

A simple card, but worth further study. Dated 17th November 1915, it was posted at a time when that part of the world was in the midst of an armed conflict. The stamp is a Hungarian one, SG 102 (Scott 87), and it is perfined with "E," which is the perfin of a firm, dealing with jute and linen, based in Budapest. It is an example of irregular use.

The postcard tells much more than what is in the words. I wonder where young Monar obtained the stamp, and what those thoughts crawling in his head were. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was at war with a large part of Europe and Romania was not then involved but was on the point of joining the conflict.

When Romania did enter the conflict in August 1916, many Transylvanian Hungarians fought on the Romanian side against the Austro-Hungarians as the Romanian forces swept into Subiu only to be repulsed and driven back by a counterattack at the battle of Subiu in September 1916. I wonder where Monar stood in all this.

After the war Monar may have come under Romanian rule as Transylvania, including Sibiu, was given to Romania by the Treaty of Trianon in 1920. This gave future stamp collectors an interesting range of Hungarian stamps overprinted for use in what had become Romania, but it must have proved troublesome for the Hungarian speaking population that became part of Romanian, including our Monar.

LATE '40'S ROMANIAN POST CARD FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES?

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Many postal administrations around the globe issued stamps and postal stationery for the specific purpose of training their employees on how to properly handle these items. Very well-known are the stamps for training (and testing) issued by the US postal administration. These were never intended to be released to the public or to reach the collectors market, however some examples have surfaced and ended-up in private collections. Obviously, most of such items were destroyed after fulfilling their purposes, making the surviving ones extremely desirable for those interested in collecting them.

The item illustrated here is apparently a training post card issued by the Romanian postal administration sometime in the late '40's. As one can see, it looks pretty much like all the common post cards issued in Romania at this time. However, there are three striking differences between this post card and the common ones issued by the Soviet imposed Communist regime in the late '40's. First, the post card in discussion is printed on very thin paper, versus cardboard. Secondly, in lieu of an imprinted stamp depicting the People's Democratic Republic of Romania coat of arms with a face value, there is a square with text that reads "Timbre /6 Lei" (Stamps /6 Lei). Six lei was the postal rate for sending a post card within Romania between May 1st 1948 and January 28th 1952, suggesting this "educational post card" (if we can call this item as such) was probably issued sometime between these dates. Thirdly, there is a red overprint diagonally applied that reads "Intrebuintare Scolara" ("Educational Use" as an approximate translation). It seems obvious that such an overprint was not intended for postal usage.



Until other documented opinions are provided the author would suggest that this post card was issued for educational purposes to be used in high schools under the Romanian Postal Administration patronage. Such high schools, where students were prepared to become employees of the Romanian Postal Administration, were common in large cities in Romania during the Communist regime, and perhaps even nowadays. What makes the author of this article believe that this particular post card was in use in such high schools is the presence of the word “Scolara” (Educational, related to school) in the text of the overprint. If such a post card would have been used for training of postal employees the presence of the word “Scolara” would have not made any sense.

One must not identify the post card illustrated here with such items as the post cards and picture post cards inscribed “Posta Copiilor” (Children’s Post), part of a very popular kids game in the early ‘70’s bearing the same name. Such items have absolutely nothing in common with the Romanian Postal Administration! However, such items surfaced recently on eBay and moreover, in most cases, they indeed found a buyer!

The item illustrated here issued by the Romanian Postal Administration for educational purposes is the only recorded example so far.

[Bonnie and Roger Riga the US Cinderella Dealers in an article in *Scott’s Stamp Monthly*, December 2002, illustrate three stamps that were used by the French Postal authorities. The stamps were used for training purposes and are known on various pieces of postal material, each with a cancellation of the training facility involved – these are much more rare. Edt.]