

Bosnia SHS Postal Rates 1918-1921

The purpose of my exhibit is to display Postal rates that applied in Bosnia and Hercegovina immediately after WWI. Examples of most rates in force during the above period are shown.

Two sets of Postal rates applied during this time:

First Period (1st Oct. 1918 – 30th Jun 1919 for domestic mail and – 29nd Aug 1919 for foreign mail) – mostly rates, inherited from the Austrian period, were in force and

Second Period (1st July 1919 or 30th Aug 1919 – in case of foreign mail - until the end of 1921) – unified Postal rates applied to all the Yugoslav regions which used to form part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, i.e. Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina as well as Vojvodina. During this period two sets of rates were in use.

Due to lack of documentation, together with confronting Postal Circulars on one side and diaries of Post Offices, it is difficult to establish when the Second Period rates ceased to apply, but the end of 1921 seems a reasonable date line.

Three types of stamps and Postal Stationery were used during the period in question:

- Bosnian stamps from the Austrian period (until 15th Dec 1919 but later usages known)
- Local overprints on Bosnian stamps from the Austrian period and
- Chainbreaker stamps, originally intended only for the Slovenian territory, but then used in the former Austro-Hungarian part of Yugoslavia, i.e. Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia- Herzegovina and Vojvodina.

Mixed use of the above issues was allowed, thus giving rise to interesting mixed frankings. Slovenian issues were denominated in dinar and para. Mixed frankings between the issues of the two periods were allowed, the exchange rate being 1 din = 4 Krona.

The prescribed rates were not always adhered to by postal employees and a few such exceptions are displayed.

Plan of the Exhibit:

- **Introduction Page 1**
- **First Period 2- 10**
- **Second Period 11-16**

References:

- Ferchenbauer U., 2000. Österreichische Post im Ausland, Handbuch und Adressenverzeichnis, Selbstverlag, Wien
- Čičerov S., 2008. Slovenija, Portovne znamke, Masta Trade, Ljubljana
- Various Post Office Circulars

CHARITY OVERPRINTS ON BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA DEFINITIVE STAMPS 19

The scope of my exhibit is to display charity overprints on B & H definitives, issued between 1914 and 1917. There are 5 issues during this period and all of them are represented in full with errors and varieties, wherever they were in their usage.

Background

Bosnia & Herzegovina, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, issued stamps with surtax for Charity for some other countries during WWI. The first such issue appeared on November 1st, 1914. This was followed by three more issues in 1915, 1916 and 1917. In all cases various definitives were used as basis for overprints. The surtax was 2 Heller.

The 1914 issue is by far the richest in varieties of all Bosnia & Herzegovina issues; somehow it can only be compared to the country's first stamps – the famous Coat of Arms issue. Due to the relatively large number of overprints, many values were overprinted several times. Overprinted letters and numerals got damaged in the process and were replaced, therefore the same positions in sheets do not always carry the same overprint. This is also shown in the exhibit. Later issues are far less abundant in this respect, so the majority of my exhibit is devoted to the 1914 issue.

Structure

My exhibit is displayed in a chronological order, starting with the 1914 issue and ending with the last one in 1917.

Plan of the exhibit:

1. 1914 Issue – overprints on 5 & 10 Heller values of the 1906 issue
2. 1915 Issues
 - 2.1 First issue - overprints also on 5 & 10 Heller values of the 1906 issue
 - 2.2 Second issue – overprints on 5 & 10 Heller values of the 1912 issue
3. 1916 Issue – overprints also on 5 & 10 Heller values of the 1912 issue
4. 1917 Issue – overprints on 10 & 15 Heller stamps of the 1916 issue

Highlights of the exhibit: Complete sheets of 7H (2 pieces) and 12H (3 pieces) values of the 1914 issue; differences between different overprint runs (partly my own research) as well as rare overprint varieties and issues, including double overprint, one inverted on 1916 issue, of which only a few copies are known (Paris).

Own research:

1. Petauer, Boštjan: Prva vojna izdaja Bosne in Hercegovine iz leta 1914, Nova Filatelija, Volume XXVIII, Number 1/2008, FZS, Ljubljana, 2008
2. Petauer Boštjan: Bosna in Hercegovina 1917 Nova Filatelija, Volume XXXI, Number 3-4/2015, FZS, Ljubljana, 2015
3. Petauer Boštjan: Tretja in četrta izdaja Bosne in Hercegovine, Nova Filatelija, Volume XXV, Number 1/2009, FZS, Ljubljana, 2009
4. Petauer Boštjan: Druga izdaja Bosne in Hercegovine iz leta 1915, Nova Filatelija, Volume XXIV, Number 2/2009, FZS, Ljubljana, 2009

Literature:

1. Ferchenbauer, Ulrich: Österreich 1850-1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Selbstverlag, Wien, 1987
2. Sekelj, Berislav: Priručnik i katalog Poštanska povijest (trilingual), Bosne i Hercegovine, vlastita izdanja, 2005
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 1914 Overprints, typed by unknown author, written on May 10, 1967, FZS, Ljubljana, 1967
4. Priručnik maraka hrvatskih zemalja, knjiga 1, svezak 1, Hrvatski filatelistički savez, no year (but 1967)