

THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION OF THE SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR 1879 TO 1908

Following the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, the European Great Powers decided at the Congress of Berlin that Austria-Hungary should occupy the Sandjak (Turkish district) of Novi Bazar, a small territory to the southeast of Bosnia-Hercegovina between Serbia and Montenegro. Three fieldpost offices were opened for the use of the Austrian forces, with letters and postcards from the troops being free of postage for the entire period of the occupation, which lasted until 1908.



Feldpost-Expositur/No. 1
29 June 1885
10 February 1887

Nr. Broj.	Aufgabs-Recepisse. — Predatnica.		Reclamationsfrist: 6 Monate. Rok opotražnji: 6 mjesecih.
Ueber 1 Vèrhu 1	worin sich angeblich befinden u kom se polag očitovanja nalazi		
im Werthe u vriednosti	fl. 10 for.	fr. gewogen novč., na vagi	Klgr. 10 klgr.
unter der Adresse: radi pod naslovom:	Gr., welche Sendung zur Beförderung gr., koja je pošiljka odpreme		
am heutigen Tage hierorts richtig aufgegeben worden ist. danas ovdje zaista predana.			
K. K. Postamt C. kr. poštanski ured			
An Franco-Gebühr	fl. for.	fr. novč.	
Frankature			
Für ein Retour-Recepisse. ...			
Za povratnicu	"	"	
Zusammen Ukupno ..	fl. for.	fr. novč.	
Der Empfänger hat an Porto zu entrichten Primac imade platiti poštarine	fl. for.	fr. novč.	

X.

(Auflage 1886.)

FPO No. 1 opened at Plevlje, the principal town in the Sandjak, on 29 September 1879. Cover to Italy required payment of international postage of 10 kreuzer. Registry receipt from the Sandjak is highly unusual.

Feldpost-Expositur Marking

As in Bosnia-Herzegovina, fees for non-letter services -- mostly for money orders -- had to be paid, with stamps of Bosnia being used for this purpose.

Feldpost-Expositur/No. 1
30 September 1885

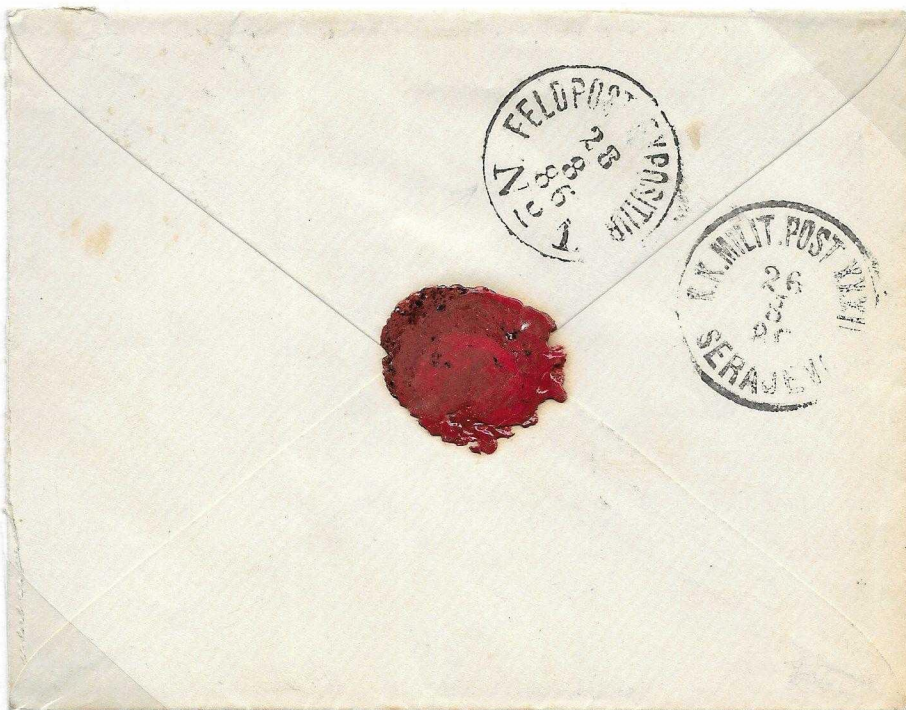
[illegible]

This money order form was used to transfer 60 gulden from FPO No. 1 at Plevlje to the payee in Jungbunzlau, where it was received on 7 October 1885.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR

Feldpost-Expositur Marking on Inbound Mail

Inbound mail to the troops in the Sandjak, which remained an occupied zone, was free of postage. However, that sent to non-military personnel (such as an Austrian administrator as below) required payment of postage.



Feldpost-Expositur/No. 1

28 August 1886

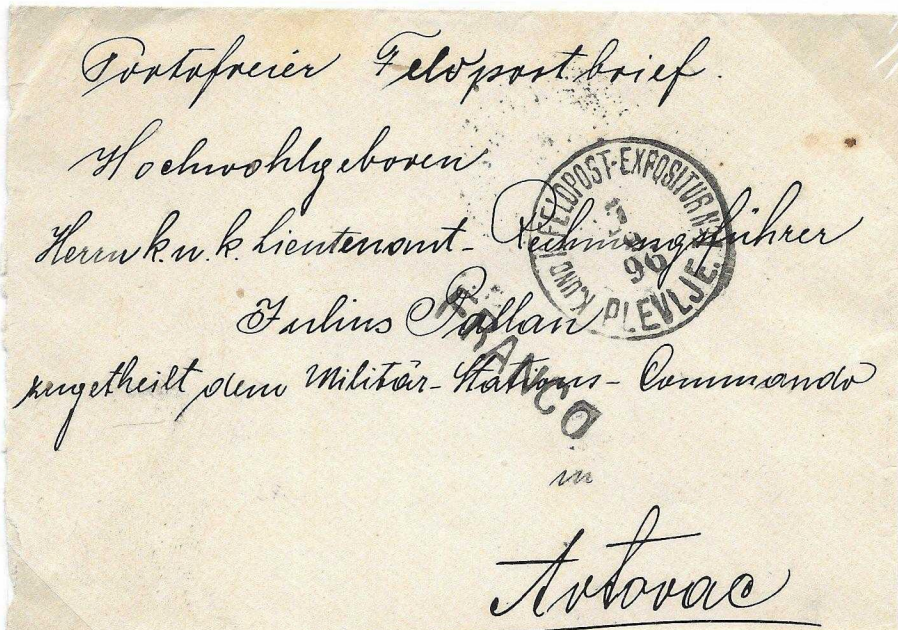
5 November 1886



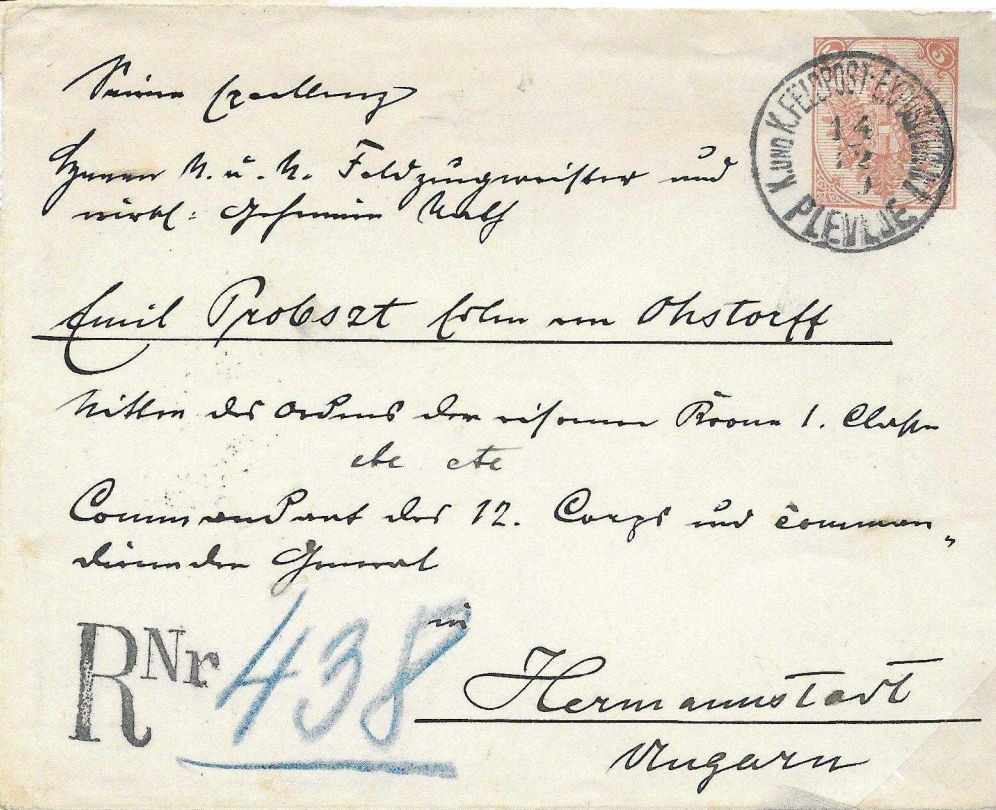
The cover was mailed on 24 August 1886 from Velden to Plevlje. It has a transit marking of "Serajevo" dated 26 August and receiving mark of FPO No. 1 on 28 August. The postal card was sent from Serajevo to Plevlje; it is 2 kreuzer overpaid, perhaps because the sender did not have a 3 kreuzer adhesive and used a 5 kreuzer instead.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur Markings

A new postmark which included the location as well as the station number was introduced in the early 1890s and continued in use into the early 20th Century.



K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur N 1/Plevlje
 7 September 1896
 14 December 1899



Examples of the new postmark used on a postage-free fieldpost letter and on a registered cover to Hungary. This latter example was a postal stationery envelope uprated to the 20 kr. international registered letter rate and backstamped for receipt at Nagy Szeben (Hermannstadt) six days later.

K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur N 1/Plevlje
25 October 1895
22 February 1897



Registered mail from the Sandjak is very elusive. As these territories were still nominally Turkish, cover to Bosnia with a single franking of 15 kreuzer was treated as internal mail, while the international rate of 20 kreuzer was charged on the cover to Austria.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur Markings

Around 1904, an entirely new type of postmark was introduced, with a double circle and the date in the center. Two distinct sizes have been noted, both without station number.



K. und K. Feldpost-
 Expositur/Plevlje
 5 May 1905
 29 October 1906



These examples show examples of the double-circle cancels without station number, used on a registered letter and a specially printed fieldpost card for the Sandjak.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
K. u. K. Feldpostexpositur Markings

K. u. K. Feldpostexpositur 1/Plevlje
 9 December 1906



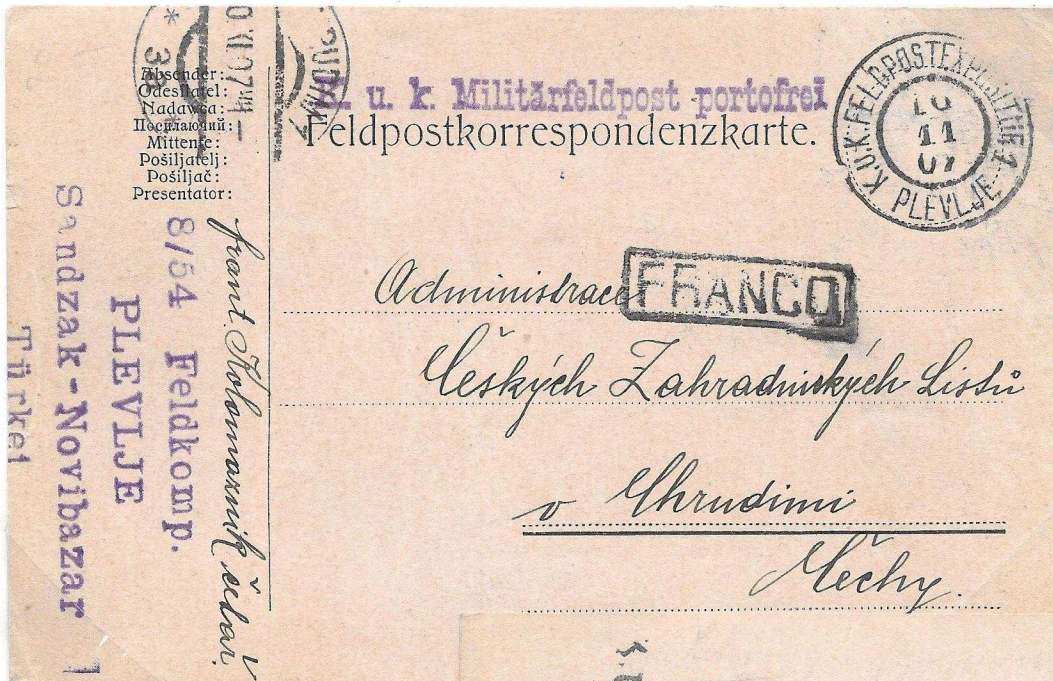
Use of the high values from the Sandjak is highly unusual, even sent to a philatelist in Vienna. The 5 kronen appears to have been cut out from a matching cover to that used for the 2 kronen as the numbers are consecutive.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
K. und K. Feldpostexpositur Markings

In the final months of the occupation of the Sandjak two more postmarks were used. These were also double circles, but the station number was restored. The second type was much larger and contained the date in a bridge across the center.

K.u.K. Feldpostexpositur 1/Plevlje
 16 November 1907

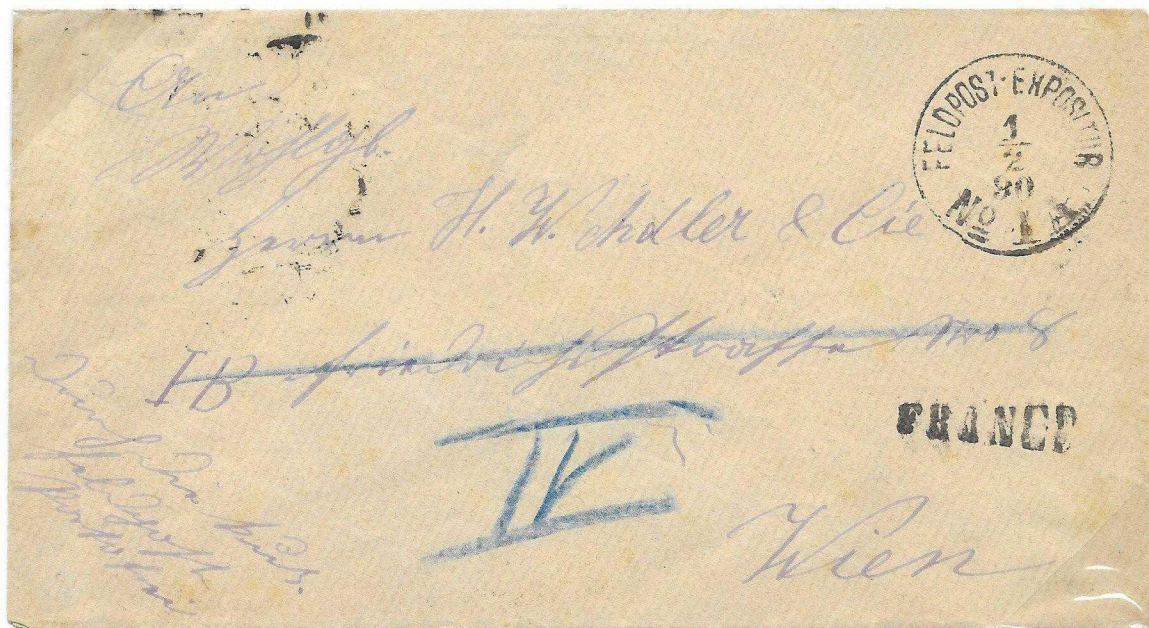
K. und K. Feldpostexpositur No. 1/Plevlje
 27 October 1908



The lower card was postmarked on the last day of the Austrian occupation, as the territory was returned to the Turkish authorities on the following day. (The Sandjak was occupied by Serbia and Montenegro during the First Balkan War in 1912, and the territory was subsequently divided between them.)

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
Feldpost-Expositur Markings

Feldpost-Expositur/No. 1A
4 May 1887
1 February 1890



FPO No. 1A opened at Prjevolje, the second most important town in the territory, on 15 September 1879. The upper cover represents a very elusive usage of mail between post offices within the Sandjak. It was non-military so required the payment of postage.

Feldpost-Expositur/No. 1A
5 September 1888

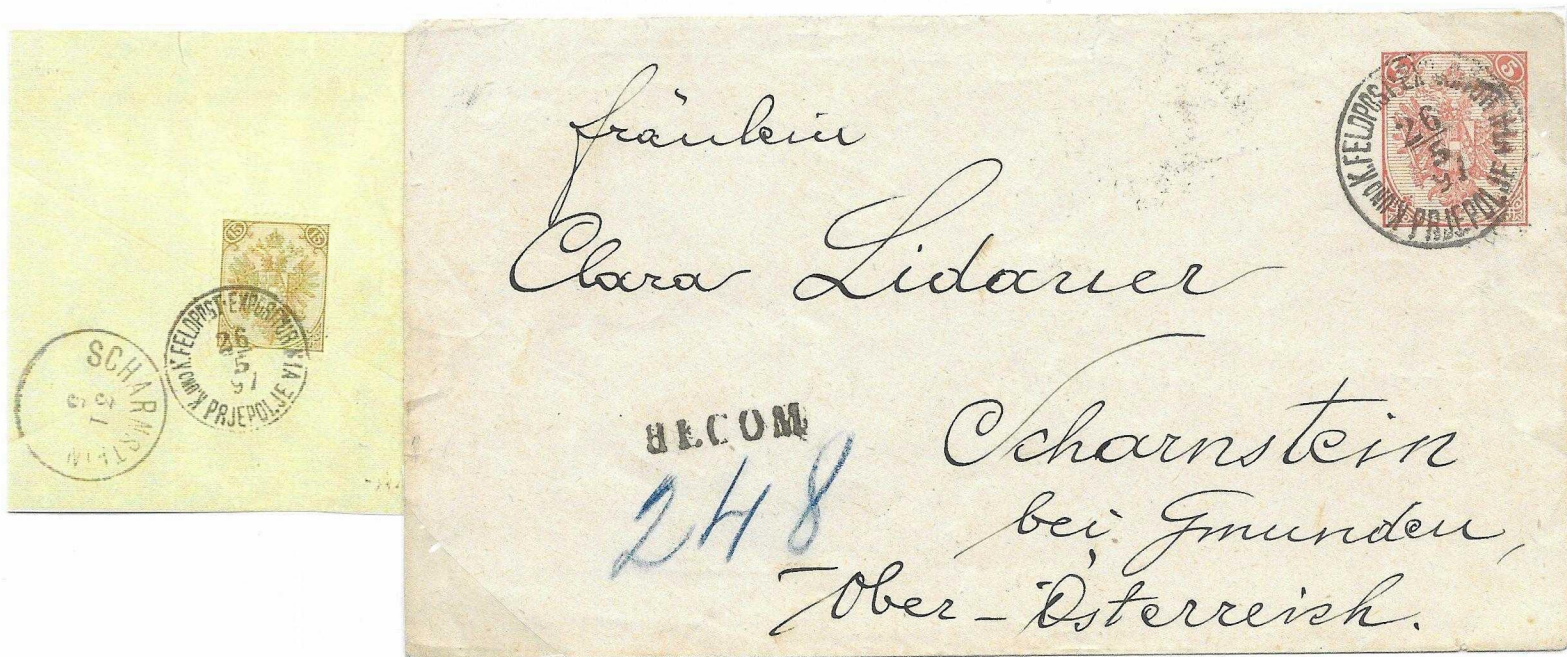
Priepolje 84
 Post-Anzahl
 Zollgut
 zu stellen dem
 k. Zollamte
 Szeged
 Name, Wo
 des wohnenden.
 lma, prebivalište, stan poš-
 ljalatja
 Corp. Metz Samor
 16/4 Mlomp
 Gyessze
 Vom Absender aus
 lma izpuniti pos
 ste predatne
 Post-Begleitadresse. — Poštanska preporučnica.
 Kopasarsari Beretka
 Szeged
 VAMMENTESITVE
 A SZEGEDI
 M. KIR. FŐVÁMHIVATALNÁL
 Gattung und Zeichen
 Versta i obilježje
 Sach
 in
 Horgas
 Inhalt
 Sadržina
 Scherwaa
 Letzte Post
 Posljednja pošta
 Wert
 Vriednost
 S
 fl.
 for.
 fr.
 novč.
 Land
 Pokrajina
 Ungarn
 a Szeged
 Franco
 Franko
 fl.
 for.
 fr.
 novč.
 Porto
 Poštarina
 Bestell- oder Abiis-Gebühr
 Dostavnina ili ojavina
 fl.
 for.
 35
 33
 5
 73
 2
 75
 Gewicht:
 Teža:
 flg.
 kg.
 G.
 g.

Prjepolje cancel on an address card for a parcel sent to Horgas, Hungary. Manuscript marking "75" at lower right means that the postage and insurance was paid in cash.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur Markings

As at Plevlje, a new postmark was introduced showing the location as well as the station number in the early 1890s.

K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur N1A/Prjepolje
 12 July 1894
 26 May 1897



Examples of the new postmark are shown above on a 10 kr. stamp used on a letter to Germany and a 5 kr. stationery envelope uprated by 15 kr. for registration to Upper Austria, where it was received at Scharnstein on 31 May 1897.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur Markings

Stamps denominated in the new currency were also used at Prjepolje starting in 1900.

K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur N1A/Prjepolje
 28 November 1900
 8 July 1903
 8 April 1900



Examples of usage of heller stamps: 5 h. for a domestic postcard (to Bosnia), 10 h. for an international postcard (to Austrian Dalmatia), and 25 h. for an international letter (to Bohemia).

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
K. und K. Feldpostexpositur Markings

In the final months of the occupation of the Sandjak two more postmarks were used at Prjepolje. These were also double circles with station number. The second type was much larger and contained the date in a bridge across the center.

K. und K. Feldpostexpositur No. 1A/Prjepolje
 16 June 1908

K. und K. Feldpostexpositur No. 1A/Prjepolje
 23 June 1908



Because of their short period of use, examples of these markings are quite elusive.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
Feldpost-Expositur Marking

Feldpost-Expositur/Ib
31 January 1884

Andz. No 94

Poštanska naputica
bërzojavom

Gulden — Krenzer ö. W.
forintih — novčićah a vr.

den die Gulden in Buchstaben),
onovi forinte pismeni)

Uzaj fl. — fr. ö. W.
mica for. — novč. a. vr.

Post-Aufgabe-Stempel,
Biljeg poste predatne.

ut yollis
Chorický

darving 4

merf 2fr.
zabilježni br. *85*

oiesen: — Bërzojavom doznačeno:

estell-Gebühr . . . fl. — fr.
ostavu po ekspresu . . . for. — novč.

Gebühr . . . fl. — fr.
asonoš . . . for. — novč.

nihez den *3 1/2* 18*84*
dne

Imrayeno

[Signature]

FELDPPOST-EXPOSITUR
31
1
84

FELDPPOST-EXPOSITUR
31
1
84

Raum zum Aufleben der Briefmarken
Prostor za priljepljivanje biljegovakah listića

FPO No. 1B opened at Priboj, the smallest of the three towns to have postal service for the troops, on 26 November 1879. Mail from this office is relatively scarce; use on a money order form is extraordinary.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur Marking

As at the other stations in the Sandjak, the original postmark was replaced with a new version that included the location. This marking was used until the office closed on 10 October 1908.

K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur N1B/Priboj
 15 May 1899
 7 March 1905

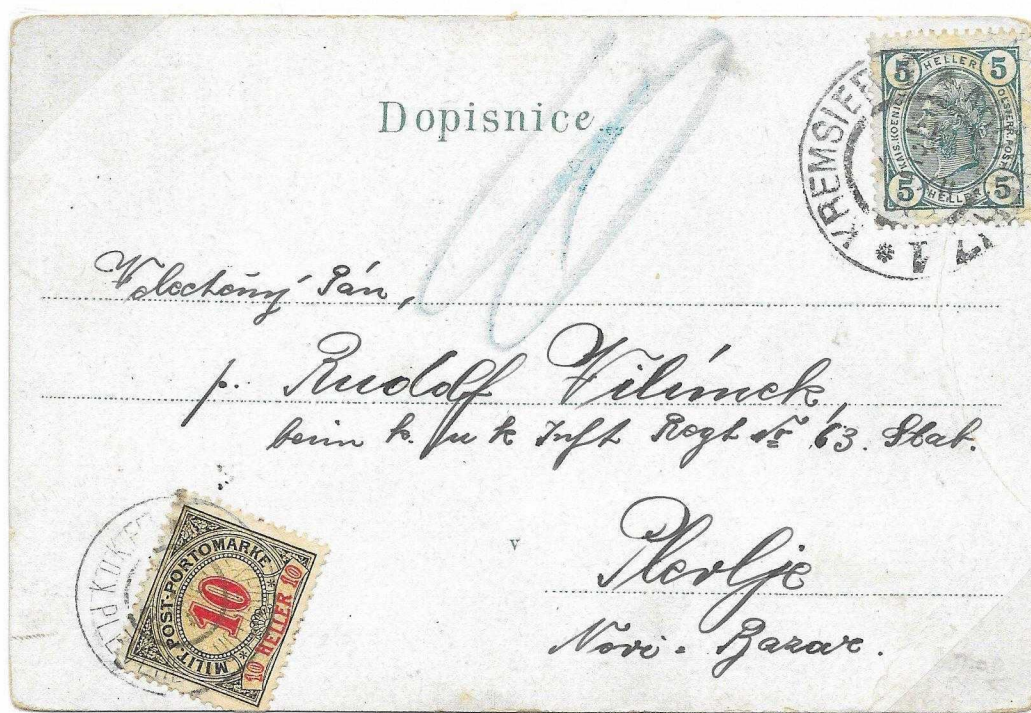


Priboj cancel used on a picture postcard of the town and and franked at the international rate of 5 kr. to Vienna as well as on a special Sandjak military card.

SANDJAK OF NOVI BAZAR
Inbound Postage Due Mail

The post offices in the Sandjak used Bosnian postage dues to collect charges for underpaid mail. However, examples are very scarce.

K. und K. Feldpost-Expositur 1/Plevlje
25 February 1906



Plevlje cancel used on a postage due stamp applied to an incoming postcard from Austria. As the Sandjak was officially a part of Turkey, the card should have been franked at the international rate of 10 heller. Thus, based on the underpayment of 5 heller, a double deficiency was charged.