



POŠTA U LOVINCU U RAZDOBLJU OD TRAVNJA DO RUJNA 1941. GODINE

The Lovinac Post Office in the Period from April to September 1941

Sažetak

U povijesti općenito, pa tako i u onoj poštanskoj, pojačan interes bude razdoblja velikih društvenih promjena – početak/završetak ratnih sukoba te raspad starih i/ili osnivanje novih država. Jedno od takvih razdoblja bilo je i proljeće/ljeto 1941. obilježeno napadom nacističkih snaga na Kraljevinu Jugoslaviju, njezin brzi raspad i osnivanje Nezavisne Države Hrvatske (NDH), povezano s ulaskom talijanske vojske na teritorij Like. U ovom radu prikazane su promjene koje su se odvijale u poštanskom prometu pošte Lovinac u razdoblju tranzicije od travnja do rujna 1941., utemeljene na dostupnom filatelističkom materijalu u vlasništvu autora i drugih kolekcionara. Vojno-politička kretanja i događaji u lovinačkom kraju u tom vremenu kratko su opisani isključivo radi povijesne i društvene kontekstualizacije.

Ključne riječi: Lovinac, pošta, Kraljevina Jugoslavija, NDH, žig, cjeline

Summary

In historiography generally, as in postal history, heightened interest is sparked by periods of profound social change, such as the onset and end of armed conflicts, as well as the collapse of old states or the establishment of new ones. The spring and summer in 1941 was one such period, when the Nazi forces attacked the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, leading to its rapid disintegration, and the subsequent creation of the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), which was also tied to the Italian army entering the territory of Lika. This paper provides an overview of the changes affecting postal transport at the Lovinac Post Office from April to September 1941, drawing on philatelic sources in the possession of the author and other collectors. The military and political currents and events in the Lovinac area at that time are concisely described to gain historical and social contextualization.

Keywords: Lovinac, post office, Kingdom of Yugoslavia, NDH, postmark, postal stationery

Uvod

Promjene u odvijanju poštanskog prometa u pošti Lovinac u predmetnom razdoblju posljedica su okolnosti koje je sa sobom donio početak Drugoga svjetskog rata na ovom području. One su nastale napuštanjem poštanskih dokumenata, poštanskih maraka i žigova Kraljevine Jugoslavije te uvodeњem onih iz NDH. Kako je riječ o malom mjestu i poštanskom uredu, neke od promjena slijedom naredbi su „zakasnile“, odnosno nisu provedene

Introduction

Changes in postal operations at the Lovinac post office during the period under consideration were a direct consequence of the circumstances arising from the outbreak of the Second World War in this region. The changes stemmed from the gradual abandonment of using postal documents, postage stamps, and postmarks of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and the reintroduction of those from the Independent State of Croatia (NDH). Given that

danom objave naredbi o promjenama kao što je bio slučaj u velikim gradovima. Materijal za ovaj prikaz autor je sakupljao dvadesetak godina, motiviran kombinacijom svog dugogodišnjeg hobija i zavičajnim podrijetlom.¹ Zbog oskudnosti sačuvanog poštanskog materijala iz tog vremena, kontaktirani su važniji kolekcionari toga razdoblja širom svijeta, sumještani i njihovi potomci, osobnim kontaktom ili putem društvenih mreža. Tako je dobiveno nekoliko preslika materijala koji su u posjedu drugih kolekcionara koji su ih ljubazno ustupili za objavu.

Lovinačka pošta: tarife, žigovi i marke

Nakon kratkog „travanjskog rata“, 10. travnja 1941. proglašena je NDH, a već 14./15. travnja talijanske u vojne snage u Lovinac ušle iz smjera Gospića i nastavile dalje napredovati prema Gračacu zbog osiguranja željezničke pruge Karlovac-Split. S njima su na područje Lovinca došle i ustaške postrojbe iz Gospića s preporukom župana Frkovića kako Talijane treba dočekati kao saveznike. „No niti narod niti ustaške postrojbe nisu ih cijenili kao vojnike.“ (www.Lovinac.hr)

Na području Lovinca talijanske vojne snage zadržale su se kod željezničke postaje Lovinac te u bunkerima na brdu Cvituša – dominantnoj koti iznad željezničke pruge i samog naselja Lovinac (Pavičić i sur., 1987: 123–124).

Nakon prekida poštanskog prometa nastalog zbog ratnog sukoba, od 19. travnja 1941. sve pošte na području NDH započele su s normalnim poštanskim prometom u kojemu su se nastavile koristiti tarife Kraljevine Jugoslavije koje su stupile na snagu 1. travnja 1941. (*PT Vesnik* 5/1941), pri čemu su bile izjednačene vrijednosti valuta dinara i kune. Ove su tarife ostale na snazi do donošenja novih,

NDH tarifa, od 16. studenoga 1941. godine (*Vjesnik* PBB Br. 14/1941).

Talijanski vojnici koji su se zadržali na lovinačkom području zasigurno su odlazili i u samo naselje Lovinac koje je tada bilo živo općinsko središte s obrtima, gostionicama i trgovinama. No njihov odnos prema lokalnom stanovništvu nije uvijek bio korektan o čemu svjedoči primjer skidanja limenog pokrova s kuće trgovca Mate Kovačevića kako bi ga iskoristili za kazane za kuhanje (Petrović-Leš, 2022: 246), a osim toga razvidno je kako su koristili i lokalne poštanske usluge za slanje poruka svojim obiteljima i blišnjima. Na idućim slikama (Slika 1. i 2.) nalazi se razglednica na kojoj je prikazan povijesno veliki snijeg 1929. u Lovincu, a na poleđini poruka talijanskog vojnika poslana djevojci u Modenu (Italija) iz Lovinca 30. travnja 1941. godine. Nažalost, na razglednici nije sačuvana poštanska marka, koja je zasigurno bila iz Kraljevine Jugoslavije, ali je vidljiv donji dio žiga pošte Lovinac s nazivom mjesta ispisanim ćirilničnim pismom. Zbog političke neutralnosti motiva razglednice, pošiljatelju je prodana zatečena „stara“ razglednica izdana u Lovincu 1930-ih godina.

Naredbom općeg odjela br. 393-1941 od 18. travnja 1941. (Cividini, 2005: 3) naloženo je poštanskim uredima da odmah dostave svoje žigove Ravnateljstvu pošta radi izmjena natpisa. S obzirom na stvarnu situaciju na terenu (veći broj malih poštanskih ureda, s jednim žigom), dopunom te naredbe od 12. svibnja 1941. pošte koje imaju samo jedan žig (poput pošte u Lovincu) morale su same ukloniti („aptirati“) ćirilčni natpis pošte iz žiga i takav se prepravljeni žig onda smio nastaviti rabiti s nazivom mjesta ispisanim isključivo na latinici. Iz tog je razloga uporaba žiga s natpisom na ćirilici do te dopune bila posve legitimna. Na isječku s pisma poslanog iz Lovinca 12. svibnja 1941. (Slika 3.) vidljivo je kako je tada još uvijek bio u uporabi žig s latiničnim i ćirilničnim pismom te marke iz Kraljevine Jugoslavije. Kasnije su poštama u NDH

¹ Niz dopisnica i pisama iz promatranog razdoblja žigosani su rukom Jose Šarića – Joceta, poštanskog službenika u pošti u Lovincu 1931. – 1942., djeda autora ovoga rada za kojega predstavljaju značajnu emocionalnu vrijednost.

Lovinac was a small settlement with a modest post office, measures mandated by official orders were implemented late, that is, did not take effect on the exact dates of their promulgation, as was generally the case in larger urban centers. The sources, the basis of this study, were collected by the author over approximately twenty years, motivated by a long-standing hobby and having personal roots in the area.¹ Owing to the scarcity of preserved postal sources from this period, collectors worldwide specializing in this particular field were contacted, as were local residents and their descendants, either directly or on social media. These efforts led to several copies of items in the possession of other collectors, and who kindly granted permission to publish them.

Lovinac Post Office: Rates, Postmarks, and Stamps

The Independent State of Croatia (NDH) was proclaimed on 10 April 1941 after the brief “April War”, and as early as 14–15 April, Italian military forces entered Lovinac from the direction of Gospić and continued advancing toward Gračac to secure the Karlovac–Split railway line. They were accompanied by Ustaša units from Gospić and the Italians should be received as allies at the recommendation of County Prefect Frković. “However, neither the populace nor the Ustaša units held them to be proper soldiers” (www.lovinac.hr). In the Lovinac area, Italian forces remained stationed near the Lovinac railway station and in the Mount Cvituša bunkers, a strategically dominant elevation above the railway line and settlement (Pavičić et al., 1987: 123–124).

After the interruption of postal services caused by the armed conflict, regular postal operations

were resumed at all post offices across the territory of the NDH on 19 April 1941, whereby the postal rates of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which had entered into force on 1 April 1941 (*PT Vesnik* 5/1941), continued to be applied in normal postal services. At the same time, the dinar and the kuna were treated as equivalent in value. These rates remained in effect until the introduction of new NDH tariffs on 16 November 1941 (*Vjesnik PBB* No. 14/1941).

Italian soldiers stationed in the Lovinac area likely visited the settlement, which was then a bustling municipal center with trades, inns, and shops. Their behavior towards the local inhabitants was not always proper, as demonstrated by the instance of the removal of the metal roof from the house belonging to the merchant Mate Kovačević to use for cooking pots (Petrović-Leš, 2022: 246). Also, there is evidence of the use of local postal services to send correspondence to their families and loved ones. Figures 1 and 2 show a postcard depicting the exceptionally heavy snowfall in Lovinac in 1929. On the reverse side is a message written by an Italian soldier and sent from Lovinac to a young woman in Modena (Italy) on 30 April 1941. Unfortunately, the postage stamp, almost certainly issued by the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, has not been preserved. Nonetheless, the lower portion of the Lovinac postmark remains visible, including the place name in Cyrillic script. Owing to the politically neutral subject of the postcard, the sender was sold an “old” postcard originally issued in Lovinac in the 1930s.

By Order No. 393-1941 of the Department of General Affairs dated 18 April 1941 (Cividini, 2005: 3), post offices were instructed to deliver their handstamps immediately to the Directorate of Posts for modification of the inscriptions. Given the actual conditions in the field, specifically, the large number of small post offices with only a one handstamp, a supplementary order issued on 12 May 1941 sought from those post offices with only

1 A series of postcards and letters from the period bear postmarks applied by hand by Jose Šarić, known as Joce, a postal clerk at the Lovinac post office from 1931 to 1942, and the grandfather of the author of this paper, for whom these items hold considerable personal and emotional significance.

Slika 1. Prednja strana razglednice poslana iz Lovinca 30. 4. 1941. u Italiju (iz zbirke D. Šarić)

Figure 1. Front side of a postcard sent from Lovinac on 30 April 1941 to Italy (from the collection of D. Šarić)



distribuirani novi, isključivo latinični žigovi s tzv. „mostom“ u sredini žiga, u kojem se nalazio datum.

U NDH su se do 1. lipnja 1941. službeno nastavile koristiti zatečene marke, dopisnice, otpremnice i ostali poštanski materijal iz Kraljevine Jugoslavije, a to se, napose u manjim mjestima, zbog logističkih izazova ratnog perioda, nastavilo i kasnije.

Unatoč autorovoj širokoj potrazi za materijalom iz ovoga razdoblja, među sabiračima, do sada nije pronađen niti jedan poštanski dokument sa žigom pošte Lovinac iz lipnja i srpnja 1941.

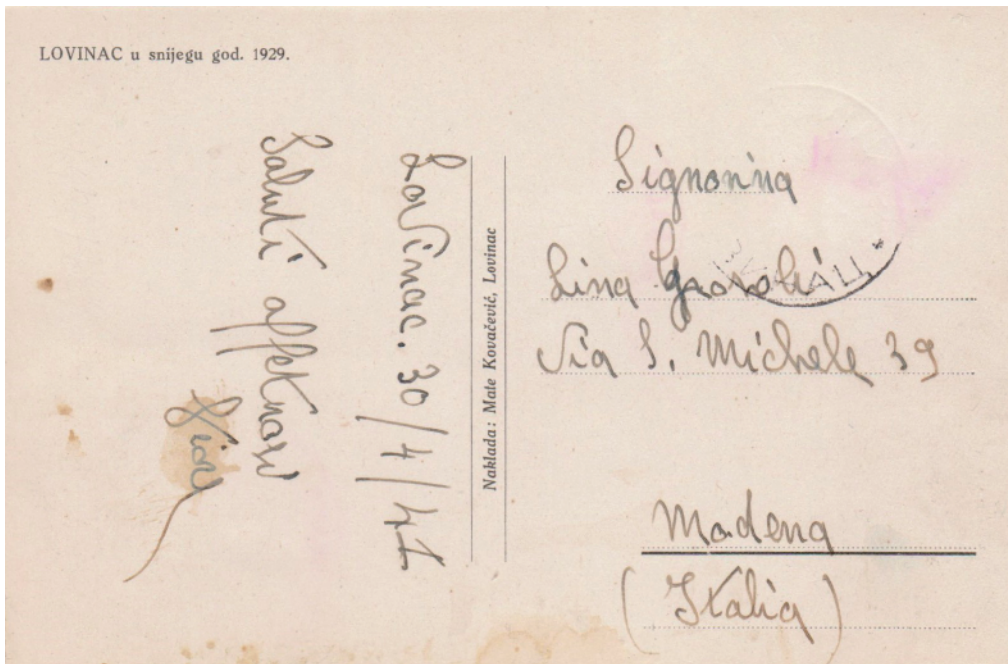
Dosad najvažniji izvor poštanskog materijala s područja Lovinca iz ljeta 1941. je korespondencija koju je generirao ing. Kevo, pišući gotovo svakodnevno svojoj supruzi u Zagreb, a kasnije i u Omiš. Zbog ratnih zbivanja koja su ga zatekla na poslu u šumariji na području Svetog Roka i Lovinca, a kasnije i Gospića, razumljivo je kako je redovnim pisanjem želio kod svoje supruge odagnati strahove i neizvjesnost zbog razdvojenosti kao i turbulentnih zbivanja na ovom području. Najveći dio materijala u nastavku temelji se na korespondenciji obitelji Kevo čiji su se dijelovi povremeno pojavljivali na filatelističkom tržištu.

U očekivanju tiska i distribucije novih poštanskih maraka, dopisnica i ostalog poštanskog materijala, lokalni poštari u NDH su u nekim mjestima, po službenoj preporuci ili na vlastitu inicijativu, iz patriotskih razloga ručno križali naziv bivše države i dopisivali naziv nove. Čak su pripremali žigove s



Slika 3. Isječak pisma poslanog iz Lovinca 12. 5. 1941. (iz zbirke Krešimira Zlonoge)

Figure 3. Fragment of a letter sent from Lovinac on 12 May 1941 (from the collection of Krešimir Zlonoga)



Slika 2. Stražnja strana razglednice poslane iz Lovinca 30. 4. 1941. u Italiju (iz zbirke D. Šarić)

Figure 2. Reverse side of a postcard sent from Lovinac on 30 April 1941 to Italy (from the collection of D. Šarić)

one handstamp (such as the Lovinac post office) the removal of the Cyrillic inscription of the post office from the handstamp and the modified handstamp containing the name of the place written solely in the Latin script was then allowed to be used. For this reason, the use of postmarks bearing inscriptions in the Cyrillic script prior to the implementation of the mentioned order was entirely legitimate. A fragment of a letter sent from Lovinac on 12 May 1941 (Figure 3) shows that the handstamp with Latin and Cyrillic scripts was still in use, including postage stamps from the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. New handstamps, carrying only Latin script and the so-called “bridge” in the center of the handstamp, within which was the date, were later distributed to post offices in the NDH.

Prior to 1 June 1941, the NDH continued the official use of existing postage stamps, postal cards, dispatch forms, and other postal stationery from the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, continuing due to logistical challenges during the war period, especially in smaller localities.

Despite the author’s extensive search among collectors for sources from the period, no postal

document bearing the Lovinac postmark from June or July 1941 has been found.

The most significant source of postal stationery from the Lovinac locality, dating back to the summer of 1941, is correspondence from the engineer Kevo, who wrote almost every day to his wife in Zagreb and later in Omiš. Understandably, he regarded regular correspondence as a way to ease his wife’s concerns and uncertainty due to separation, as well as the turbulent events in the region, arising from wartime circumstances at his forestry service job in the area of Sveti Rok and Lovinac, and also in Gospić. Most of the material treated in this paper comes from correspondence within the Kevo family, some of which has been found on the philatelic market.

Immediately prior to the printing and distribution of new postage stamps, postal cards, and other postal stationery, local postal officials in the NDH in some locations manually crossed out the name of the former state and added the new one in line with official recommendations or at their own discretion, but often motivated by patriotic considerations. In some cases, they even prepared



Slika 4. Dopisnica poslana iz Lovinca 14. 8. 1941., s otiskom gumenog žiga s nazivom nove države (iz zbirke D. Šarić)

Figure 4. Postal cards sent from Lovinac on 14 August 1941, bearing the impression of a rubber handstamp with the name of the new state (from the collection of D. Šarić)

nazivom nove države kojima su preimenovali („nacionalizirali“) naziv države na dopisnicama i drugim tiskanicama Kraljevine Jugoslavije.

Na idućim slikama (Slika 4. i 5.) nalaze se primjeri dviju dopisnica Kraljevine Jugoslavije, koje su poslana u kolovozu 1941. iz Lovinca, s jasno vidljivim otiskom gumenog žiga s provizornim ljubičastim pretiskom imena nove države (lovinački ručni pretpisak je zbog rijetkosti vrlo cijenjen u filatelističkim krugovima, op. a.). Na obje dopisnice vidljiv je i novi žig Lovinca s „mostom“.

Dopisnica (Slika 5.) poslana istoj primateljici 19. kolovoza 1941. ima i dodatni žig „RUR“ cenzure (RUR = „Ravnateljstvo Ustaškog Redarstva“) i osobnu oznaku/potpis cenzora (crvenom olovkom upisan broj 10) koji je pregledao sadržaj dopisnice. Cenzorni žig ovog oblika korišten je od lipnja do kolovoza 1941. u većim gradovima (Pervan, Zrinjšćak, 2013). Ne smije se zanemariti činjenica da je riječ o ratnom razdoblju u kojem je cenzura poštanske komunikacije predstavljala uobičajenu praksu.

Pismo (Slika 6.) poslano istoj primateljici 21. kolovoza 1941. više nema ručni žig „nacionalizacije“

već se pripadnost poštanskom prometu NDH očituje u uporabi maraka prve provizorne serije NDH poštanskih maraka, kolokvijalno zvane „štapići“, koja je bila izdana već 12. travnja 1941. (*Hrvatska filatelija*, 1941., god. I., br. 4-8: 49). Kolokvijalni naziv ove serije dolazi od toga što su kod pretiska zatečenih maraka Kraljevine Jugoslavije ćirilicni i latinični naziv bivše države „poništeni“ sa 6 okomitih stupaca u obliku slova I, odnosno „štapića“. Poštarina za slanje običnog pisma do 20 g u tom razdoblju bila je 2 din, tj. 2 kune, što odgovara frankaturi na ovom pismu.

Cjeline (tiskane dopisnice) NDH s otisnutom markom, u frankaturnoj vrijednosti poštarine za običnu dopisnicu od 1 kn, bile su otisnute krajem srpnja i u kolovozu u Zagrebu (*Hrvatska filatelija*, 1941., god. I., br. 4-8: 92). Motiv Velebita na tiskanoj marci od 1 kn na ovoj cjelini identičan je marci od 1 kn u prvoj redovnoj seriji NDH maraka, popularno nazvanoj „Krajobrazi“.

Ovakve cjeline NDH koje su pronađene, a koje su bile poslana iz pošte Lovinac, imaju najraniji datum žiga od 16. rujna 1941. (Slika 7.) s novokorištenim dvokružnim žigom s „mostom“.

Slika 5. Dopisnica poslana iz Lovinca 19. 8. 1941., s otiskom gumenog žiga s nazivom nove države i žigom RUR cenzure (iz zbirke Philip J. Hughes)

Figure 5. Postal card sent from Lovinac on 19 August 1941, bearing the impression of a rubber handstamp containing the name of the new state and an RUR censorship impression (from the collection of Philip J. Hughes)



handstamps bearing the name of the new state, used to rename or “nationalize” the state designation on postal cards and other printed stationery originating from the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

Figures 4 and 5 are examples of two postal cards of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, sent from Lovinac in August 1941, both bearing a clearly visible postmark of a rubber handstamp with a provisional purple overprint of the name of the new state (the Lovinac hand overprint is highly valued in philatelic circles due to its rarity, author’s note). Both postal cards also display the new Lovinac postmark with the “bridge” feature.

The postal card (Figure 5), sent to the same recipient on 19 August 1941, also bears an additional censorship handstamp “RUR” (RUR in Croatian stands for Ravnateljstvo Ustaškog Redarstva or Directorate of Ustaša Surveillance Service in English) along with the personal mark or censorship signature (the number 10 entered in red pencil), indicating that the card content had been inspected. This form of censorship mark was used in larger urban centers between June and August 1941 (Pervan and Zrinjšćak 2013). Interestingly, the

editorship of postal communication was a routine and widely implemented practice during wartime.

A letter (Figure 6), sent to the same recipient on 21 August 1941, no longer carries the hand-applied “nationalization” mark, but affiliation with the NDH postal system is evident in the use of the stamps from the first provisional series of NDH postage stamps, colloquially referred to as “štapići” (“little sticks”), already issued back on 12 April 1941 (*Hrvatska filatelija* 1941, Vol. I, Nos. 4–8: 49). The colloquial designation of this series comes from the fact that in terms of the overprinting of existing stamps belonging to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, the Cyrillic and Latin name of the the former state is “cancelled” with 6 vertical lines in the shape of I, i.e., little sticks. The postal fee for sending an ordinary letter weighing up to 20 g in that period was 2 dinars, i.e., 2 kuna, which corresponds to the franking on this letter.

Postal stationery (printed postal cards) of the NDH, bearing an imprinted stamp, with a face value corresponding to the postage rate of 1 kuna for an ordinary postal, were produced in Zagreb in late July and August 1941 (*Hrvatska filatelija*, 1941, Vol.



Slika 6. Povećanje žiga Lovinca. Pismo poslano 21. 8. 1941. (iz zbirke D. Šarić)

Figure 6. Enlarged details of the Lovinac postmark. Letter sent on 21 August 1941 (from the collection of D. Šarić)



Slika 7. Dopisnica NDH poslana 16. 9. 1941. iz Lovinca (iz zbirke D. Šarić)

Figure 7. NDH postal card sent from Lovinac on 16 September 1941 (from the collection of D. Šarić)

U posjedu autora nalaze se iste cjeline sa žigovima Lovinca od 18. rujna i 27. rujna 1941. (Slika 8.), no obje su poništene starim „aptiranim“ žigom Lovinca iz doba Kraljevine Jugoslavije što upućuje na to kako su u poštanskom uredu u uporabi zadržana oba žiga.

Istraživanjem je ustanovljeno postojanje isto-vjetne cjeline s porukom datiranom punih mjesec dana ranije (18. kolovoza 1941., vidi Slika 9.) u Svetom Roku (mjesto u općini Lovinac) uz napomenu pošiljatelja, u tekstu na obodu dopisnice, kako će ovu dopisnicu dati putnici koja odlazi vlakom za Zagreb kako bi je tamo predala u poštu – vjerojatno zbog brže i sigurnije dostave, s obzirom na to da je dopisnica adresirana na Zagreb.

Ova je cjelina s prednje strane poništena strojnim (tzv. „mettered“) žigom koji je samo djelomično čitljiv (datum najvjerojatnije 20. kolovoza 1941.), vjerojatno u nekoj većoj pošti u Zagrebu (*npr. Pošta Zagreb 2 na Glavnom kolodvoru*):

Zaključak

Rekapitulacija događaja u poštanskom prometu pošte Lovinac u promatranom razdoblju:

- Tijekom travnja i svibnja 1941. u uporabi su žig pošte Lovinac iz Kraljevine Jugoslavije, s latiničnim i ćiriličnim nazivom mjesta, kao i stare zalihe razglednica, dopisnica i poštanskih maraka.
- Najranije do 18. kolovoza 1941. koristile su se i nadalje dopisnice Kraljevine Jugoslavije, s gumenim žigom u cilju „nacionalizacije“ poštanskih dokumenata Kraljevine, a u poštanskom uredu je na raspolaganju i uporabi bio i novi latinični žig Lovinca „s mostom“.
- Dopisnice poslane iz Lovinca bile su predmet i RUR cenzure, vjerojatno u Gospiću kao tranzitnom poštanskom centru ili u većim gradovima po prispjeću pošiljaka (Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek...).
- Najkasnije od 18. kolovoza 1941. u Lovincu su bile u uporabi (i) tiskane dopisnice NDH s otišnutom markom od 1 kn s prikazom Velebita.



Slika 8. Žigovi na dvije dopisnice NDH poslane 18. 9. i 27. 9. 1941. iz Lovinca (iz zbirke D. Šarić)

Figure 8. Postmarks on two NDH postal stationery cards sent from Lovinac on 18 and 27 September 1941 (from the collection of D. Šarić)

I, Nos. 4–8: 92). The Velebit motif on the printed 1-kuna stamp found on this postal stationery is the same as what is used on the 1-kuna stamp in the first regular series of NDH postage stamps, popularly known as “Krajobrazi” (Landscapes).

The earliest discovered examples of this NDH postal stationery sent from the Lovinac post office bear a postmark dated 16 September 1941 (Figure 7), showing the newly introduced impression of a double-circle handstamp with the “bridge.”

The author has in her possession similar specimens of this stationery bearing the Lovinac handstamp impressions dated 18 September and 27 September 1941 (Figure 8). Both, however, were canceled using the old “aptated” (modified) postmark from the period of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, which indicates that both types of handstamps remained in use at the post office at the same time.

Research has uncovered identical postal stationery bearing a message dated a full month earlier (18 August 1941; see Figure 9), written in

Sveti Rok (a settlement within the Municipality of Lovinac), containing a remark along the margin of the postal card, with the sender stating that he will be entrust the postal card to a traveler departing by train for Zagreb, who would then post it there, presumably to ensure faster and more reliable delivery, given that the card was to be sent to a Zagreb address.

On its front side, this postal stationery was canceled with a machine (so-called “metered”) handstamp, only partially legible (most likely dated 20 August 1941), and probably applied at a larger post office in Zagreb (e.g., Zagreb 2 Post Office at the Main Railway Station).

Conclusion

A summary of developments in postal operations at the Lovinac post office during the observed period can be briefly outlined as follows:

- In April and May 1941, the Lovinac handstamp of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, bearing the place



Slika 9. Isječak stražnje strane dopisnice pisane u Sv. Roku na kojoj se vidi kako je tekst datiran 18. 8. 1941. te dio prednje strane s poništenjem tzv. „metered“ žigom, najvjerojatnije 20. 8. 1941.

Figure 9. Detail of the reverse side of a postal card written in Sveti Rok, showing the message dated 18 August 1941, and part of the front side with a cancellation using a so-called “metered” handstamp, most likely dated 20 August 1941

- Najkasnije od 21. kolovoza 1941. u uporabi su prve provizorne poštanske marke NDH, čime prestaje potreba za uporabom gumenog žiga „nacionalizacije“ na pismima.
- U rujnu 1941. u pošti Lovinac su i dalje u uporabi oba poštanska žiga (stari „aptirani“ žig i novi žig „s mostom“).

Zbog skromne dostupnosti filatelističkog materijala Lovinca iz ovog razdoblja (Pavičić i sur., 1987: 125–128), koje je višekратно bilo napadano i okupirano od raznih vojnih formacija, opljačkano i spaljeno tijekom Drugoga svjetskog rata; kao i kasnije u



Slika 10. Žigovi pošte Lovinac na marci i isječku paketske karte u periodu listopad – studeni 1941. (iz zbirke Krešimira Zlonoge)

Domovinskom ratu, na temelju sabranog materijala prikupljanog kroz dvadesetak godina sačinjena je ova rekonstrukcija promjena u poštanskom prometu pošte Lovinac u prvim mjesecima 2. svjetskog rata tijekom prelaska iz Kraljevine Jugoslavije u NDH, uz uporabu novih izdanja poštanskih maraka (Slika 10.). Pošta u Lovincu je, nakon promatranog razdoblja, nastavila svoj rad kao redovna pošta u okviru NDH, a uslijed ratnih događanja (osvajanja Lovinca i okolnih mjesta 24./25. prosinca 1942. od partizana) pošta je zatvorena 25. prosinca 1942. te su tadašnji žigovi pošte Lovinac izgubljeni.

name in both Latin and Cyrillic scripts, remained in use, as well as the existing inventory of postcards, postal cards, and postage stamps.

- The postal cards of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia continued to be used until at least 18 August 1941, accompanied by the application of a rubber handstamp for the purpose of “nationalizing” postal documents of the former state. Also, the new Latin-script Lovinac handstamp with the “bridge” was already available and in use at the post office.
- Postal cards sent from Lovinac were also the subject of RUR censorship, most likely in Gospić, which acted as a transit postal center, or in larger cities upon arrival, such as Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, and Osijek.
- No later than 18 August 1941, the first printed NDH postal cards with an imprinted 1-kuna stamp depicting Velebit were in use in Lovinac.
- No later than 21 August 1941, the first provisional NDH postage stamps went into circulation, eliminating the need for the rubber “nationalization” handstamp on letters.

- In September 1941, both types of postal handstamps (the old “aptated” postmark and the new postmark with the “bridge”) continued to be used at the Lovinac post office.

This reconstruction of changes in postal operations in the early months of the Second World War, during the transition from the Kingdom of Yugoslavia to the NDH, is based on material collected over a period of approximately twenty years, made all the more harder due to the limited availability of philatelic sources from Lovinac for this period (Pavičić et al., 1987: 125–128), and a consequence of the fact that Lovinac was repeatedly attacked, occupied, looted, and burned during the Second World War, and later again during the Croatian War of Independence. Following the treated period, the Lovinac post office operated as a regular postal office within the NDH. However, the later wartime events (the capture of Lovinac and surrounding settlements by Partisan forces on 24–25 December 1942) led to the closure of the post office on 25 December 1942, and the handstamps in use at that time were lost.

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