

# Landlocked Countries: Hungary, Part 4

by Geir Sør-Reime

## The People's Republic 1949-89

August 18, 1949, the Hungarian People's Republic was established and two days later three stamps displaying the arms of the Communist republic were released. This set was inscribed "Magyar Népköztársaság" (Hungarian People's Republic). The 1949 Stamp Day single had the same inscription; all other stamps of the People's Republic were inscribed "Magyar Posta".



Left, 1949 Stamp Day Sc. C67; right, 1949 arms of People's Republic Sc. 857

The fifth anniversary of the constitution of the People's Republic was celebrated on three 1954 stamps. The Soviet influence was strong and in 1949, three stamps were issued to celebrate Soviet leader Stalin's 70th birthday. There were also two stamps for his 72nd birthday 1951, and a single stamp and a miniature sheet for Stalin's death in 1953.



1954 5th anniversary of constitution Sc. 1087; 1949 Stalin 70 years Sc. 864-66; 1951 Stalin 72 years Sc. 982-83

of the Russian Revolution was commemorated on three 1951 stamps, including one showing Lenin and Stalin.

The 35th anniversary of the Russian Revolution was commemorated on three



Left, 1951 Russian Revolution 34 years Sc. 979; 1982 Russian Revolution 65 years Sc. 2768

1952 stamps with portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin. The 65th anniversary got a single 1982 stamp showing Lenin. The 30th death anniversary of Lenin was remembered on three 1954 stamps



1954 Lenin 30th death anniversary Sc. 1073

In 1950 Hungary launched a 5-year plan modelled on the Soviet 5-year plan, and



1950 5-year plan Sc. 881; 1951 1st Anniversary 5-year plan Sc. 969

14 stamps illustrating the planned activities were issued 1950. It was printed on

paper watermarked with the pre-1949 national arms, and in 1951-53, all values were reprinted on paper with a star watermark. The first anniversary of the 5-year plan was also commemorated with seven 1951 stamps.

The second congress of the Hungarian Communist Party was publicised with four 1951 stamps, and there were two 1951 stamps for Hungarian-Soviet Amity. The third congress of the Communist Party was publicised with a single 1954 stamp, and in 1958, the 40th anniversary of the Hungarian Communist Party was celebrated on two stamps. The 60th anniversary was remembered on a 1978 single.



Left, 1951, Hungary-Soviet Amity, Sc. 934; right, 1978, Hungarian Communist Party 60th Anniversary. Sc. 2553



Top to bottom: 1950 liberation 5 years Sc. 887; 1960 liberation 15 years Sc. 1325; 1975 liberation 30 years Sc. 2353

ary, and nine stamps marked the 20th anniversary in 1965. In 1970, a miniature sheet celebrated the 25th anniversary of the 'liberation', and in 1975 the 30th anniversary was remembered on five stamps. The 35th anniversary in 1980 got a single stamp as did the 40th anniversary in 1985.

In 2005 the 'liberation' issue was dropped and instead a stamp for the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII was issued.

Between 1951 and 1958 17 stamps of the first Rebuilding Plan were is-



1985 liberation 40 years Sc. 2914

The 5th anniversary of the 'liberation' (Soviet intervention) was the theme of four 1950 stamps, and in 1955, four stamps were issued for the 10th anniversary of the 'liberation', and in 1960 two stamps celebrated the 15th anniversary,



2005 end of WWII 60 years Sc. 3930



1951-53 Rebuilding Plan Sc. various

sued, again illustrating planned projects. A similar second Rebuilding Plan issue of nine stamps appeared 1953-61. Both series were issued in two sizes: 22x18mm and 21x17mm.

### 1956 Revolution

On October 23, 1956, students and gradually soldiers and others also took to the streets demanding reforms and greater political freedom. The Communist party responded by requesting Soviet military intervention and already the following day Soviet tanks entered Budapest and on October 25, they opened fire on protesters. This shocked the Hungarian leaders and the new head of the Hungarian government, Imre Nagy, promised far-reaching democratization of Hungarian public life and that Hungary's road to socialism should be in accord with Hungarian sentiments including a radical improvement in ordinary people's living conditions.

Nagy released political prisoners and announced that he would abolish the one-party state and allowed other political parties to be revived, and soon, a coalition government was formed.

On November 1 he announced that Hungary intended to leave the Warsaw Pact and become neutral.

Soviet leader Khrushchev was very concerned about the developments in Hungary and on November 4, he sent the Red Army into the country. There was fighting all over the country and the Hungarian forces were quickly defeated.

Around 20,000 people were killed, the majority during the Soviet intervention. Nagy was arrested and executed in 1958, and other leaders of the uprising were also imprisoned or executed. Many Hungarians fled the country.

During the revolution, 21 Hungarian stamps in Sopron were overprinted, "Hazádnak rendületlenül...! Sopron, 1956 okt. 22" (They get home steadfast...! Sopron October 22, 1956). Few



1956 Sopron issue

were postally used in Sopron during the revolution, but later, confiscated sets of seven were sold by the Philatelic Agency to collectors in Hungary and abroad.

In 1991, after the fall of the Peo-



1991 35th anniversary of 1956 uprising Sc. 3320

ple's Republic, a stamp was issued for the 35th anniversary of Uprising. There were also four 1996 stamps and a souvenir sheet for the 40th anniversary of the Uprising and one of the stamps had a portrait of Imre Nagy. In 2016 Hungary issued a souvenir sheet for the 69th anniversary of the Uprising. In 2018, Roma heroes of the Uprising were remembered on ten 2018 stamps.



2016 69th anniversary of 1956 uprising



2018 Roma heroes of 1956 uprising

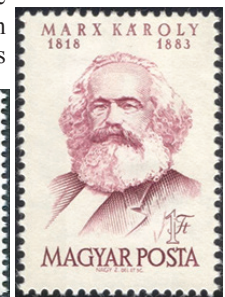
### Post-Revolution

Although the uprising was crushed by Soviet forces, the Hungarian communist government did make some changes, for instance the national arms was changed already in 1957, substituting the hammer and grain ear with the national colors; red, white and green. The new arms were displayed on two 1957 stamps, and on three 1958 stamps for the first anniversary of the new constitution.



New state arms: left, 1957, Sc. 1172; right, 1958, Sc. 1192

The new stamps policy focused much more on thematic rather than political subjects, although in between there were Communism-related issues like the 1968 single for the 150th birth anniversary of Karl Marx and the 1968 issues for the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Communist Party. The



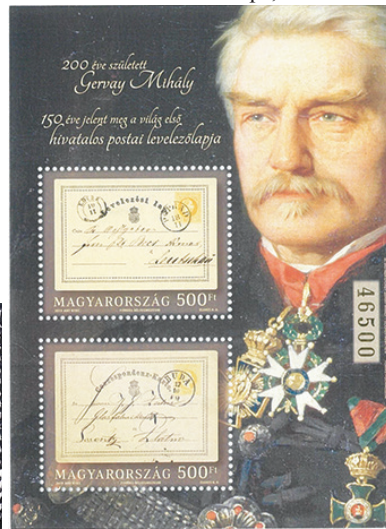
1996 40th anniversary of 1956 uprising Sc. 3549-53 set, 3553 souvenir sheet



Left to right, top row first: 1968 Communist Party 50 years Sc. 1938; 1968 Marx Sc. 1898; 1974 Lenin Sc. 2269; 1977 60 anniversary of Russian Revolution Sc. 2506

birth centenary of Lenin was the theme of two 1970 stamps, and in 1974 a single stamp remembered his 50th death anniversary. The 60th anniversary of the Russian Revolution was celebrated with a single 1977 stamp.

The centenary of Hungary's first postal card was commemorated with a single 1969 stamp. The 150th anniversary was celebrated in a 2019 issue.



1969 first postal card centenary Sc. 2004; 2019 first postal card 150 yrs.

Starting in 1970, the centenary of Hungarian stamps was celebrated with one 1970 and two 1971 stamp series. The centenary of the so-called "Envelope Design" stamps was celebrated with a souvenir sheet in 1974.



Top to bottom: 1971 centenary of Hungarian stamps Sc. B288; 1971 centenary of Hungarian stamps Sc. B289-92; 1974 centenary of envelope design Sc. 2281

The centenary of the unification of Buda, Obuda and Pest as Budapest was commemorated with six stamps in 1972. In 1977 the 700th anniversary of Sopron was celebrated on a single stamp.



Above, 1972 unification of Buda and Pest Sc. 2179-84; right, 1977 Sopron 700 years Sc. 2490



Hungary has fostered several world-known composers. Zoltán Kodály was



Left, 1982 Kodaly Sc. 2775; right, 1968 Kodaly Sc. 1888

For his birth centenary in 1982 a single stamp was again issued. The 40th anniversary of his death was the theme of a 2007 stamp, and the 50th anniversary with a 2017 stamp.



Franz Lehar was portrayed on a 1970 stamp issued on his birth centenary.



1970 Lehar Sc. 2022

Ferenc Liszt was portrayed on one of the 1956 Stamp Day stamps and a painting of Ferenc Liszt was included in a 1967 set showing portrait paintings in the National Gallery in Budapest. The centenary Ferenc Liszt Academy in Budapest was commemorated

orated on a single 1975 stamp. The 175th anniversary of Liszt's birth was remembered on a 1986 stamp.



Left, 1975 Liszt Academy Sc. 2385; right, 1986 Liszt Sc. 3003

Béla Bartók was remembered on three 1955 stamps on the 10th anniversary of his death. In 1971 he was honored with a stamp on the 90th anniversary of his birth, and again in 1981 on the centenary of his birth. He was also honored on a 2006 stamp. The centenary of his opera Bluebeard's Castle was commemorated with two 2018 stamps issued in a souvenir sheet.



1955 Bartok Sc. C168 2006 Bartok Sc. 3990



2018 Bluebeard's Castle by Bartok

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