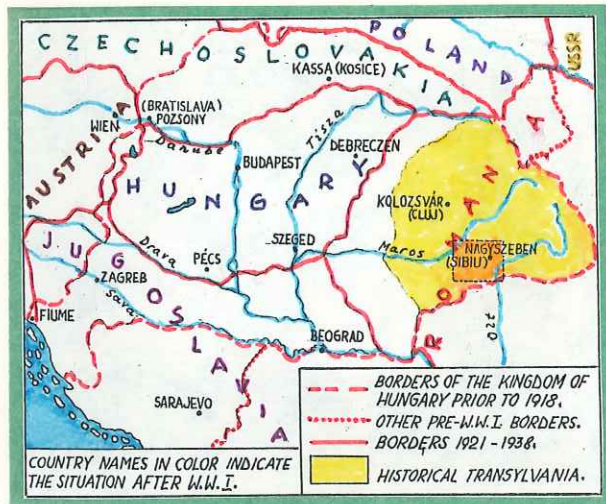


THE
PRIVATE
MAIL SERVICE
OF THE

SIEBENBÜRGISCHER
KARPATHENVEREIN
CARPATHIAN SOCIETY
OF TRANSYLVANIA



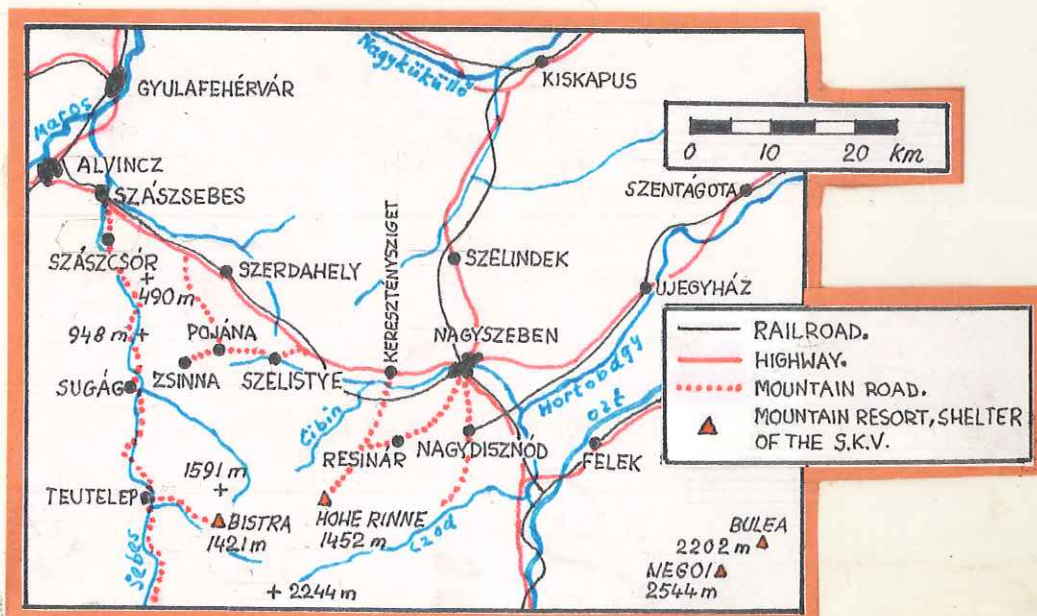
The two crests above depict the historical coat-of-arms of Transylvania (right) and the symbol used by the *Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein* (S.K.V.) for their mail service at *Hohe Rinne*.



NAMES OF TOWNS AND RIVERS

Hungarian	German	Romanian
Alvincz	Winzendorf	Vințu de Jos
Bistra	Bistra	Bistra
Cibin	Zibin	Cibin
Czod	Sodenbach	Sadu
Felek	Freck	Avrig
Gyulafehérvár	Karlsburg, Weissenburg	Alba Iulia
(Hohe Rinne)	Hohe Rinne	Paltinis
Hortobágy	Hartbach	Hirtibaciu
Kereszténysziget	Grossau	Cristian
Kiskapus	Klein Kopisch	Copșa Mică
Medgyes	Mediasch	Medias
Nagydisznód	Heltau	Cisnădie
Nagyküllő	Grosskockel	Trnava Mare
Nagyszeben	Hermannstadt	Sibiu
Olt	Olt	Olt
Pojána, Polyána	Flussau	Poiana Sibiului
Resinár	Reschinar,	Rășinari
Sebes	Mühlenbach	Sebeș
Sugág	Schugag	Șugag
Szászcser	Schewis, Sassenburg	Săsciori
Szászsebes	Mühlbach	Sebeș
Szelindek	Stolzenburg,	Slimnic
Szentágota	Agnetheln	Agnita
Szerdahely	Reussmarkt	Miercurea Sibiului
Teutelep, Székástóhát	Weiersdorf, Wairdorf	Tău, Teu
Ujegyház	Leschkirch	Nocrich
Zsinna	Schinna	Jina

The spelling of town's names often changed, e.g., writing them in one or two words (e.g., Szászsebes vs. Szász Sebes; Nagyszeben vs. Nagy Szeben) or having a slight variation of the name (e.g., Mühlbach vs. Mühlenbach).



Private Mail Service of the Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein (S.K.V.) (Carpathian Society of Transylvania)

TRANSYLVANIA is a beautiful country, full of mountains and forests. In its southern part representing a segment of the mighty Carpathian Mountains, the Carpathian Society of Transylvania (in German: *Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein, S.K.V.*) was organized in 1880, with the goal to make the mountains accessible to tourists and, in general, to people looking for fresh air.



The headquarters of the Society were in *Nagyszeben* (in German: *Hermannstadt*, in Romanian: *Sibiu*) and it had a number of local sections which maintained various shelters on the mountains. Two of the local sections also managed larger resorts: the resort **HOHE RINNE** belonged to the *Nagyszeben* Section, while the *Szászsebes* (in German: *Mühlbach* in Romanian: *Sebeș*) Section maintained the resort **BISTRA**.

People on vacation like to receive mail and send picture post cards to friends and relatives. This habit is not new: it also existed 100 years ago. However, the resorts were fairly far from the nearest post office, and could be reached only by mountain roads. Since the Hungarian postal service did not accept the responsibility of handling the mail, this became the duty of the Society. In turn, they were permitted to charge a fee for the courier service and to issue private stamps acknowledging the payment of this fee. Naturally the Society's private service handled the mail only to and from the nearest accessible post office. From there on mail was handled in the usual way: thus, regular postal stamps were also needed.

Until 1918 Transylvania was part of Hungary. After the First World War it was annexed by and incorporated into Greater Romania. Thus, mail to further towns was handled prior to 1918 by the Hungarian and after 1918 by the Romanian postal service.

In addition to the two major resorts, the Society also accepted the responsibility to dispatch mail from some of its mountain shelters such as e.g., the **NEGOIHÜTTE** ("Hütte" = shelter, hut). However, no private stamps were used there.

The viewers of this exhibit might wonder that the language of the *Hohe Rinne* and *Bistra* stamps and the Society's cancellers is German. In the 12th Century the Hungarian kings settled Germans in the *Nagyszeben-Szászsebes* area and, in 1224, special privileges were granted to them, among them the use of German as their official language. These privileges were still in force 100 years ago: hence the official language of the Society was German.

This collection demonstrates the private mail service of the Society.

Local Mail of the Resort "Hohe Rinne"

This represents one of the two local issues of the *Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein* (S.K.V.). "Hohe Rinne" is a German expression, meaning "high groove."

The cottage colony at Hohe Rinne was established in 1894 by the Nagyszeben Section of the Society, at an elevation of 1452 m (4600 ft), about 20 km (12 miles) south of the village *Kereszténysziget* (in German: *Grossau*, in Romanian: *Cristian*) which, in turn, is about 10 km (6 miles) west of Nagyszeben, on the main railroad line. The colony consisted of a number of frame buildings.



The Hungarian Postal Service permitted the Society to carry mail between the resort and the post office of *Kereszténysziget*, to charge a fee for this service, and to issue private stamps as an indication of payment for this service. Naturally, the mail also had to have the regular Hungarian stamps for further handling by the official Postal Service.

The hotel post stamps were cancelled using the seal of the Society while the regular Hungarian stamps were cancelled by the usual post office cancellers.

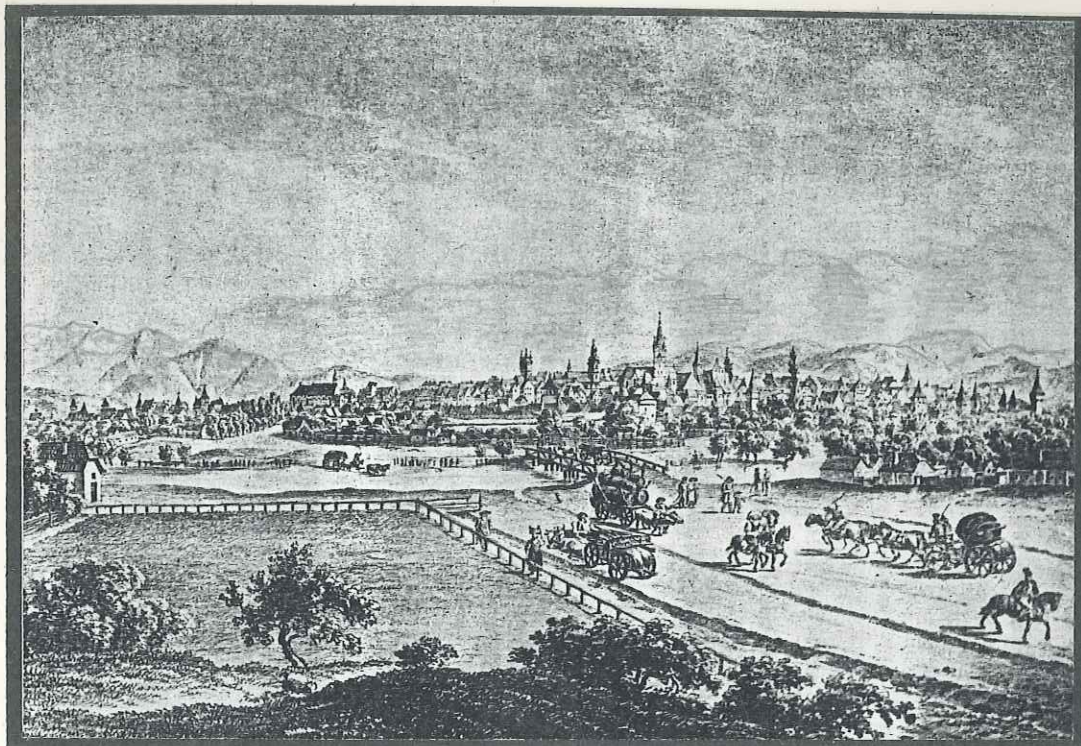
From 1908 on, mail from Hohe Rinne was sent directly to Nagyszeben No.1 post office. Thus, from then on, the Hungarian stamps bear the cancellation of this post office.

It should be noted that although fee was charged not only for carrying mail from the resort to the nearest post office, but also for carrying it from the post office to the resort, we have no knowledge of using the hotel post stamps on such a mail.

Most of the mail was of local nature; however, the resort was also frequented by visitors from more distant places within the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

At the outbreak of the First World War the mail service was discontinued and it was resumed only around 1921-1922. At this time Transylvania was already incorporated into Greater Romania. Thus, now, the hotel post stamps were used together with Romanian stamps and cancelled by the Romanian post office canceller of *Sibiu* (the Romanian name of Nagyszeben).

The private mail service lasted until the end of the 1920s, although even on later mail, we have the HOHE RINNE mark of the resort. The resort exists even today: its Romanian name is *Paltinis*.



Top: Nagyszeben (Hermannstadt) around 1850-1860. Engraving of Franz Neuhauser.

Bottom: The "omnibus" used for transportation between Nagyszeben and Hohe Rinne.

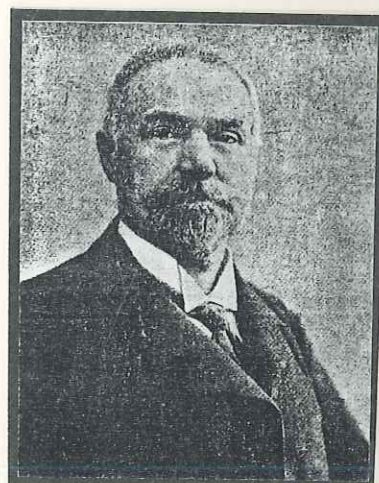
The pictures are from the book *Istoria Poștală a Sibiului*, by Emanoil Munteanu, published in 1980.



JULIUS PILDNER v. STEINBURG M.D.



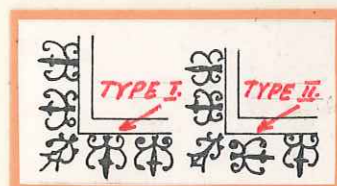
DR. CARL CONRADT



ROBERT GUTT

These were the persons mostly responsible for the establishment of the resort at Hohe Rinne. **Julius Pildner von Stainburg** was a physician who proposed the establishment of a climatic resort in the mountains near Nagyszeben. **Dr. Carl Conradt** lead the planning and construction of the resort at Hohe Rinne in 1892-1894. Finally, **Robert Gutt** was the president of the *Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein* in 1894, when the resort was inaugurated (on June 10, 1894). The portraits of Conradt and Gutt were included in the design of the 1924 issue of the hotel post stamps.

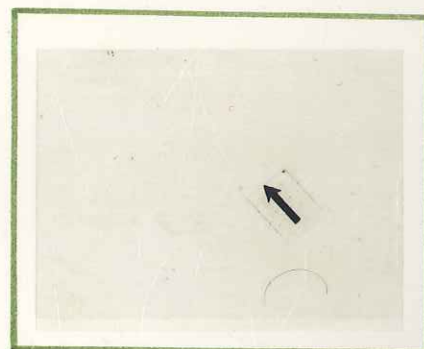
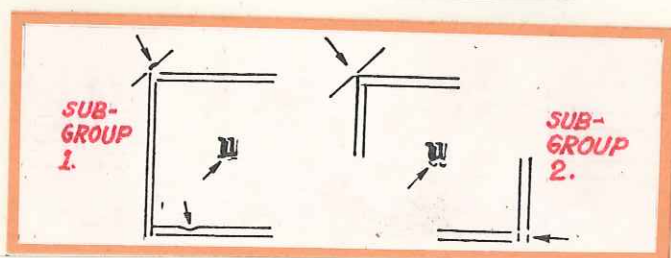
**HOHE RINNE
ISSUE OF 1895**



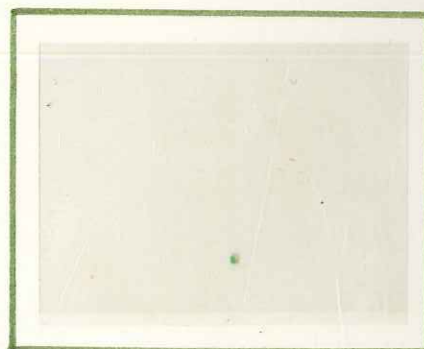
This, the first issue consisted of a maximum of 500 stamps which were printed in strips, with vertical perforation between the stamps. Thus, this particular stamp is from the left-hand end of the strip. This is **Type II** characterized by the small ornament at left bottom (see drawing) in horizontal position. Note the violet hotel canceller: this type was used only in 1895.

The circular canceller is from *Nagyszeben* post office. The date cannot be read.

TYPE I



TYPE II



The stamps of the 1895-96 issued had a value of 2 Kreuzer (*krajczár* in Hungarian) and were used for both cards and letters.

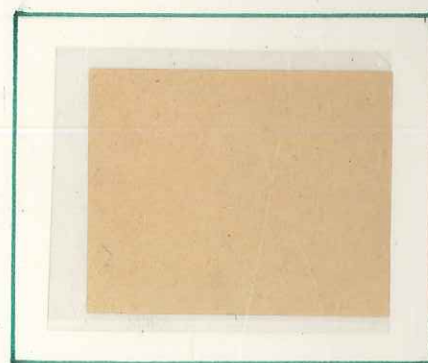
Two types exist. In **Type I** the words *auf der* are closer to *Kurhaus*, while in **Type II** the three lines are evenly spaced. Each type has additional subgroups, based on some minor differences.

The two Type I stamps shown here belong to Subgroup 1 indicated among others by the broken outside line at the lower part of the second *u* in *Kurhaus*.



It is not clear in which year this stamp was actually issued. Most sources state it as 1896; however, about a dozen stamps are known with hand-cancellation, indicating the year 1895: this is such a stamp, having the date of 10/9/1895, i.e., September 10, 1895. Most likely the stamps were prepared in the summer of 1895 for the next year; however, some have been used during the last days of the 1895 season.

All the known hand-cancelled stamps belong to Type I. This particular stamp belongs to Subgroup 2, indicated by the two broken vertical lines on the right-hand side.



This paper represents a **blind printing**. If one looks it from the side, the impression of the printing can clearly be seen.

Evidently this sheet was below a sheet on which the stamps were properly printed and thus, the pressure created the outlines here.

Hohe Rinne 27. Juli 1904.

Die Böhle war sehr gut. Wir waren alle recht
lustig. Es waren 2 Fische auf dem einen
die Erwachsenen am anderen die vom
20. Lebensjahr herab. Dies war der Katzen
tisch. Viele Grüße und Liebe von deinem
Max.



MAGYAR KIRÁLYI POSTA



LEVELEZŐ-LAP



Exim. Hochw. geboren

Herrn Linien schiffs kapitain

Arthur Ritter von Raimann

Österreich

Pola (Istrien)

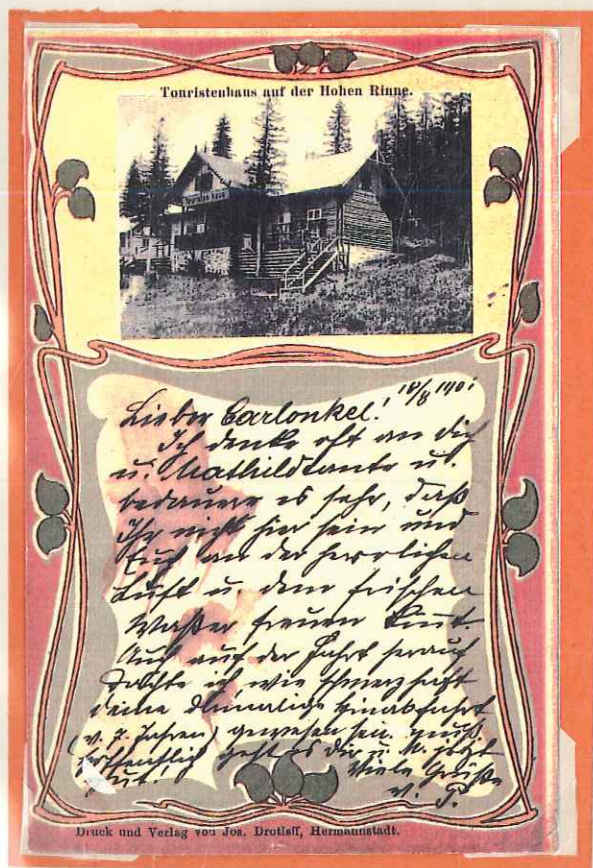
H. Poliarpo 200.

Oly külföldi államokkal való forgalomra, hova a levelezőlap díja 10 fillér, külön 10 filléres levelezőlapok szolgálnak.

Soon after the issue of these stamps, the fee for a card was reduced to half of the fee for a letter. From then on, the stamps of this issue were used bisected on postal cards.

The stamps of the 1895-96 issue have been in used up to about 1904, even after the next stamp was already issued. This postal card was cancelled on July 27, 1904, at Kereszténysziget post office, while the bisected hotel post stamp was cancelled with the circular seal of the Society's local section. The card is addressed to Navy Captain Arthur von Raimann, in Pola, on the Istrian Peninsula (today: Pula, in Yugoslavia), where the fleet of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy was stationed; the date of the backcancellation is July 29, 1904, at noon ("12"). The sender is Max Herzberg, himself a Navy officer and an active member of the Society: it is documented that he has spent many summers at Hohe Rinne.

The stamp is Type 1, Subgroup 1.



In 1900 the currency of Hungary was changed to *Korona* - fillér (in German: *Heller*, *h*) and the rate for the Hohe Rinne courier service to the nearest post office became 2 h for cards and 4 h for letters. On this occasion two stamps were issued in September 1900 with a new design. The total printing of each value was 4800 perforated and only 200 (more correctly, 192 or 204) imperforated. The stamps were printed in sheets of 12 (3×4).

This card with the 2-h stamp was mailed on August 18, 1901; it was cancelled at *Kereszténysziget* post office on August 19 and backcancelled by *Nagyszeben* (*Hermannstadt*) No.1 post office on the next day. The hotel post stamp was cancelled with the circular seal of the *Section Hermannstadt* (*Nagyszeben Branch*) of the Society.



This post card was cancelled on August 1, 1901, at *Kereszténysziget* post office; it arrived the next day at *Nagyszeben* where it was backcancelled. It has the imperforated 2-h hotel post stamp of Hohe Rinne: the clerk was evidently lazy and forgot to cancel it.

The name of the addressee and the address was erased but then, later, somebody else added "Hermannstadt" to indicate the city of destination and also "Hohe Rinne 1/VIII 1901." indicating the date of cancellation.



This picture card was cancelled on August 6, 1902, at Kereszténysziget post office. It arrived the next day at Szerdahely (Reussmarkt) where it was backcancelled. The perforated 2-h hotel post stamp was cancelled with the circular seal of the local section of the Society.

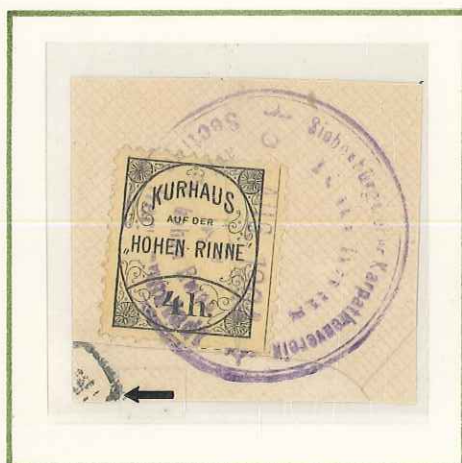
According to the message of the card, it took the people 12 hours hiking from Reussmarkt to reach Hohe Rinne!



This card was mailed from Hohe Rinne on August 10, 1902, and canceled at *Keresztény-sziget* post office on the same day. It was addressed to *Mannheim*, in Germany, where it arrived on August 16, six days later: an unusually long time. It was then forwarded to *Ludwigshafen*, a nearby town, arriving on the same day.

The 2-h hotel post stamp is cancelled with the circular seal of the Society.

This Hohe Rinne stamp was affixed together with a 10-f Hungarian stamp which was cancelled at *Kereszténysziget* post office on July 3, 1903. The hotel post stamp (it is from position 9) was cancelled with the usual circular seal of the Society.



This hotel post stamp was cancelled in August 1904; the day is probably 8 or 9 (only the upper circle of the numeral can be seen). It is from position 2. The Hungarian stamp was affixed to the cover diagonally down, on the left of the hotel post stamp: small part of the post office cancellation can be seen in the lower left corner of the piece.

Two copies of the cancelled, perforated 4-h stamps are shown here, both on envelope pieces.

	1	2	3	
	4	5	6	
	7	8	9	
	10	11	12	

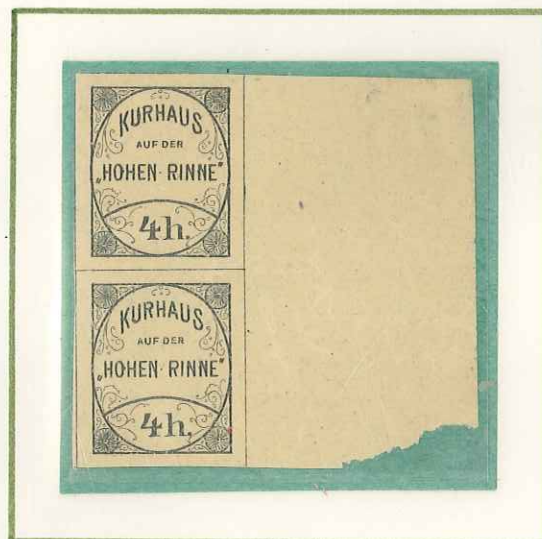


The stamps of the 1900 issue were printed in sheets of twelve (3×4) stamps, with wide margins. Minor design characteristics permit the identification of the position of each stamp. These are visualized on the drawing.

The block of four of the 4-h imperforated stamp shown here represents positions 7-8-10-11.



	1	2	3	
	4	5	6	
	7	8	9	
	10	11	12	



As mentioned the stamps of the 1900 issue exist both perforated and imperforated. Here a single perforated copy and a vertical imperforated pair of the 4-h stamp is shown. A total of 200 (more correctly, 192 or 204) copies of the imperforated stamp have been issued.

The single perforated stamp is from position 9 while the vertical pair represents positions 6-9 in the sheet.



Frau Gymnasialrath Buchholzer

H. M.

Hermannsbad,



This letter with the perforated 4-h stamp of the 1900 issue was sent to a Mr. Buchholzer, a high-school teacher in Nagyszeben. It was cancelled on July 17, 1903, at Kereszténysziget and backcancelled on the next day at Nagyszeben. The clerk at the resort forgot to cancel the hotel post stamp which represents position #9 in the sheet.

The actual letter was still in the envelope when I acquired it: it was written by Dr. Gustav Lindner, the president of S.K.V.

When I acquired the cover shown on the previous page the original letter was still in it. It was written on July 17, 1903, by **Dr. Gustav Lindner**, the president of S.K.V., then staying at the *Tannhof*, one of the cottages at Hohe Rinne. The letter was addressed to Mr. **Buchholzer**, high-school teacher (according to the German usage, professor) in Nagyszeben.

The letter consisted of two parts: the letter proper (below) and a copy of a letter written to Dr. Lindner from Berlin (right). Both are interesting socio-historical documents. These are photocopies of the originals.

Abstrakt. Von anfang:

Nachbühler Bergbauverein
zu Grube des Herrn Dr. Gustav Linder
Hermannstadt
Nachbühler

Carlin v. Goldminers, 113.

Enseñanzas Juro!

[illegible]

Mit dem besten Gruß

In vorzüglicher Verehrung
 Albrecht Gajdar m/p

Ganzeln hat Gefallen!

Das hier abgedruckte ungelandete Brevet ist von
Alois Jäger in Berlin gefertigt. Es ist ein ²mal
ein ²mal ²mal, das heißt ein mal ²mal ²mal
Merkmal zu bezeichnen.

[illegible]

Unsere vielfachste Kammergasse ist die

The letter from Berlin was written by a Mr. **Alfred Geiser**, who simply notified the president of the Society that within two weeks, he and eleven other men ("we twelve German gentlemen") will arrive at Nagyszeben and expect the hospitality of the Society. Mr. Geiser gave Mr. Buchholzer as reference for "further information."

In his letter to Mr. Buchholzer, Dr. Lindner requests information about the visit, emphasizing that any political activity or demonstration by the German visitors should be prevented.

fiel selbstverständlich in trübseligen Engpaß, von un-
fester Basis verflüssigt, zerbröckelt, umsonst ein eiles
und eilends eilends fort, in hohle, unfruchtbare Mannichheit,
gerade als solchige Ermügelung der Ruinproduktion
gescheit zu verurtheilen.

Mit vorzüglicher Achtung

Pannhof 17. Juli 1903.

47. Prof. Dr. Proßau (Kaiserslautern.)

Ch. L. Smith

Wm. L. G. V.

This is the English translation of the two letters.

It is a known historical fact that even before the First World War, the German Empire exercised a significant propaganda in order to awake the Pangermanic self-consciousness among the "Saxons" of Transylvania. This letter is a good example for it.

Carpathian Society of Transylvania
For Dr. Gustav Lindner

Hermannstadt
Transylvania

Berlin W., Potsdamer Str. 113

Dear Sir:

On the recommendation of Professor Buchholzer I would like to notify you that we 12 German gentlemen plan to visit Transylvania in the second part of this month. I am enclosing our itinerary compiled on the recommendations of Professor Buchholzer. I would like to request that the Carpathian Society helps us during our visit with its valuable advices. For that we would be particularly grateful. You will hear more from Professor Buchholzer.

With German greetings
Sincerely yours,

Alfred Geiser

Esteemed Professor:

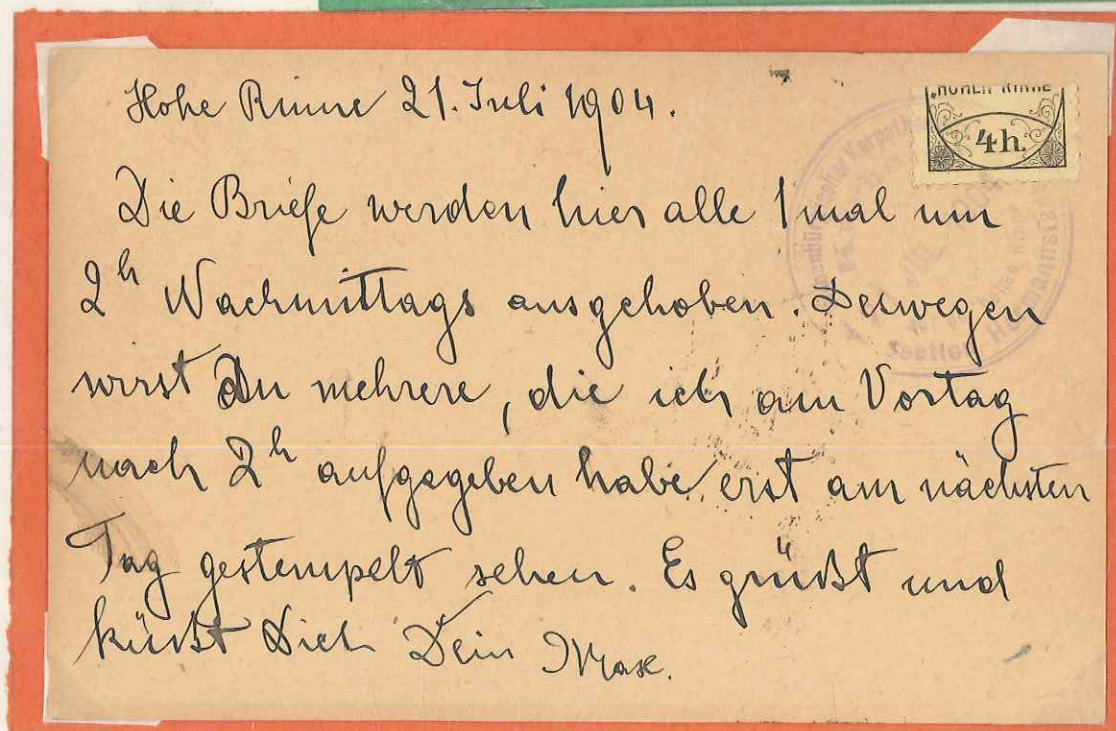
I was informed by the letter of Mr. Alfred Geiser of Berlin (copy of which is enclosed) about the intention of 12 German Gentlemen "to visit Transylvania in the second half of the month."

Mr. Geiser, who is completely unknown to me, added to his request "that the Carpathian Society helps the group with its valuable advices" the remark that we shall learn details from you. Thus, I would like to request you notifying me by return mail about the details concerning the reception of the German guests in an around Hermannstadt so that I have time to prepare the Society and its groups about the forthcoming visit.

It is self-evident that our German brothers can expect from us the friendliest reception; on the other hand, we must also consider that our by-laws prohibit any political activity or demonstration and, therefore, we must be careful to avoid these.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Lindner
President of the S.K.V.

Tannhof, July 17, 1903
last p.o. Grossau (Kereszténysziget)



The supply of the 2-h stamp of the 1900 issue was exhausted sooner than the supply of the 4-h stamp: after all, during vacation people write more picture cards than letters! Therefore, bisected 4-h stamps were also used on cards. Here is one example: this card was mailed to Navy Captain Arthur von Raimann, by his nephew, Max Herzberg.

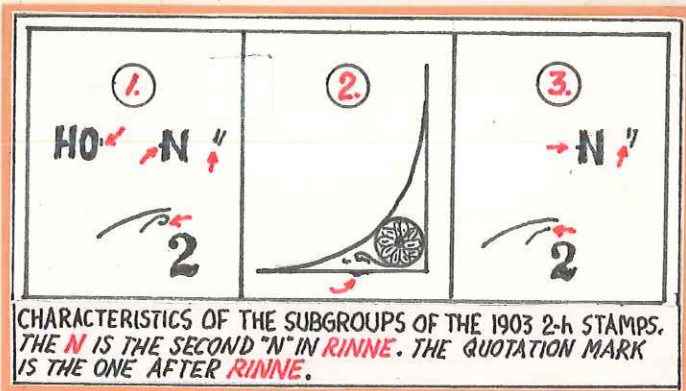
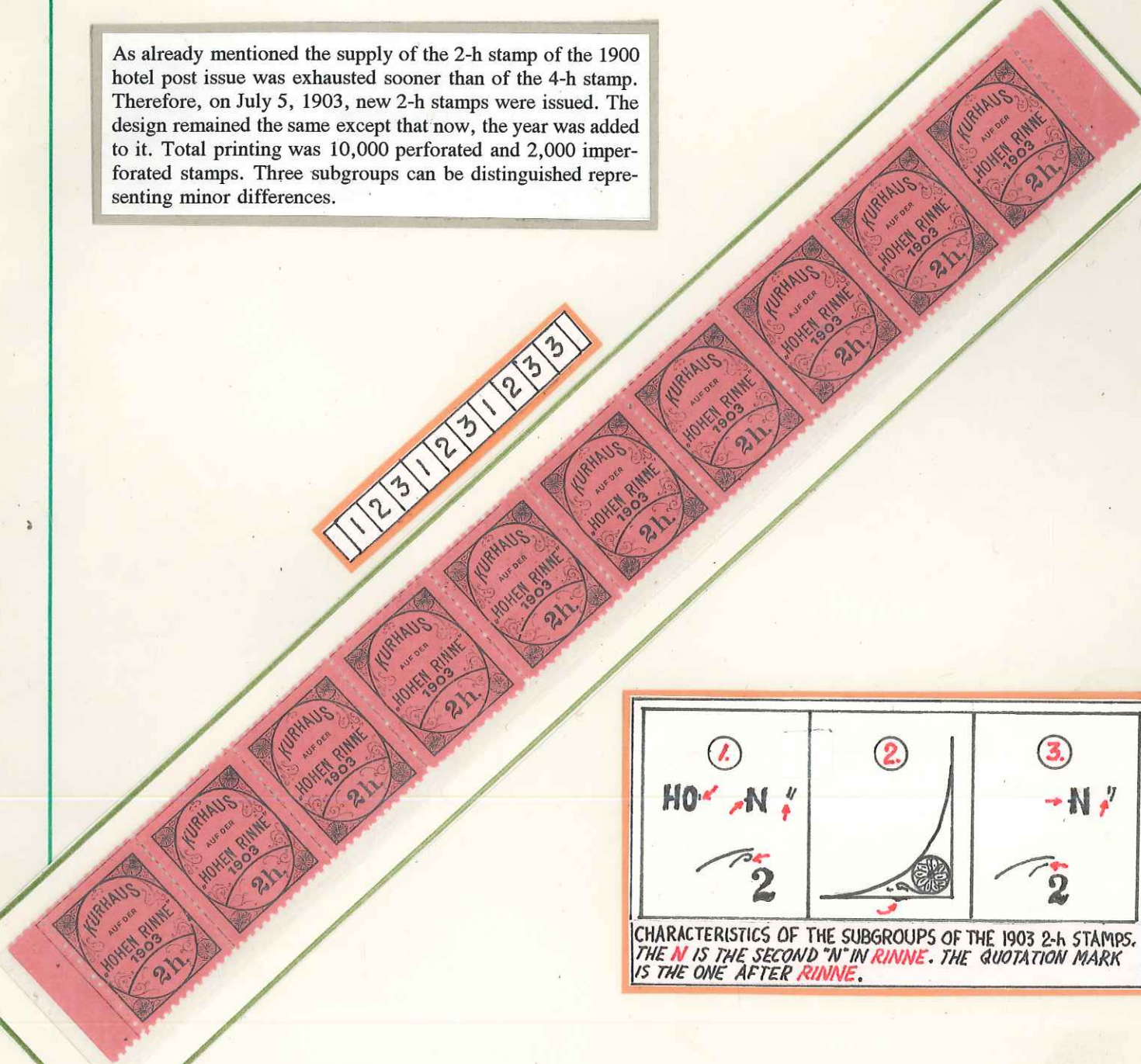
This card was cancelled on July 21, 1904, at *Kereszténysziget* post office, and it arrived at *Pola* on July 23, 1904, at noon ("12"). The hotel post stamp was cancelled by the circular seal of the Society.

The bisected 4-h hotel post stamp is from position 11 in the sheet.

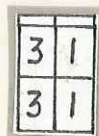
There is an important philatelic information in the message: Max tells his uncle that the courier service is leaving the resort daily at 2 PM.

**HOHE RINNE
ISSUE OF 1903**

As already mentioned the supply of the 2-h stamp of the 1900 hotel post issue was exhausted sooner than of the 4-h stamp. Therefore, on July 5, 1903, new 2-h stamps were issued. The design remained the same except that now, the year was added to it. Total printing was 10,000 perforated and 2,000 imperforated stamps. Three subgroups can be distinguished representing minor differences.



The sheet of this stamp consisted of 11 horizontal rows, with 10 stamps in each row. Stamps in the first nine vertical columns belonged to the same subgroup as indicated; the stamps in the last column belonged to the following subgroups (from top to bottom): 1-2-3-1-2-3-2-1-3-1-3.



On this page examples of the 1903 2-h perforated and imperforated stamps are shown. All the single stamps belong to Subgroup 1; the subgroups of the stamps in the block of four are indicated. The stamp in red frame was the leftmost stamp in the last row of the sheet, while the stamp in blue frame is from the upper right corner of the sheet.



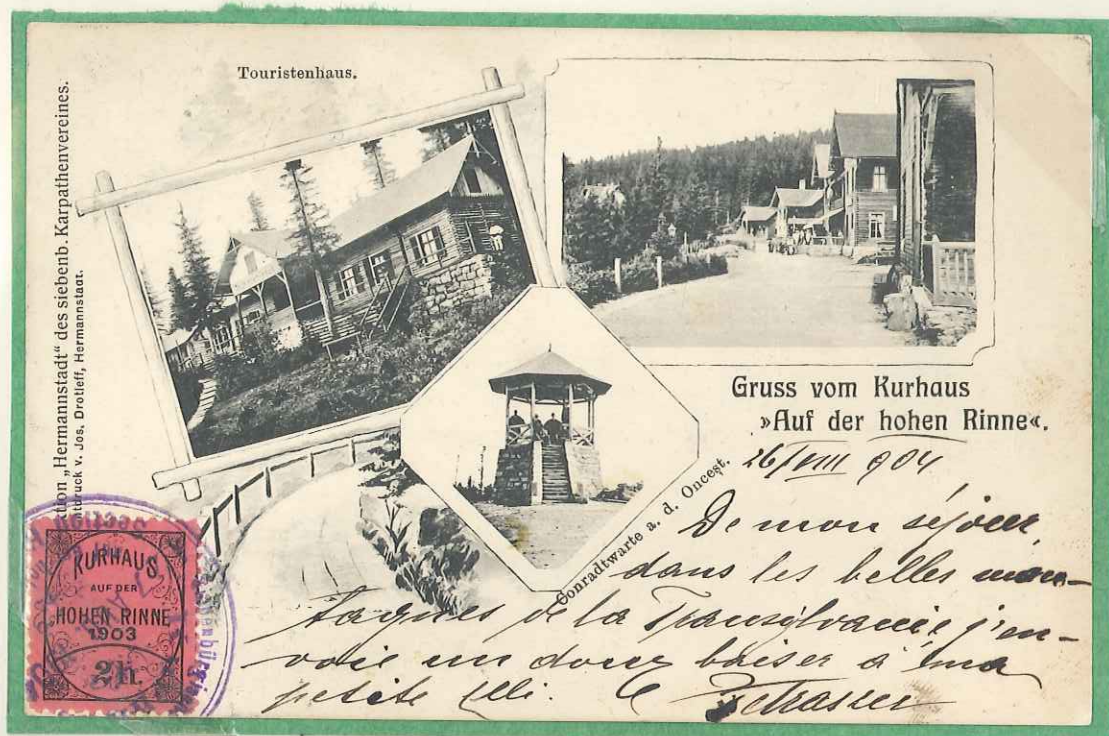
This picture card was cancelled at Kereszténysziget post office on July 20, 1903 and mailed to Nagyszeben (Hermannstadt) where it arrived the next day. The hotel post stamp belongs to Subgroup 2; it was cancelled with the usual circular seal of the Society's local section.



THIS PHOTO SERVED
AS THE BASIS FOR
THE DESIGN OF THE
1924 ISSUE

This picture has been the most frequently used among the picture cards from Hohenrinne: it was also used in the design of the 1924 hotel post stamp issue. The card is franked with the 1903 2-h hotel post stamp and a Hungarian 5-f turul stamp. The latter was cancelled at Kereszténysziget post office on July 18, 1903, while the hotel post stamp was cancelled with the usual circular seal of the Society's local section. The hotel post stamp belongs to Subgroup 2.

The card was addressed to Hardegg, in Niederösterreich (Lower Austria) where it was backcancelled on July 21.



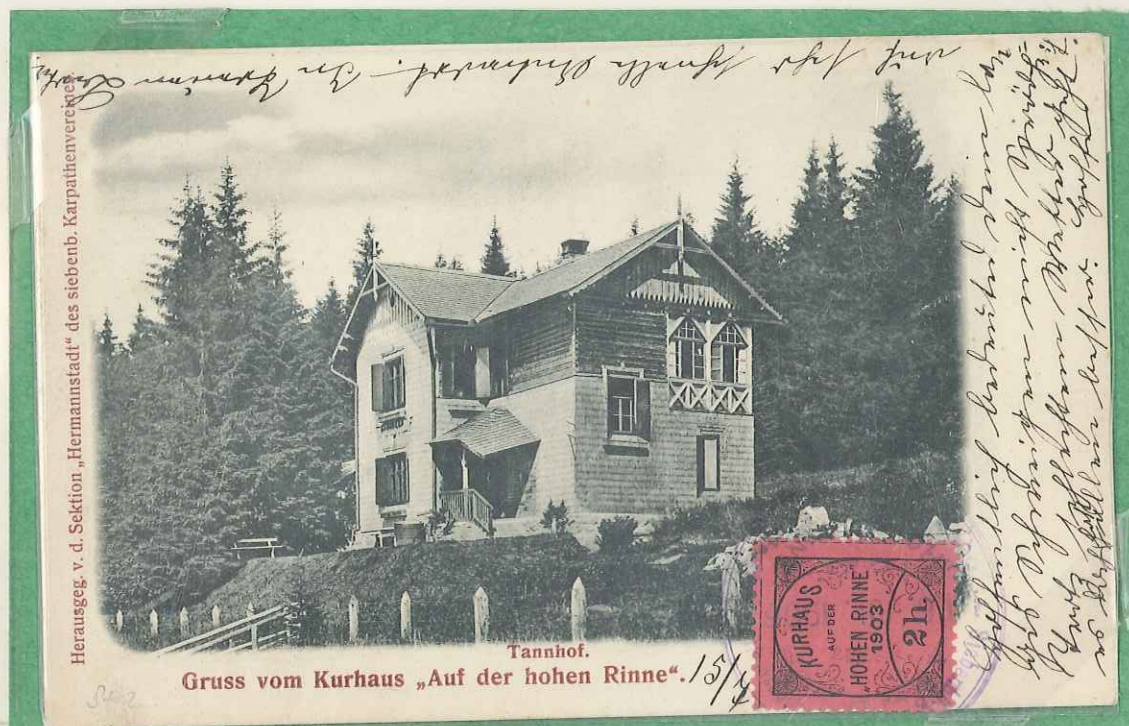
This card was mailed from Hohe Rinne on August 27, 1904, and cancelled at Kereszténysziget post office on the same day. It is addressed to Littohorn (Litohor) in Moravia, where it arrived on August 30.

The 2-h hotel post stamp belongs to Subgroup 3. It is cancelled with the circular seal of the Society.



Again, this letter was sent to Navy Captain **Arthur von Raimann**, in *Pola*, on the Istrian Peninsula, the home port of the Monarchy's fleet. The letter was cancelled at *Kereszténysziget* post office on July 24, 1904, and backcancelled at *Pola* on July 26.

The hotel post stamps were from the first vertical column of the sheet: thus, they belong to Subgroup 1. They are cancelled with the circular seal of the Society.



This card was cancelled at *Kereszténysziget* post office in July 16 or 18, 1906. It is addressed to *Nagy Sink* (*Gross Schenk*): the date of the back-canceller cannot be read. The hotel post stamp belongs to Subgroup 1: it is cancelled with the circular seal of the Society.



*Grüßbehalten
Königliche Hof-
H. K. K. K.*

was removed
when it was
ns why this

addressed to
Kis-Küküllő
ch is located
of the visitors

It is, however, more important to note that there was only one single stamp on the card (see arrow). Since a Hungarian post office canceller was used, it had to be a Hungarian postal stamp and its size indicates it as a *turul* stamp. In other words, no hotel post stamp was used and this is most usual.

The picture of the card is showing the gorge of the *Cibin* (*Zibin*) river where the *Paltinys* brook reaches it.

**HOHE RINNE
ISSUE OF 1906**

In 1906 the rate for letters was raised to 5 Heller and on this occasion new (2 h and 5 h) stamps were prepared and issued on August 3. Now the year 1906 is indicated on the design.

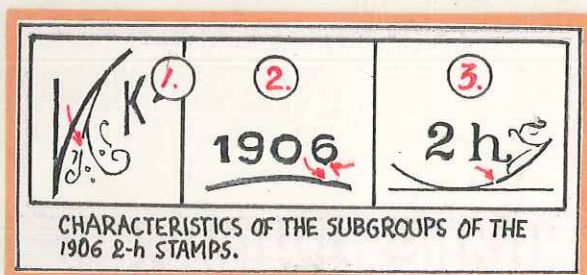
The 2-h stamps were printed in 8,000 perforated and 2,000 imperforated copies, in sheets of 100 (10×10). In some sheets, the perforation between certain horizontal rows may be missing.

Again, three subgroups of the 2-h stamp exist, characterized by small variations in the design. The position of the subgroups is known; however, in the tenth vertical column we are certain only about the first five stamps.

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	3
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	2
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	



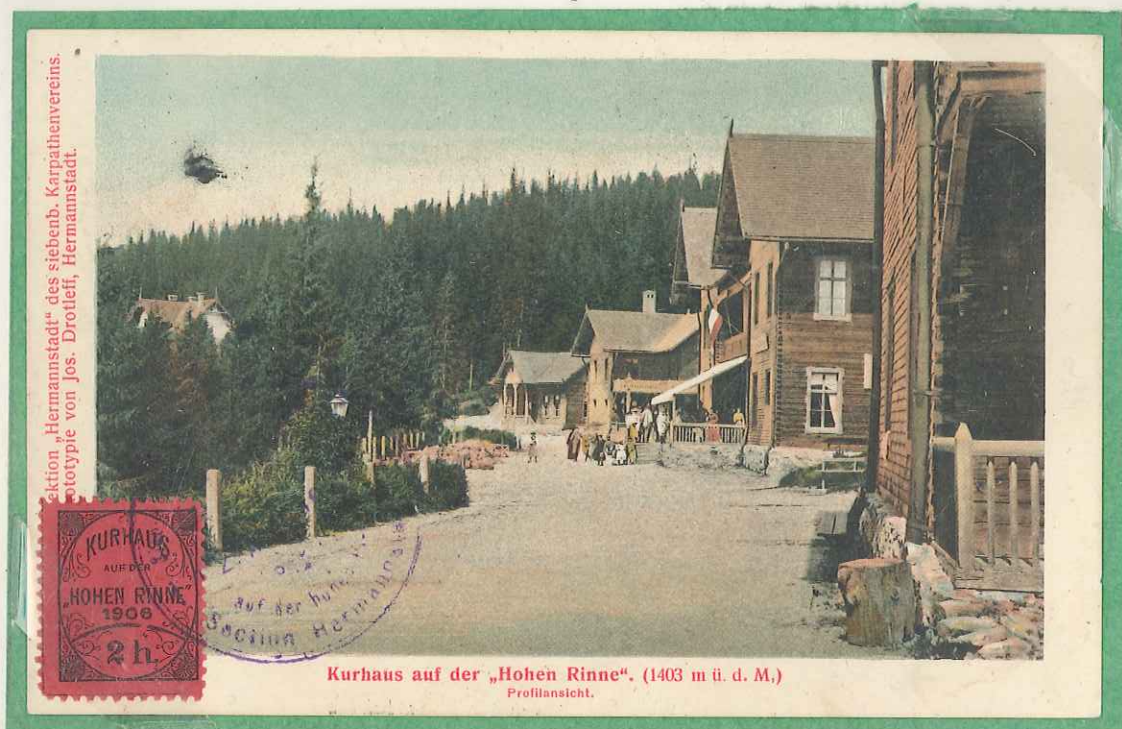
The position of this block of eight in the sheet is probably as indicated. Note that the perforation at the top and lower edge is missing.





The possible position of this block of nine of the 1906 2-h stamp in the sheet is indicated.

THIS PHOTO SERVED
AS THE BASIS FOR
THE DESIGN OF THE
1924 ISSUE



Both the hotel post and the Hungarian stamps were cancelled on August 12, 1907; the backcancellation by Nagyszeben No.1 post office is dated August 13, at 4 AM ("É.4")! Evidently the postal clerks had long working hours. The hotel post stamp belong to Subgroup 3 and has an added variation: a disconnection in the oval line below the 6 of 1906.

THIS PHOTO SERVED
AS THE BASIS FOR
THE DESIGN OF THE
1924 ISSUE



Kurhaus „Hohe Rinne“ (1403 m ü. M.) der Sektion „Hermannstadt“ S. K. V.

Verlag der Sektion „Hermannstadt“ des Siebenb. Karpathenvereins.
Chromophototypie von Jos. Drotleif, Hermannstadt.

LEVELEZŐ-LAP

*Indem ich hoffe,
daß Sie in der
Lotte sich befinden,
ich, weil ich Sie mit
daß ich für Sie
Lafra, beide Jahre
von mir für Sie
Auf baldiges Wiedersehen
und herzlichen Gruß
Friedrich*

5.14/8

*Tran. Hadilte Göbel
Hinterberg
in Hermannstadt
Nagy Zeben*



The picture card with the 2-h hotel post stamp was cancelled on August 19, 1908, at 8 AM ("N.8"), at Nagyszeben No. 1 post office. We have also the back-cancellation of the same post office from the next morning.

The Hungarian stamp on the piece on the left was cancelled at Nagyszeben No. 1 post office on August 4, 1908.

Both 2-h Hohe Rinne stamps belong to Subgroup 3.

Herausgegeben von der Sektion „Hermannstadt“ S. K. V.



Kurhaus auf der „Hohen Rinne“. — Zibinswasserfall.



6RR

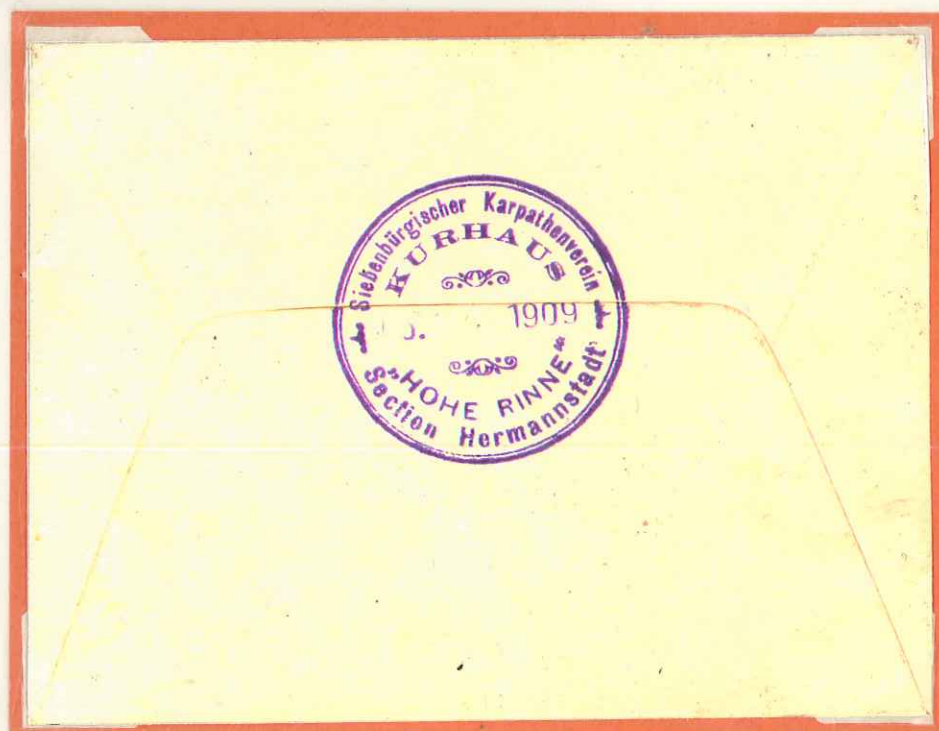
HOHEN RINNE - LAPP

2

Adress Banon
 Morina von J. J. J.
 fern vollen in Höhe
 Rinne. Morina
 von rennek tag. es
 gold ist hellet
 volna találmunk.
 Mórvidéki karátson
 Seregevat

Nagyszeben
 J. J. J.
 J. J. J.
 Kolozsvár.
 Kéchenyitér 30.

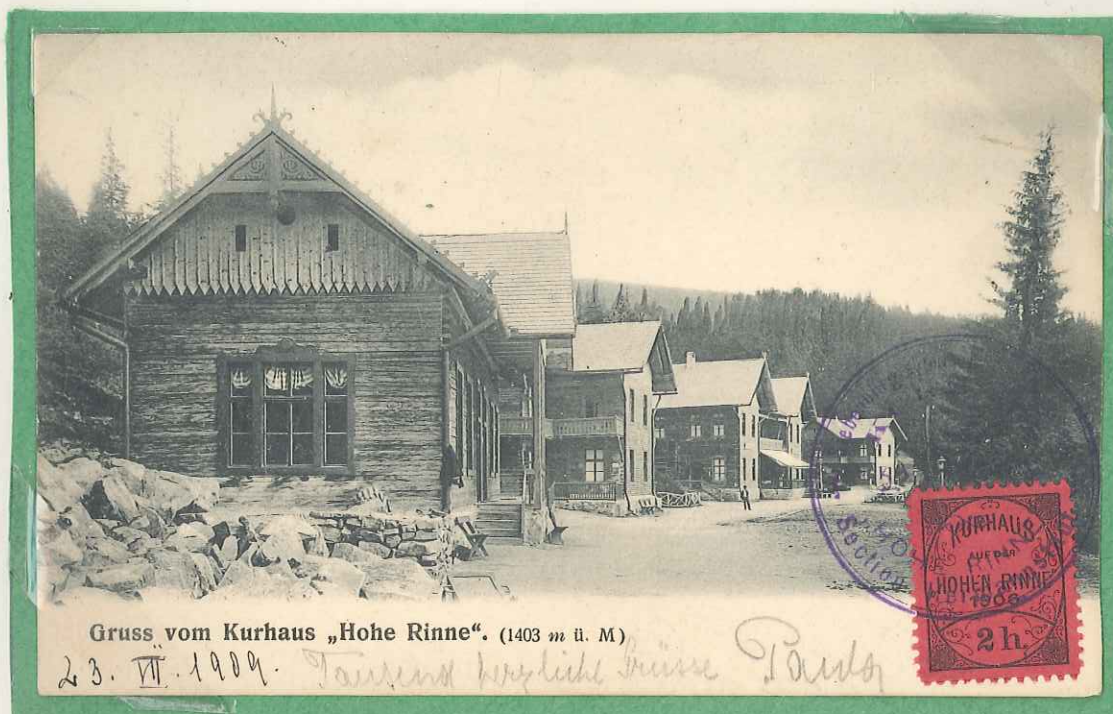
This picture card shows the falls of the Cibin (Zibin) river. The date in the Society's seal cancel-ling the 2-h hotel stamp (corresponding to Soubgroup 1) is August 8, 1908; the 5-f Hungarian turul stamp was cancelled at Nagyszeben No. 1 post office on August 10, at 8 PM ("É.8"). Starting in 1908, mail from Hohe Rinne was carried directly to Nagyszeben post office. The card was ad-dressed to Kolozsvár (today: Cluj). The date in the backcancellation is not clear: the "0" in "10" was added by pen and it is a mistake, it should have been "11" - there was no possibility for the train to reach Kolozsvár the same evening as when the card was cancelled at Nagyszeben.



This letter was cancelled at Nagyszeben No. 1 post office on July 17, 1909, at 8 AM ("N.8"). Stamps of the 1909 issue were available only on July 31; this is the reason why the stamps of the 1906 issue were still in use. The hotel post stamp used here belong to Subgroup 2.

It is interesting that the hotel post stamp was not cancelled but the circular seal of the Society was applied to the backside of the envelope. It is an exceptionally clear copy of the seal.

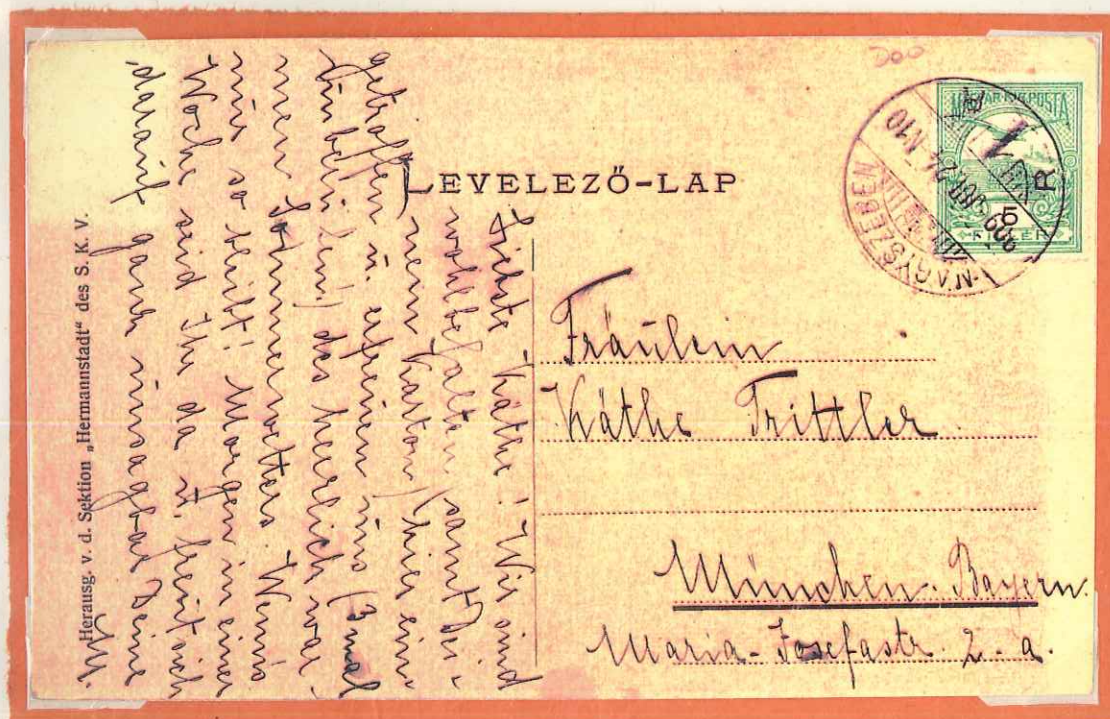
THIS PHOTO SERVED
AS THE BASIS FOR
THE DESIGN OF THE
1910 AND 1923 ISSUES



Gruss vom Kurhaus „Hohe Rinne“. (1403 m ü. M.)

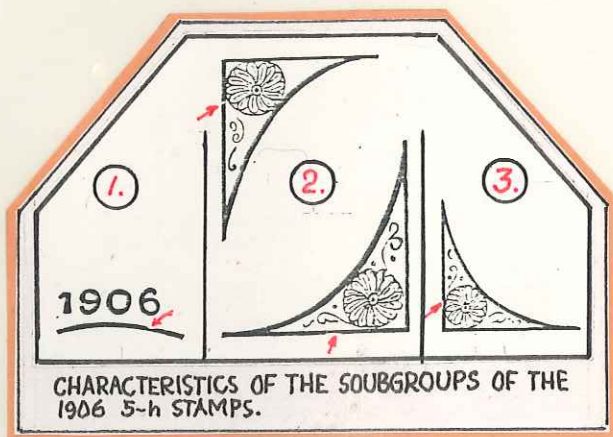
23. VII. 1909.

Tausend herzliche Grüsse Paula



This card was mailed from Hohe Rinne on July 23, 1909, and cancelled by Nagyszeben No. 1 post office on the next day, at 10 AM ("N.10"). it is addressed to München, in Bavaria. The 2-h hotel post stamp belonging to Subgroup 2 is cancelled by the circular seal of the Society.

Stamps of the 1909 issue were available only on July 31; this is the reason why the stamps of the 1906 issue were still in use.



2312



Starting with the 1906 issue, the color of the letter-rate stamp was changed from yellow to emerald green. Total printing of the 5-h stamp was 10,000 copies, in sheets of 100 stamps (10×10). This stamp exists only in perforated version; however, in some sheets, perforation was carried out only in one direction or some perforations are missing.

Again, three subgroups can be distinguished, indicated by minor variations in the design.

A characteristic of the 1906 (particularly of the 5-h) stamps is that the sheets were gummed only after perforation. As a result of this, the gum usually shows through the perforation holes, as seen on this strip.

1	2
1	2
1	2
1	2
1	2
1	2



This block of 12 stamps is an example for the perforation completely missing in one direction (here: horizontal). The small drawing indicates the subgroups to which the stamps correspond.

A.



B.



C.

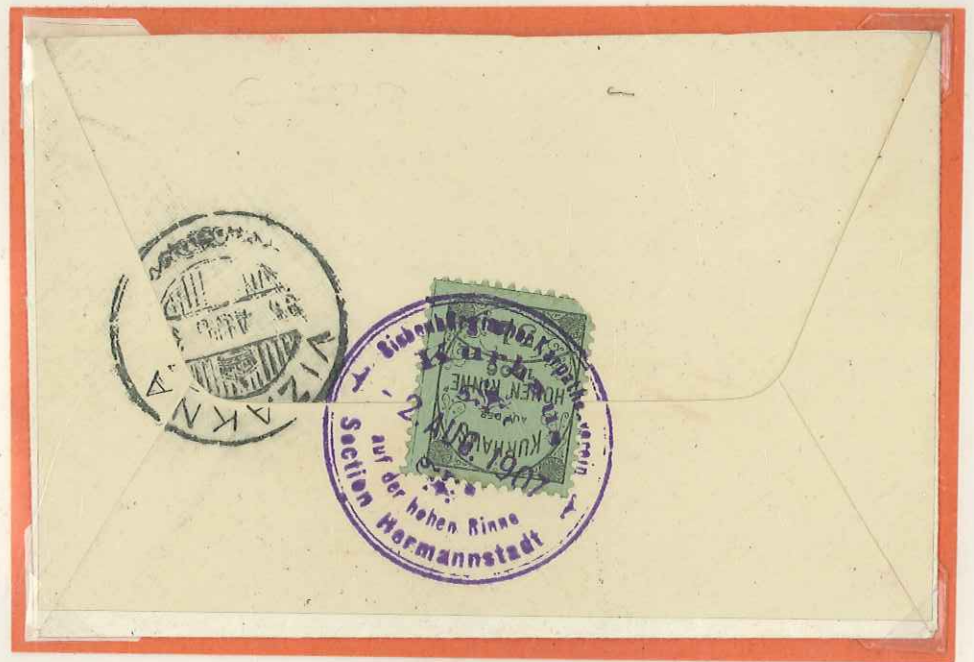


Stamp A has perforation in the vertical sides only.

Stamp B is imperforated on all four sides. This is unusual since fully imperforated 5-h stamps of this issue are not documented in the literature.

Piece C is from an envelope. It shows the full hotel cancellation (date: June 26, 1908) **plus** a part of the Hungarian post office cancellation in the top right corner.

All three 5-h hotel post stamps belong to Subgroup 1.



This letter was mailed from Hoke Rinne on August 2, 1907; the two 5-f turul stamps were cancelled at Kereszténysziget post office on the same day. It is addressed to Vizakna (in Romanian: Ocna Sibiului, located northwest of Nagyszeben, not far from Szelindek), where it was backcancelled on the next day.

**HOHE RINNE
ISSUE OF 1909**

The stamps of the 1909 issue were printed in sheets of 50 stamps; total printing was 2,000 stamps. They were issued on July 31, 1909, and were used only for a few weeks. In 1919 new stamps, with a more picturesque design, were issued and used for mail. The remaining 1909 stamps were stored at the resort and later destroyed in a fire. Thus only a very limited number of copies of the 1909 stamps exist. However, interestingly, about 10 full sheets of the 5-h stamps survived, most likely preserved by one or two individuals. On such sheet is shown on the next page.

Minor variations in the design exist here also and, again, three subgroups are known. However, from these, only Subgroup 1 can be clearly identified. The other characteristics are so minor that their recognition is very difficult.

This single stamp definitely corresponds to Subgroup 1 and is from the first vertical column of the sheet.

1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	2
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	3
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	2
1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1





This is the full sheet of the 5-h stamp issued in 1909. As mentioned only about 10 full sheets of this stamp are existing.

HOHE RINNE
STATIONARY OF 1910



Sektion Hermannstadt des Siebenbürgischen
Karpathenvereines

Sr. Hochwohlgeboren

Herrn Dr. J u l i u s B i e l z

Arzt,

L O C O .

Heltauergasse.

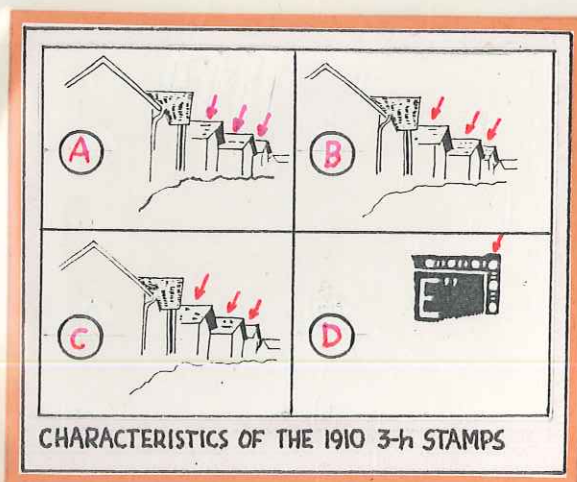
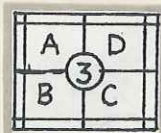
Kurhaus „Hohe Rinne“
bei Hermannstadt, Siebenbürgen,

In 1910, an envelope was also prepared using the imprint of the 1910 stamp, without the indication of the fee, as decoration. The text printed at the top of the envelope identifies the local Section of the S.K.V., while the resort's name and address was printed on the backside. Originally *UNGARN* (Hungary) was also printed below this address; however, after the area became part of Romania, it was blocked out. This type of envelope was used for official mail of the Society; they also sold it at the resort for general use, with only the picture of the stamp on the front side.

This envelope was addressed to a physician in *Sibiu* (the Romanian name of *Nagyszeben*). The imprinted stamp has a Sibiu cancellation; the date cannot be read but it had to be after October 5, 1920: we know that the new Romanian post office cancellers arrived on this day at *Sibiu* post offices.

Most likely this cancellation has been applied as a favor: otherwise both a Romanian stamp and a hotel post stamp should have been affixed to the envelope.

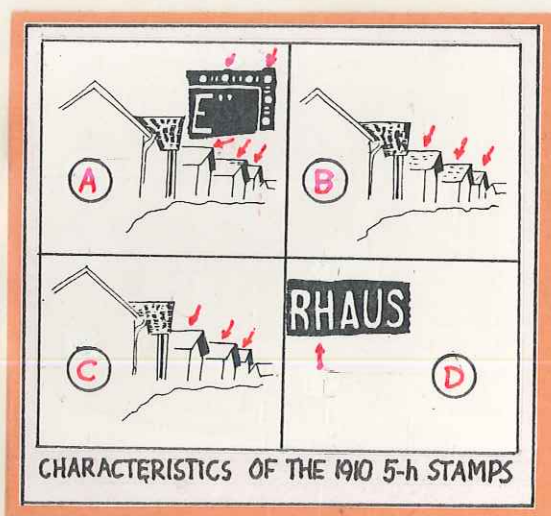
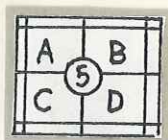
**HOHE RINNE
ISSUE OF 1910
USAGE BEFORE 1914**



In 1910 the rate for cards was raised to 3 Heller. On this occasion an entirely new set consisting of two stamps was prepared, with the denominations of 3 and 5 Heller. The design of the stamps was based on a photograph by Joseph Drotleff of Nagyszeben; the stamps were designed by **Hans Hocker** and printed by **Drotleff**, in blocks of four. The set was theoretically in use for over a dozen years; however, as mentioned in the Introduction, there was practically no service between 1915 and about 1920-1921.

The printing plate was prepared by locking four different clichés into a block. Small differences in the individual clichés -- mainly in the shading of the roofs -- permit us to identify the position of a stamp in the block. The sketch shown here indicates the most characteristic marks.

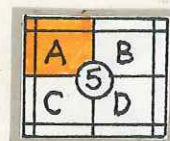
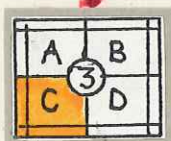
Total printing of the 3-h stamp was 5715 blocks of four, corresponding to 22,860 copies.



The 5-h stamp of the 1910 issue also has certain characteristic marks depending on the position of the individual clichés in the block of four. These are indicated in the sketch, above.

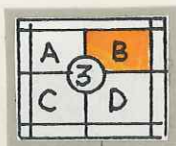
Total printing of the 5-h stamp was 3740 blocks of four, corresponding to 14,960 copies.

In addition to the small differences indicated in the sketch, a true printing error can also be seen here, in stamp D (blue arrow): the *R* in *RINNE* is blocked out by the green dye. The small plate error indicated by a red arrow in stamp B is not documented either in the literature: however, we shall see the same error again later, on a stamp used together with a Romanian stamp.



The two stamps of the 1910 series shown here have the signature of **Geza von Jakots**, of Nagyszeben, on their backside: in addition, the 5-h stamp also has his seal. Mr. Jakots designed the 1924 issue.

The position of either stamp in the block of four is indicated.



Evidently, somebody took this card with the affixed stamp as a souvenir from the resort: there is no writing on the other side.

The *Tannhof* was one of the cottages at Hohe Rinne. Usually the president and/or officers of the Society were staying there when at Hohe Rinne.

Galman Löffelholz m.
 Löffelholz m. P. 10.
Immermann
 (Kriegszeiten.)

Sinken Sie...

EV Nicht vornehmlich, fast ausschließlich
I. Julem, alle vier den oben erwäh-
nigt an freimündigkeit und thum, ge-
nügt abend vier und fünf 3. zeitungsbild.
Julem ist fünf pfeilend. Julem, fünf li-
quidation und durch nach hinern

Weghin die Luft

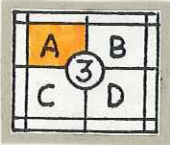
Freund habe in Stockholm;
 wir werden bedenklich von Kampf in
 20 Jahre. Aber wenn die Partei
 zerfallen wird.
 Herausg. v. d. Sektion Hermannstadt, S. K. V.
 Druck

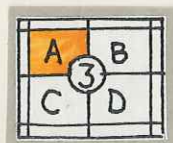


According to the message on the card, *"the view is beautiful but, unfortunately, one can see nothing because of the fog ..."*



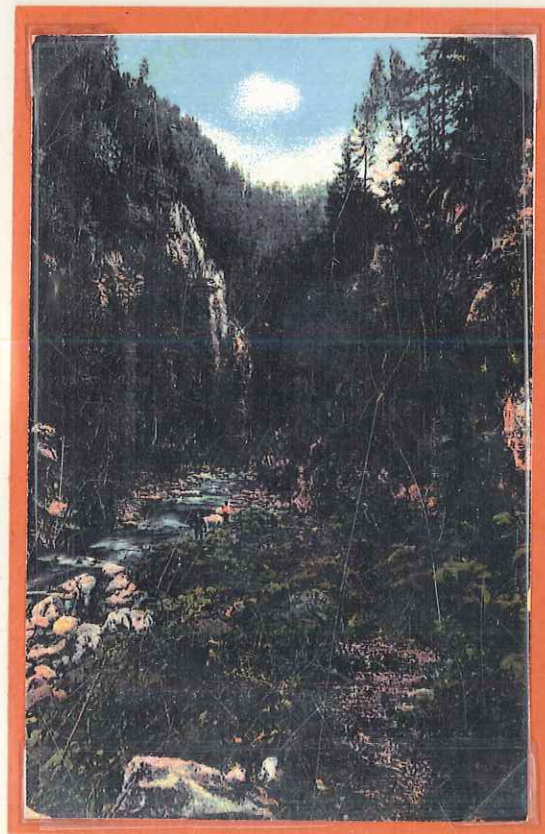
This card showing the gorge of the *Cibin* (*Zibin*) river was mailed from Hohe Rinne on September 4, 1911; it was cancelled at Nagyszeben No.1 post office in the night of September 4/5, at 4 AM ("É.4").

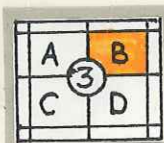
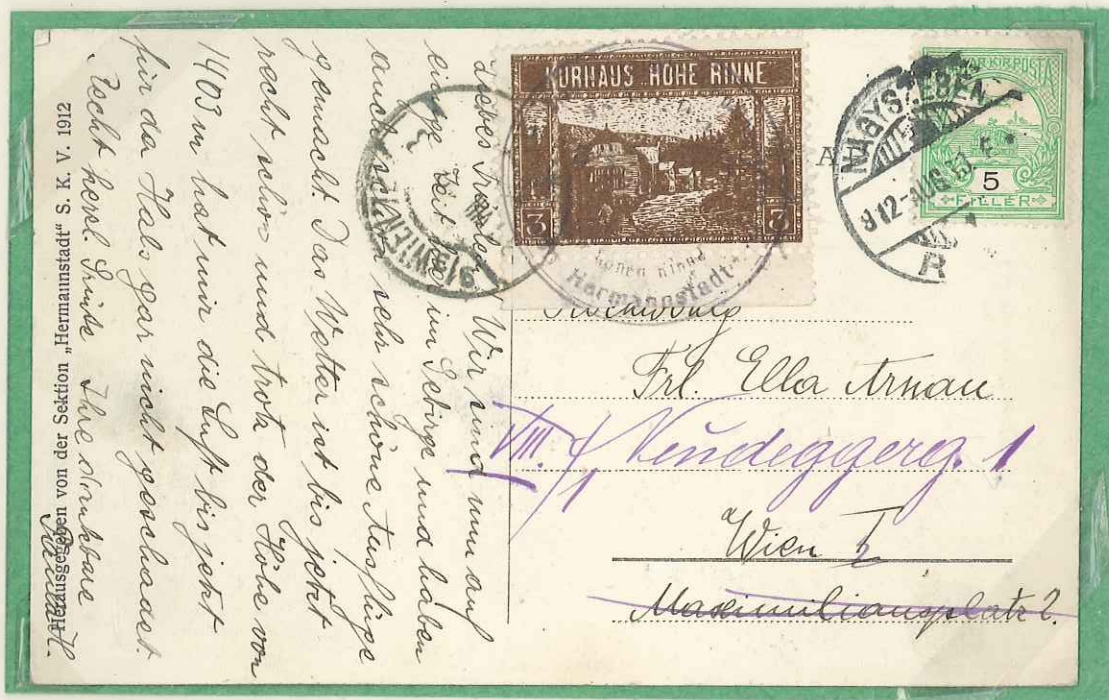




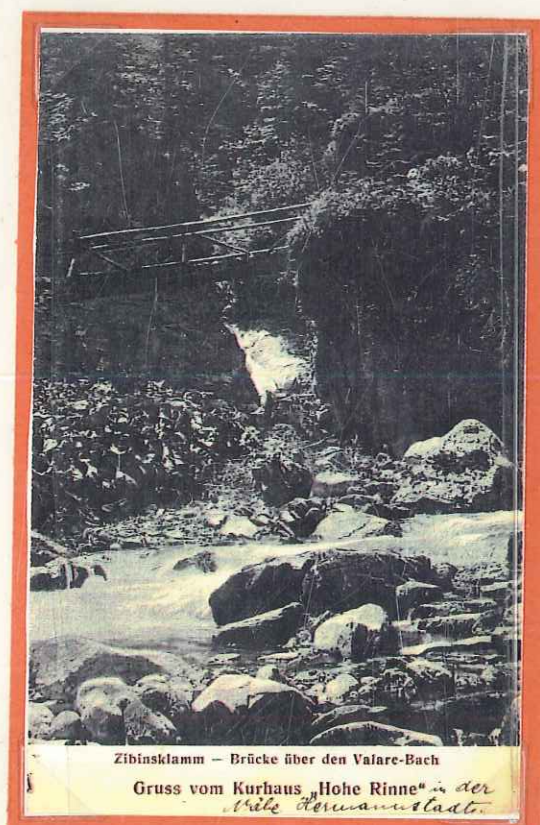
This card was cancelled at Nagyszeben No. 1 post office on July 6, 1913. The color of the hotel post canceller is brownish due to fading.

The picture card shows the gorge of the Cibin (Zibin) river.

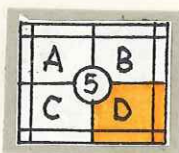




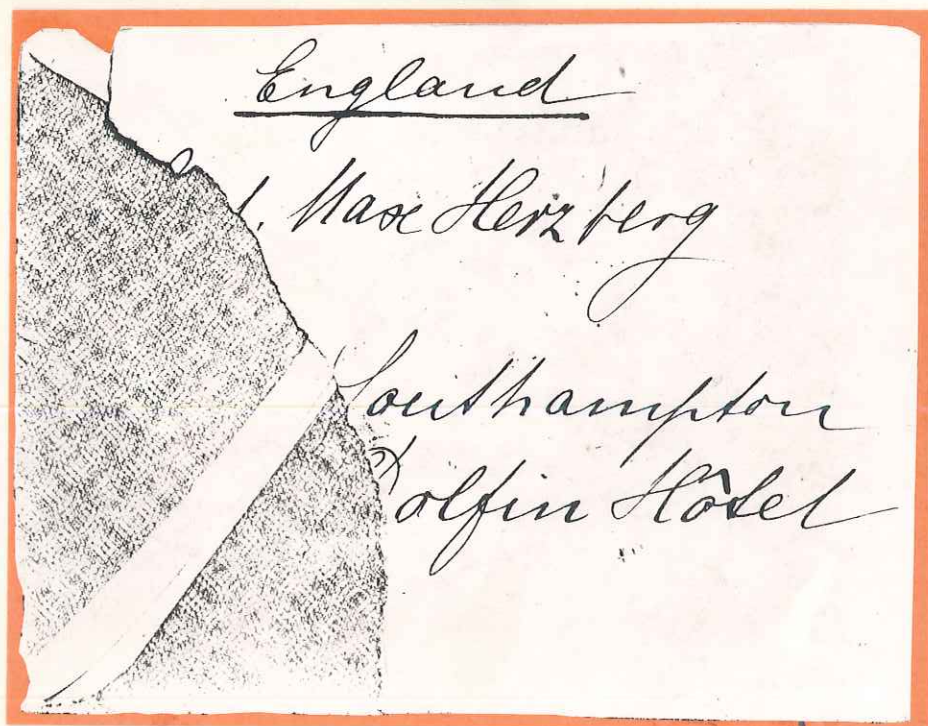
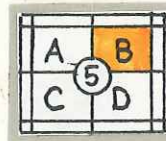
This card was cancelled at Nagyszeben No. 1 post office during the night of August 12/13, 1912, at 4 AM ("É.4"). it is addressed to Vienna, Austria.



Zibinsklamm - Brücke über den Valare-Bach
Gruss vom Kurhaus "Hohe Rinne" in der Nähe Hermannstadt.



This 5-h stamp of the 1910 issue has the usual circular cancellation of the resort. The date is July 1910, and the day is most likely the sixth or the eighth. The stamp is from position D. Comparing this stamp with the other green stamps of the 1910 issue note the different shades of the color.



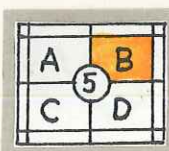
This letter is addressed to our good friend **Max Herzberg** who was evidently temporary in Southampton, England. The cover was franked with Hungarian stamps in the total value of 25 fillér, the rate for a regular letter to a country outside the Monarchy; it was cancelled on August 14, 1911, at 9 PM ("É.9") by *Nagyszeben No.1* post office, and backcancelled at *Southampton* on August 17, at 11:30 AM. The 5-h hotel post stamp was cancelled with the circular seal of the resort.

Note the unusually dark shade of the green hotel post stamp.

**HOHE RINNE
ISSUE OF 1910
USAGE AFTER 1921**

At the end of the First World War, Transylvania was first occupied by Romanian troops and then, after the peace treaties, incorporated into Greater Romania. Thus, the sovereignty of the *Nagy-szeben* area passed from Hungary to Romania: the name of the city was changed to *Sibiu* and the resort now became *Paltiniș*, although its German name and the German language continued to be used, e.g., in the resort's cancellers.

An everywhere in Central Europe where the borders changed, there was also a transition period in Transylvania during which Hungarian post office cancellers and stamps remained in use for some time, even after the change of the sovereignty. However, we do not know of any such material from Hohe Rinne. Most likely this was due to the fact that full service at the resort did not resume until 1920, or even 1921. At that time *Sibiu* post office already had its Romanian-type canceller and Hungarian stamps were fully replaced by Romanian stamps.



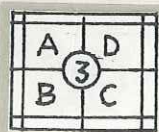
This piece shows the 1910 hotel post stamp in combination with a Romanian stamp. The circular seal of the resort is the same as used earlier; however, now a Romanian stamp is used and it is cancelled with the new Romanian canceller of *Sibiu No. 1* post office. The date is July 26, but the year cannot be read clearly: it is either 1921 or 1922.

Note the plate error indicated with a blue arrow and the much darker shade of green of the stamp.

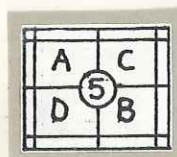
**HOHE RINNE
ISSUE OF 1923**

On June 2, 1923, a new series was issued, maintaining the design of the 1910 issue, but changing the color of the individual stamps. Due to the currency change from Hungarian to Romanian, the value of the stamps was now different: they were sold for 30 Bani instead of 3 fillér (Heller), and 50 Bani instead of 5 fillér (Heller). However, they did not want to change the existing clichés: it was simply understood that the denomination must be multiplied by a factor of ten ...

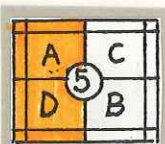
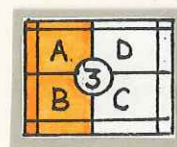
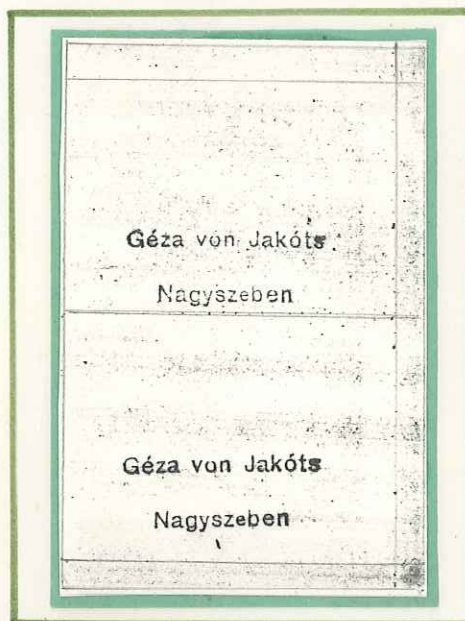
This block of four of the "3" (worth 30 Bani) stamp, now in blue color, shown here, has the seal of Géza v. Jakots of Nagyszeben on the backside of the stamps (the same seal as shown later on the stamp pairs). Mr. Jakots designed the stamps of the 1924 issue.



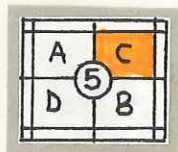
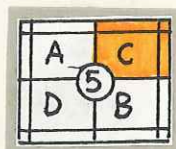
The blocks of four were printed by using the original clichés of the 1910 issue, however, now in a different sequence in the block. Total printing of each denomination was 1340 blocks of four, i.e., 5360 stamps. The stamps were used during the 1923 season and at the beginning of the 1924 season.



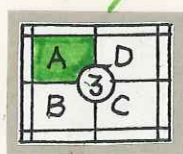
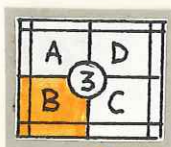
This is the block of four of the "5" stamp of the 1923 issue, now in brown color and sold for 50 Bani. Again, the original clichés of the 1910 issue were used, but placed differently into the block. The stamps of the block shown have the seal of **Géza v. Jakots** of Nagyszeben on their backside.



Here vertical pairs of the 1923 issue are shown, having the seal of Géza v. Jakóts of Nagyszeben on their backside. Each pair represents the two stamps on the left-hand side of the block-of-four.

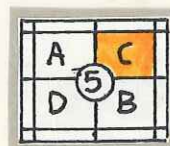
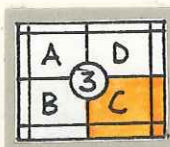


Both 50-Bani stamps shown here represent the upper right position in the block of four.

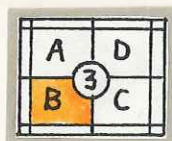


C?

It is interesting to note that stamps of the 1923 issue - although they were printed in relatively few copies and were valid for only one year - exist in various shades. This can particularly be seen in the case of the blue stamp.

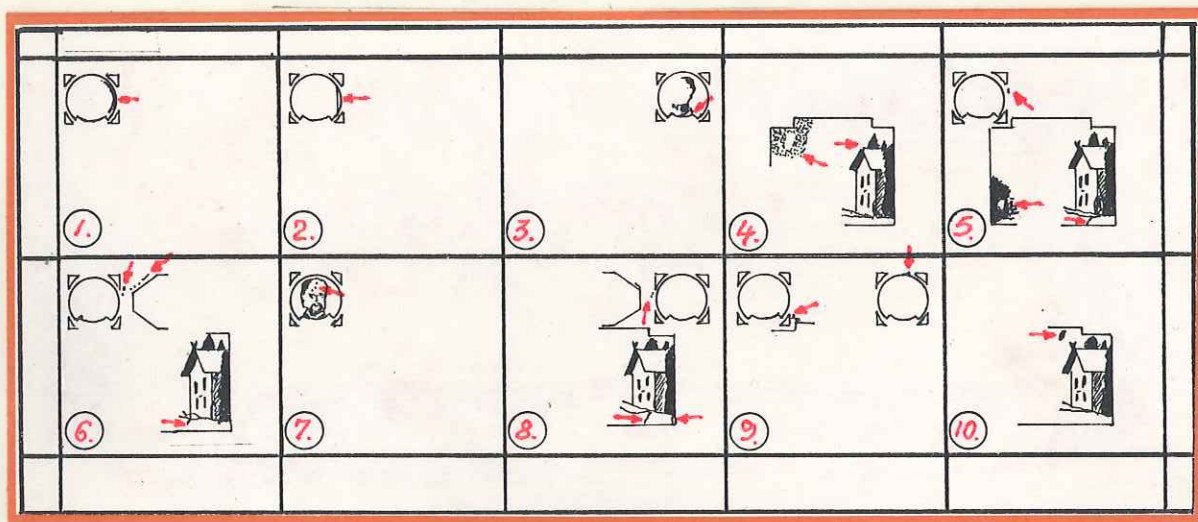


These stamps have the Romanian post office cancellation of *Sibiu No. 1* post office. The date of the cancellations cannot be read. Stamps of the 1923 issue are usually cancelled with the Sibiu post office canceller and not with the seal of the resort.



This card was mailed from *Timișoara* (*Temesvár*), in the southwestern part of the territory annexed by Romania from Hungary. The card is franked with the "3" (30 Bani) stamp of the 1923 series plus two regular Romanian stamps. They were cancelled at *Sibiu No. 1* post office on August 14, 1924, i.e., already after the date when the next hotel post stamp series was issued. Note that the seal of the resort is missing and the post office canceller of *Sibiu* is now also over the hotel post stamp. This is frequently the case with the stamps of the 1923 issue. It looks as they lost the old hotel seals and the new types were not ready yet ...

**HOHE RINNE
ISSUE OF 1924**



The last Hohe Rinne stamp series was issued on June 10, 1924, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the opening of the resort. **Géza von Jakots** designed the stamps while drawing was done by Colonel **T. Lassy**; their names appear in minuscule letters on the two sides below the frame, below the first *H* of *HOHE* and below the *E* in *RINNE*, respectively.

The design shows the portraits of the founders, **Dr. Karl Conradt** (left) and **Robert Gutt** (right), and the panorama of the resort. Printing was done by **Krafft & Drotleff** in Sibiu (Nagyszeben); total printing was 30,000 copies of each stamps, in sheets of ten (2×10). The stamps do not indicate the denomination: the green stamp was sold for 50 Bani and the red stamp for 1 Leu. The position of the stamps in the sheet can be identified with help of minor variations within the design: these are shown in the drawing, above.

Officially the stamps were in use until sometimes in 1926 when the Romanian Postal Service was supposed to take over the mail service at *Paltiniș*, which is the Romanian name of the resort. However, this did not happen and the Society remained in charge for a long time to carry mail to and from Sibiu. In fact postal cards with cancellation dates after 1926 are known on which the hotel post stamps of this issue were still used.

(A)



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

↑
(A)

(B)



(C)



↓
(B)

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

↑
(C)

With this issue a number of new types of hotel seals have been introduced.

Stamp A is cancelled with a date stamp only. The green hotel post stamp is used together with a Romanian stamp. The latter was cancelled at Sibiu, on August 8, 1925, while the date of the cancellation of the hotel post stamp is August 6: it took three days to get the card to the post office!

Stamp B was cancelled with a seal having the text *SEKTION "HERMANNSTADT" S.K.V.* where the acronym stands for the *Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein*.

Stamp C is cancelled with a seal having *HOHE RINNE*, in double-lined letters, and the date. After 1926, this seal became the universal canceller.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10



A full sheet of the green stamps of the 1924 issue, sold for 50 Bani each.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10



A full sheet of the red stamps of the 1924 issue, sold for 1 Leu each.



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

This block of four is from the right end of the sheet of ten stamps.



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

This pair of the red stamp is again cancelled with a new type of seal, having the text *Direktion des Kurhauses "HOHE RINNE"*.



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10



This card was cancelled at the hotel on September 14, 1924, a Sunday, while the Romanian stamps were cancelled at Sibiu No. 1 post office on September 17. The card was mailed to Vienna, Austria.

The picture shows the panorama of the resort from a different angle.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10



HOHE RINNE
24. Okt. 1924



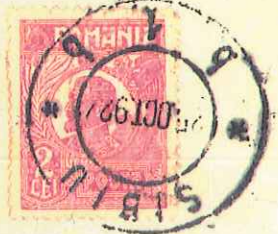
Monsieur

M. U. Dr. Alfred Šálek

Zagreb

lica N° 9.

Retour: Géza de Jakots
"Hohe Rinne"
post. curier
Sibiu



This letter was mailed by Géza v. Jakots, the designer of these stamps, to Zagreb, now in Jugoslavia. Most likely "Jugoslavia" was written sometimes later onto the cover.

besides the Romanian stamp on the frontside of the cover, there are 11 additional stamps on the backside: all were cancelled on October 25, 1924, at Sibiu No.1 post office. The red hotel post stamp was cancelled at the resort one day earlier. The backcancellation of Zagreb post office is indicated with a black arrow.

This is a registered letter: the Romanian registration mark is indicated by a red arrow.

64.

Kurhaus Hohe Rinne „Speis-
Ortsgruppe Hermannstadt, S.
Original Fotografie E. Fischer



Liebe gute Ma!

Donnerstag besuchten wir den
Familienabend, im Kurhaus
es war recht angenehm und
lustig, ein Programm davon bring
ich der Lise mit. - Was ist
mit Hermann noch immer keine
Nachricht? Bitte gebt acht auf
Euch, man hört so viel von
Typhus in der Stadt. Auf Wieder
an Donnerstagabend bis dahin 1.000
Gruß von Euerem Berta

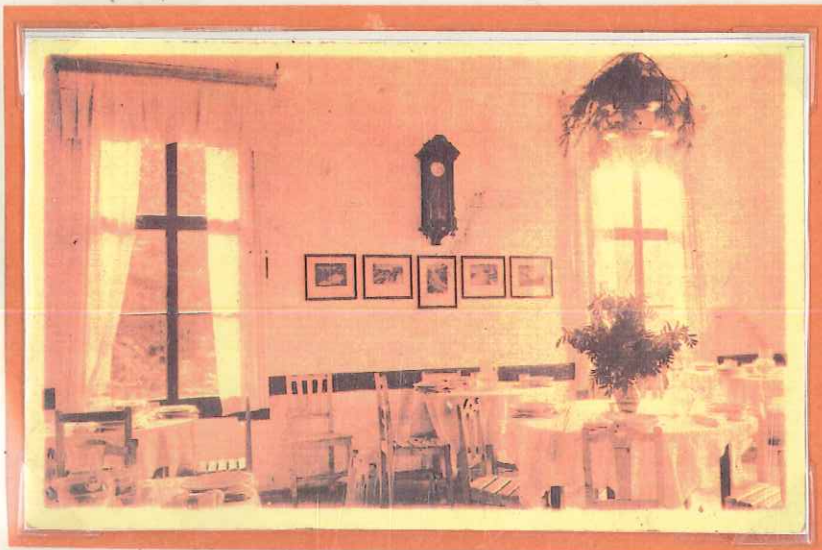
Frau

Berta Tüstel

Hauptmannswitwe

Sibiu

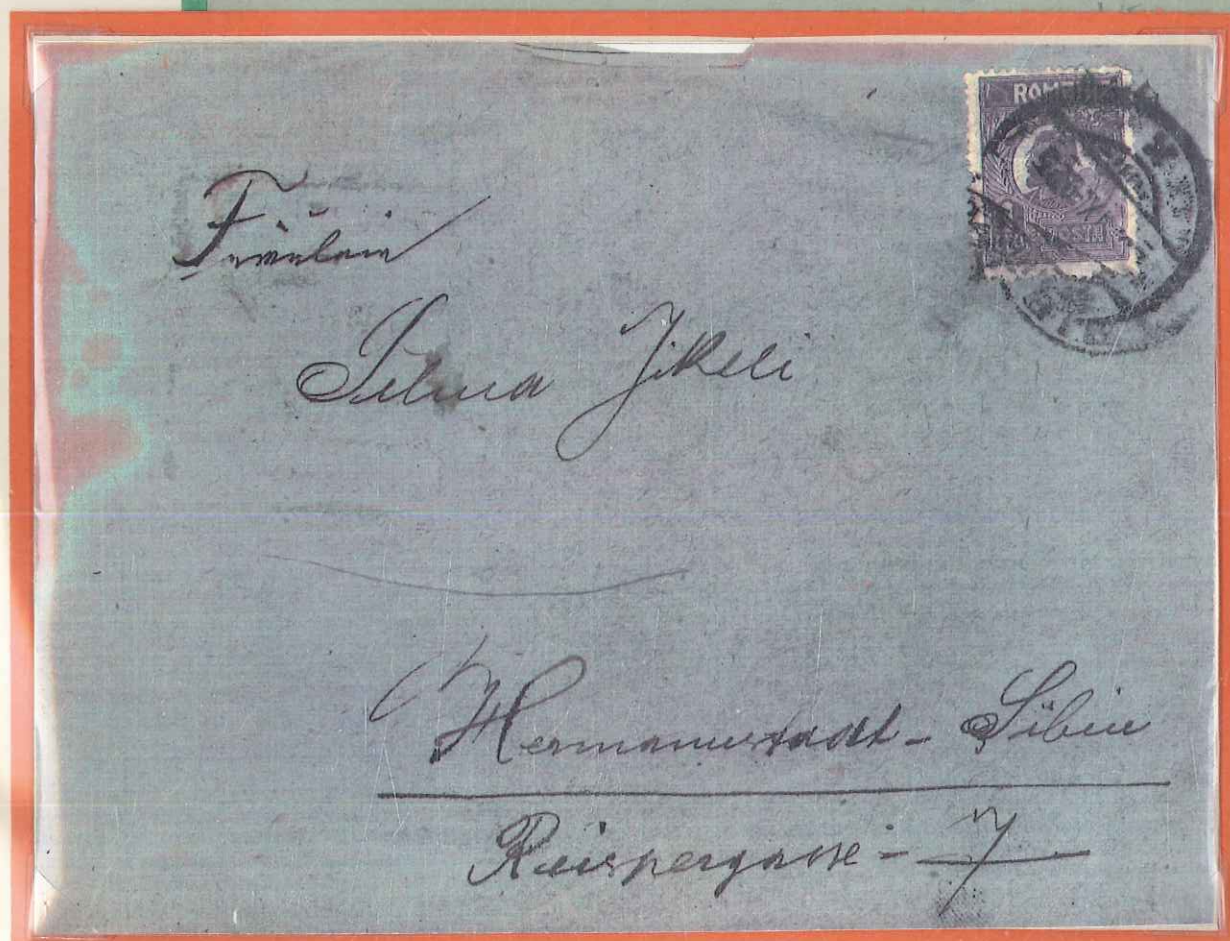
Altenberggasse 4



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

This picture card was franked with the green stamp of the 1924 issue and with two Romanian stamps. We do not have the hotel's cancellation; the Romanian stamps were cancelled at Sibiu post office, on the 12th day of a month the name of which cannot be read. The year is 1926. It is interesting that the post office cancellation does not extend over the hotel post stamp, as seen on the next cards. The picture shows the dining room of the resort.

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10



The hotel post stamp on this cover was cancelled on September 22, 1925; the Romanian postal stamp was also cancelled on the same day, at Sibiu post office.



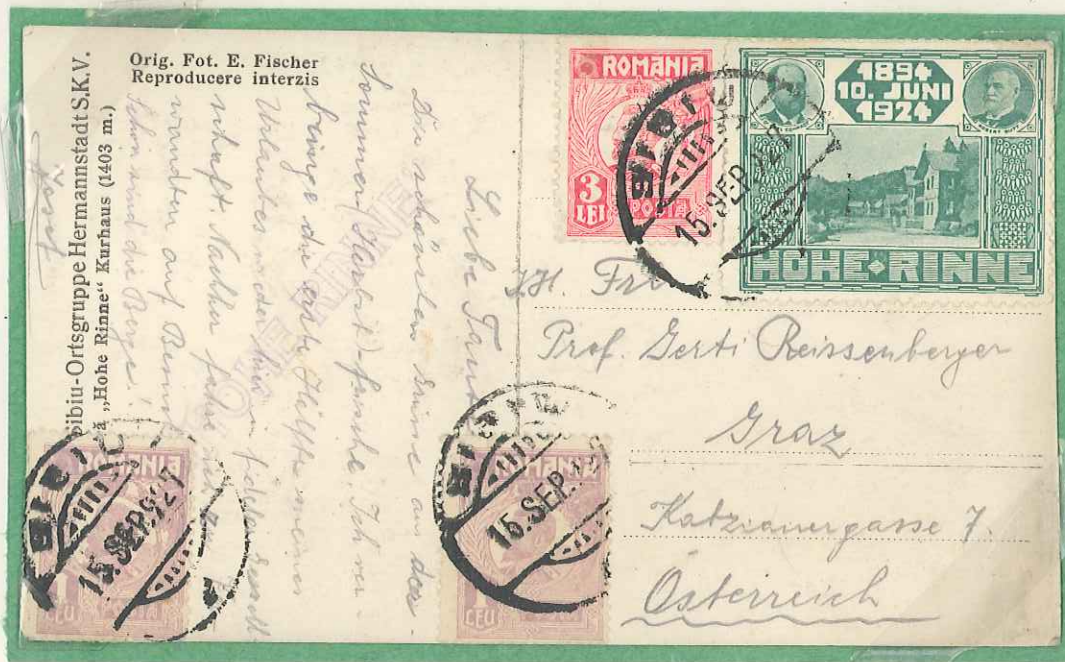
1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

The hotel post stamp on this card was cancelled on September 5, 1926, while the Romanian stamp was cancelled at Sibiu No. 1 post office on the next day.

It is interesting that in the address, although the town's name is given in Romanian ("Sibiu"), the street is still indicated in German ("Wollgasse").

Note that in the vertical printed text on the left-hand side of the card, the names of the Society's local section and of the city are given bilingual, in Romanian and German, however, the resort's name is given only in German (Hohe Rinne): "Paltiniș" is not mentioned.

**HOHE RINNE
USAGE AFTER 1926-30**



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10



As mentioned it is not clear when the use of the hotel post stamps stopped and when the Romanian postal service took over the handling of mail from Hohe Rinne. It is most likely that the Society remained in charge of the courier service even well after 1926.

This card was franked with the green hotel post stamp of the 1924 issue and with three Romanian postal stamps, all cancelled at Sibiu post office on September 15, 1927. Note that the post office cancellation of Sibiu is also over the hotel post stamp: we have the double-lined HOHE RINNE seal on the card, but it is not over the stamp. This card was sent to Graz, in Austria.



1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

This picture post card franked with the red hotel post stamp of the 1924 issue and with a Romanian stamp was cancelled at Sibiu post office on September 22, 1930. The post office canceller is over both stamps. We also have the double-lined HOHE RINNE seal on the card, but not on the hotel post stamp.



This card mailed from Hohe Rinne is franked only with Romanian stamps, which are cancelled at Sibiu post office on February 24, 1937 ("24.II.1937"). The card also has the double-lined seal of the resort.

Obviously, even in 1937, the Romanian postal service did not handle the mail at Hohe Rinne. Probably they did not have the means of carrying it to and from the resort; also, apparently, they did not want to send postal clerks up to the resort for seasonal work. For this reason, most likely, they contracted the Society to continue the handling of mail and its transportation to and from Sibiu post office. Thus, the Society continued to use its seal, although now they did not utilize anymore the hotel stamps.

Note that this picture shows a Winter wonderland, and the card was mailed in February. Electricity was introduced to Hohe Rinne by 1927 and most likely, it was "winterized" soon after.

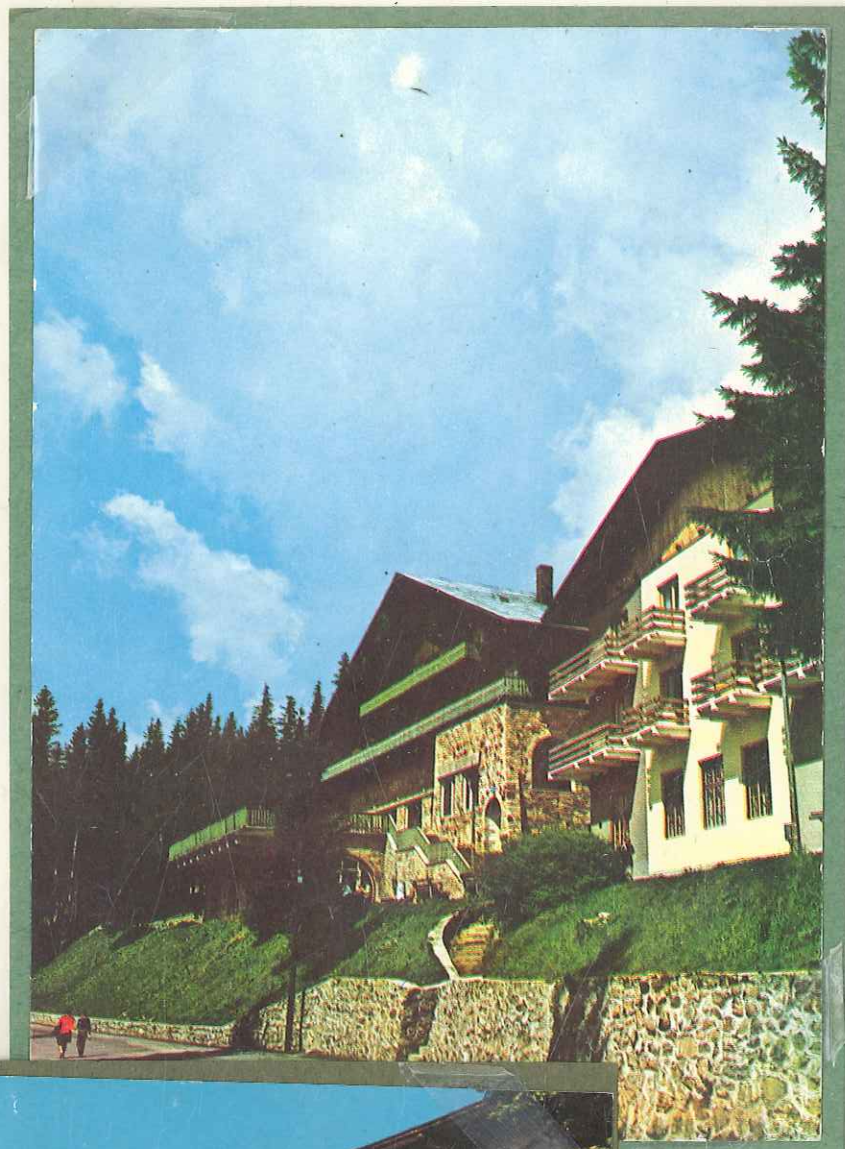
HOHE RINNE - PALTINIŞ
PRESENT-DAY USAGE



Today, *Paltiniş* is a major all-seasons resort in Transylvania, with its own post office.

The imprinted picture of this envelope shows one of the buildings of the resort. This is an old building which already existed prior to 1914. The stamps were cancelled at the resort's post office on April 16, 1976: *JUD. SIBIU* indicates that *Paltiniş* is in Sibiu county.

These cards showing a view of the hotels at *Paltiniš* are from 1975. Comparison with the picture cards from the period before the First World War shows that, essentially, these are the same buildings, only somewhat modernized.

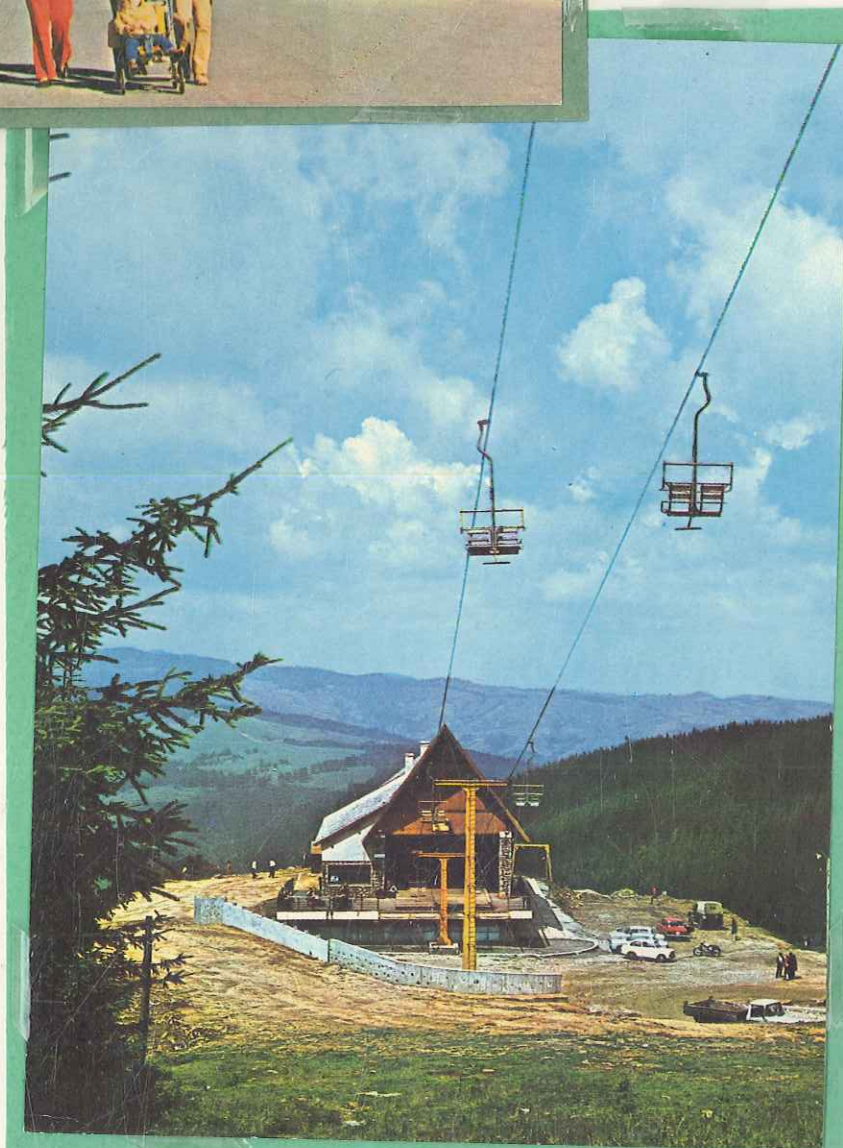




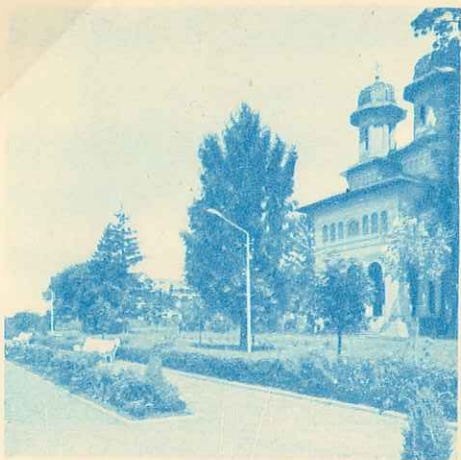
The card on the right shows the ski chairlift used in the Summer for sight-seeing.

Note something interesting on the card, above, which shows the center of *Palatinis*. On close investigation you may see a queue and a green "bus", both indicated with a red arrow. What is this queue doing there - are they waiting for the bus? And is **this** a bus? It is an ancient piece and should rather be shown in a transportation museum than used for actual transportation!

The cards are from 1975.



JUDEȚUL OLT



BALȘ — Vedere din parc

Expeditor _____

Strada _____ Nr. _____

Codul _____ Localitatea _____

Cod 1198/74

Pretul de vânzare 30 bani



CARTE POȘTALĂ



Destinatar _____

Strada _____ Nr. _____

Blocul _____ Scara _____ Etajul _____ Apart. _____

Sectorul _____ Județul _____

Oficiul poștal _____

Codul

Localitatea

Two postal cards with imprinted stamps and the post office cancellation of Paltinis dated December 11, 1975, 9 AM.

ANUL EUROPEAN AL OCROTIRII MONUMENTELOR



TRAIAN



Destinatar _____

Strada _____ Nr. _____

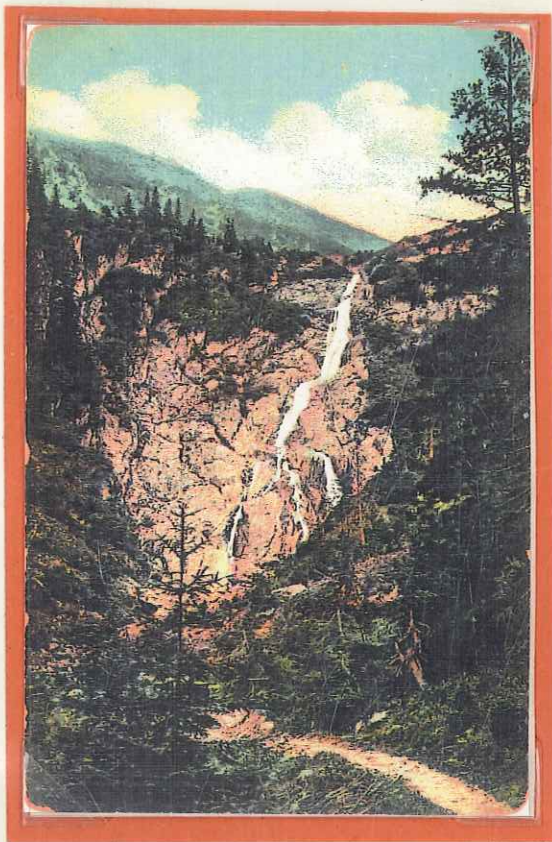
Blocul _____ Scara _____ Etajul _____ Apart. _____

Sectorul _____ Județul _____

Oficiul poștal _____

Codul

Localitatea



Local Mail of the Shelter on Negoi Mountain

In addition to the two resorts the S.K.V. also maintained a couple of shelters for hickers in the Southern Carpathian mountains. One such shelter ("Hütte", in German, means "shelter", "hut") was located on the NEGÖI mountain, at a height of 1546 m (5070 ft). The Negoi is the tallest peak (2544 m; 8350 ft) in Transylvania, located just north of the border to Romania before 1918. At this shelter the Society used a circular seal on the mail and provided delivery to the nearest post office.

The card, below, was dated July 14, 1911, and cancelled next day at 11 PM by Nagy Szeben No.2 post office. The picture card (issued by the local section of the S.K.V.) shows the water fall in the *Serbota* area; this was the name of the mountain range east of the *Negoi*.



Local Mail of the Resort "Bistra"

Around 1900, the Hungarian State Forest Service established a small summer resort about 40 km (26 miles) south of the town Szászsebes (in German: *Mühlbach*, in Romanian: *Sebeș*), at an elevation of 1320 m (4330 ft), near a small river named *Bistra*. Around 1904, the Szászsebes Section of the *Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein (S.K.V.)* (Carpathian Society of Transylvania) took over this resort and further enlarged it, by building additional houses about 100 m (330 ft) higher than the original colony. The resort was named *BISTRA*, after the small river.



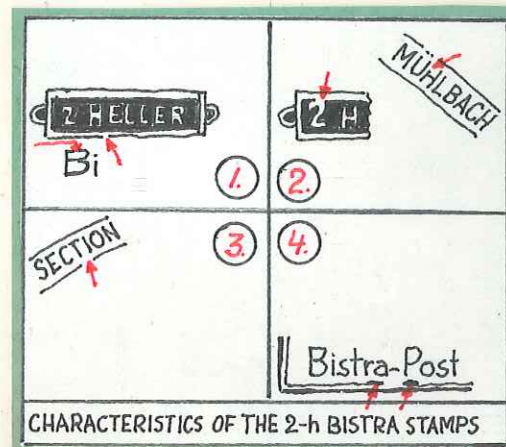
Similarly to *HOHE RINNE*, the Hungarian postal service also did not accept the responsibility for handling the mail of this resort; thus it had to be managed by the local section of the Society. Again, they charged a fee for it and issued stamps to acknowledge the prepayment of this fee.

The Bistra stamps could be purchased at two places: at the resort and in a store in Szászsebes which was appointed to handle the service. In 1907-1908 the store of *Michael Gündisch* was in charge while in 1909 (or maybe already during the 1908 season) *Johann Rilki*, another local merchant, took over the service. They not only carried the mail to and from the resort, but also distributed the mail addressed to Szászsebes. Thus, the Hungarian post office of this town had nothing to do with the local mail; therefore, Hungarian stamps were only needed on mail having a destination outside Szászsebes or coming from such a place. In this, the Bistra service differed from the one at Hohe Rinne.

The Bistra stamps were issued in 1906 or 1907, in two denominations: 2 and 6 Heller. However, the 2 h stamp has never been used in actual service: when the stamps became available, the fee for any type of mail was already uniformly set at 6 Heller. A few mint copies of the 2 h stamps survived: most likely, the rest was destroyed either intentionally or, simply, during the years which have passed since then.

The Bistra post functioned until the end of the 1913 season. In 1913 a new Hungarian postal agency was established at *Teutelep* (in German: *Weiersdorf*, in Romanian: *Tău*) and this was supposed to take over the mail service of Bistra. However, due to the outbreak of the First World War, the resort did not open in 1914 and was mostly destroyed in the subsequent years. Thus, from then on, there was no private mail service at Bistra.

**BISTRA ISSUES
THE STAMPS**



1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3
1	2	3

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
b.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
c.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
d.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
e.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
f.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
g.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
h.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
i.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
j.	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		

A

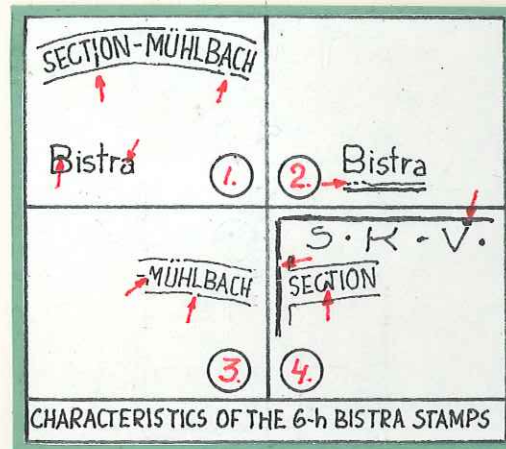
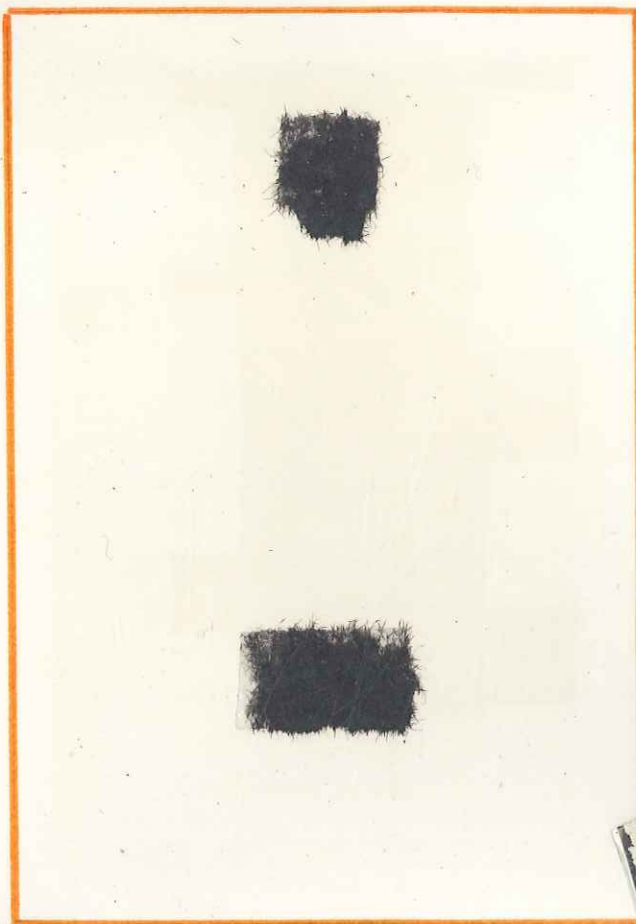


B



As mentioned the 2-Heller Bistra stamp has never been used in actual mail. In addition to a limited number of single mint stamps, a few blocks also survived such as this block of 12 stamps.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 (10×10). We know of four subgroups of the 2-h stamp characterized by minor variations in the design. We are fairly sure about the location of the subgroups in the first eight vertical columns, however, we cannot reconstruct columns #9 and #10. This block of twelve stamps is either from columns 1-2-3 or 5-6-7. Stamp A corresponds to Subgroup 1 and stamp B to Subgroup 2.



4	3	1
4	3	2
4	3	4
4	3	3



The 6 Heller stamps were also printed in sheets of 100 (10×10). The groups can be distinguished. Most likely their location in the sheet is identical to the groups previously shown for the 2-h stamps, at least for the first eight vertical columns. Most likely, the stamps in column #9 belong to Subgroup 3.

This block of twelve stamps must be from columns 8-9-10, because of the irregularity of the last column. The single stamp corresponds to Subgroup 1.

**MAIL FROM BISTRA
TO SZÁSZSEBES**

LEVELEZŐ - LAP

Herrn

Emil Binder

Ingenieur

Mühlbach

S. K. V.
SECTION MÜHLBACH
GYEMLER
Bisra-Post.



This card was addressed from Bistra to *Mühlbach (Szászsebes)*. The Bistra stamp is cancelled with the circular seal of the local S.K.V. group. The date cannot be read; however, we know that most of these cancellations are from 1908. The Bistra stamp corresponds to Subgroup 2. Since the letter was addressed to Szászsebes, no regular Hungarian stamp was needed.

This picture card shows two photos of Bistra: *Lodge Oasa* on the right and *Lodge Prigona* on the left.

This picture card shows two photos of Bistra: *Lodge Oasa* on the right and *Lodge Prigona* on the left.

Frei

Lusi Schunn
Krümmungsdamm



Mühlbach

Liculungasse *Szászsebes*

M. U. Dr. PAUL FINK
TESCHEN
Österr. Schlesien

iz. Bistra.

This letter was addressed from Bistra to *Mühlbach* (*Szászsebes*). It is interesting to note that the sender came from a far-away place: from the northwestern part of the former Austrian empire, now part of Czechoslovakia.

The Bistra stamp corresponds to Subgroup 1. It was cancelled with the mark of **Johann Rilki** who handled the mail service between Szászsebes and Bistra from 1909 (or maybe from late 1908) on. Since the letter was addressed to Szászsebes, no regular Hungarian stamp was needed.

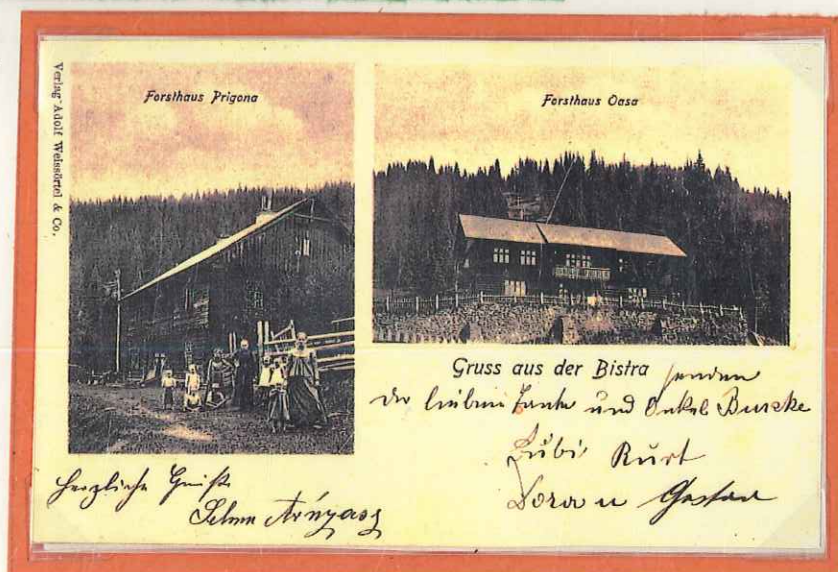
MAIL TO BISTRA
FROM SZÁSZSEBES



Naturally, the mail was a "two-way street": mail was not only delivered from Bistra to Szászsebes, but also from Szászsebes to Bistra. Naturally, the latter is much rarer: after all, one usually does not take home the letters received during vacation. The Bistra stamp corresponds to Subgroup 2 and was cancelled by **Johann Rilki**. Since the Hungarian postal service was not involved in handling this mail, no Hungarian stamp was needed for franking.

The pictures on the card show details of Szászsebes (Mühlbach).

MAIL FROM BISTRA
TO OUTSIDE SZÁSZSEBES



If mail from Bistra was addressed outside Szászsebes, regular Hungarian postal stamps also had to be used for franking. In such a case the local courier service forwarded the mail to Szászsebes post office for further handling. The same was the case if the mail came from outside Szászsebes: it was delivered by the Hungarian postal service to the Szászsebes end of the courier service which then carried it up to Bistra.

This card was addressed to *Ujgyház* (in German: *Leschkirch*; in Romanian: *Nocrich*), northeast of Nagyszeben. Thus, from Szászsebes, it was forwarded as regular mail. The Hungarian postal stamp was cancelled on Friday, July 31, 1908, at Szászsebes post office. Mail was carried twice weekly between Szászsebes and Bistra, on every Tuesday and Friday: thus, this card is from the Friday mail, delivered immediately to Szászsebes post office.

The hotel stamp corresponds to Subgroup 2: it was cancelled with the circular seal of the Society's local section.



This is another card addressed mailed from Bistra to a place outside Szászsebes and thus, needed franking with regular Hungarian stamps. The card was addressed to a village near Salzburg, in Austria. Unfortunately, the post office canceller of Szászsebes cannot be read, except that the month is July. The Bistra stamp corresponds to Subgroup 4. It was cancelled with the violet mark of Johann Rilki, but only traces remained below the lower left corner of the stamp.

MAIL TO BISTRA
VIA SZÁSZSEBES



This card was mailed to Bistra from outside the Szászsebes area: it was sent from Nagydisznód (Heltau), south of Nagyszeben: the picture shows Michelsberg (Kisdisznód), a small village near Nagydisznód. The Hungarian stamp was cancelled in July 1911 by Nagydisznód post office; the day cannot be read. The card was delivered to **Johann Rilki's** shop, in Szászsebes where a Bistra stamp was affixed to it, cancelled with Rilki's seal.

The hotel post stamp corresponds to Subgroup 4.



This is another card showing *Michelsberg* (*Kisdísznód*): it was also mailed from *Nagydisznód* to *Bistritz* and cancelled on August 11: the year is most likely 1911. Again, delivery from *Szászsebes* to *Bistritz* was handled by **Johann Rilki**.

The hotel post stamp corresponds to Subgroup 1.

MAGURA

The large forests west of K o l o z s v á r (in Romanian: Cluj) in Transylvania were prior to 1918 the property of the Hungarian State and managed by the Royal Hungarian Forest Service under the Ministry of Agriculture.

In 1891, a cottage colony was set up in these forests near to the village M a g u r a . Just as in the case of the resorts of the Carpathian Society of Transylvania, the nearest post office was far away and difficult to reach. Since the Hungarian Postal Service could not provide mail pick-up and delivery, this became the duty of the resort's management. They were permitted to charge a fee for the service and, twice during the existence of the resort, they also issued private stamps to indicate the prepayment of this fee: first in 1903 and the second time in 1911.

Here only the stamps of 1911 are shown, on actually mailed postal material.

Most of the Magura issues look very much as the results of an operation by philatelists although there is no question that they represent genuinely used postal material.

This letter was also mailed by Dr. Horváth to his own home address. It has the 4-f stamp of the 1911 Magura issue plus the necessary regular Hungarian stamp and is again cancelled on October 23, 1911, afternoon at **Rekető** postal agency. The backcancellation of Székelyudvarhely from October 27, 1911, at 9 AM is on the backside of the envelope.



Dr. Károly Horváth, notary public in the city of Székelyudvarhely, in the southeastern part of Transylvania, was a yearly visitor at the resort of Magura between 1891 and 1914. In 1911, at the end of the season in October, he bought up the remaining stamps of the 1911 issue and on the last day of his stay, used them on cards and letters mailed mainly to his own home address.

This post card is one of Dr. Horváth's mailing. It has the 2-f Magura stamp and was cancelled at *Rekető* postai ügyn. (postal agency) on October 23, 1911, afternoon ("d.u."). It is backcancelled (see blue arrow) at Székelyudvarhely, on October 27 at 9 AM ("N.9").

