



PHILATELIC BULLETIN

Sarasota Philatelic Club

2026

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President:	Patricia Stilwell Walker
VP Operations:	Liz Hisey
VP Programs:	Mark Isaacs
Treasurer:	Dan Walker
Secretary:	Jack Harwood — acting
Editor:	Vincent Centonze
Directors:	Vacant
	Dick Murphy
	Vacant

2026 BOOSTERS

Mariano DeLise	Phil Billard
Dawn Hamman	Liz Hisey
John Hamman	Paul Cassidy
Juan Calvo	David Harper
Larry Smith	Vincent Nesci
Jim Feil	Pat & Dan Walker
Jack Seaman	Al Light
Ed Fraser	

Stamp Quiz



Congratulations to Bob Inderbitzen

and Bill DiPaolo for correctly guessing last month's Stamp Quiz! It was Denmark, Scott 97, Facit 131, 5 ore King Christian X. The stamp is part of a series issued from 1913—1938. Stay tuned for next month's Stamp Quiz.



Bosnia & Herzegovina Compound Perforated Landscape Issues A Mathematical and Philatelic Challenge

By Vincent Centonze

Bosnia & Herzegovina was a province occupied by the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1878 and formally annexed in 1908. Beginning in 1879 stamps were issued for the territory. In 1906 the first stamps to bear the name of Bosnia & Herzegovina were issued. The series of stamps is known as the Landscape Issue and the finely engraved, bold geometric patterns make these stamps among the most beautiful ever produced. The set was issued on November 1, 1906, and consists of 16 stamps with denominations consisting of 1 heller (h) 2h, 3h, 5h, 6h, 10h, 20h, 25h, 30h, 35h, 40h, 45h, 50h, 1 krone (k), 2k, and 5k (Scott 30-45). A favorite issue of many worldwide collectors, it was produced by the Austrian State Printing Works in Vienna. The stamps were printed on unwatermarked paper and the initial primary perforation gauge used was 12½; however, as we shall see, many perforation varieties exist.

This story starts when the first printing occurred in fall of 1906. The *Kaiserlich und Königlich* (K.u.K.) *Kriegsministerium* (meaning "Imperial and Royal" Austro-Hungarian War Ministry) administered the postal system in Bosnia & Herzegovina. The K.u.K. War Ministry ordered imperforate sheets and sheets perforated 12½ for each stamp to be shipped from Vienna to Sarajevo in time to meet the proposed date of issue. Mysteriously, the shipment was lost on the Sava River while transiting through the northern Bosnian town of Brod, so the stamps had to be quickly replaced to meet the deadline.

In addition, to determine the perf pattern best suited to easy separation of these large format stamps, the K.u.K. War Ministry ordered the Austrian State Printing Works to produce sheets fully perforated 9¼ and sheets fully perforated 12½. Stamps can be found with each of these perfs. The K.u.K. Ministry also commissioned perf trials to produce sheets with a mix of gauges 9¼ and 12½. Presumably, the sheets were to be perforated 9¼ in only one orientation and 12½ in the other, although it didn't turn out that way. Hence, stamps can be found in a mix of compound perfs with these two gauges. When such a compound is produced with two perf gauges on one stamp, it is called a "double" compound. Figure 1 shows a double compound 3h stamp perforated 9¼ X 12½ X 12½ X 9¼.

Figure 1. Double compound 3h stamp perforated 9¼ X 12½ X 12½ X 9¼. Double compounds occurred when two different perf gauges are used on the stamp. This beautifully engraved stamp shows the Pliva Gate in Jajce, Bosnia.



Continued on next page



The Prez Sez ...

The Club is changing its meeting day back to the first Tuesday of the month. As noted in a separate email our meeting location will be in the “Bar Room” at The Alloro. A big thanks to newish member Pattie Lanier, who is a resident at this complex, for putting us in touch with their Activities Director that made this possible. I hope to see many of you there in April. A major advantage is that there are no restrictions on buying/selling philatelic material as there are at the Library.

Dan Walker will be giving the program on Tuesday April 7th—gather at 5:30, program will start at approx. 6 PM.

Please join me in congratulating our Vice President—Liz Hisey—for receiving the John N Luff Award for Service to the APS. She will sign the Scroll at a special ceremony during the Boston 2026 international show.

Your Editor Vince Centonze is asking for short (or long) articles from members—Vince has been providing thoughtful content for most issues since he assumed the Editor role and he’s running out of ideas! So help him out and write about one of your favorite items.

Pat

Bosnia & Herzegovina Compound Perforated Landscape Issues (cont.)

Inexplicably, the State Printing Works also produced test perfs in gauges $6\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ on the same sheet. Most likely this was because a year earlier, in 1905, the State Printing Works had released a “Special Issue” of the previous Bosnia & Herzegovina small format stamps with these mixed gauge perfs. The State Printing Works most likely misunderstood the K.u.K. War Ministry’s orders and incorrectly assumed the Ministry wanted the Landscape Issue to be perforated similarly to the 1905 “Special Issue.” As a result, a random assortment of perforating pins with gauges $6\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ were used on the same sheets, both horizontally and vertically. Hence, stamps can be found in compound with two or three different gauges on one stamp. When three different gauges occur on one stamp, it is called a “triple” compound. Figure 2 shows a block of four double compound 2h stamps. The vertical perfs are, from left to right: $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. The horizontal perfs are, from top to bottom: $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. The block consists of four stamps, each with different double compound perfs. Figure 3 shows a triple compound 5k stamp perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ x $6\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{4}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$. In the haste to replace the stamps lost in transit, the mixed perf sheets were sent along with the sheets that were fully perforated $9\frac{1}{4}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$.



Figure 2. Block of four double compound 2h stamps. The vertical perfs are, from left to right: $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. The horizontal perfs are, from top to bottom: $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. Therefore, the block consists of four stamps, each with different double compound perfs.

This random assortment of differing gauges used on the same sheets, horizontally and vertically, is significant because it adds many additional varieties. For example, the heller denominations, which were printed in sheets of 50: ten horizontal rows of stamps by five vertical rows of stamps. These sheets had 11 rows of horizontal perfs and six rows of vertical perfs. The perf gauges on each horizontal and vertical row varied, even for sheets of the same denomination stamps.



Figure 3. Triple compound 5k Franz Josef stamp perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ x $6\frac{1}{2}$ x $9\frac{1}{4}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$.

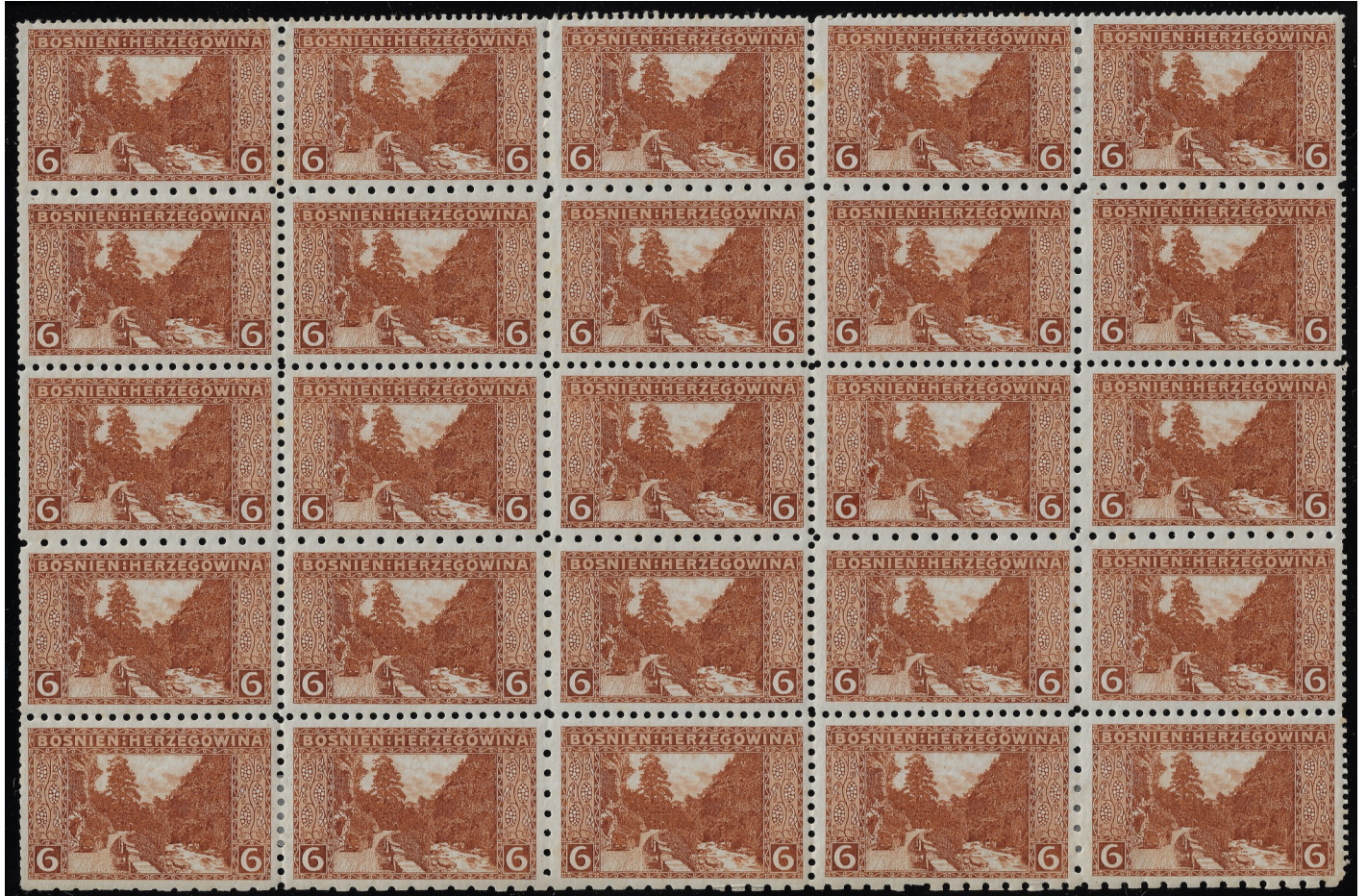
For example, Figure 4 shows a half sheet of 25 of the 6h stamps with compound perfs. It has only five horizontal rows of stamps (we don’t know whether it is the top five rows or bottom five rows) but it has all five vertical rows of stamps. This means that it has all six vertical rows of perfs. The vertical perf gauges are, from left to right: $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{4}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{4}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. This order of vertical rows comprises all the vertical rows on the sheet. However, Figure 5 shows a double compound block of four of the 6h stamps in which the vertical row perf gauges are, from left to right: $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. There is no way the block of four could have come from a sheet with the same order of perf gauges as the multiple of 25. This proves there were at least two combinations of perf gauges for sheets of the 6h stamps. There’s no reason to believe this was not the case for the other denominations, or that there were not more than two compound perf sheet variations.

Continued on next page

Bosnia & Herzegovina Compound Perforated Landscape Issues (cont.)

To complicate the matter further, the gauge $6\frac{1}{2}$ perforating pins were replaced at some point with gauge $10\frac{1}{2}$ perforating pins; therefore, perf gauges $9\frac{1}{4}$, $10\frac{1}{2}$, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ were used on the same sheets, horizontally and vertically. Individual stamps can be found in double and triple compounds with those gauges. Figure 6 shows a block of four triple compound 1h stamps. The vertical perfs are, from left to right: $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{4}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$. The horizontal perfs are, from top to bottom: $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. Each stamp has a different triple compound perf. However, gauge $6\frac{1}{2}$ is not found in conjunction with gauge $10\frac{1}{2}$. It is not known why the State Printing Works continued production of compound perf sheets with gauges $9\frac{1}{4}$, $10\frac{1}{2}$, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ after the first initial group of compound sheets with gauges $6\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ was produced.

If this is not confusing enough, it gets worse. Among the remainders, some stamps were found perforated 5 in double and triple compounds with both $9\frac{1}{4}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$. Gauge 5 is not found alone; therefore, it was probably inadvertently substituted for some gauge $6\frac{1}{2}$ pins. Unfortunately, it is unknown whether sheets of all 16 denominations were perforated with gauge 5 in compounds. Only a few denominations have been found in which that perf gauge was used. In addition, for some reason, sheets of the 6h and 20h were fully perforated with gauge $13\frac{1}{2}$.



(Above) Figure 4. Half sheet of 25 6h stamps with compound perfs showing all six vertical rows of perfs; vertical perf gauges from left to right: $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{4}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{4}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$.

(Right) Figure 5. Double compound block of four of the 6h stamps with vertical row perfs from left to right: $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. There is no way the block of four could have come from a sheet with the same order of perf gauges as the multiple of 25; therefore, there had to be at least two combinations of these vertical perf gauges.



Bosnia & Herzegovina Compound Perforated Landscape Issues (cont.)



Figure 6. Block of four triple compound 1h stamps. Vertical perfs from left to right: $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{4}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$. Horizontal perfs from top to bottom: $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$. Each stamp has different triple compound perfs.

assume that all 16 denominations were compound perforated with gauge 5, that will add yet another 1024 varieties (16 denominations x 64 novel possible combinations per denomination) for a maximum of 3296 collectible compound perf varieties. Suffice to say, we are certain that there are *between* 2272 and 3296 verified collectible compound perf varieties. In addition, each stamp can be found fully perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$, $10\frac{1}{2}$, and $12\frac{1}{2}$, as well as fully imperforate, for another 80 varieties. As mentioned earlier, the 6 and 20 heller can also be found fully perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$. Finally, there are many horizontal and vertical rows that were not perforated, leading to a host of imperf between pairs.

If you are as exasperated as I am by this point, you'll agree that it is an understatement to say that collecting all the compound perfs is a challenge. I'm glad I took probability and statistics in college to help me calculate the number of compound perf variations. I won't bore you with the math; although at some point I gave up and wrote out all the possible combinations to confirm those listed by Passer in his book, *The Postage Stamps of Bosnia & Herzegovina*. For each denomination with mixed perf gauges $6\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$, there are 78 collectible compound perf varieties. This includes all possible double and triple compounds. With mixed perf gauges, $9\frac{1}{4}$, $10\frac{1}{2}$, and $12\frac{1}{2}$, there are another 78 collectible compound perf varieties; however, 14 of the double compound varieties with perf gauges $9\frac{1}{4}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$, can already be found in the $6\frac{1}{2}$, $9\frac{1}{4}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$ compound sheets. So if we subtract those, there are 64 additional collectible compound perf varieties. This makes a total of 142 collectible compound perf varieties. Therefore, for the set of 16 stamps there are 2272 verified collectible compound perf varieties (16 denominations x 148 varieties per denomination). Remember that for perf gauge 5, it is *unknown* how many of the 16 denominations in the series had this perf, so there is some uncertainty. If we



Figure 7. Multiple of nine 30h stamps with compound perfs $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$. The intersection of two consecutive vertical rows perf $6\frac{1}{2}$ with two horizontal rows perf $6\frac{1}{2}$ lead to one stamp being fully perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$.

Continued on next page

Bosnia & Herzegovina Compound Perforated Landscape Issues (cont.)

Regarding the stamps that can be found fully perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$: this does not mean that full sheets were perforated with that perf gauge. It is common to find multiples fully perforated $9\frac{1}{4}$ and fully perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, yet I have never encountered multiples fully perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$. On the contrary, I believe that stamps fully perforated with gauge $6\frac{1}{2}$ occurred as a consequence of the intersection of two consecutive vertical rows perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$ with two horizontal rows perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$. That would create one stamp fully perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$. Figure 7 shows such a multiple of nine of the 30h stamp with compound perfs $6\frac{1}{2}$ and $12\frac{1}{2}$. Figure 8 shows an enlarged cropped image of the center stamp, which is fully perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$. This may not have been the case with stamps fully perforated $10\frac{1}{2}$, I have seen pairs and a block of four fully perforated $10\frac{1}{2}$. Although both are scarce, stamps fully perforated $10\frac{1}{2}$ are scarcer than those fully perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$.

Compound perforated landscape issues can also be found on cover. Many were philatelically inspired; genuine commercially used covers are less commonly seen. Figure 9 shows a cover from Sarajevo to the Philatelic Bureau in Vienna, Austria, franked with a 10h triple compound stamp perforated $6\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. The stamp correctly paid the rate the first-class letter from Bosnia & Herzegovina to Vienna, Austria. The first class letter rate from Bosnia & Herzegovina to any other location within the Austro-Hungarian Empire was the same as the domestic letter rate.

So, if you're up for a challenge, the 1906 Landscape Issue perf varieties should satisfy your appetite. However, be prepared to go over budget for these issues. It used to be much easier and less expensive to collect the varieties. All that changed in 2006 when the Scott *Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers* added separate listings for perf and compound perf varieties (Scott 30(a-1) - 45(a-1)). Prior to that time, the catalogue values were predicated only on the basic and most common perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ stamps. Following Scott's separate listings, prices soared, much to chagrin of Bosnia & Herzegovina collectors. Incredibly, catalogue values increased in some instances by over 5000% and well out of range of many collectors! Nevertheless, with careful and patient searching, you can still occasionally find compound perforated stamps in bargain boxes. Good luck and happy collecting!



References

Michel. "Österreich-Spezial 2009 (Austria Specialized 2009)". Unterschleissheim, Germany: Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, 2009.
Passer, Adolf. "Die Postwertzeichen von Bosnien und der Herzegovina (The Postage Stamps of Bosnia and Herzegovina)." Breslau, Germany: Barth & Comp. 1930. (Reprinted by Postilion Publications.)



Figure 8. Center stamp of the multiple of nine shown in the previous figure. The stamp is fully perforated $6\frac{1}{2}$.

For more information about the Landscape Issues, see the September 2022 issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin*.

(Left) Figure 9. Cover dated July 15, 1910, from Sarajevo, Bosnia, to an individual in the Philatelic Bureau in Vienna, Austria. The letter rate from Bosnia & Herzegovina to other locations within the Austro-Hungarian Empire was 10 heller, the same as the domestic rate within Bosnia & Herzegovina. The 10 heller stamp is triple compound perforated $6\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{4} \times 12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

Sarasota Philatelic Club

PO Box 20625 Bradenton, FL 34204

www.sarasotaphilatelicclub.org



APS Chapter 353

For information: sns-exhibits@comcast.net