

Bosnia's Landscape Series

Purpose

A Traditional Exhibit giving a comprehensive view of Bosnia's Landscape issue and subsequent issues which utilized the same vignettes and frame styles, for two separate governments, from 1906 to 1921.

Background

Ottoman Turkey ceded administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria-Hungary by decision of the 1878 Congress of Berlin. Austria-Hungary's occupation began with troops entering the country in August 1878. By 1879, as the army transitioned to a garrison mode, the Austrian State Printing House issued stamps featuring the Austrian Coat of Arms for emerging postal needs in the two Provinces, in use July 1.

The Landscape Series followed the Coat of Arms issues and were first placed in use November 1, 1906, and, in the forms exhibited here, remained in use in the province until January 1921, over two years after the dissolution of Austria-Hungary itself in October 1918.



Sarajevo to Jajce First Day 1 November 1906 with 11 Heller of new Landscape issue and 24 Heller of withdrawn Coat of Arms issue accepted in payment of registration and letter rate. Backstamped Jajce 2/11 06.

Treatment

The Exhibit is organized chronologically for six stamp issues: Bosnia and Herzegovina's 1906 Landscape issue, 1910 Jubilee issue, 1912 Supplemental Landscape issue, 1914 and 1915 Semi-Postal issues, and the 1918 overprint make up rate stamp, with each section treating in turn development, production, varieties and uses. Also included are Landscape and Jubilee denominations overprinted for Provisional use by the successor Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes until their first general stamp release of January 1921. The two denominations of Landscape Postal cards and Postal Letters are included, as well as a section on Forgeries.

The Exhibit links artwork, essays, proofs and production across the different issues to illustrate the design process and to fill gaps in the record where Austrian State Printing House records do not exist. The Exhibitor sees these issues as a single body of work.

Importance

Whether to promote Austro-Hungarian internal improvements or to further growth of a national identity, the stamps of the 1906 Landscape issue were the first ever issued with the country name 'BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA'. These were also the first engraved stamps produced by the Austrian State Printing House for Bosnia or Austria-Hungary, marking as they did the efforts of designer Koloman Moser and engraver Professor Ferdinand Schirnböck. They are also among the first stamps worldwide featuring images of the countryside, people and activities within the country, and not solely those of a head of state, a numeral, or coat of arms.



Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1878-1918
'6'—Sandjak of Novi Pazar, Occupied 1878-1908

Plan of Exhibit

Frame:Page

Introduction	1:1
Landscape Issue	
Artwork and Proofs	1:2 — 2:5
Production	2:6 — 3:1
Perforations	3:2 — 3:3
Perforations-Compound	3:4 — 4:4
Trials	4:5 — 4:6
Uses/Rate Table	4:7 — 5:7
Jubilee Issue	
Artwork and Proofs	5:8 — 6:2
Uses	6:3 — 6:4
Supplemental Issue	
Images and Proofs	6:5 — 6:6
Uses	6:7 — 6:8
Semi-Postal	7:1 — 7:3
Postal Cards and Postal Letters	
Artwork and Proofs	7:4 — 7:5
Uses	7:6 — 8:2
Overprinted Rate Make Up	8:3
Demonetization and Forgeries	8:4 — 8:5
Provisionals for Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes	8:6 — 8:8

Five or Fewer Recorded or Known to the Exhibitor

Other Captioned Items of Importance

Additional information or research about a cover or item

Bosnia's Landscape Series

This Exhibit is an exploration of Bosnia's Landscape series of stamps and postal stationery. The first set, issued November 1, 1906, served as the basis for five additional issues, postal stationery, and survived the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire itself as Provisional issues, all of which are covered in this Exhibit.

Background

My interest in these stamps dates to the late 1990's and my trying to understand underlying causes of the wars that arose from the breakup of Yugoslavia. The 1906 Landscapes immediately caught my eye, as did the contemporaneous events of the Austro-Hungarian Occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1878 to 1918.

Treatment

Although organized as discrete sets, this Exhibit conceives the Landscape Series of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a body of work, designed by Austrian Secessionist designer Koloman Moser (1868-1918), and engraved by one of the 20th century's greatest, Ferdinand Schirnbock (1859-1930). There are design commonalities among three postage sets that 'nest' within a period of validity of 1906-1912.

Landscape denominations of 1906 were surcharged for semi-postal and make up rate uses valid from 1914 to dissolution of the empire in October 1918. Two designs of postal stationery indicia were valid right through from 1906 to 1918, and, with select Landscapes in November 1918, were restored for provisional use by the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, successor to Austria Hungary in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Exhibit objectives include illuminating areas where Austrian State Printing House records do not exist, including production total estimates; documenting the design evolution of stamps and postal stationery by linking of sketches, artwork, essays and proofs; and through use of Commercial covers, explore economic activity introduced by Austria Hungary and the means by which the Occupation was organized.

The 1906 set is also known for its perforation varieties. The exhibit deals with the primary groupings as documented by Edwin Coleman (1902-1975). The scope of compound collecting is on full display including a complete collection of the 142 compound combinations of the 1 Krone. Compound covers are also displayed.

The artwork, sketches, proof strips of ten, Jubilee two leaf essays, stationery indicia art, booklets, overprints, compounds detail are to some degree known in the Bosnia collecting world, but I have not found evidence they have been shown together, telling an overall story, before. This is what I set out to do.

What Is Here/Not Here

Thirteen original artists drawings are known for the 1906 landscape set, of which the Exhibitor owns and is exhibiting ten. The Jubilee date Banner artwork and Essay material has not been exhibited together before and documentation of the two leaf essay is not in the literature.

The commercial covers are of serious interest to the Exhibitor in documenting the mechanics of Occupation. One gap to fill would be a 5 Krone high value cover/parcel card/money letter, an elusive subject.

Significant Items:

Original Artists Drawings	Frame: Page
Landscape, 10 of 13 Known	1:2—1:8
Jubilee Date Banner	5:8
Postal Stationery Indicia	7:4
Phase/Sketch Prints	2:1
Proof Strips of Ten	2:2—2:4
Banjaluka Perforation	3:3
Compound Full Sheet	3:6
War Ministry Overprints	4:5
Landscape Booklets	4:6
Jubilee Two Leaf Essays	6:1
Stationery Indicia Evolution	7:4—7:5

For clarity, compound perforation gauge stamps are mounted with black backgrounds.

Sources:

General:

Ferchenbauer Handbuch and Spezialkatalog Vol. 4 pp 242-263/300, 2008 (German Language)

Postal History of Bosnian and Herzegovina 1878-1918 Handbook and Catalog by Berislav Sekelj, Zagreb, 2005 (German and English)

Bosnia and Herzegovina, William Waste, *American Philatelist*, December 1943, January 1944, American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte, PA

Artwork and Proofs:

Ferdinand Schirnbock, Engraver, by A.P. Banthan, *The Essay and Proof Journal* No 75, pp 99-115.

Compounds:

Bosnia: 1906 Issue, by L.L. Howe, *American Philatelist*, February 1962 pp 358-366/400, American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte, PA.

Bosnia's Compounds, by Edwin Coleman, *Austria* #3 July 1966 pp 26-29 and #6 April 1967, pp 11-16, Austrian Philatelic Society of Great Britain