

Landlocked Countries: Hungary, Part 2

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Hungary becomes a landlocked country 1918-21

The collapse of the Dual Monarchy was a golden opportunity for the different nationalities of both Austria and Hungary to achieve independence and, although the Hungarian government tried to save the Kingdom in its prewar extent by suggesting a Swiss model with autonomous cantons/states for the future governance, the Czechs, the Slovaks, the Croats, the Slovenes, all opted for independence and the Romanian kingdom wanted to incorporate Rumanian areas into Rumania.

Chaos within Hungary led in March 1919 to the establishment of a Hungarian Soviet Republic led by Béla Kun. This short-lived state issued in June a set of stamps portraying communist idols like Marx, Engels and others, and in July, several stamps of the People's Republic were overprinted "Magyar Tanácsköztársaság" (Hungarian Soviet Republic). On August 1, ahead of advancing Rumanian troops, the leaders fled to Vienna from Budapest.

1919 Sc. 222 Soviet Republic overprints on harvesters and Parliament;



1919 Sc. 198 Communists-Karl Marx

The 30th anniversary of the Soviet Republic was remembered with two 1949 stamps, and the 35th anniversary with three 1954 stamps. The 40th anniversary was celebrated on three 1959 stamps, in 1969 five stamps and a souvenir sheet were issued for the 50th anniversary, and in 1979 the 60th anniversary with a single stamp. Béla Kun was remembered with a 1986 stamp on the centenary of his birth. He was also honored on a 1966 stamp.



1949 30th anniversary Soviet Republic Sc. 842; 1979 60th anniversary Soviet Republic Sc. 2569



Above, left to right, 1954 35th anniversary Soviet Republic Sc. 1076; 1969 50th anniversary Soviet Republic Sc. 1960; 1966 Bela Kun Sc. 1735

In parallel with the Soviet republic, a Hungarian National Government was set up in French-occupied Szeged in May 1919, led by Admiral Horthy, who later became the head of state of Hungary. The National Government

1919 Szeged Sc. 17



in late June 1919 issued a series of earlier stamps overprinted "Magyar Nemzeti Kormány, Szeged, 1919" (Hungarian National Government, Szeged, 1919).

The Rumanian troops withdrew November 14, 1919, and the national government under Admiral Horthy entered Budapest November 16. The same day five Harvester stamps of the People's Republic were overprinted to celebrate the entry of the national army in Budapest. In January 1920, the 1919 overprinted stamps of the Soviet Republic were further overprinted over the Soviet Republic overprint with grain sheafs on the lower values and grain ears on the higher values and with "1919" across the sheafs/ears.



1919 Sc. 309 evacuation of Romanians

From November 1918 to mid-January 1919 more than two-thirds of prewar Hungary was lost to both the neighboring countries of Serbia and Rumania, to the new State of Slovenes, Croats and Serbs and to the new state of Czechoslovakia.



Hungary Sc. 315, 325: 1919 overprinted stamps of the Soviet Republic further overprinted over that overprint with grain sheafs on lower values and grain ears on higher values, also with "1919" across the sheafs/ears.

On November 13, 1918, the Hungarian People's Republic signed an armistice treaty with the Entente countries, and the areas of Baranya, Vojvodina, Banat and Southern Transylvania were occupied by France, Romania and Serbia.

France occupied Arad and during May 1919 issued Hungarian stamps overprinted "Occupation française" (French occupation), including a few stamps surcharged with new values in Hungarian currency. Arad was awarded to Romania by the Treaty of Trianon, June 4, 1920. Romania occupied Debrecen as well as Temesvar, which also had been briefly occupied by Serbia. Stamps for Debrecen were issued from November 1919 to January 1920, consisting first of Hungarian stamps overprinted "Zona de ocupatie Romana 1919" in an oval frame, in 1920 changed to "Romania Zona de Ocupatie 1919". This area eventually remained with Hungary.



1919 French occupation Arad Sc. 1N35-36



Left, 1919 Debrecen Sc. 2N20; right, 1920 Debrecen Sc. 3N18

The Romanian forces in Temesvar issued Hungarian stamps surcharged with new values only in August 1919. This area was awarded to Romania by the Treaty of Trianon and renamed Timisoara.



1919 Temesvar Sc. 4N2-3

Transylvanian Romanians had in fact already declared union with Romania on December 1, 1918. Hungarian stamps overprinted "Regatul Romaniel" (Kingdom of Romania) were issued 1919 at Kolozsvár (Cluj) and Nagyvarad (Oradea).



Transylvania, Left to right: Cluj Sc. 5N15; Oradea Sc. 6N7

Serbia occupied Baranya, Banat, Bacska,



1919 Baranya Sc. 8N7



1919 Baranya Sc. 7N27

In Baranya, Hungarian stamps overprinted "1919 Baranya" were issued between May and December 1919, some stamps were also overprinted with new values. The Treaty of Trianon awarded a small part of the area in the south to Serbia, most of the area remained with Hungary.

Serbia issued Hungarian stamps overprinted "Bánát, Bácska 1919" during July 1919 for that area which the Treaty of Trianon divided between Serbia (western part) and Romania (eastern part).



1919 Banat, Bacska Sc. 10N7,13



Lajtabanat, Western Hungary, not Scott listed, above. Michel 7, 27;

right, Soproni plebiscite, not in Scott or Michel

During the brief Serbian occupation of Temesvar, only a few Hungarian stamps were issued surcharged with new values (next column).

The new state of Czechoslovak images, consisted of Czechia and Carpatho-Ukraine from Austria and Slovakia from Hungary. Unofficial overprints on Austrian (in Czechia) and Hungarian stamps (in Slovakia) were made in November



1918. In Slovakia there was a set produced in Skalitz November 15, 1918, and another set produced in Šrobár January 1919.

In December 1919, the Czechoslovak Post issued Austrian and Hungarian



1919 Temesvar Serb occupation, Sc. 9N1, Sc. 9N3



Left, Austria issue with 1919 Slovakia overprint, Sc. B64; right, Hungary issue with 1918 Croatia overprint, Sc. 2L9



pre-war stamps "Pošta Československa 1919" for sale at the Philatelic Counter in Prague and with a 50% surcharge.

The new state of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes consisted of the two independent states of Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina

from Austria, and Croatia from Hungary. In Croatia Hungarian stamps overprinted "SHS Hrvatska" (Serbs, Croats and Slovenes – Croatia) November-December 1918.

On June 4, 1920, Hungary ratified the Treaty of Trianon that established the new borders of Hungary. The centenary of the signing of the Trianon Treaty was commemorated on a 2020 stamp issued in a souvenir sheet.



2020 Trianon Treaty centenary

A plebiscite was planned to decide whether the former Hungarian province of Lajtabánát (Burgenland) should be transferred to Austria or remain by Hungary. Hungarian militia occupied the area to prevent the plebiscite and issued several overprints on Hungarian stamps. In the end there was a plebiscite only about the city of Sopron should belong.

Austria then took control of the former Hungarian Burgenland except for the area around the city of Sopron in November 1921. The centenary of Sopron's decision to remain with Hungary was celebrated with a 2021 stamp issued in a souvenir sheet.



2021 Soproni plebiscite centenary

Next Month: The Regency Era, 1920-1944