking appeared (Figure 10), containing the word "censored" in Hungarian, French, and German: "ELLENÖRIZVE," "CENSUREE," and "ZEN-SURIERT," respectively. In this marking, the Hungarian appeared on the top line, followed by French/German, or German/French. Apparently, the sequence was determined by the manufacturers of the handstamps.

One censor marking that is frequently encountered is a circular stamp containing the Hungarian coat-of-arms and the words "ELLENÖRIZVE/PEKIR" within the circle (Figure 11):

There were at least two types of censor tapes used by the Hungarians to reseal opened letters. The first is a white tape which was printed in purple ink. It carries a two-line inscription which is repeated across the tape. The top line reads "AZ 1939 EVI II TC [Hungarian coat-of-arms] 152. S AN ALAPULO." The bottom line reads "H.M. RENDELET ALAPJAN FELBONTVA" ("Opened according to

decree of the Ministry of Defence"). Covers bearing these seals also are stamped with the "ELLENÖRIZVE/PEKIR" circular stamp ("PEKIR" is the abbreviation for Postal Control Commission).

The second type of censor tape also is white and printed in purple ink, with a three-line inscription and the Hungarian coat-of-arms repeated across the tape (Figure 12).

On covers that bear these tapes, three-digit numbers are usually found rubber-stamped on the obverse and reverse of envelopes; e.g., 263, 274, 341, 347, 348, 413, etc. It is believed that these were the identity numbers for Hungarian censors.

Besides these markings and censor tapes there are a variety of other indicators of censorship. See Figure 13. It is safe to assume that many camps simply ordered or manufactured their own handstamps, and there was little uniformity, particularly in the first period.

Other Markings

Here is where the collector can literally go crazy. Remember that there were at least 140 camps at one time or another. As these camps settled into some routine, there were a variety of handstamps that were applied to outgoing mail.

One marking was a double-ring circle which contained the Hungarian coat-of-arms and the wording, "M. kir. gyűjtőtábor parancsnokság (name of camp)"

AZ 1939 EVI II TC 152. S AN ALAPULO
H.M. RENDELET ALAPJAN
FELBONTVA



Figure 12. One of the two types of censor tapes applied to international mail issuing from Hungary.

[translated: "Kingdom of Hungary collective camp/(name of camp)"], or "M. kir. honved gyűjtőtábor/(name of camp)" [translated: Kingdom of Hungary collective military camp/(name of camp)].

These handstamps come in various diameters; see some examples in Figures

14-16.

Of course, there are other types. There are simple double-line circular stamps that contain wording such as "Parancsnoks * G * Tabor," with the name of the camp in a horizontal bridge through the center (Figure 17). These were applied in red ink.



Figure 14. Two types of the camp handstamps; varieties and differences invite further research and cataloguing.



Figure 15. Internment camp card mailed within Hungary.

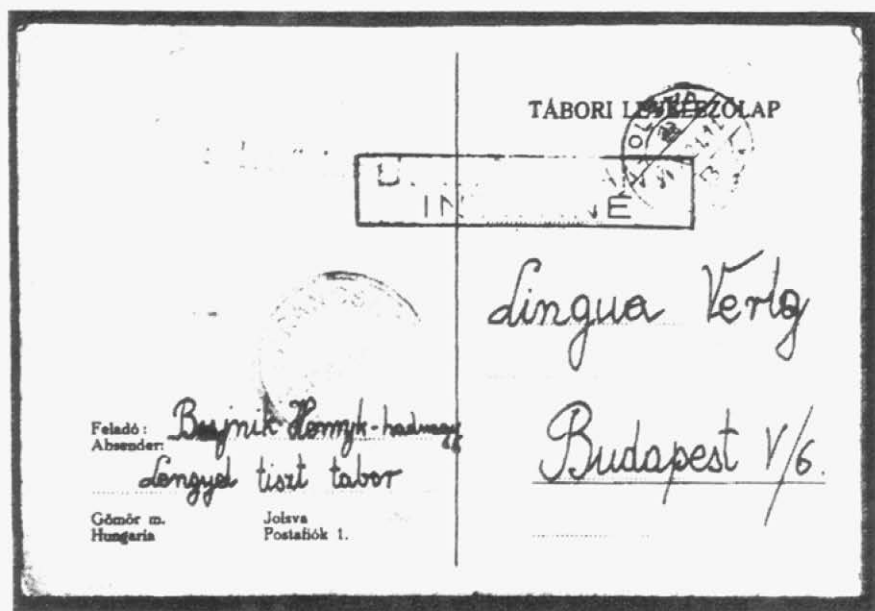


Figure 17. Within-Hungary camp card with name of camp, Jolsva, on "bridge" of handstamp.

Other markings found on these cards and letters are:

1. "DIJMENTES" (postage free; Figures 3, 5-8)
2. "SANS TAXE" (postage free; Figures 5, 7-8, 15)
3. "BELLIGÉRANT INTERNÉ" (interned belligerent; Figures 3-8, 11, 13, 15, 17)

These three markings come in many sizes and variety of typefaces. Inks used were red, purple, and black.

Some Final Words

The Hungarian internment camp period is a fertile one; collectors of Hungary and Poland look for it, as well as collectors of POW/internee mail, censorship, and World War II. Items are still to be found — the cover illustrated in Figure 2 was discovered in a dealer's junk box for ten cents.

How plentiful it is? Obviously, the first period generated the most material (Figure 18). During this time, the numbers of both internees and camps were at their peak.

The second period is more challenging, as only about twenty to thirty camps were in operation, and the number of internees had been reduced significantly (Figures 19-20).

The third and final period is the most difficult.

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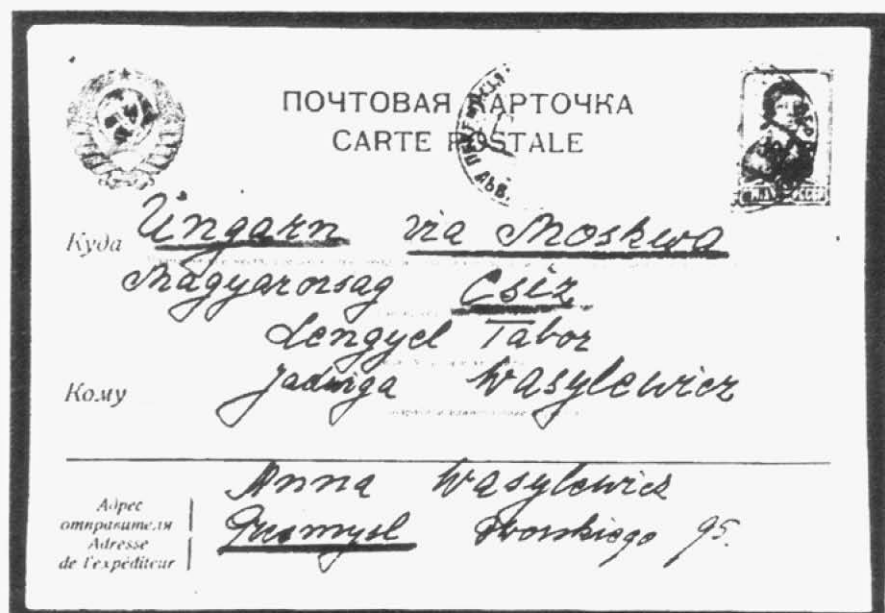


Figure 18. Mail into the camps is a desirable find. This postal card from the first period, from Russian-occupied Poland (Przemysl) to the Hungarian internment camp at Csiz, is postmarked December 17, 1939. Stamps probably were removed in search for secret messages.

Table I
Hungarian Internment Camps

(Total: 140)	Felsőhangony	Kiscenk	Nógradverőce
Abaújnádasd	Felsőpakony	Kisdobák	Osgyán
Babócsa	Fertőszentmiklos	Kiskunlacháza	Pácin
Balatonboglár	Gánt	Komárom	Párkány
Balatonkiliti	Gara	Kóvár	Pécs
Balatonlelle	Géderlak	Kőszeg	Perény
Balatonföldvár	Gyékényes	Krasznokvajda	Pesthidegkut
Balatonzamárdi	Gyöngyösapáti	Lengyeltóti	Pettend-pusztá
Bánréve	Győr	Letskés	Piliscsaba
Barcs	Hidasnémeti	Léva	Pillsvörösvár
Barzence	Högyész	Magyarbóly	Püski
Bregenc-major	Inárcs	Magyarcsanak	Püspöknádasd
Budapest-Citadella	Ipolybalog	Mándok	Ráckeve
Budapest-Kőbánya	Ipolybél	Miskolc	Rajka
Bük	Ipolyhidvég	Mőgyesz	Rákosszaba
Csaroda	Ipolypásztó	Mohács	Ráros-pusztá
Csiz	Ipolyság	Monor	Ricse
Csurgó	Ipolyszalka	Mosdós	Sajókazinc
Debrecen	Ipolytarnóc	Mosonmagyaróvár	Sajólénártalva
Dejtar	Jolsva	Munkács	Sajózánya
Dömös	Kadarkút	Murakeresztúr	Sajószentkirály
Dömsöd	Kakucs	Nagyecenk	Sajóvelezd
Dregelypalánk	Kaposvár	Nagycsalomja	Samoskövőfalva
Eger	Kapuvár	Nagykátá	Sárvár
Érsekújvár	Kassa	Nagykanizsa	Selyp
Esztergom	Kalonda	Nagymaros	Siklós
Felnémet	Királyr	Naprág	Somogyudvarhely

Chicago TV Spotlights Stamp Collecting

The Chicago area is being treated to a television show produced by a stamp collector about stamp collectors and stamp collecting.

Thomas J. Gobby, Polonus President and Vice President of public relations for Talman Federal Savings and Loan Ass'n of Illinois, has the full support of Theodore H. Roberts, President of Talman, for a regular TV show that will occasionally feature philately.

The big lending institution has contracted for a one-hour weekly television program on a local cable television station, Channel 52, for a program entitled, "Chicago, Passport to the World."

The program was established to showcase Chicago's neighborhoods and people, to illustrate what's going on in the city's diverse ethnic areas.

Tom is the host of the show and has always looked for ways to promote stamp collecting. He will devote one show per month to a different aspect of stamp collecting, using area philatelists as guests.

The first show was broadcast on Saturday, Oct. 17th (with a repeat the next day).

Dr. James Mazepa and Thomas Gobby spent the hour discussing early Polish Postal history. The second TV show went on the air Nov. 28th, and featured Bernard Hennig and Austin Dulin on the stamps of Germany. The third show features Les Winnick and Bob Weisz who will talk about collecting in general. It will air on January 3rd, 1988.

Future TV shows will discuss other Chicago ethnic groups and their tie-in to stamps. Tom feels he has enough collectors and topics in

the Chicago area to continue the show indefinitely. Other subjects may include the buying and selling of stamps, and the basics of stamp collecting.

Talman is currently considering the possible use of the program in other cable television areas of the country.

From the Editor . . .

In Polonus Bulletin #405 (July/Aug., 1984) there was an article about Polish exhibits and the awards they received at ESPANA 84. Written by Dr. James Mazepa, the article provided individual commentary on each exhibit including that of Lech Popielewski of Poland.

Mr. Popielewski wrote to Polonus via Ryszard Z. Poddubiuk of Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec, Canada. Mr. Popielewski stated that he could not accept the evaluation given to his exhibit by Dr. Mazepa and wrote a very long explanation, by section, of his exhibit.

There is no question about the quality of Mr. Popielewski's items. Most are of museum type quality. One of the most "spectacular" is a letter from King Zygmunt August carried on the Polish Post Road which was established by the King in 1558 and extended in 1562. This road ran from Venice to Krakow to Warsaw to Wilno.

There are numerous other items, apparently all in very good condition. However, where the rub appears is in the matter of the numerous items with seals of various types from various agencies and entities. Dr. Mazepa, who viewed the exhibit, states that the majority of these seals were not philatelic.

Mr. Popielewski also could not understand the level of his award, a silver at ESPANA 84. He pointed out that he had received gold medals at national shows in Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany. A national show is one thing, an international show is another. An international is the big leagues, the quality of material critical, the purpose of the exhibit clear, and no encouragement or mercy from the judges. Finally, the presentation of 316 years of postal history (of any country) in five frames, in an international is truly begging the question if the exhibitor expects more than a silver level award.

Mr. Popielewski's letter, in its entirety and as forwarded by Mr. Podubiuk, is in Dr. Mazepa's hands for any further, direct reply.

New Issues

The New Year 1987/1988

For the Christmas Season, issued was a stamp illustrating a drawing of Santa Claus with Christmas trees. Stamp value: 15 zł.; technique: multicolored rotogravure; size: 39.5 x 31.25 mm; Art paper; One sheet - 50 stamps. Date of issue: December

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Polonus Philatelic Society
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1987.

Designers of the stamp, FDC envelope and FDC date-marker were Emily and Wojciech Freudenreich.

—"ARS POLONA"

New Member

Ronald Wolosiewicz, #1342
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