

FEBRUARY 2009

The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CLUB

**THE FEBRUARY MEETING WILL BE HELD
ON FEBRUARY 12TH .. AT 7.30 PM IN THE
POST OFFICE AT 6550 SHALLOWFORD RD.**

**THIS MONTH READ ABOUT THE EARLY PHILITELIC
HISTORY OF HUNGARY.**



*Scott #3
Franz Josef I issue of 1871.*

PREPARE FOR THE 'ONE PAGE' EXHIBIT!!!

PART 2 – NICK'S PHILATELIC ADVENTURES

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MEMBER BIRTHDAY’S

CHAIJ, VIVIAN 04/02/--
BOWERS, TRISH 06/02/--

A great big happy birthday to Vivian and Trish. Hope both of you had a fantastic birthday celebration!

VALENTINES DAY

February 14th is Valentine’s day. Please remember the one you love with a present that is appropriate for the day. For the full story of how Valentines day began, refer back to your February 2008 issue.

FREE STAMP ALBUM

To mark the 50th anniversary of Alaskan statehood, the USPS issued a new commemorative stamp on January 3. The APS marks this "Last Frontier" anniversary in its own special way, with a free, download-able STAMPS OF ALASKA album in pdf format, featuring spaces and stories for U.S. stamps that have connections with the nation's 49th and largest state. (Texas is really larger, just wait till all the ice and snow melt-ed) To view and download your free album go to:

<http://www.stamps.org/albums/alaska.pdf>

NOTE TO ALL APS MEMBERS

Jim Cate is running for the postion of Director at Large with the APS. I am sure that he would appreciate as many votes as he can get.

Not by might, Not by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord. Zechariah 4: 6

CLUB NEWS AND EVENTS

JANUARY PROGRAM RECAP:

Thanks to Jim Cate for a wonderful program on "Adverstiy covers." Jim gave a Power Point presentation complete with words and pictures. He explained how paper was made during the Civil War and because of being short of paper, even wall paper was used to make envelops. Thanks also go to Dan Chaij and his son Larry for providing the lap top computer and Power Point projector, which really helped to make the presentation a great one.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

At print time, I haven't a clue as to what the program will be, or if anything is planned. What ever will be presented, I am sure it will very good program.

SAD NEWS:

Bill White has been in the hospital with a mild stroke. I talked with him on the phone last week and he says he doing fine with only having to take a aspirin a day. I pray all is well with him in the coming year.

NEWSLETTER UP DATE:

I hope everyone was able to get into the Southeastern Federation of Stamp clubs web site and read the January newsletter. *IF* there is any member still having problems with digital formatted newsletter, PLEASE let me know. I feel that the club may not fully understand how going to a web version of the CHRONICLE has helped me to get through this time of month with out to much pain and effort. And to save a bundle of money that normally, came from my personal pocket. Printing and mailing out the news letter is VERY expensive.

ONE PAGE EXHIBIT

It is that time of year, when we as a club do our one page exhibit. Just as when Bob Davidson was in charge, IT IS A *ONE* PAGE EXHIBIT!!! Not five or ten pages. Last April, I let the rules slide a bit. NOT this year. The members will not learn how to do any type of exhibiting in the real world, IF you do not follow the rules. FULL DETAILS AND RULES IN THE MARCH ISSUE!

For now, get a topic picked out and prepare a written statement to go along with the stamp. *IF* anyone needs some help call me. Exhibiting can and is, a lot of fun, educational and can bring a lot of personal recunition from other stamp collectors. Just talk to Jim Cate, who has been at for years and years.

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts. – WILL ROGERS
(1879-1935)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Trish Bowers

You may need a reminder that starting in January through May, the club will be meeting on the fourth Thursday in addition to the regular second Thursday. Ken Burnham “volunteered” to host the 4th Thursday gatherings. It will be an informal and very casual meeting. Come to enjoy and share your stamp knowledge with one another.

Jim Cates presented us with a very interesting subject of Adversity Covers of Chattanooga during the Civil War. I had never heard of these before and am more surprised that items of this nature have been preserved over the years. Jim has so many avenues in the stamp world and this was just another one of his collections. We are very fortunate to have him in our club.

My project for this month has been getting 2008 photographs placed into album pages. I did not think I had that many photos, but when three photographers take a trip together to Savannah and New York City, there are loads of pictures to be shared. I have spent a lot of time at Snapfish web site in the last few days ordering photographs. Every time I complete this task, I promise myself that I will enter pictures into albums the minute I get them...well, you know how that goes.

If you have not paid your dues yet, your check can be sent to Carl or bring your twenty bucks to the next meeting.

Until next month....

Trish

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. (attributed to Voltaire),

A SHORT HISTORY OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

There are a few of the members that collect Hungary. The article is written by your editor and it is my hope that someone will enjoy it well enough to start their own Hungarian collection. The stamp pictures are from my personal collection.

EARLY HUNGARIAN HISTORY

Magyar[1] tribes migrated from Asia and settled in the Carpathian Basin in 896AD. The Kingdom of Hungary, was founded by King St. Stephen[2] in 1000AD, and had very a turbulent history[3] defending itself against foreign invasions, primarily the Mongols in 1241AD. Nevertheless, it became a Central European power under the 300-year rule of the native Árpád Dynasty and subsequent dynasties.

In 1526 as a result of the Ottoman[4] conquest, the kingdom split into three parts:

1. Western Hungary ruled by the Austrian House of Habsburg,
2. Transylvania governed by Hungarian princes,
3. and central Hungary under Turkish yoke.

The Turks occupied Hungary until the last years of the 17th Century, at which time the Habsburgs drove out the Turks and claimed all of Hungary. The 150 years of constant wars destroyed the native population and the voids were filled by foreign peoples, creating the present characteristic of Hungary.

The reoccupation of Hungary by Austria also gave rise to wars for independence, first under Prince Rákóczi (1703-1711) and Lajos Kossuth (1848-1849), who was the leading statesman in the movement to defeat the Habsburgs. Maria Theresa, the Austrian Empress, established a regular postal service in Hungary and a military field-post service which was in operation during the wars for independence.

FIRST STAMP ISSUES

Following the 'stampless' era, Austria joined the stamp-issuing nations of the world in 1850. In 1867 a compromise was reached with Austria, creating the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy with Franz Josef as the Emperor.[5] The Hungarian half of the Monarchy created an independent postal system, and issued its first stamps in 1867[6].



FIGURE 1. *HUNGARY #1 Franz Josef I issue of 1871.*

Since then, its stamp issues have reflected the country's current and past history. Many Hungarian stamps depict two national symbols – the crown of St. Stephen and the mythical Turul bird[7]. During the First World War, Hungary fought alongside Austria against Russia and Italy. Austrian military-post stamps, as well as the stamps of

Bosnia-Herzegovina (occupied in 1878 and annexed by the Monarchy in 1908) provide an interesting connection to Hungarian philately.

FIGURE 2. *HUNGARY #3 issued in 1871*



POST WORLD WAR ONE STAMPS

Following the military defeat of Austria in November 1918, the Armistice was signed on 13 November 1918 and a Republic was proclaimed in Hungary severing all links with the Monarchy. Existing stamps were overprinted 'Köztársaság' to mark the new government.



Figure 3 – *The mythical Turul and the crown of Saint Steven. This Scott #51 Issued in 1900. The post mark, some what, covers the crown.*

As part of the peace settlement, Hungary had to give up land to Romania, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Serbia, Poland, and Italy. 6 During the transition period of 1918 to 1921, overprinted stamps were used in various parts of these occupied areas.

Figure 4 – *'Harvesting wheat' Szeged issue of 1918. Scott #27, with 'Köztársaság' over print. Note the Overprint over the over print.*

The Republican government was overthrown in March 1919 and replaced by a short-lived Communist regime, which also overprinted stamps 'Tanacsosztarsasag' to mark its victory, followed by stamp issues of original design. At the same time, a nationalist government headed by Admiral Horthy was formed at Szeged. Once again, stamps were overprinted 'Magyar Nemzeti.



In return for their continued assistance, the Germans awarded Hungary the northern part of Transylvania by the Second Vienna Arbitral Award in 1940. In 1941, Hungary participated in the military invasion of Yugoslavia and annexed the Bacska region.

Special 'Hazatérés' stamps and cancellations from major towns marked the return of these regions to Hungary.

In the last six months of the war, the Russians overran and occupied Hungary. The Horthy government was replaced, at first by a democratic coalition government in 1945 (the Second Republic was declared in February 2, 1946), and then by a Soviet puppet state in 1949 (People's Republic, declared on August 20th).

WORLD WAR II AND AFTER

As clouds of war heralding World War Two gathered, Hungary looked to the Nazi government in Germany for rectification of the country's borders, which were deemed unjust because large groups of ethnic Hungarians were transferred to the Successor States by the Trianon Treaty. Following the disintegration of Czechoslovakia in 1938, Hungary recovered the southern part of Slovakia by the First Vienna Arbitral award. The war devastated Hungary, resulting in a rapid deterioration of its currency. Between May 1, 1945 and July 31, 1946, 27 postal rate changes occurred in what is known as the world's greatest hyperinflation.

The Hungarian people revolted against Soviet domination in the brief Hungarian Uprising of October-November 1956. The students of Sopron commemorated the event with an overprinted stamp issue. The revolt was brutally crushed and Hungary continued to be solid member of the Warsaw Pact until the disintegration of the Soviet Union's European Empire in 1989. Today, Hungary is a republic again, a free and independent country, whose stamp issues continue to highlight its rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage.

Hungarian philately includes not only stamps, but also pre-stamp envelopes, and postal stationery entires. Hungary has issued air mail and semi-postal stamps in addition to the regular issues. Like many other countries, Hungary has issued stamps for special delivery, postage due, official use and newspapers. In addition, a rich parallel facet of Hungarian philately is the revenue stamps issuing area. Hungarian philatelic materials are available from dealers, clubs, and direct from the Hungarian post office.

NOTES:

[1] The Magyars, a Finno-Ugric people, reached the Carpathian Basin after a long, venturesome journey. Their original homeland was probably in Western Siberia, an area of high forest extending along the lower reaches of the Ob, from where they moved progressively south. In the course of the first millennium BC, they split from the Ob-Ugrian group, and it was at this time that they began to refer to themselves by the name Magyar. For reasons yet obscure, between 500 BC and AD 550 they migrated to the area of modern Bashkiria, a region delineated by the Volga and Kama rivers and the Ural Mountains. The entire region later became known as Magna Hungaria. Approximately the same time the Magyars probably divided into seven tribes known as the Nyék,

Megyer, Kér, Kürtgyarmat, Tarján, Jenő, and Keszi.

REFERENCE: http://www.idg.hu/expo/hosok_tere/gero/Magyars.html

[2] King Stephen (the Saint, 997-1038), the Hungarian prince who had converted the people to Christianity and, in accepting his crown from the Pope in 1001, had elevated Hungary to the status of kingdom and established it as a state in accord with contemporary European norms.

REFERENCE: http://www.idg.hu/expo/hosok_tere/gero/Stephen.html

[3] General History of Hungary

A. BJ's Hungarian History Page:

<http://www.geocities.com/jozsefbiro/Hungary/history.html>

For a detailed history of Hungary go to the above address.

B. Another site that is good on the history of Hungary is:

<http://impulzus.sch.bme.hu/info/hunhist.html>

[4] Ottoman Conquest

1526: Suleyman's first Hungarian campaign. The Ottoman army invaded Hungary and defeated the Habsburg forces in the Battle of Mohács (Aug. 29) (See 1526, Aug. 29–30). Buda and Pest fell ten days later. The Ottomans withdrew after the Transylvanian notable John Zapolya recognized Ottoman suzerainty.

1532: Suleyman's third Hungarian campaign. Following a new Habsburg siege of Buda, Suleyman led a massive force to deal with the threat and penetrate central Europe. The campaign succeeded in conducting raids in Austria but without forcing the main Habsburg army into battle. The two sides agreed to a peace (June 22, 1533), by which the Habsburgs abandoned their claims to Hungary except for the border areas they had originally occupied and agreed to pay an annual tribute to the sultan. For a more detailed list of events and dates go to:

REFERENCE: <http://www.bartleby.com/67/c4p00592>

[5] EMPEROR FRANZ JOSEF

Francis Joseph I, born 1830, died November 21, 1916 in Vienna (Wein) Austria Emperor of Austria from 1848 to 1916, King of Hungary, Brother of Maximilian. Succeeded by Archduke Karl Kormány' in Szeged. An additional philatelic complication occurred when the French army temporarily Horthy was elected regent of the KINGDOM OF HUNGARY, which signed the 'Peace of Trianon' in 1920 ending the state of war. Former KING KARL made two unsuccessful attempts to regain his throne in 1921. In the same year, Hungarian insurgents established the BANATE OF LAJTABANSAG in parts of Western Hungary assigned to Austria by the Trianon Treaty.

The insurgency was suppressed, but a plebiscite returned the town of SOPRON and environs to Hungary.

[6] The First Stamps

To the basic collector, the first stamps for Hungary listed in Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalog and also pictured in stamp albums is usually the Franz Josef portrait lithographed series. Gary Ryan, who specializes in Hungarian philately, has proved to the satisfaction of most philatelists that the 'First Issue of Hungary is the issue of 1867'. This issue portrayed the Austrian Kaiser facing right, in a square design, was printed in Vienna but issued exclusively in and for Hungary. These stamps were later issued in Austria, as the 1863/64 issues were depleted. They were invalidated for use in Hungary after 31st July 1871. Stamps with the exclusively Hungarian design of Franz Josef heads (with St. Stephen's crown and Hungarian coat of arms) were issued in Hungary officially on the 1st May 1871. The Hungarian printing office was supposed to issue engraved stamps as the 1871 issue, but problems occurred. As they continued to near a decision, considering the date of 1 January 1871, the Hungarian printing office made the decision to issue the design using the lithographed stone printing technique to get the stamps issued. Actual sales started a little later, as the 1867 stamps were used up. Earliest recorded dates are between 7th May and 23rd June (for different values of the Litho printings) and between 2nd July and 29th August for the line engraved stamps. Bibliography: Visnyovszki, Gabor, *Bélyegkönyv/Stamps*, Budapest, 1996

[7] For complete information and pictures on this mythical bird go to:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turul>



Scott #558, Crown of St. Steven issued in 1940

THE CONTINUING 'PHILATELIC ADVENTURES' OF NICK THORTON - Part 2

Part 1 was in the January issue of the CSC. The original article appeared in Nick's school paper, THE BAGPIPE, The student paper of Covent College.

A few weeks later, after the Sunday morning service, I arrived at one of the club meetings by way the LRT, Manila's rail transportation system, on what was possibly the hottest day of the rainy season. The building which housed the museum, library, and the stamp club was only partially air conditioned, so I was sweating profusely. My shirt was soaked. I made it just in time to look at some of the lots that were to be auctioned of in the club's monthly auction. Despite the heat, the auction process was very fun. I signed up to participate and received a small handheld sign with which to bid. I sat around with all the old Filipino stamp collectors and bid on many stamps. I came away with a few good deals and made contacts with some knowledgeable Filipino stamp collectors.

Several weeks later I managed to find one of the only stamp stores in Manila, the DeJesus Variety Store. Again, I rode the public rail as far as I could, and then took a pedi-cab (a bike with a covered side apartment attached for the passenger) the rest of the way. I then walked around about 15 minutes trying to spot the store which was actually on the other side of a busy road.

I finally spotted "DeJesus" with much relief. Inside, the owner tried to sell me a beautiful album that included all the stamps from the Japanese Occupation Period from 1942-1945. It was tempting, but way too expensive at about US\$300. I settled on some inexpensive first issues of the Republic of the Philippines instead which cost me less than US\$20. This semester, I shared my experience in the Philippines and did a small presentation on Philippine stamps at the Chattanooga stamp Club. Stamps have brought me much joy and have provided for some unique experiences. I would highly recommend this hobby to any one. Stamp collecting is a great way to learn about the history, geography and culture of other nations, to learn about America itself, meet new friends, and even invest for the future. I would be happy to take anyone along with me to the next stamp club meeting or provide some good stamp resources for those interested.

USPS 2009 COMMEMORATIVE STAMP PROGRAM

This is a list of stamps issued during the first two months of 2009. You might be able to obtain some of the issued stamps at your local post office. Other stamp issues will be mentioned in future issues of the CSC.



1. Alaska Statehood

The Alaska Statehood stamp was issued on Jan. 3, in Anchorage to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Alaska statehood.

2. Lunar New Year: Year of the Ox

Celebrating Lunar New Year series, The Year of the Ox was issued on Jan. 8 at the Katie Murphy Amphitheatre, Institute of Technology (FIT), in New

York City.

3. Oregon Statehood

The sesquicentennial of Oregon's statehood was issued in Portland on Jan. 14. Oregon was officially welcomed as the 33rd state in the Union on Feb. 14, 1859.



4. Edgar Allan Poe

On January 16, the USPS issued this stamp at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, to mark the 200th anniversary of Poe.

5. Abraham Lincoln

The 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's (1809-1865) birth is coming up on Feb. 9, in Springfield, IL. There will be four stamps showing Lincoln at various stages of life.



Rail-Splitter



Lawyer



President

STAMPS OF THE MONTH

Some of my favorite stamps of Hungary are the ones that have pictures of the crown of Steven. I like them mainly because of their various color. They are a very pretty set of stamps. The stamps shown are all from my personal collection.



SAINT STEVEN

In 996 Stephen married the sister of Henry III of Bavaria. A war of succession after Geza's death the following year was won by Stephen with a mixed army of Hungarians and Bavarian heavy cavalry. He went on to become the best-loved and possibly the most important figure in Hungarian history. To forestall Christian countries warring on Hungary as a nation of "heathen barbarians", Stephen applied directly to Rome for recognition as the first King of Christian Hungary, independent of both German and Byzantine Emperors.

Scott #537

Stephen freed slaves and established churches, encouraging his nobles to do the same. He re-distributed land, minted silver coinage, and laid the foundation of a legal system. Friendly relations were begun with Byzantium (the Hungarian royal crown was Byzantine work), and Stephen's son and heir married a Byzantine princess and Stephen had his own Varangian Guard in imitation of the Byzantine Emperor.

In 1014, Stephen aided Byzantine Emperor Basil II in his war against Bulgaria, and later repelled German and Pecheneg invasions. Latin became the court language, and Hungarian almost vanished from official records. Stephen died in 1038, and was canonised in 1073. After Stephen's death wars of succession disrupted the realm (with some periods of quiet) till the early 13th century. Many claimants brought in foreign help – German, Polish, and in the 12th century, Byzantine. Hungary lost independence to these foreign helpers to the extent of doing homage, at various times, to both Western and Byzantine Emperors. Despite the conflicts, Hungary grew in population, prosperity and territory. The Kingdom of Croatia was annexed and administered by a ban (viceroy). Monks (No relation to the editor) coming from Germany, Italy and France raised cultural standards and enabled other progress, such as a change from stock-breeding to growing crops and vines. Gold, silver and salt were mined and new towns were founded. Though Byzantine Emperor Manuel Comnenos (1143-1180) invaded ten times in twenty-two years in an attempt to impose Byzantine sovereignty, he never seriously threatened Hungarian independence.





The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932. We are also a member of the Southeaster Federation of Stamp Clubs.

-- CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2009 --

President: Trish Bowers Vice-President: OPEN
Secretary: Rebecca Gilbert Treasurer: Carl Anderson
Librarian: Ken Burnham

MEETINGS: Club meetings are held on the second and forth Thursday of each month at the Post Office Main Mail Facility located at 6050 Shallowford Road in Chattanooga, TN. PLEASE be prompt - to maintain building security, the Post Office opens the doors at the entrance to the office area at 7.00 P.M. and locks them at 7.30 PM.

MEMBERSHIP: Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis, ie. start on 01/01 and end on 12/31. Yearly dues are \$20.00. Send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer, Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd., Signal Mountain, TN 37377

CONTACT INFORMATION: For directions to the meetings, information pertaining to club membership and stamp collecting in general please contact our club president, Ms. Trish Bowers, at 423-899-0981.