

*SUMMARY***ADHESIVE STAMPS AFFIXED TO CROWN BANKNOTES  
IN THE KINGDOM OF SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES  
BETWEEN 26 NOVEMBER 1919 AND 11 JANUARY (10 MARCH)  
1920, AND FORGING NOSTRIFICATION**

The nostrification (validation of legal tender status) of Austro-Hungarian crown banknotes by overstamping them, as planned and implemented in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in late 1918 and early 1919, showed itself ineffective. The provisional money obtained by overstamping Austro-Hungarian crown banknotes found in the Kingdom SCS at the time of the dissolution could not at that time be exchanged because the new banknotes to replace it had not yet been produced. It therefore became necessary to introduce a technically more perfect way of marking the crown banknotes, which would not be easy to forge. On the model of Czechoslovakia, the SCS government in Belgrade ordered adhesive stamps to be affixed to all the already over stamped crown banknotes (“yugocrowns”). For this purpose, special adhesive stamps were made, similar to revenue stamps, to be affixed to properly over stamped 1000, 100, 50, 20 and 10 crown banknotes (1 and 2 crown banknotes were nostrified by over stamping only, and did not need adhesive stamps). The adhesive stamps for the crown banknotes and the procedure of affixing them were strictly stipulated. The affixing began on 26 November 1919 and ended on 11 January 1920 (later subsequent affixing was enabled up to 10 March). But when it was finally decided that adhesive stamps would be used to validate legal tender, neither the official gazette of the Kingdom SCS, *Službeni glasnik Kraljevine SHS*, nor the press nor public announcements carried descriptions and/or pictures of the adhesive stamps to be affixed to crown banknotes. This undoubtedly made things much easier for swindlers and forgers. When affixing the adhesive stamps, the institutions for the nostrification of crown banknotes (“yugocrown”) paid special attention to the validity of the over stamp on the highest-value banknotes of 100 and 1000 crowns. At the same time, right from the beginning of nostrification using adhesive stamps, these stamps began to be forged, mostly those for the 1000 crown banknotes. Swindlers “nostrified” crown banknotes by sticking various old revenue stamps or postage stamps on them. They also forged nostrification by removing proper nostrification stamps from small-denomination crowns and sticking them on higher-denomination banknotes. The forged nostrification stamps for crown banknotes or fraudulently stamped crown banknotes were smuggled into the Kingdom SCS in the first place from Hungary, but also from Austria and Italy. Adhesive nostrification stamps for crown banknotes (“yugocrown”) were also forged in the Kingdom SCS itself. By order of the Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom SCS of 21 February 1920, forged nostrification stamps on crown banknotes that had been recognised by the institutions in charge of exchanging and withdrawing currency, were crossed over in red ink to show that they were forgeries, and such banknotes could not be exchanged. Many crown banknotes with adhesive stamps designated as forgeries were no longer considered to be currency, and this mostly referred to the largest denominations of 100 crowns and especially 1000 crowns, which were noticed

more often because special attention was paid to them. There is no doubt that many crown banknotes exchanged and withdrawn from circulation in the Kingdom SCS had been smuggled from abroad, in the first place from Austria and Hungary. They were wrongly overstamped and then fraudulently affixed with nostrification stamps. The manner and procedure of nostrifying crown banknotes by affixing stamps was the result of economic but also of political circumstances, and the frequent appearance of forged banknotes and nostrification stamps, and of forging nostrification in other ways, is not sufficiently well known. The appendix to the article has copies of the most important and crucial rule books, announcements, orders and explanations of the Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom SCS on affixing stamps, with special attention to the issue of forging nostrification, published in *Službene novine Kraljevstva Srba, Hrvats i Slovenaca*, and also some of the most pertinent articles and notices that came out in the then press.

**Keywords:** *Kingdom SCS, Austro-Hungarian crown banknotes, nostrification, affixing nostrification stamps, forgeries.*