

**BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY**  
**Faculty of History and Philosophy**

**DOCTORAL THESIS**

**„HOTEL POSTS OF TRANSYLVANIA”**

*SUMMARY*

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## KEY WORDS

Transylvania, tourism, local post, hotel post, courier, travel, stamps, coach, horseback, Păltiniș, Hohe Rinne, Bistra, Măgura, SKV, chalet, postcards, stamps, transportation

## SUMMARY

### Cap.1. Introduction. Choosing of The Theme

At the turn of the 20th century, tourism in the Carpathian Mountains developed rapidly. Following a several decade-old Western European trend, a few tourist organizations and associations gradually increased the accessibility to the high mountain areas, building chalets and mountain shelters, opening new access paths and marking tourist routes.

It was during that era that the chalets and resorts which to this day are very important to Romania were set up. Among them: Poiana Brașov, Păltiniș (Hohe Rinne), Bistra, Măgura, Stâna de Vale, Lacul Roșu, Negoiu, Bălea, Urlea, Piatra Craiului, Mălăiești, Bolboci, Șurian.

At the time, the Kingdom of Romania already had small towns or villages close to mountainous areas - Sinaia, Bușteni, Câmpulung Muscel, Călimanești, Slănic Moldova, Piatra Neamț, Rucăr etc. -, which were both holiday destinations and good bases of departure for mountain trips. Therefore, the building of chalets and the establishment of new resorts in this Southern area were less obvious than on the other side of the Carpathians, leaving only a few traces in postal history.

In Transylvania, a large range of Romanian villages, interrupted only by the Szekler (Hungarian) area in the South-East, existed from ancient times, not only at the base of the mountains but also in the Carpathians valleys. The inhabitants used the richness of the mountains as their main source of existence. Sheep and cow breeding and also wood industry were largely linked to the neighboring mountains, with paths and wonderful places well known by the highlanders.

The tourism development at the end of the 19th century made the alpine heights more attractive for the townsfolk. They needed better accommodation, which the old villages could not provide. Because of this reason, but also wishing not to be left behind by the achievements of Western Europe, the Carpathians saw a significant number of chalets and resorts being built between 1881 and 1910. Most of them were set up near the areas inhabited by the Saxons, an economically developed population of German origin, where the mountain tourism found a favorable field.

The setting up of chalets and resorts in the heart of the mountains was quite difficult and expensive, as problems abounded and solutions had to be figured out. One main issue was the bad communication with the towns and villages in the valley. Some tourists used to spend much time (weeks and even months) in mountain resorts, so they needed a postal link to be able to send and receive mail and small parcels. For economic reasons, the Hungarian Post (and Romanian Post after the WWI, at Hohe Rinne / Păltiniș) refused to set up agencies or post offices in the resorts, as they were too far away from the existing postal network. The result was that in several resorts and important chalets the administration needed to maintain itself a local postal link to the nearest state post office.

This was why local postal services for tourists (called by the Anglo-Saxon literature *Hotel Posts*, and in the German language *Botenpost*) appeared in Transylvania. During the summer seasons, they maintained a regular communication for the tourists from those mountain resorts and chalets, who could not be served by the state post. Their goal was not to bring financial benefits to the founders and administration, but to support the postal connection which tourists needed.

For example, the Hohe Rinne summer guests had a medium holiday longer than one month. A postal link to their homes was very necessary, especially because no telephone link existed. The guests' possibility to remain longer at Hohe Rinne was closely related to the existence of a postal link of the resort. The same problem was also obvious for Bistra and Măgura resorts.

The tourists stayed a shorter time in the mountain chalets, no more than few days, so it was not important to receive mail there. However, the mail sent from the chalets, mostly represented by illustrated postcards, was important for two reasons. On the one hand, the postcards sent from mountain chalets let the relatives and friends know that the senders arrived to the chalet, an important fact especially for the tourists enjoying longer trips in the mountains. On the other hand, we have to consider the efficient advertising that the tourism associations owing the chalets could make by using postcards, which included views of the chalets, but also picturesque mountain landscapes.

As authorities did not recognize the great importance of a good postal system for the development of mountain tourism, local solutions had to be found.

Three of the Transylvanian local postal services used their own stamps: Hohe Rinne (Păltiniș), Bistra and Măgura. Hohe Rinne and Bistra hotel posts were established and administered by the strongest and the most important tourist association of the time - Siebenbürgischer Karpathen-Verein (SKV) - The Transylvanian Carpathians Association. Another attempt to establish a local postal service was made by the administration of Măgura, a small resort in the Western Carpathians (Munții Apuseni) founded on a land belonging to the Hungarian Royal Treasury. Other local postal services quite similar to the local courier of these resorts were set up for the most important alpine chalets (Negoiu, Preșba, Bâlea,

Postăvaru, Omu, Mălăiești, etc.). In spite of the necessity to charge a fee for transporting the mail to a state post office in the valley, these chalets did not issue private stamps and applied on the mail only their own cancellations.

The Transylvanian hotel posts have had a special place in the European postal history, being preceded only by some Swiss hotel posts <sup>1</sup> (in the 2nd part of the 19th century) and succeeded in 1926-1933 by two hotel posts from Austria <sup>2</sup>. The Transylvanian hotel posts began to work soon after the Swiss hotel couriers (at Hohe Rinne in 1894, at Măgura in 1903, at Bistra in 1906). Before WWI, there weren't any other similar attempts in Europe, which confers upon the Transylvanian hotel posts a special chapter in the international postal history.

They are well-known worldwide to the researchers and collectors interested in the postal history of Europe. Hohe Rinne was the hotel post with the longest activity in Europe (45 years, from 1894 to 1939). The cards and covers transported by Bistra and Măgura local postal services are included among the postal rarities of Europe at the beginning of the 20th century. However, the scientific information available on them is extremely poor for the international public. A 12- brochure of Williams brothers' dating from 1962 <sup>3</sup> is still presented as reference by great stamp auction houses worldwide, even if it has many gaps and wrong data. The Romanian historiography in this field is very weak.

My interest and study in the field of Transylvanian hotel posts began almost 20 years ago. As we mark almost 90 years since Géza von Jakóts (a collector from Sibiu) first attempted to analyze the hotel posts Hohe Rinne and Bistra, I considered it of utmost importance to gather all scientific knowledge and present it in a PhD dissertation. The two editions of my monograph published in 1998 and 2008 received a high recognition and precious medals at national and international stamp exhibitions (including 8 gold medals, most important being the one received at the European stamp exhibition from Visegrad, in Hungary, in July 2009). No other Romanian work on postal history has ever received such international praise.

An updated work on Transylvanian hotel posts published in English would be of great importance. However, it has to be preceded by a scientific PhD dissertation, intended to confirm the goals, the structure and the results of the work. The value of information for a researcher or collector from abroad is considerably increased through its confirmation by a PhD. This increases the credibility of the work from a possible author's opinion to a reference level on a scientific base.

The choosing of this theme for PhD was supported by the fact that the author is the builder and owner of a great collection in the field of Transylvanian hotel posts, considered to be one of the most important in the world, three times awarded gold medals in World stamps exhibitions. Very good relations with other important collectors of this field from Germany,

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<sup>1</sup> *Michel Klassic-Katalog Europa 1840-1900*, pag. 620-23, Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH, Unterschleissheim, 2007

<sup>2</sup> *Michel Österreich Spezial Katalog 2003*, Schwaneberger Verlag GMBH, München, 2002, pag. 302

<sup>3</sup> Leon-Norman & Maurice WILLIAMS: *Hotel Posts of Hungary & Roumania*, London, 1962

Austria, Great Britain and Hungary have also supplied information and photocopies of relevant postal history items included in those collections.

The word "touristy" was not included in the title, being considered redundant. There is another important aspect regarding the theme, including the title. The term "local posts" has spread to Romania during the last decades, encompassing together in the catalogues of 1974<sup>4</sup> and 1984<sup>5</sup> the local issues of North Transylvania under Soviet authority (1944-1945) and the hotel post stamps of the resorts Hohe Rinne, Bistra and Măgura. In this work, we understand by "local posts" or "hotel posts" the postal services locally organized by private means on mail routes that the state could not serve. The WWII stamps of North Transylvania do not belong to the field local posts. They are emergency issues, locally used by official postal services in a historical and political context, as needed.

The chapters dedicated to hotel posts Hohe Rinne, Măgura and Bistra present their developments especially using postal history items, focusing on the development of routes, fees and postal procedures. In the chapter about the local posts of mountain chalets, I point to their operating mechanisms and compare their work to the local postal services of the resorts that used their own stamps.

The most important part of the sources used in this research was composed of correspondences transported by local postal services. Each envelope or postcard once passed through a courier service shows its procedures at that particular moment, the route, the partner state office, the possible use of local stamps, and their face value. The texts written by senders residing at cottages or resorts sometimes offer important data about these or about their local posts.

Postcard images are also an important source of information for the history of mountain resorts and chalets, for their development, extensions or damages which occurred over time. For example, the extension of Hohe Rinne resort from 1897-1898 including accommodation spaces not belonging to SKV (founder of the resort) determined in the 1899-1900 summers important changes of the local post. The Hohe Rinne postal system had to pass from a bi-weekly mail transport system using the resort's wagon to a daily program with horseback transport.

Travel stories and other writings of the time, including descriptions of the resorts and references to mail transport, have been also important in our research. Reports of activity covered by the year books of SKV allowed us to obtain the necessary data for understanding the evolution of the Hohe Rinne hotel post, respectively for the local posts of the chalets owned by this tourism association. For Bistra hotel post, the collection of the newspaper "Der Unterwald" from Sebeș (Mühlbach) for 1890-1914 has been extremely important.

## **Chapter 2. Chronology of Research on the History of Transylvanian Hotel Posts**

Deciphering the history of Transylvanian hotel posts was a difficult and tortuous process. Museums and archives are housing an extremely weak documentary material in this area. Considering that information sources are mostly found in private collections, access is difficult and gaps may appear. In addition, since the interest in this area was practically expressed only in philatelic circles and little among historians, a scientific view of the field has been delayed.

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<sup>4</sup> *Catalogul Mărcilor Poștale Românești*, Direcția Generală a Poștelor și Telecomunicațiilor, sub redacția Kiriak DRAGOMIR, București, 1974

<sup>5</sup> *Catalogul Mărcilor Poștale Românești*, sub redacția Corneliu SPINEANU, vol. I, București, 1984

In the chapter on the actual state of research, I detail the steps taken over during nearly nine decades by various authors (most of them among collectors of stamps and postal history). They have had the merit to save in their works information otherwise not stored in archives, and thus likely to have been lost.

The most important milestones in the reconstruction of the Transylvanian Hotel Posts history are represented by the articles of Géza von Jakóts from 1922-1924 <sup>6</sup>, the Dengel Ludwig's book of 1947 <sup>7</sup>, the Williams brothers' brochure from 1962 <sup>8</sup>, the books published in the U.S. and Hungary by Professor László Ettore from Yale University (1977 <sup>9</sup>, 1986 <sup>10</sup>), and the book by Sibiu lawyer Emanoil Munteanu (1980) <sup>11</sup>.

The two monographs I published in 1998 <sup>12</sup> and 2008 <sup>13</sup> respectively (*"Istoria Poștelor Locale Transilvane"*), critically collected the information contained in previous works. They added elements drawn from my own collection and those of other major postal history and philatelic collections existing in the world. Eight gold medals in national and international philatelic exhibitions have made my *"History of the Transylvanian Hotel Posts"* by far the most titled Romanian postal history book ever published.

I have added to the previous works and older or more recent publications a wide collaboration with representatives of several generations of collectors from Romania and abroad. This opening has been made possible by the context of fundamental political changes occurring in Eastern Europe after 1989. For the first time we have been able to centralize information available in Romania, Hungary and Western Europe, thus facilitating the understanding of issues which had remained unclear for many decades. It has become possible to transcend borders opaque before 1989, with the opportunity to describe in an European spirit a history too often previously claimed by one or another of the participants.

I have received a support of great value from many other collectors. I wish to thank here again to: col. (r). eng Croitorescu Radu, dr. med. Ferenc Nagy (Austria), dr. med. Albert Ernst (Germany), architect Ferenc Orban (Denmark), Gh Cserni, engineer Herman Gerard, priest László Szegedi, Mircea Țața, Marc Albu, engineer Vasile Florkevitz, eng. Victor Iordache, Leonard Pașcanu Lucian Bornemisa, eng. Dan Cosma, Ionuț Plaiu, eng. Ovid Reu, Toma Lupaș. I bring here a pious homage to those who are no longer with us today and who greatly helped me gather information for my 1998 and 2008 books, on which this thesis is based: Liviu N. Cristea, Horia Tipuriță, Flor Strejnicu, Eugen Frieder, Gábor Rátai.

I address special thanks to prof. dr. Ernst Albert, from Bamberg, Germany, for their permission to show in my work special items from their collection in this field.

The history of Transylvanian hotel posts is itself a plea for tolerance and cooperation. Hohe Rinne can be especially regarded as a symbol of Transylvania - the living space shared

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<sup>6</sup> Géza von JAKÓTS: *Die Botenpostmarken des S.K.V.*, Donau-Post nr. 11, Bratislava, nov. 1923

<sup>7</sup> L. DENGEL: *Istoria oficiilor poștale particulare și mărcile lor, foste în circulație pe teritoriul României de astăzi*, ed. autorului, Sibiu, 1947

<sup>8</sup> *Op. cit.*

<sup>9</sup> László ETTRE: *Hotel Posts of the Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein, Hohe Rinne and Bistra*, Connecticut 1977

<sup>10</sup> László ETTRE: *Az Erdélyi Magánhotelposták Története a XIX. Század Utolsó Éveiben és a XX. Század Első Negyedében*, Budapest, 1985

<sup>11</sup> Emanoil MUNTEANU: *Istoria poștală a Sibiului*, editat de Revista Transilvania, Sibiu, 1980, pag. 91-120

<sup>12</sup> Mircea DRAGOTEANU: *Istoria Poștelor Locale Transilvane*, ed. Risoprint, Cluj-Napoca, 1998

<sup>13</sup> Mircea DRAGOTEANU: *Istoria Poștelor Locale Transilvane*, ed. Alma Mater, Cluj-Napoca, 2008



by several nationalities. The hotel post of this resort, founded and led by an almost 100% German Saxons organization, was allowed to operate both by the Hungarian authorities (until 1918) and the Romanian ones (after WWI), despite the infringement of the state's monopoly, in the context of the same approach – to allow the providing of communication between people in an area inaccessible to public services ...

I have had the chance to put together for the first time a critical mass of information, which has enabled me to offer a detailed analysis of many aspects. From previous works I have benefited from the knowledge and effort of their authors and extracted information on the collection items reproduced in them. However, I identified sometimes data not validated by new approaches and I have indicated the existence of some errors in either the books or articles listed in the bibliography. I did it not to decrease their value, but only to avoid the perpetuation of erroneous views, tributaries to the knowledge available at a time.

Without the previous works and without the friendly support of the collectors mentioned above, the present thesis would have contained much poorer information.

Apart from the history data on hotel posts, I felt it necessary to add information about the resorts themselves, about those who founded and run them on that initial road, full of difficulties. The history of Transylvanian hotel posts is inseparable from the time to which they belonged. The stamps and postcards once carried by local couriers on the mountain paths and forest trails are now telling the whole world the story of their age and of the Carpathian beauty.

They will always remember the people and places who thought, like Schiller, that *"the mountains are made to allow us to measure the height of the sky"*.

### **Chapter 3. Transylvanian Carpathian Tourists' Society (S.K.V.)**

The Transylvanian Carpathian Tourists' Society (*Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein* – SKV) played a fundamental role in the establishment and administration of Hohe Rinne and Bistra hotel posts and also of the local posts of a large number of mountain chalets. This is why I considered useful to include a chapter on the history of this great tourism society.

SKV was founded on November 28th, 1880, at Sibiu, with German as official language. Until its abolishing by the pro-Soviet authorities (1945), SKV built over 45 chalets and shelter houses. Most notable among them, with local courier services, are Negoiu, Urlea, Bălea, Mălăiești Bolboci, Postăvarul, Diham, Șurian, Parâng, Preșba, Omul. Poiana Brașov and Păltiniș (Hohe Rinne) resorts were also founded by SKV.

Apart from building resorts and mountain chalets, SKV worked on the development of high quality mountain tourist maps and marking mountain tourist routes. They successfully trained skilled mountain guides, mainly selected among the trusted people in mountain villages<sup>14</sup>.

SKV had a well-organized structure based on the existence of 12 local "sections", the most important ones in Sibiu, Brașov, Făgăraș, Bistrița, Sebeș and the Jiu Valley. Sibiu Section (*Section Hermannstadt of SKV*) founded Păltiniș resort (Hohe Rinne) and oversaw the work of its hotel post courier. Sebeș Section (*Section Mühlbach of SKV*) founded and managed the local post Bistra.

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<sup>14</sup> Heinz HELTMANN, Helmuth ROTH: *Der Siebenbürgische Karpatenverein 1880 – 1945*, Wort u. Welt Verlag, Thaur bei Innsbruck, 1990

## **Chapter 4. Hohe Rinne Resort History from Its Foundation to WWI**

A detailed history of the founding and development of Hohe Rinne resort (Păltiniș) until WWI is useful in order to integrate the evolution of its hotel post into the general context. There have been many questions about the history of Hohe Rinne hotel post, and it is the history of the resort itself that offered answers to these questions. The resort organization and the way in which new buildings appeared have been important in deciphering postal mechanisms previously impossible to understand. We could know the evolution of the access roads and of the vehicles in use only from details of the history of the resort itself.

Hohe Rinne (Păltiniș) was founded by the Siebenbürgischer Karpathenverein (SKV), a Transylvanian Carpathian Tourists' Association, founded in Sibiu in 1880. The construction of the first buildings in Păltiniș took place on a land belonging to the village Cristian (named Grossau in German and Kereszténysziget in Hungarian), situated 32 km away from Sibiu and 1,400 m in altitude. The first three buildings and household annexes were built between 1892 and 1894. The resort was officially inaugurated on June 10, 1894.

The "Hohe Rinne Rest Home" ("Sanatorium") from Păltiniș (named in German "*Kurhaus auf der Hohen Rinne*"), was originally (1894) composed of three wooden villas, with similar architecture to that found in the Tyrolean mountains. In 1895, SKV built at Hohe Rinne a chalet where tourists could find accommodation ("*Touristenhaus*" - "Home of Tourists"), and in 1897 they added a smaller chalet named "Monaco", destined to social activities.

A Military Sanatorium and a "Chalet for medical doctors" were opened in the summer of 1898. After these extensions, due to divergences between SKV and Cristian village - the land owner - stopped the expansion of the resort until WWI.

The initial path of access to Hohe Rinne went from Sibiu through Cristian, then passed near Gura Râului and Orlat villages to Vălăre area, allowing only horseback transport or using peasant carts. A new and better access road was built between 1898 and 1902 between Rășinari village and Vălăre, allowing transport with modern carriages, including the two Sanatorium's "omnibuses".

Until WWI, Hohe Rinne was exclusively a summer resort, operating between mid-June and second half of September. There was a different status between "guests" accommodated at the "Kurhaus" for balneary therapy under medical supervision (and who remained on average a month in the resort) and "tourists", who remained 1-2 days, usually accommodated at Tourists Home. Șanta, a summer colony located 4 km away from Păltiniș, at the same altitude, was a tourist attraction for visitors of Hohe Rinne, also offering a possible accommodation to part of them.

Both the "guests" and "tourists" could use the hotel post service.

## **Chapter 5. The Operating Mechanisms of Hohe Rinne Hotel Post between Its Establishment and WWI**

The local post was established and operated by SKV as an important service offered to the visitors of the resort, not as a source of profit. The Hungarian Post refused to open a seasonal post office at Hohe Rinne (as too expensive) and therefore SKV had to organize a mailing system from the resort to a state office at the base of the mountain. They also had to bring small parcels and correspondence to addressees in the resort. The Hohe Rinne hotel post is well-known for collectors of stamps and postal history items because of its nine issues of private stamps. Hohe Rinne hotel post was active the longest time in European history (45 years, between 1894-1939).

This research succeeded to resolve several outstanding issues never answered before, related to the pre-war activity of this local postal service.

The existence of the picture postcards carried by courier during the summer of 1894, immediately after the June 10th opening, certifies the establishment of local postal service a year before the issue of first local stamps and not at same time with them (1895), as previously considered.

Analysis of the most important collections has shown that the postcards sent by courier from Păltiniș between 1894 and the summer of 1899 (inclusively) didn't need to be franked with local stamp: the courier tax was probably included in the selling price of the postcards at the resort. Using data inserted into the SKV year books and stories of the time about Hohe Rinne, it could be documented that from 1894 to the summer of 1899 the mail was transported by the wagon of the sanatorium, together with passengers and luggage. In the summers between 1900 and 1907 inclusively, the local postal service was leased to a shopkeeper from Sibiu (named Louise Knopp). This merchant organized a daily postal service transport between Hohe Rinne and Cristian by courier on horseback. Beginning with the summer of 1908, postal items were transported between Hohe Rinne and Sibiu (the small office of Cristian was no longer used by courier) alternatively using the two "omnibuses" of the Sanatorium, on the way through Rășinari.

The picture postcards circulated from Hohe Rinne off summer seasons certify a postal transport similar to the one used in mountain chalets. On such postcards mailed off season, one can find the resort's postmark, but no local stamps (these were used only during the official season period).

Hohe Rinne postcards to and from the resort dating from the summer of 1894 show that the 1<sup>st</sup> state post office (named the "last post") chosen as partner for the hotel post was the one from Cristian. The change of the exit point of the courier from Cristian to Sibiu took place in the summer of 1908.

The courier left the mail at the post offices of Rășinari or Orlat very rarely. All the postal items addressed to Hohe Rinne had to be brought by the Hungarian Post to its office from Cristian (until September 1907) and later to the office Sibiu 1 (from the summer of 1908), where they were given to local courier to be transported to the addressees residing in the resort.

Beginning with the summer of 1900, not only envelopes but also postcards had to be franked with local stamps to be transported by courier from Hohe Rinne to the state post office of Cristian. Violations of state monopoly on postal transport and especially on issuing postage stamps was tolerated at Hohe Rinne (and also at Bistra) because the Hungarian Post could not carry up the mail sent to the addressees residing in the resort, being forced to use the service of the local courier.

There are records of just a few Hohe Rinne postcards mailed during the summer seasons, without local stamps. Most of these are dating back to the several days in which local stamps were accidentally not for sale at the resort.

Local stamps were not used on the incoming mail brought by courier to the resort. By the summer of 1898, the small bills with stamps of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hohe Rinne issue show that the incoming mail fees were paid through this system. They used the same tariff to bring letters and postcards to the resort and for the outgoing mail. The fee was at first 1 Kreuzer (2 Heller in Austro-Hungarian currency introduced after January 1, 1900) for postcards or 2 Kreuzer (4 Heller) for letters. At the end of the 1906 season, the fee for letters became 5 Heller, and in 1910 the fee for postcards was increased to 3 Heller. These fees were equal to no more than half of the Hungarian postage fees at that time.

The postage fees for mail brought to the "guests" accommodated by SKV at Hohe Rinne were paid during the summers between 1899 and 1908 together with the final bill issued at departure. The tourists not sheltered by SKV continued to pay the incoming mail with the system using "bills" with local stamps tied to them. Such bills are recorded up to the end of the 1908 summer.

## **Chapter 6. Postal Use of Hohe Rinne Stamps in the Pre-War Period**

The first two Hohe Rinne issues of local stamps were simultaneously placed in use in July 1895, with different purposes. "The 1<sup>st</sup> Issue" was used on envelopes sent from the resort, while "The 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue I" (previously wrongly considered as issued in 1896) was used on bills for the incoming mail brought by courier from Cristian.

Complete stamps of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue (2 kreutzer fee for covers) or half of them (bisected as 1 kreutzer fee for postcards), which are found canceled on small rectangular pieces of paper without text dating from the 1895-1898 summers (previously erroneously considered souvenir stamp or envelope fragments), are actually the postal receipts for the incoming mail to the resort. It was necessary to analyze the operating rules of the Sanatorium (stating that all payments had to be made by "guests" on Saturday only, directly to the cashier) and the Hohe Rinne bills from the summer of 1895 (with the date written by hand) to find out that handwritten date on them belonged to the first cashier of the Sanatorium's Commission, a later director of the Savings' Bank in Sibiu named Gustav Kiszling. The system using these "postage due" bills was necessary because the mail was delivered to the addressees residing in the resort immediately after arrival, without previous applying of local stamps to them.

Until the summer of 1903, the local postage stamps were applied to picture postcards to the address side. Beginning with the summer of 1904, the local stamps were applied to the illustrated side, to highlight the difference between local and state stamps. The covers were marked with local stamps on the front side until the beginning of the 1904 summer season, the Hohe Rinne stamp being frequently found on the same side with the Hungarian stamp, but in most of cases in the opposite corner. After 1904, the local stamps were applied to the reverse side of covers.

Statistical analysis of the quantities of mail sent through Hohe Rinne courier during the pre-war summers was important to evaluate the printing run of the local stamps. I was able this way to review the previously considered printing run figures for several issues of Hohe Rinne stamps. I have shown that the figure of 500 copies previously stated as printing run for the 1<sup>st</sup> issue is statistically too small in the context of usage during three summer seasons (1895-1897), a more credible figure being 2,500 stamps printed. The figure of 10,000 copies of 5 Heller stamp issued in 1906 was shown as unreal, a credible printing run being of 2,000 stamps. Using statistical data I have also proved the falsity of the legend that a fire at the resort in 1916 destroyed the stock of rare local stamps issued in 1909. Based on the current number of copies of the imperforate 2 Heller stamp from 1906 (recorded in no more than 10 pieces, none canceled), I denied that it was placed in use and its previously considered printing run of 2,000 copies.

## **Cap.7. Hohe Rinne and Its Local Postal Service during WWI**

Păltiniș (Hohe Rinne) resort remained open for tourists in the summer periods during WWI, but without official seasons or medical treatments.

The Hohe Rinne stamps were kept at Sibiu for security reasons and the mail was sent using only cancellations, without local stamps. The system was the same as the one used in peace-time at SKV mountain chalets or even at Hohe Rinne, off season.

There are known picture postcards sent from Hohe Rinne during the summers of 1915-1918, bearing a rectangular postmark of the resort which had been brought into use in 1913. Such items are rare, reflecting the reduced influx of wartime resort guests.

The Austro-Hungarian Army organized at Hohe Rinne a ski course in the winter of 1915/1916. A special military censorship mark was applied to the correspondence sent by the participants to this ski training.

The two omnibuses of the resort were not requisitioned and they continued to transport tourists, but also the resort's mail, which was delivered to the states post office in Sibiu (Nagy Szeben in Hungarian). Civil postal items brought to Hohe Rinne during the war are unknown.

During the battle of Sibiu (September 1916) the resort faced looting and destructions, but the main buildings all survived. In the summers of 1917 and 1918, the Tourists' House remained open, while the Sanatorium's buildings had to be closed due to the destructions.

The resort was again sacked at the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy (Nov. 1918), but fortunately it was protected from fire and it survived after the war.

## **Chapter 8. The Hohe Rinne Hotel Post after the Unification of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania**

After WWI, the Romanian Post declined the opportunity to open a state post office at Hohe Rinne during the summer months, in the same way as the Hungarian Post had done before WWI. For this reason, SKV had to resume the local courier, immediately after re-opening the resort.

The summer of 1921 was the first post-WWI season when Păltiniș (Hohe Rinne) was open to the public at a level similar to the one before the war. It was also the 1<sup>st</sup> post-WWI season when the local postal service could work.

In 1921-1922, pre-war stamps of the 1910 Hohe Rinne issue were used, while in 1923 and 1924 the last two local stamps issues were placed in use. Hohe Rinne last stamps from 1924 include in their image a view of the resort's central buildings and the effigies of Robert Gutt and Carl Conradt, the SKV leaders with the most important role in the establishment of Hohe Rinne 30 years before.

The last post was maintained at Sibiu P.O. nr.1. The mail was transported until the summer of 1929 mainly with the two omnibuses of the resort. Local stamps had to be affixed to all correspondences up to the end of the summer season of 1926. Beginning with the 1927 summer season, the guests sheltered by SKV paid the postal service by the invoice issued at the end of their stay, so local stamps were no more used on the mail which they sent or received.

The tourists not having an SKV accommodation had to use Hohe Rinne stamps on the mail carried by omnibuses during the 1927-1929 seasons. 1927/1928 was the first winter season at Hohe Rinne, and mail sent by courier is recorded from that period.

The passenger transport between Sibiu and Hohe Rinne was leased in 1930 and 1931 to a company that previously covered only the route between Sibiu and Răşinari. According to legal rules, this company had to provide free mail transportation, and therefore most of the cards and covers sent from the resort in these years were transported without local stamps. On record, there are only a few cards and covers from 1930 to 1931 that were sent or arrived in the resort with Hohe Rinne stamps tied to them. The mail from and to Hohe Rinne was transported between 1931 and 1939 without local stamps franking. Local postal activity ended at Hohe Rinne on June 15, 1939, the date when the Romanian Post opened its 1st summer post office in the resort.

## **Chapter 9. Bistra Local Postal Service**

Bistra was a small summer resort that operated before WWI, located about 50 km South of Sebeş-Alba, in the Sebeş Mountains. It consisted of two groups of wooden chalets named Lower and Upper "Colonies".

The Lower Colony was situated on the banks of a tributary creek of the Sebeş River, called Bistra. The Upper Colony was located near Păltinei Peak, approx. 4 km away from the Lower Colony. Carriages could only reach the Lower Colony.

Passenger transport and postal services to and from Bistra were very difficult. Beginning with 1890, postcards were sent or received by guests of Bistra Colonies. Some postcards were posted through Sebeş, while others passed through Orlat. A postman based in the Upper Colony was responsible for the correspondence for the both colonies.

In order to facilitate the transport of tourists and mail between Sebeş and Bistra, the Sebeş Section of SKV organized a local postal service on this route beginning with the summer of 1906, using a carriage.

More ads related to Bistra Post appeared in the newspaper "Der Unterwald" from Sebeş between 1906 and 1914. These articles together with postcards and covers transported by courier have allowed us to understand the evolution of this local postal service.

Postage for letters and newspapers to and from Bistra was 2 Kreuzer in the summer of 1906, when the administration of local courier was entrusted by SKV Sebeş to Michael

Gündisch, a merchant from Sebeş. No local stamps or postmarks were used on the mail carried between Bistra and Sebeş in the summer of 1906.

Bistra Post, administered by SKV, transported mail and newspapers in addition to carrying passengers, parcels and supplies. In 1907, they decided to use their own postage stamps, necessary for the accounts, and to certify on mail payment the local courier fee. They printed two Bistra stamps, 2 Heller (remained unissued) and 6 Heller (postally used in the summer seasons between 1907 to 1913, inclusively).

Two important Saxon merchants from Sebeş gathered the mail to and from Bistra between the summers of 1906 and 1913. Bistra Post had its office in Sebeş in the shop of Michael Gündisch in 1906-1908, and in that of Johann Rilki in 1909-1913.

Another well-known merchant and editor from Sebeş, Adolf Weissörtel, was involved in the local post activity several times in the summers of 1909-1912, including as postman in the Upper Bistra Colony at least for one season. The private cancellations of these three merchants, along with an oval obliteration of the Section Sebeş of SKV, are the four types of local postmarks that canceled Bistra 6 Heller stamps during their period of circulation.

The local rate of 6 Heller remained in use from 1907 until 1912. About 1,000 envelopes and cards were carried in each of these summers by Bistra Post.

In 1912, SKV included in the area covered by Bistra Post the villages on the route where the Hungarian Post did not have post offices (Şugag, Dobra, Tău). On August 17, 1912, they introduced another postmark at Sebeş, which had its own mechanism of recording the dates.

Becoming an obvious competitor to the state post, Post Bistra attracted the attention of Hungarian authorities. Before the opening of the 1913 summer season, two inspectors arrived from Budapest to Sebeş and seized the stock of stamps found at the SKV office. They also requested the suspension of the postal use of Bistra stamps.

The Hungarian Post set up in Tău a temporary agency in the summer of 1913, beginning with August 1, and the local courier route was reduced to a short path between Tău and Bistra. There are recorded postcards from Bistra dated July 1913, franked with 6 Heller local stamps. However, the use of Hungarian stamps became compulsory, even on mail addressed to Sebeş (which led to the disappearing of the mail stamped only with the Bistra stamp of 6 Heller).

Bistra Post ceased operating in 1914, due to the outbreak of WWI.

## **Chapter 10. Hotel Post Măgura**

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Măgura was a summer colony located upstream of Măguri-Răcăţău village in the Apuseni Mountains, at approx. 1,200 m altitude. The land on which this little resort was set up belonged to the Hungarian State Treasury in Budapest. The

Hungarian nobility people (especially from Cluj) received facilities to build vacation villas there.

The characteristics of the Măgura resort could be reconstituted using the picture postcards circulated from the resort before WWI. Due to the lack of a regular mail links, they tried to organize a courier between Măgura and Beliș (*Jósikatélep* in Hungarian) in the summer of 1903. A postman (a state employee) was a resident in the resort and transported the mail between Măgura and the state post office from the village of Beliș. In order to cover the courier's costs, in 1903 they issued two private stamps of Măgura resort, with face values of 2 filler (for post cards) and 4 filler (for covers). The stamps were produced in Cluj, using an advanced technology, being printed in relief, with white text embossed on a colored background.

The local stamps used on postcards and covers sent from Măgura in the summer of 1903 were canceled with the official *Jósikatélep* postmark of Beliș transit state post office, no local cancellation being used. There are recorded covers with multiple Măgura stamps franking and also illustrated cards franked for stamp collectors with bisected Măgura 4 filler stamp (for envelopes), as 2 filler postal rate for postcards.

Being a resort of the Hungarian Treasury, the semi-official character of Măgura's own stamps issued in 1903 immediately attracted the attention of collectors, particularly in Budapest. A large quantity of mail was circulated for stamp collectors with the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of Măgura in late August and early September 1903, thus alerting the authorities in Budapest. At their request, beginning with the next summer the local stamp of Măgura went out of use and the mail was sent from the resort by improvised means, to several state offices in the area (Gilău, Beliș, Câmpești).

On record, there are a few dozen postcards and covers sent from Măgura in 1911, franked with local stamps of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue, graphically related to the 1<sup>st</sup>, but with different colors. The two stamps of Măgura 2<sup>nd</sup> issue had identical face values with those of 1<sup>st</sup> issue (2 and 4 filler). These Măgura postal items from 1911 consist of 2<sup>nd</sup> issue stamps used on philatelic correspondence sent to a notary in Odorheiul Secuiesc (named Horvath Karoly). All the postal stationery cards and covers addressed to Horvath Karoly are dated October 23, 1911. Because of this use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Măgura issue on Karoly Horvath correspondence, all the works in the field of philately and postal history from 1921 until my monograph from 1998 dated Măgura 2<sup>nd</sup> issue in 1911.

During the research, I could document the use of one 2 filler stamp of the Măgura 2<sup>nd</sup> issue in 1907. I also discovered a printing proof of 4 filler Măgura 2<sup>nd</sup> issue stamps (then issued in green) in a similar (red) color to the 4 filler of the 1<sup>st</sup> issue. This new information makes us think that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Măgura issue was printed between the end of the 1903 summer and the beginning of the 1904 season, but was not released because of the ban imposed by the Hungarian Post.



The stamps of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue that remained in the resort could occasionally be used during the next summer seasons. Karoly Horvath succeeded in October 1911 to get a large number of locals and to produce many philatelic souvenirs with Măgura 2<sup>nd</sup> issue stamps. Măgura stamps are tied to this Horvath Karoly correspondence by a postmark of the transit rural agency of Răcățâu (Rekettó in Hungarian) and not by the cancellation of the state post office in Beliș (the route used in 1903).

### **Cap.11. The Local Post of The Mountain Chalets in The Carpathians on The Territory of Nowadays Romania (1894-1945)**

Most of the chalets in the Carpathians had local postal services up to their nationalization in 1945 by the "new popular power". They transported mail to one or another closer state post offices in the valley. A significant number of cancellations of chalets from the Carpathian Mountains applied to illustrated postcards between 1895-1945 are recorded. The postal signification of the chalet's cancellations is therefore certain.

Such cancellations are reported in the Transylvanian area - included until 1918 in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy - beginning with the summer of 1895, and they were also used in the inter-war period, under Romanian administration. The chalets cancellations were used in the mountainous area belonging to the old Kingdom of Romania only between the two World Wars, while just few minor tests could be mentioned before 1914.

Most of the mail with chalets cancellation consists of illustrated postcards showing views of those mountain areas. Envelopes with chalet cancellations were not reported, and the postal stationery cards with imprinted stamp are very rare.

The illustrated cards were usually addressed around the country, with some mailed to far-away destinations. The large majority of the items were sent *from* the chalets. Postal circulations *to* the chalets, especially to those of high altitude, are extremely rare, and applications of chalets cancellations on such incoming mail were not reported.

On record there are a relatively large number of postcards, especially from the inter-war period, being uncirculated, but with a chalet cancellation applied to them. Most likely they were made in the chalets at the request of tourists, as souvenirs during the mountain tours. One can also find some picture postcards bearing cancellations of several chalets in a given area. Many of these are unused, but others were traveled through the mail. Transylvanian pre-WWI postcards with chalets cancellations which remained uncirculated are far less frequent than those unused from the inter-war period. The reasons were the increasing of postcard collections in the 1920s and 1930s and a continuous decrease of the price of postcards related to average public income.

The only local postal services in our area which used their own postage stamps were Hohe Rinne (Păltiniș) and Bistra; Măgura stamps were heavily used for philatelic purposes, and so Măgura is not representative as a postal system. I show in this work that a system similar to the one used in alpine chalets, meaning without local stamps, existed at Hohe

Rinne in some periods, respectively for certain items. Switching at Hohe Rinne from the chalets system (without private postage stamps) to local franking and the evolution of its local postal service are important to understand the intrinsic mechanism of chalets local posts.

Chalet cancellation could be used regardless of the chalet's owner, be it travel associations such as SKV (Saxon), EKE (Hungarian), Turing Club of Romania etc., or individuals (as in Padina, Bucegi). Most of the chalets that used their cancellations on mail belonged to the great tourism associations. The chalets postmarks had no mechanism indicating the date of use, and the chalets administrators did not write on the mail the day of departure. Only the text handwritten by senders allow us to know the postcard's departure date.

Postcards having the state stamps cancelled by chalets postmarks are extremely rare. The chalets cancellations were placed on the vast majority of postcards besides the state stamps, which were thereafter cancelled only by state post offices in the valley.

In most cases, one chalet did not have designated a particular post office (the "last post") in the area below the mountain where all postal items had to be transported. The mail from chalets could be carried to any one of the offices in the surrounding area. Incoming mail came very seldom to the chalets. The chalets did not have a special service exclusively intended for postal purpose, to act autonomously and to follow one and the same route (like at Hohe Rinne and Bistra). We know chalets where the correspondence was transported to up to 8 different post offices of the state in that area, sometimes in the same season.

We know only postcards mailed from alpine chalets during the tourist seasons, initially only during the summer. Some postcards mailed during the hibernal seasons from late 1920s and 1930s are also recorded. Pre-WWI off-season correspondences from alpine chalets kept under guard during the off-season period are not recorded.

We can usually find a span on time of only 1-3 days between the date at chalets written by tourists (when mentioned in text) and the date of the postmark of the post offices where the mail was transported by the couriers. We conclude that sending the correspondence to "the valley" was remarkably regular.

The earliest recorded postal circulations from the Carpathian chalets date from 1894-1895. They coincide with the launch in Transylvania by SKV of the first picture postcards with mountain views, which then were for sale at the chalets. The regular activity of the local mail system of chalets was closely linked to the illustrated postcards and tourist propaganda they helped make.

The opening of the first SKV chalets local posts (Negoiu, Bâlea, Preșba) probably occurred in the summer of 1895, but 1894 may not be excluded as their first year of activity. Mail (postal stationery cards or envelopes) from the existing SKV chalets could have been sent even earlier, between 1881 and 1893; chalet supervisors could arrange the transport of the correspondence to "the valley". However, such correspondences are not yet recorded. We

know only of the correspondence (postal stationery cards) mailed beginning with 1890-1892 to and from Bistra, with improvised postal circuit, without any local cancellations. It could be also possible for the important chalets to have earlier postal links, but it is clear that the introduction of postcards amplified the phenomenon and led to the emergence of a local postal service system of mountain chalets.

Not all chalets and shelters had their own cancellation. Only the important chalets with significant tourist flow used such cancellations. We also know some picture postcards sent from other smaller mountain huts or shelters, without their own cancellations, usually sent by their employees.

The existence of a "system" of chalets' local posts is suggested by the high similarity of the courier activity of different chalets, regardless of owner and moment. The chalets had their own postmarks without date; none of them used local stamps; they were allowed to apply official stamps on mail; they did not have any mention of additional fees collected; they all used almost exclusively picture postcards.

## **Chapter 12. Personal Research Contributions to The Knowledge of Transylvanian Hotel Posts and The Early Period of Tourism in The Carpathian Mountains**

Since the hotel posts of Transylvania are well-known by collectors, but lesser by historians, I considered useful a summary of contributions offered by this personal research to the knowledge of the field:

### **For Hohe Rinne hotel post the following contributions may be highlighted:**

- indicating the beginning of the Hohe Rinne hotel post activity in 1894 and not in 1895, as previously considered
- indicating the place in use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hohe Rinne issue in 1895 and not in 1896
- highlighting the role of C.W. Krafft in issuing and printing of the first Hohe Rinne stamps
- pointing out the initial destination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue used on incoming mail bills
- deciphering the mechanism of use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue between 1895-1898, showing the falsity of the opinion that the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue stamps cancelled to pieces (whole or bisected) are envelope fragments or philatelic souvenirs
- highlighting the unique nature of cancellations from 1895 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> issue, with bilinear Hohe Rinne postmark and handwritten date; showing that this dating belonged to Gustav Kiszling, the first cashier of the Commission of Hohe Rinne Sanatorium
- explaining how no local stamps were applied at Hohe Rinne on the mail brought to the resort in 1895-1923, because the correspondence used to be directly delivered by courier to the addressees residing in the resort, without prior processing
- underlining the procedure of sending picture postcards from Hohe Rinne without franking in the summers of 1895-1899, very likely including the courier fee for postcards in their selling price at the resort (using a similar system as the one used at the mountain chalets)
- highlighting the falsity of data regarding bisect use of 1<sup>st</sup> Hohe Rinne stamps on postcards

- reassessing the printing types of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hohe Rinne issue, establishing for the 1<sup>st</sup> time the existence of three distinct types, each with a different year of print and a with different postal signification
- indicating the type which was the real reprint of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hohe Rinne issue, circulated on mail related to counter-admiral Arthur Ritter von Raimann
- illustrating postal use of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hohe Rinne issue in the summer of 1897 and revaluation of the printing run of the 1<sup>st</sup> issue using statistics based on postal traffic and public affluence
- rejecting all previous literature data about printing of the 1<sup>st</sup> issue Hohe Rinne in roles and arguing that it was in fact printed in small sheets, using four different clichés
- describing of the four existing types of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hohe Rinne stamps
- deciphering the postal mechanism used during concession of courier to a merchant in Sibiu named Louise Knopp between 1900-1907; highlighting the existence during those summers of a daily horseback mail transport between Hohe Rinne and Cristian
- underlining the unlikely character of the figures traditionally used for the printing run of 1906 stamps and calculation of statistically supported printed quantities
- pointing out that the 2 Heller stamps from 1906 are not known to have been postally used and the printing run of 2,000 pieces given in previous literature is by far not real
- highlighting the falsity of the stories about the destruction in a fire at the resort in 1916 of some 5 Heller from 1906 and 1909 issue stamps
- highlighting the daily carriage of mail to Sibiu between 1908-1914 using the two omnibuses of the resort on the route passing through the village of Rășinari
- describing the three printing types (clichés) for the 2 Heller stamps from 1909
- identifying the essay of the 1910 local issue made by the German architect Hans Heckner for the Hohe Rinne issue from 1910 and revaluation of the issuing date for 1910 locals
- evaluating the mailing procedures used at Hohe Rinne during the off-season period, similar to the chalets courier system without local franking
- establishing the fortuitous significance of occasional routes to Orlat and Rășinari, and also of the route through Cristian after 1908
- reevaluating the mode of operation of the local post office during WWI
- detailing the correspondence sent from Păltiniș in the winter of 1915/1916 with the censorship mark of the ski course of the Austro-Hungarian Army
- highlighting the the postal use of the 1910 Hohe Rinne stamps in the summer seasons 1921-1923
- reporting and analyzing of counterfeits with local stamps including mixed franking Hohe Rinne + Cluj-Oradea issues (Hungarian stamps with 1919 Kingdom of Romania overprint)
  - discovery of the 1922 changing of the face value of 5 Heller / 50 bani stamps from 1910 by handwritten red figure "3"
- analyzing the local cancellations in use during summer seasons from 1921-1923
- illustrating the only known die proofs of the Hohe Rinne stamps from 1923 and 1924 realized by Géza von Jakóts
- establishing the different character of the gummed respectively ungummed imperforate Hohe Rinne stamps from 1924
- describing and illustrating of the postal use of 1924 imperforate stamps
- explaining the changes that occurred in the courier activity in 1927 by sending mail without local stamps for guests accommodated by SKV
- highlighting the changes occurred in 1930, due to the transition to free transport of mail by bus; use of local stamps only on mail occasionally sent to Sibiu with the old Sanatorium omnibuses or respectively delivered by SKV to addressees residing in the resort

- presenting the last Hohe Rinne stamps, on two illustrated postcards dating from 1931 summer
- illustrating sporadic transport of civil mail by the courier of Military Sanatorium in the 1930s
- documenting of the end of local postal service at Hohe Rinne in the summer of 1939 and not in 1933, as stated in earlier works
- recording the opening of the first summer office of the Romanian Post at Păltiniș (Hohe Rinne) on July 15, 1939
- highlighting the use of Păltiniș inscribed postmark during August 1939 only
- documenting the cancellation of the 1940 summer mail at transit through the state office in Sibiu
- establishing an inventory of local cancellations used in the Hohe Rinne and of those used by partner state offices (the "last post")
- analyzing the state postal fees used during the Hohe Rinne hotel post activity and of the state postal stamps applied on mail sent from Hohe Rinne

**The most important new elements related to Post Bistra are:**

- establishing of the resort before 1880 and not after 1900, as claimed by previous works
- highlighting the mail transport through Orlat and Sebeș before the establishment of Bistra hotel post
- documenting existence of correspondence to and from Bistra since 1890, respectively 1892
- presenting possible local post debut in 1905 (maintained by Sebeș merchant Michael Gündisch)
- identifying the name Gündisch as the one engraved on the local postmarks used by courier during the summers of 1907 and 1908; it is readable only on some of these early cancellations
- documenting the cancellation of the stamps on local mail could be done both at Sebeș and at Bistra
- illustrating the only known Bistra correspondence with a 6 Heller local stamps having both the linear postmark of Johann Rilki and the oval date postmark (from August 17, 1912) of Section Sebeș of SKV, thus establishing the first day of use of the oval SKV postmark
- publishing the letter sent by Johann Rilki on February 28, 1944 to a stamp collector from Sibiu named Viktor Thoïs, including important information on mechanisms of the Bistra hotel post during its concession to Johann Rilki
- exemplifying the mail takeover by Bistra Post from the villages on the way (Tău, Dobra and Șugag) in the summer of 1912
- exemplifying the existence of mail franked with Bistra 6 Heller stamp dating back to July 1913
- analyzing the changes occurred in August 1913 in franking, transit and transportation of mail
- illustrating the only known 2 Heller Bistra stamps in used condition (cancelled by Johann Rilki) and the only known newspaper wrapper franked with 6 Heller Bistra local, tied by oval Sebeș SKV cancellation
- denying the information mainly offered by Hungarian Diaspora publications claiming the existence of separate postmarks for incoming and outgoing Bistra mail
- illustrating, for the first time, all the recorded picture postcards with images of the two Colonies of Bistra and the surrounding area
  - pointing out the existence of handwritten cancellation of a Bistra 6 Heller stamp with "R" initial of Rilki

- pointing out the existence of correspondence sent from Bistra abroad
- pointing out the existence of envelopes stamped with two Bistra stamps of 6 Heller (instead of one normal postage stamp), most likely due to increased weight of content
- pointing out the existence of 6 Heller Bistra stamps horizontally imperforate and of copies with error "mirror" print on the gummed side (offset)
- documenting the survival of buildings of the two Bistra Colonies after WWI and the maintaining of a postal courier to the colony in the 1930s, through an intermediary from Sebeş

**For Măgura Hotel Post, our research has brought the following new elements:**

- offering additional information about the setting-up of Măgura resort and villa owners
- presenting original illustrated picture postcards with views of Măgura resort and its access road
- establishing the courier's route to Beliş in the summer of 1903
- revaluating of Măgura stamps print mechanism
- illustrating the essay in red of the 4 filler stamp of the 2nd Măgura issue
- emphasizing the philatelic nature for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Măgura issue and partly for 1903 (1<sup>st</sup>) issue
- establishing that the postal use of the 1<sup>st</sup> issue was limited to August-September 1903
- evidencing prior mistakes in identifying the transit village Jósikatelep as Bălceşti, when in reality it was Beliş
- discovering and presenting the only known correspondence with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Măgura issue circulated before 1911 (dated in the summer of 1907)
- dating the 2nd Măgura local issue in 1903-1904 and not in 1911 as it is known throughout the previous literature
- highlighting the quasi-total absence of mail with local franking during the summers 1904-1911
- showing the existence of different routes of the mail from Măgura during the summers between 1904-1910
- highlighting the decisive involvement of Karoly Horvath in the "circulation" of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Măgura issue on October 23, 1911 and subsequent wrong dating of these stamps in 1911

**For the Mountain Chalets local postal services, first time analyzed in detail in this thesis, the most important new elements of research are:**

- showing the almost simultaneously set-up of hotel post Hohe Rinne and of the first local postal couriers of chalets in the Carpathians (1894-1895)
- explaining the lack of necessity to issue local stamps for the chalets due to the fact that mail was only sent and not received by tourists residing at chalets
- documenting the existence of variable routes followed by couriers of most of the chalets' local posts
- reporting of new chalets that had a local postal courier
- evidencing the possibility to include in the sale price of postcards at the chalets the costs of their transport to a nearer post office of the state
- pointing out to the existence of a system of local posts of mountain chalets, based on their status of mail collecting points and on their similar procedures regardless of moment and owner
- reporting chalets that maintained a local courier services during the two World Wars

- illustrating the only known chalet postmark from the Carpathian Mountains known to have date inscription, used on September 8, 1935, at a temporary office of the Romanian Post at Turda Gorges chalet, on the occasion of its opening
- evidencing the falsity of allegations that the chalets local posts could work as "illegal", not official posts, improvised by chalets supervisors
- highlighting the unique system of transport practiced in the Bucegi Mountains by the Mălăiești Chalet between 1906-1910, when the mail was transported across the border with Romania and deposited at post offices in the Prahova Valley
- illustrating the rare cases when state stamps were tied to mail by the cancellation of chalets
- highlighting how the mail sent from alpine chalets consisted in absolute majority of illustrated cards, with very rare postal stationery cards, while envelopes circulated with a chalet cancellation were unknown
- illustrating the cases of postage due applied at destination on postcards sent from chalets having incomplete franking
- presenting postcards with different postmarks of chalets from the same area, which prove the keeping of postmarks at the chalets during the summer seasons
- highlighting the propaganda role of postcards assigned by the major tourism associations (SKV, EKE, TCR)
- highlighting the quality and high rhythm of local transport to all chalets, as evidenced by today's good condition of postcards sent by courier and by the very short intervals (1-3 days) between the hand-written date applied by the senders and the postmark dates from the transit state post offices
- drawing comparisons of chalets posts to Hohe Rinne hotel post

**ANNEXES** include details of important documents or related issues to the subject.

The first six annexes include important documents for the history of Transylvanian Hotel Posts, respectively for the history of the resort Păltiniș (Hohe Rinne). The following 4 annexes detail elements of Hohe Rinne hotel post and its stamps. The last annex is a brief account of how I succeeded in 1996-1997, with the support of the Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania, to obtain the status of historical monument for the Păltiniș Rest Home ("Kurhaus auf der Hohen Rinne"). The documentation which led to this success was achieved during the researches on Transylvanian Local Posts.

- I. Arthur Ritter von Raimann & Gustav Kizling: *"Hohe Rinne Markenmonografie"*
- II. Geza von Jakóts (1924): *"Summary table of Hohe Rinne and Bistra hotel post stamps"*
- III. 1899 Advertising for *"Kurhaus auf der Hohen Rinne"* edited by SKV
- IV. Adolf Schullerus: *"Erika Brukenthalia"*
- V. Letter of Johann Rilki on the Bistra local postal service sent to a stamp collector in Sibiu named Viktor Thoïs on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1944
- VI. *"Guide for Sibiu and surrounding area"* (1903) - chapter "trips to the mountains"
- VII. Types of Hohe Rinne stamps and their plate blocks
- VIII. Hohe Rinne local postmarks
- IX. Cancellations, postal rates and stamps used at the state post offices acting as "last post" for Hohe Rinne local postal service
- X. Hohe Rinne (Păltiniș) illustrated postcards
- XI. *"S.O.S. Hohe Rinne"* or how his private stamps has saved (at least until now) the old Hohe Rinne.