

# Hungarian Stamps 2012

## HEALTH TOURISM – SPAS II



### Two new stamps in the Health Tourism – Spas series of postage stamps

Magyar Posta is expanding its regular stamp series Health Tourism – Spas with two new denominations. The philatelic novelties depict characteristic interior and exterior details of Budapest's Király and Rudas Baths. The graphics of the first day covers and the postmarks are decorated with compositions related to the baths. The stamps were made by printing company *Pénzjegynyomda* using artistic photographs by *József Hajdú* and designs by the graphic artist *Ferenc Svindt*.

The construction of the **Király Baths** (Budapest, District II, Fő u. 84) was started by Arslan, the Pasha of Buda, in 1565, and completed by his successor Sokoli Mustafa. It did not and does not have its own direct supply of thermal water as the Turks built the baths some distance from the springs within the city walls to ensure bathing could continue in the event of a siege. The water was fed from the neighbourhood of the Lukács Baths, as it still is today. A century after the end of Turkish rule, the baths came into the ownership of the König family in 1796, who rebuilt it to its present form, combining the old with the new while preserving its original character. The name of the König family in Hungarian (*király*), which means king, was adopted by the baths. The baths, which were damaged in the Second World War, were fully restored in 1950. There are 4 pools for public use. The thermal water contains sodium, calcium, magnesium, hydrocarbonate and sulphate chloride, and also has high fluoride ion content. It is recommended for the treatment of degenerative joint diseases, chronic and sub-acute arthritis, discus hernia, spinal deformity, neuralgia, skeletal calcium deficiency and post-accident rehabilitation.

The construction of the **Rudas Baths** (Budapest, District I, Döbrentei tér 9) between 1566 and 1572 is associated with the name of the pasha of Buda Sokoli Mustafa. It was an *Ilige* style bath, which used thermal water. The heart of the baths is the Turkish eight-columned hall with an octagonal pool. The columns support a semi-spherical dome, which lets light into the building. The dome hall has a square floor plan with semidomes in each corner and stalactite vaults beneath them, which are tiered and typical of Turkish architecture. In the Turkish era it was known as the green-columned baths, which archaeologists believe was named after a green column which is no longer extant. There are several explanations of its current name. One is that it was named after the pole (*rúd* in Hungarian) to which the ferry on the Danube moored, while others think that it is derived from the name the Serbs living in the neighbourhood used for the Baths, *Rudna Ilige*, meaning mineral baths. The building was greatly affected by the reconstruction works started in 2004. Today there are six steam pools and a swimming pool for visitors seeking relaxation and recovery. The radioactive thermal water contains sodium, calcium, magnesium, hydrocarbonate and sulphate, and also has high fluoride ion content. It is recommended for the treatment of degenerative joint diseases, chronic and sub-acute arthritis, discus hernia, neuralgia and skeletal calcium deficiency. (Source: [budapestgyogyfurdoi.hu](http://budapestgyogyfurdoi.hu))

Order code: 2012022050231 (set) 2012022060032 (Király FDC) 2012022060132 (Rudas FDC) • Date of issue: 22 March 2012 • Face value: HUF 495 • Number of copies issued dependent on demand • Perforated size: 40 x 30 mm (50 stamps/sheet) • Printed by Pénzjegynyomda • Photo by József Hajdú • Designed by Ferenc Svindt