

***Romania: An unknown WW2 censor marking from Transylvania***

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The tumultuous changes in the postal system in Transylvania following August 23, 1944 have been the subject of several articles published in the available literature on modern Romanian postal history, thus most of the historical and postal facts about these changes are already known. Despite extensive work done by well-known postal history researchers, there are always more interesting postal related items from this period to be discovered. So is the item illustrated here. It is a postcard (20 lei imprinted stamp + additional 20 lei adhesive stamp to make the correct postal rate for a post card sent within Romania at that time) sent in October 19 1945 from Barlagu village, Arges County, to Tasnad, Salaj County, in Transilvania. One can see the Barlagu October 19 1945 departure postmark, Bucharest October 22 1945 transit machine cancellation, and the rectangular Tusnad-Blaja October 23 1945 money order arrival postmark. To my knowledge, this scarce type of TPO money order postmark has not been recorded before. What makes this post card even more interesting and extremely desirable is the presence of the rectangular violet censor marking visible in the lower left corner that reads "Cenzurat Zalau" (approx dimensions 52 x 14 mm). Zalau is the capital of Salaj County. The absence of any numbers in this marking suggests Zalau was a small censoring office and probably served by only one censor. When this censoring office was open, what were its operating conditions and when this office was closed are questions still remained to be answered. The existence of Zalau censor marking has been not known until now and the example illustrated here is the only one recorded so far. According to Thielk-Telegut in their 1995 reference book on censorship in Romania it is suspected there might be other cities in Transilvania where civilian censor markings were probably used from late 1944 to late 1945 but are still not known yet. Such cities are Dej, Baia-Mare, Carei, Miercurea-Ciuc, Nasaud, Odorhei, Satu-Mare, Tirgu-Mures. If exist, they remain to be discovered.



The only recorded example of Zalau WW2 civilian censor marking