

Bosnia Kiloware - Another Seward's Folly?

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Being a "Specialist" of Bosnian Philately, I was keenly interested in an offer by a local Washington, DC stamp dealer -- Jack Essig, the owner/operator of Red Dog Stamps, to purchase a large amount of pre WWI Bosnian kiloware. The material consisted predominately of the receipt portion of package and postal money order forms. The magnitude, however, was a problem. There was almost 40 kilos (86 pounds) of this material.

A sampling disclosed a wide variety of town cancels (one of my many projects) a few perforation varieties (my passion), and numerous perfins (a growing interest). The material was mostly pre-World War I, dated from 1903 through 1912. There was a fair amount of material from 1914 and only a few pieces from 1917.

Against the advice of several of my philatelic colleagues, I made the purchase! One of my colleagues commented on my "foolish" purchase -- after all, who in the world wants anything to do with Bosnian philately! Well, if the purchase is considered foolish, I liken it to Seward's Folly - the purchase of Alaska! The kiloware has provided a wealth of philatelic information. I now have the opportunity to update information on town cancels, perforation varieties, and perfins. The last item is what I hope to accomplish with this article.

I found eight different perfins (see table 1) from four different stamp issues. More importantly I found several specific perfins used in several towns (see table 2). The first of these - P.A.K.B. - the Privilegierte Agrar & Kommerzial Bank - apparently had offices in both Sarajevo and Brcko (Birch-koe). I have a record of the Sarajevo office, but the Brcko was new information. The second perfin, a much more common one - S.R.P. - Schmarada, Rotter and Perschitz Trading and Transit Company, apparently had offices in Sarajevo, Mostar, and Bosanski Brod (Bos. Brod). Again, the Sarajevo and Mostar information was known - the Bosanski Brod information was new.

The 86 pounds of kiloware yielded many interesting cancels, etc., but just slightly over two ounces of perfins with a total of 91 perforated stamps. With such a large volume of "raw material", I may have missed a number of perfins and cancels. Hopefully, anyone who may have purchased some of the kiloware from me will report their findings, either to me or to The Perfins Club.

The information in tables 1 and 2 is presented in the format similar to that which The Perfins Club provided

to me. Hopefully, it can be incorporated into the "master" database. I will be happy to update The Perfins Club of any future perfins findings.

Table 1
Perfins found in Kiloware

Issue	1900	1901	1906	1910	1912
CD			10		
EZ	2	1	24		4
K			1		
LLH					1
PAKB			12		
PLB			1		
SRP	5	5	16		2
TT			7		

Table 2
Distribution of perfins by issue and town

Issue	1900	1901	1906	1910	1912
PAKB (Brcko)			2		
PAKB (Sarajevo)		10			
SRP (Bos. Brod)		6			
SRP (Mostar)		5			
SRP (Sarajevo)	5		10		2