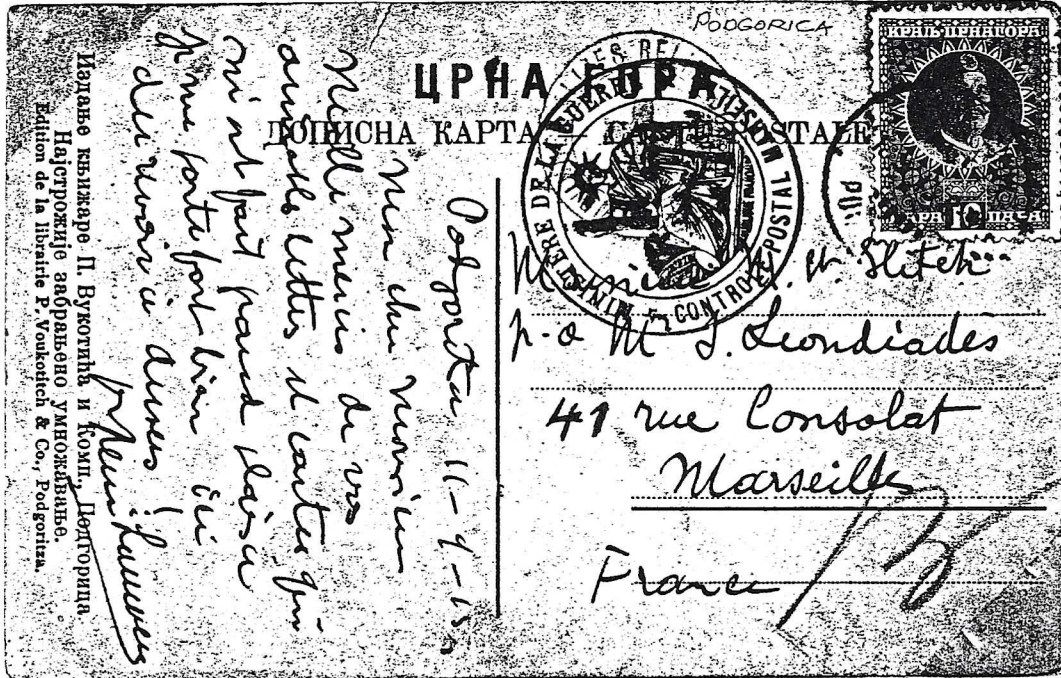


WORLD WAR I
French Red Cross Mail

Podgorica
11 September 1915
17 December 1915



The French Red Cross Society was also active in providing humanitarian aid. Upper postcard has cachet reading "Allied Relief Committee" with red cross in the center. Lower card endorsed "Mission Francaise" on reverse and has transit markings of Montenegrin post office in Scutari on 24 December and of the Italian post office abroad in Durazzo on 7 January 1916. Both are properly franked at 10 para rate for international postcards.

WORLD WAR I - AUSTRIAN OCCUPATION

On 10 January 1916, Austro-Hungarian forces stormed Mt. Lovcen, which dominated southwestern Montenegro. Then on the 13th Cetinje was occupied, and by the 15th the entire country was in the hands of the Central Powers. All hostilities ceased on 17 January. Austrian military mail was handled through its Feldpostamt (field post office) system of numbered post offices, which were mobile and moved with the unit to which each was assigned. In due course, an Etappenpostamt (base post office) system with stable operations in established locations was created to handle official and civilian mail. On 11 May 1916, the first Etappenpost offices were opened at Cetinje and six other towns in Montenegro. By the end of the war, this network had expanded to a total of 18 post offices.

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 308
10 February 1916

K.u.K. Feldpostamt 337
29 March 1916

*Covers for this
section are in
Austrian WWI
Exhibit*

Examples of mail sent by the occupation troops in Montenegro are shown above. Postcards and letters were free of postage, but special services, such as registration, special delivery and parcel post, needed payment of postage.

WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation

Cetinje
1 March 1917

Kolasin
1 March 1917

Only two special postage stamps were issued for use in the occupied territory. These were the 10 and 15 heller Austrian fieldpost stamps overprinted "Imperial and Royal Military Administration/Montenegro." They were placed on sale on 1 March 1917 to commemorate the first anniversary of the new government and were valid just on that one day.

K. u. k. Militär-Verwaltungsbureau
in Montenegro.

Wohlgeb.

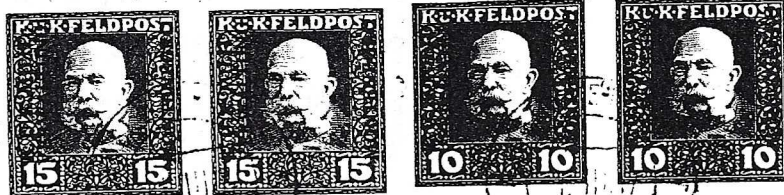


Herrn k. u. k. Oberarzt
Dr. M. B r ü l l,



W i e n, XIII

Ober St. Veitgasse 67.



Herrn
K. u. k. Hauptmann J. Kina



Pouclerest
J. Ankerhut 20.

The registered first day cover from Kolasin is very unusual. In fact usage of the special stamps from any location outside the capital is noteworthy.

**WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation**

**Andrijevica
27 July 1917**

**Berane
14 September 1917**

**Cevo
23 July 1918**

Covers from the Etappenpost offices are shown on the ensuing pages in alphabetical order. Some of their postmarks are very elusive, including Cevo.

**WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation**

**Cetinje
12 February 1917
30 June 1916**

The Austro-Hungarian military government for Montenegro was established on 1 March 1916. A wide variety of administrative functions were served from the capital, Cetinje.

WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation

Danilovgrad
13 February 1917

Djakova
25 May 1918

Dulcigno (Ulcinj)
2 January 1918

Note that the card from Dulcigno is from the Naval Telegraph Station located there. An unusual usage.

**WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation**

Ipek (Peja)
20 June 1918

Kolasin
9 September 1916

Additional smaller offices were added to the Etappenpost system throughout 1916 and 1917.

**WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation**

**Matsevo
13 February 1918**

**Niksic
19 May 1917**

On 11 February 1918, Matsevo was the last Etappenpost office to open in Montenegro. Examples of its postmark are exceedingly elusive and sought after by specialists.

WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation

Njegusi
27 October 1917

Peja
16 March 1917

In October 1916, the name of the Etappenpost office in Ipek was changed to Peja (also known as Pec locally). Its postmark in this latter form is very elusive.

WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation

Plevlje
27 May 1916

Podgorica
22 December 1917

Podgorica (renamed Titograd at the end of World War II) is now the capital of Montenegro.

**WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation**

**Rijeka
20 June 1918**

**Stari Bar
1 March 1917**

As noted previously, the use of the "Montenegro" overprinted stamps from any of the post offices other than Cetinje is highly unusual.

WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation

Ulcinj
17 January 1917

Virpazar
2 June 1917

The Ulcinj P.O. was opened in November 1916. However, a few months later the name was changed to Dulcigno. The registered cover from Virpazar originated from the Ship Navigation Administration for Lake Scutari, on the border between Montenegro and Albania.

**WORLD WAR I
Austrian Occupation**

1918

The two overprints previously shown were the only stamps actually issued by the military government in Montenegro, and they were only valid for a single day. Thus, postal requirements were met by the normal Austrian issues inscribed "K.u.K. Feldpost." However, the authorities in Vienna did prepare issues with a one-line horizontal overprint "Montenegro" on the regular fieldpost stamps, newspaper stamps and a postage due, but these were never issued.

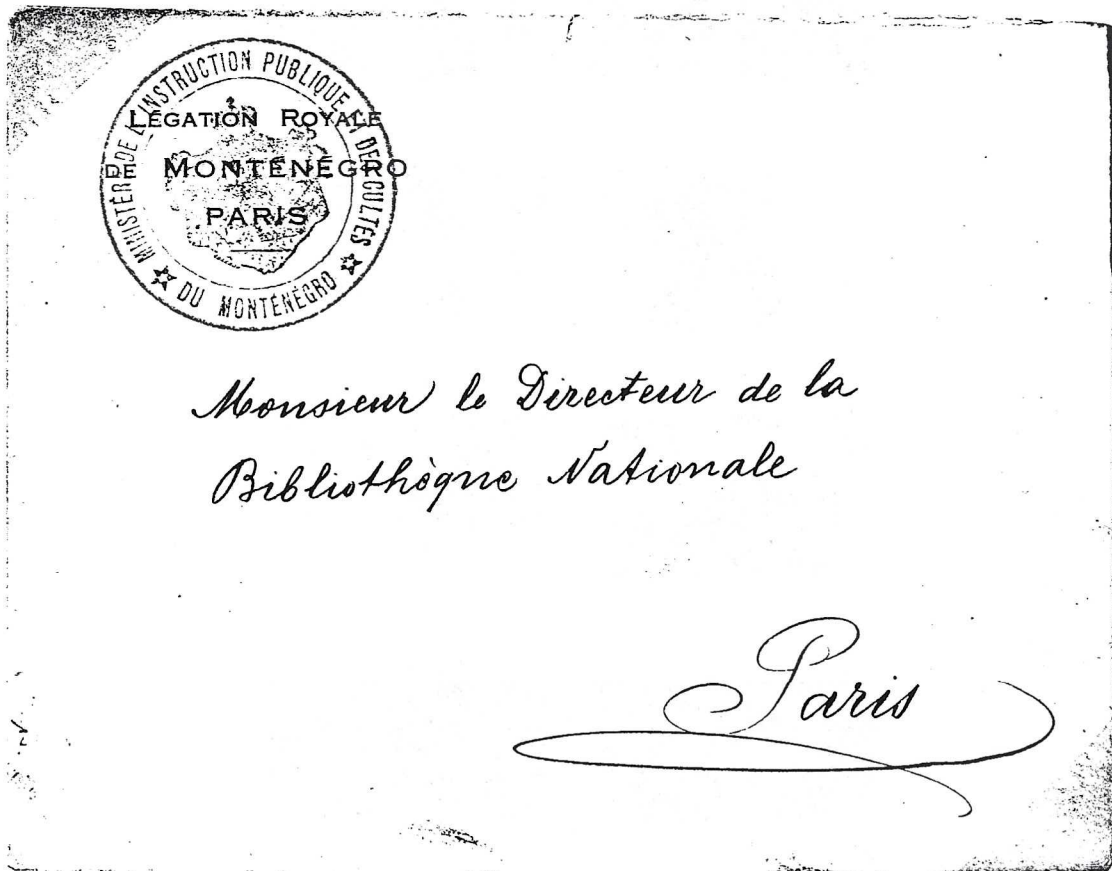


The Fleck handbook states that 450 sets of the 10 and 15 heller denominations were printed, but only 40 sets with the values shown above. (Only a handful of examples exist of the 1, 2 and 35 heller values and the kronen high values, which are considerable rarities and seldom come on the philatelic market.)

GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

When the Austrians overran the country in early 1916, King Nicholas and most of his family escaped to Italy. In due course, a government in exile was established in Neuilly sur Seine, France, where it remained for the balance of the war. Other Montenegrin activities were established in Bordeaux ,Marseille and Paris.

Paris
1917



Letter sent by courier from the Montenegrin Ministry of Public Education & Culture in exile to the director of the National Library in Paris. A most unusual usage.



In 1916, the Montenegrin Ministry of Posts in exile had overprints applied to eleven values of the current French stamps for use on official mail. The overprint read "S.P./du M./Bordeaux." In theory, these were available for use from 6 to 27 June 1916, when they were withdrawn due to protests from the French postal administration. (However, the Michel catalogue prices them in mint condition only.) Examples are shown above.