

A selection of the items discussed in this issue

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## Edited by Andy Taylor

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PRESIDENT EDITOR TREASURER	Andy Taylor 10 Eastfields, Stokesley, North Yorkshire, TS9 5EJ <i>NB: if you telephone me you'll probably get an answering machine. If you leave a message I'll reply.</i>	Tel 01642 71 15 59 <a href="mailto:president@austrianphilately.com">president@austrianphilately.com</a> <a href="mailto:editor@austrianphilately.com">editor@austrianphilately.com</a> <a href="mailto:treasurer@austrianphilately.com">treasurer@austrianphilately.com</a>
CHAIRMAN	Colin Tobitt 59 Dumbreck Road, Eltham Park, London, SE9 1XF	Tel 020 82 65 42 51 <a href="mailto:tobittc@ntlworld.com">tobittc@ntlworld.com</a>
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## EDITORIAL 212

**For the avoidance of doubt: all views expressed in all the pages of this Journal are those of the writer(s) and not of the Austrian Philatelic Society, which does not have views on any matter whether philatelic, political, or other unless explicitly so stated.**

I announced in the last issue the plan to celebrate the APS's 75th with a **Festschrift**, composed mainly of single pages from as many members as wish to contribute, describing and illustrating some choice item from their collections. So far 7 offerings have arrived, all from abroad! Is there anyone out there? Contributions are unlikely to "break international law in a very specific and limited way"!

**I'll say it very loud and clear / We quickly need an Auctioneer!  
So once again both clear and loud / Step forwards! Of yourself be proud**

A Gold medal in the Postal History category was awarded to APS member Peter Chadwick FRPSL for 'Routes and Chargemarks of the London Country Sorting Offices' at ESTONIA 2020, the Estonian Philatelic Exhibition, Tartu, 10–12 July.

Our congratulations to Briefmarkensammlerverein Favoriten, who celebrate their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They have produced a Festschrift illustrating many of their activities over that time (see "Notes"); and a special Stamp Block. I had hoped to get a copy of the block in December, but planning a visit to Austria is at present slightly more difficult than one to the back side of the moon. Can I get there? Will they let me in if I do? Can I get back? And will I be allowed into the UK – or have to promise to go straight home, without passing GO or collecting £200?

The APS does what it can to realise the philatelic assets of deceased members, if their heirs so wish. There is however a limit to the amount of material we can handle in a given year – and, thanks to Covid, we're pretty close to it ☹️ We're trying the experiment of fixed-price-sales alongside the normal Auction – see the Newsletter for more information and this quarter's lists. If this is even partly successful, more will follow: the queue is rather long.

Meanwhile, two gems of computer-translation to cheer you up you. An article about the Vienna New Year's Concert says "Insgesamt erklingen im traditionell straußlastigen Programm neun Novitäten". This was dutifully translated into "A total of nine novelties will be heard in the traditionally ostrich-heavy program" And a Hungarian WWI charity label is inscribed "VITEZ HARCOSAINK ES AZ ELESETTEK OZVEGYEI-ÁRVÁI JAVARA". I don't know what it means, but probably not "OUR WITCHES OF VITEZ AND THE GOODS OF THE FALLS OF THE FALLING". (Better minds than mine are working on this...)

I know that some of you have been writing up all those items lurking in shoeboxes – I'd love to turn scans of your pages into an article! Others fully intended to, but were forestalled by illness, or ran out of paper, or had urgent problems such as an excess of giant house spiders (Große Winkelspinne) – 'giant' as in 'needs a pint glass to capture it undamaged'. I can cope with one, even two, but five in ten days is excessive.

Finally, the President, the Treasurer, and the Editor wish you as happy a Christmastime as circumstances permit, and hope that next year will be somewhat nearer 'normal' and that some of our traditional activities can resume in some form.

***Bleib' gesund!***

***Andy Taylor***

# TWO LETTERS FROM AUSTRIA TO NOVA SCOTIA

by Keith Brandon

These two letters, ten years apart are from the same family correspondence from Trieste to Halifax, Nova Scotia, but one of them took an unscheduled diversion en route!



The first letter was dated Trieste 11 November 1831 pre-paid to the Austrian border and then sent unpaid to Halifax, Nova Scotia. The letter is written in English by a nephew to his uncle. It concerns legal arrangements for continuation of the family business after the sudden death of another uncle. The letter travelled from Trieste to Milan, to Bregenz, through Switzerland to Huningue (on the French side of the border with Switzerland) to Calais, to London, to Falmouth and by sea to Halifax.

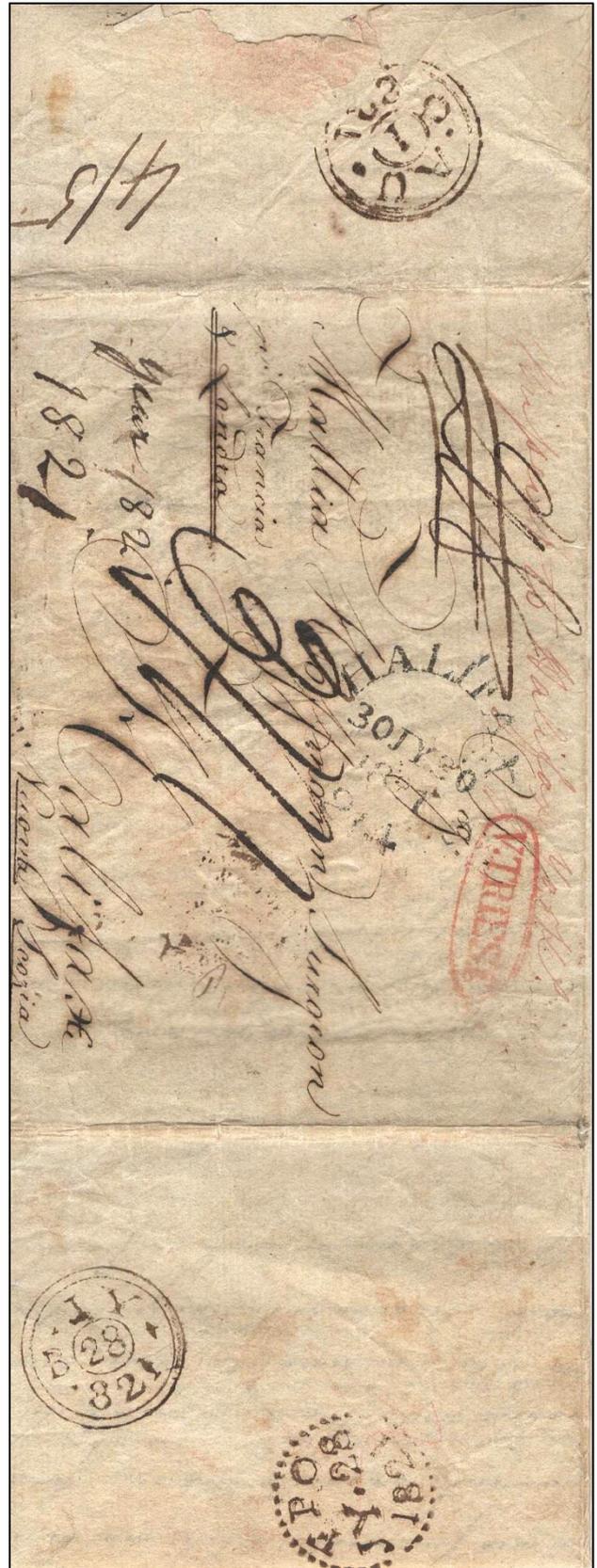
The letter is hand-stamped with a faint oval **V. TRIEST** and boxed **L.I.** (= Lettre Italienne, an Austro-French postal-treaty-mark applied in Milan). There are two London date-stamps; **FPO / NO 25 / 1831** and **Q / NO 25 / 1831**. The letter has two disinfection-slits and shows discoloration from the vinegar-bath. Austria suffered an outbreak of plague (from Russia) in 1831, and letters to foreign destinations were purified.

From London the letter would have gone to Falmouth to be carried on the packet-ship *Opossum* under Captain Peter, departing on 14 December and arriving in Halifax, Nova Scotia on 1 February 1832. The rate of 2sh/8d, marked on the front, comprises 2sh/2d packet-rate from London to Falmouth to Halifax plus 6d due to France for French and Swiss charges.

The second letter was sent ten years earlier, dated Trieste 13 July 1821. A different nephew is writing (in Italian) to the same uncle and appealing to him to allow him to emigrate to Nova Scotia. The letter was pre-paid to the Austrian border and marked *via Francia & Londra* and postmarked **V. TRIEST**.

The route was the same as for the other letter EXCEPT that the London sorting office directed the letter to Halifax, Yorkshire instead of Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the top of the letter in faint manuscript is the note *Missent to Halifax, Yorks*, and it was postmarked there **HALIFAX / 30 JY 30 / 1821**. There are three circular London date-stamps from both before and after the detour to Yorkshire. The letter then sailed from Falmouth to Halifax, Nova Scotia on 18 August on the packet *Marquis of Queensbury* under Captain Hannah, arriving on 21 September.

Marked on the front is the rate 2sh/8d, crossed through and replaced by 3sh/11d. The London - Falmouth - Halifax packet-rate was 2sh/2d, with 6d due to France making up the first charge. The 3sh/11d is hard to explain. There should not have been a charge for the misdirection to Yorkshire, but the inland rate from Halifax back to London and on to Falmouth was 1sh/2d, not the 1sh/3d needed to make up 3sh/11d. This appears to be a mistake by the British post-office. The author would be pleased to hear from Members who can offer a better explanation for this charge.



# FALSELY CANCELLED SLOVENIAN AND ILLYRIAN REPLY-PAID POSTAL CARDS OF THE 1876 ISSUE

By Frans Jorissen

On 17 July 1880, Austria issued its first reply-paid postal cards, with the same brown 2 Kreuzer stamp as the cards issued in 1876. At that time, ordinary postal cards were available in a German version as well as in 7 bilingual versions. The text on the cards was either entirely in German, or in German and in one of the other languages used in the Austrian Empire. The reply-paid portion was of course in the same language(s) as the outgoing part. The precise dates of issue of the individual cards are not precisely known, but we know that the Romanian card was issued last, somewhere in 1882. These cards are listed as numbers 33 to 41 in Schneiderbauer (1981) and as numbers 18A+F to 25A+F in Ferchenbauer (2008).

An additional reply-paid card with a face value of 5 Kreuzer for foreign destinations was issued on 1 August 1880, the day Austria's signature of the UPU Special Convention on Reply-Paid Postal Cards became operational (Gough, 2019). This card is nr 42 in Schneiderbauer (1981) and card nr 27A+F in Ferchenbauer (2008).

It is interesting to note that when these reply-paid cards were used between areas with different (dominant) languages, very often at first view their usage doesn't seem logical. We would expect that the outbound card would be in the language of the sender, whereas the response card would be sent back from another language area. For instance, someone living in Vienna should logically send a German card to his correspondents in Bohemia or Italy, who would then send back the German response card, bearing a cancel from a Bohemian or Italian-speaking area.

Most of the time, this is not what we see. It is far more common to see that Viennese merchants sent Bohemian paid-reply cards to Bohemia, and Italian ones to Krain and Tirol, so that the (Bohemian and Italian) reply cards are cancelled in areas where these languages were dominant. I think that this is the case, because out of politeness many merchants sent their customers cards in their own language.

While these reply-paid cards are very common unused, correctly used specimens are more difficult to find. German and Bohemian cards are quite common, Italian and Polish cards are much scarcer, Slovenian and Ruthenian cards are rare, whereas Illyrian and Romanian cards are outright rarities. This is true for the outbound cards, and to an even larger degree for the response cards. The prices in most catalogues don't reflect the rarity of these cards.

It was therefore a rare occasion when in October last year, together with two normal Illyrian cards, two (outbound) Slovenian reply-paid cards and one (outbound) Illyrian reply-paid card were offered on Ebay. One of the Slovenian reply-paid cards was especially interesting, because it was cancelled on 20 June 1880, almost one month before the official date of issue (17 July 1880). This could be possible if these cards had been sold at larger post offices before the official date of issue.

Once I received the cards I won, I could consider them more closely. I started by inserting the first card into my excel file. It is a normal bilingual Illyrian card (Fig. 1), sent from Mautern in Steiermark on 27 November 1880 to Wernsdorf (29 November 1880), a very rare office in Bohemia (50 Klein points, today Vernéřov, a hamlet belonging to the village Klášterec nad Ohří, close to Kadaň) that only opened on 3 November 1880, according to Klein/Rieger (2001).



Fig. 1. Illyrian card from Mautern in Steiermark (27/11/1880) to Wernsdorf in Bohemia (29/11/1880)

It immediately struck me that I already had a very similar card, but strangely enough used in the opposite direction (Fig. 2). It is of course very strange (but not impossible) to find an Illyrian card used in Bohemia. It was even stranger that these two very uncommon (and very similar) cards were not sent between the same two persons. The card in Fig. 1 was signed by a certain Isidor, and sent to his “dear friend” Adolf Lenzberg, whereas the card in Fig. 2 was signed by a certain Franz, and sent to his “dear sister” Amalia Eigner.



Fig. 2. Illyrian card from Wernsdorf in Bohemia (15/1/1881) to Mautern in Steiermark (17/1/1881).

When looking closer at these cards, I noticed that the “An/Na” before the first address line was very small on both cards, much smaller than on my other Illyrian cards. However, my handbooks told me that this card exists only in a single type. Looking further, I found out that reprints exist, and that these reprints differ from the original ones precisely by the smaller “An/Na”. But according to Ferchenbauer (2001), these reprints had only become available in July/August 1894 whereas my cards boast cancels of 1880 and 1881!

By now, all my alarms were on red! Reading further, I found a short remark in Schneiderbauer (1981): “Achtung! Die Karten Nr. 37-40 kommen falsch gestempelt vor”, which means “cards 37 to 40 (bilingual Ruthenian, Slovenian, Illyrian and Romanian reply-paid cards) exist with false cancels”. It seemed obvious now that both

my two Illyrian cards had false cancels. I should have realised this much earlier, because the double ring cancel of Mautern is only known on the 1890 stamp issue, and didn't exist in 1880/1881.

Time to have a closer look at the reply-paid cards. A Slovenian outbound reply-paid card (Fig. 3) was sent from Riva in Tirol, today in Italy, on the Garda Lake (17 November 1881) to Monasterzyska in Galizia, now in the Ukraine (20 November 1881). It is surprising that it took only 3 days to travel about 1400 km.



Fig. 3. Slovenian reply-paid card, outbound card, from Riva (17 November 1881) to Monasterzyska (20 November 1881).

A second Slovenian outbound reply-paid card (Fig. 4), acquired by another ebayer, was sent from Sutvara, Dalmatia (21 May 1881), again to Monasterzyska, Galicia (24 May 1881). Whereas the previous card (Fig. 3) was sent by a certain Adèle to Frau Pauline von Rusnow, this card was sent by a certain Johann Jordan to Herr Jakob Hausner.



Fig. 4. Slovenian reply-paid card, outbound card, from Sutvara (21 May 1881) to Monasterzyska (24 May 1881).

The village of Sutvara, south of the Bay of Kotor, is today part of Montenegro. According to Richter's Geographisch-Statistisches Lexicon (1883), the village counted only 93 inhabitants in the early 1880s. Consequently, the cancel of Sutvara, which Klein/Richter (2001) mentions only on stamps of the 1883 and 1990 issues, is very rare. Of course, for such a very small postal office, the information given by Klein/Richter (2001) is not necessarily complete.

The reader should realise that the distance between Sutvara and Monasterzyska, passing through Triest and Vienna, is about 1900 km, of which about 600 km is over the sea. It seems totally impossible that in 1880, such a distance could be covered in only three days - which makes this another very suspicious (and rather expensive) card.

The last item (Fig. 5) is a very rare outbound Illyrian reply-paid card, from Riva (26 June 1880) to Tarnow in Galicia (29 June 1880), still some 1100 km in 3 days.



Fig. 5. Illyrian reply-paid card, outbound card, from Riva (26 June 1880) to Tarnow (29 June

This is the card cancelled about one month before the official date of issue (17 July 1880): which could be explained by the fact that these cards were already sold before this date. This card has been written with the same blue ink as the other two response cards. All cards are written with a very readable hand-writing.

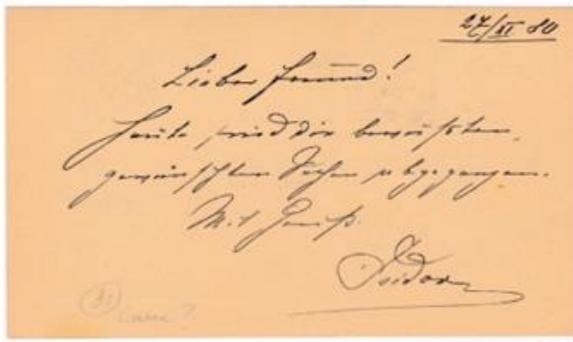
Finally, I looked at the written contents on the back of these 5 cards (Fig. 6).

All five cards contain short and trivial messages like “traveling is agreeable” (card 5) and “the weather is nice” (card 3). The handwriting on cards 1, 2 and 4 appears to be the same. Remark that this person notes the date in exactly the same, somewhat unusual way, as 27/XI/80 (card 1), 15/I/81 (card 2) and 21/V/81 (card 4). The contents of card 2 are remarkable, the sender writes “I’ll arrive today with the 7h40”. The writer may refer to a train leaving at 7h40 in the morning, but it seems highly unlikely that in 1881 a person could travel the almost 600 km between Wernsdorf and Mautern in a single day.

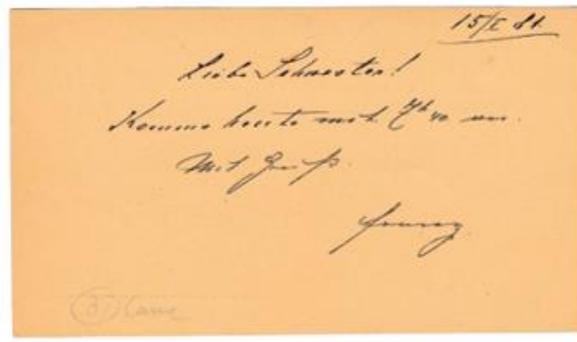
Summarising, because of the discrepancy of the dates of the cancels and the dates of issue of these reprints, it seems 100% certain that the cancels on the two Slovenian cards (Figs. 1 and 2) are false.

For the three response cards, except maybe for the precocious date of the card in Fig. 5, there are no conclusive elements that prove irrefutably that these cancels are false, but the circumstantial evidence is overwhelming:

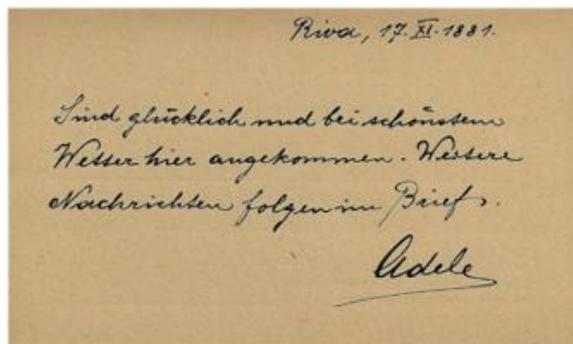
1) It can hardly be imagined that two (rare) postal reply cards have been sent from two different towns (Sutvara and Riva), by two different persons, to two different persons in the small town of Monasterzyka (4150 inhabitants in 1883). And that both cards have been preserved!



Mautern - Wernsdorf 1880



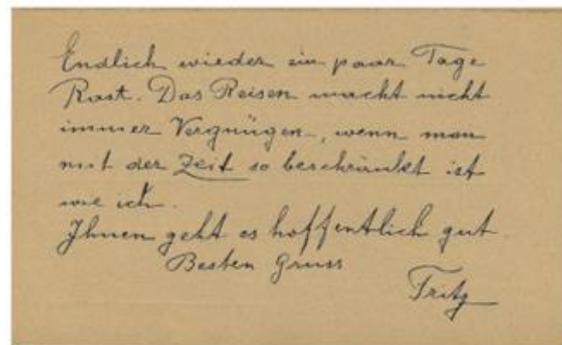
Wernsdorf-Mautern 1881



Riva-Monasterzyska 1881



Sutvara-Monasterzyska 1881



Riva-Tarnow 1880

Fig. 6. Written contents on the backs of the cards shown in Figs 1 to 5.

- 2) Riva is on Lake Garda, where bilingual Italian cards would normally be used. In my collection, there are 4 other cards sent from Riva in this period, and they are all Italian cards. It seems impossible that Illyrian postal reply-paid cards were sold in Riva one month before the official emission date.
- 3) The departure cancel of Monasterzyska is different from the same cancel on other cards from this period. The letters are farther away from the circle, and the name is shorter in print.
- 4) The very small village of Sutvara is today in Montenegro - where Illyrian cards should be used, and not Slovenian cards, as the card in Fig. 4. It should have been impossible to acquire a Slovenian card there!
- 5) It seems impossible that a card has travelled from Sutvara to Monasterzyska (1900 km) in only 3 days!!
- 6) Why would these persons have used postal cards with a paid answer, to send extremely trivial messages, which did not at all ask for an answer. And if they nevertheless intended to have an answer, why isn't the return address filled in, as is very often the case with unused response cards.

- 7) Like the 2 Slovenian cards in Figs. 1 and 2, the three reply-paid cards look like new, like they never travelled.
- 8) On all five cards, the arrival cancels are exactly on the same spot.
- 9) I checked, but none of the persons has left any trace on the internet, which is in my experience very uncommon, especially for the (wife of the) owner of an estate (Fig. 3) or a merchant (Fig. 5).
- 10) The similar handwriting on the back of cards 1, 2 and 4.

In view of this long list, for me it is 100% clear that these three reply-paid cards make a part of a simultaneously prepared batch, which have been cancelled with stolen and/or false cancels in the 1890s. They have never travelled.

To finish, personally, I have some mixed feelings about this story. On the one hand, I'm disappointed that my cards turn out to be falsifications, but on the other hand, the experience is not wholly negative. I spent some money on falsifications, but I learned a lesson, this won't happen to me again!

## Epilogue

Two days after having sent the penultimate version of this short article to my friend Wil Beskers for a final check by someone who knows the subject, I got the following answer:

**Die Karten 37–40 kommen mit rückdatierten Abgangs- und Ankunftsstempeln vor (bisher gefunden Delatyn, Dicmo, Mautern in Steiermark, Monasterzyska, Riva, Sutvara, Tarnow, Wadowice, Wernsdorf und Zupa). Auch die Neudruckkarte N. 31 wurde so gefunden.**

“You’re missing a couple of cancels: Delatyn, Dicmo, Wadowice and Zupa. Just have a look a page 840 of the Ascher catalogue!.....Need I say more ?!”

The only thing I could do after reading this cryptic message was to go to page 840 of this “postal stationery bible”, where I found:

“Cards 37 to 40 (FJ: the bilingual Ruthenian, Slovenian, Illyrian and Romanian reply-paid cards) exist with backdated departure and arrival cancels (found until now Delatyn, Dicmo, Mautern in Steiermark, Monasterzyska, Riva, Sutvara, Tarnow, Wadowice, Wernsdorf and Zupa). Also the reprinted card N31 (FJ: the bilingual Illyrian card) exists in this way”.

It is remarkable that what Ascher (1925) wrote 95 years fully confirms my conclusions. All the cards and cancels shown in this article are on his list! If I had read the Ascher catalogue earlier, or if I had retained this information when I read it in the past, this article wouldn't exist! However, in the end, I'm quite happy of having made this small enquiry, and even more so because I arrived at the right conclusion!

## Acknowledgements:

I am very grateful to James P. Gough, for having drawn my attention on the precocious date of the bilingual Illyrian reply-paid card, which incited me to look closer at these cards, and to Wil Beskers for alerting me to the text in the Ascher catalogue.

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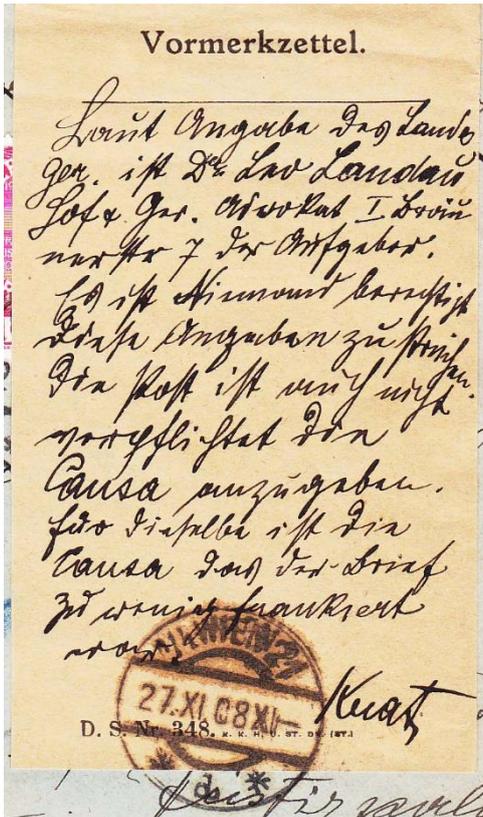
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Klein, W., 1967. Die postalischen Abstempelungen und andere Entwertungsarten auf den österreichische Postwertzeichen-Ausgaben 1867, 1883 und 1890. Newly revised edition by Rieger, E., 2001, 99 + 737 pp. Cited as Klein/Rieger, 2001.

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The envelope is addressed to the “Landesgericht in C.R.S.” at the Justizpalasz in Vienna. The rest of the writings and crossings-out on the front simply give the sender's address, apparently repeated by three people in the court or the post office. They looked him up and confirmed that he existed.

The Vermerkzettel says: *Laut Angabe des Landesgerichts ist Dr. Leo Landau Hof und Gerichtsadvokat, 1 Braunerstr. 7 der Aufgeber. Es ist niemand berechtigt, diese Angaben zu streichen. Der Post ist auch nicht verpflichtet den Causa anzugeben, für dieselbe ist die Causa dass der Brief zu wenig frankiert war.*

That is: The Landesgericht states that Dr. Leo Landau, Hof und Gerichts Advokat, (Wien) 1. Braunerstr. 7 is the sender. Nobody [at the Court?] is empowered to remove the postage due notice. Nor is the Post required to state WHY there was a postage due; it is up to them to declare if the letter is underfranked.

The back of the envelope says: *Ich verweigere die Zahlung, weil es anzugeben wäre, welche Causa dieses Porto betrifft, und dass Dr. Landau der Aufgeber ist.* I refuse to pay, because it doesn't say why postage due has been levied, and [anyway] Dr. Landau posted it.

The original mailing is from a lawyer to a court and makes no claim to be on official business nor to be connected with a specific case. Hence, it does not qualify for any of the special rates, eg 10 heller for 50 grams, and is liable to pay standard letter rates which in 1908 were 10 heller for 20 grams, 20 heller for up to the maximum of 250 grams. It is likely that the item should have been franked 20 heller; so going by Bernadini & Pfalz page 229 it would acquire postage dues of  $10h + 10h = 20h$  – these will be the ones on the back.

It all seems to be a petty fight over the postage due. The original mailing was franked 10h and posted on 21 Nov 1908, the 20 heller in ten 2 heller postage dues on the back are cancelled on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The court then refused to accept the letter and pay the (unexplained) postage due. The Vormerkzettel is dated the 27th, and the postage due on the front looks like the 28th.

The item was then sent back from the court to the sender. As no postage had been paid for this return journey, and it weighed over 20 grams, postage dues of  $20 + 20 = 40$  heller were duly applied to the front, and Dr Landau would have had to pay them.

## CENTENARY OF THE SALZBURG FESTIVAL

The “Dommusikverein and Mozarteum” was founded in 1841 to encourage church music, with particular reference to Mozart. In 1877 the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra first performed in Salzburg at a Mozart Festival and their conductor, Hans Richter, was later responsible for forming a committee promoting a new festival building, and for organising Mozart Festivals. In 1917 the “Salzburg Festspielhaus-Gemeinde” was formed; and **on 22nd August 1920 the Salzburg Festival was inaugurated**. The Salzburg Festival’s founders were Max Reinhardt, Richard Strauss, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, and Franz Schalk (at that time the conductor in charge of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra). Thus, the internationally acclaimed Salzburg Festival celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August 2020.



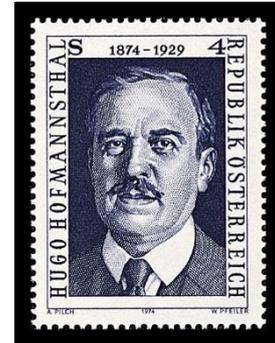
Scene, Jedermann



Max Reinhardt



Richard Strauss



Hugo von Hofmannsthal

The premiere of the play “Jedermann”, written by Hugo von Hofmannsthal, took place on 22 August 1920; it was directed by Max Reinhardt and staged outdoors in front of Salzburg cathedral. Jedermann is the tale of a vain wealthy man at the height of his power when Death pays a visit to tell him that his demise is near. The rich man tries to turn his fate around by praying to false gods, but he does not succeed. Jedermann is touched in the end by the true faith. He falls to his knees, and, as he recites the Lord’s Prayer, is taken off to his heavenly reward. Hugo von Hofmannsthal had updated the text of this old English play for Max Reinhardt’s Berlin production of 1911.



The drama's popularity and impact on its Salzburg audiences was due to Reinhardt's masterful direction.



This play has been produced during every festival year, except during the period of the German annexation of Austria in 1938. The Ministry of Propaganda in Berlin, administered by Josef Goebbels, wanted to make this a purely German celebration of music and immediately purged the ranks of all the artists appearing in the summer festival in Salzburg. Many foreign visitors cancelled their reservations and were replaced by thousands of German "Strength Through Joy" members on their summer holiday. They were the recipients of inexpensive tickets distributed by the Propaganda Ministry. Italian visitors were present in large numbers. Hitler did not attend. The 1938 Festival cost 900,000 Reich Marks to produce, but it ran a deficit of 500,000 Reich Marks. Most of the deficit was made up through funds from the Ministry of Propaganda and other donors.



The rare 3-line special cancel for 1938

Growing international tensions over Poland cast a shadow over the 1939 festival. German and Italian artists were the main participants in the performances. Adolf Hitler was in the audience on 9 August to hear "Don Giovanni" by Mozart. He returned on 14 August for "Die Entführung aus dem Serail," also by Mozart. Upon the conclusion of the opera, the Führer returned to his nearby alpine home just outside of Berchtesgaden. As the end of August neared, the visitors to Salzburg started to leave, worried by the increased rumours of war. World War II began on 1 September 1939.

There was no festival in 1940, but the Vienna Philharmonic put on a series of concerts in Salzburg that summer, with every performance being completely sold out. Goebbels put on a limited festival in 1941, to lift the morale of the civilian population. Four operas were performed to an audience consisting of soldiers on leave and munitions workers. The 1942 festival was a low-key affair. Again, soldiers and workers were in attendance. The Ministry of Propaganda replaced the word "Festival" with the "Salzburg Summer of Music and Theater" in 1943.

The near assassination of Hitler on 20 July 1944 happened at a time when Goebbels had decided to put an end to all festivals. An appeal by the Salzburg Gauleiter Gustav Scheel to the Ministry of Propaganda enabled Wilhelm Furtwängler to conduct a performance of Anton Bruckner's Eighth Symphony on 14th August. The premiere performance of Richard Strauss' opera "Danae" took place on 16th August; the composer was warmly applauded. The United States Army Second Corps entered the undefended City of Salzburg on 4th May 1945. The American military administration quickly got to work on a plan to produce a Salzburg Festival. It put on a three-week festival beginning on 12th August, with Mozart's opera, "Die Entführung aus dem Serail". The audience was mostly composed of US Army soldiers, with a few British, French and Russian officers. The rest of the 1945 festival consisted of Hofmansthal's "Der Tor und der Tod," Lieder recitals, orchestral concerts, the first appearance in Salzburg of the Vienna Boys' Choir, and church concerts.

"Jedermann" was revived at the 1946 Festival in the original Reinhardt production. The Chancellor of Occupied Austria, Leopold Figl, and the Commanding General of the United States Army in Austria, Mark Clark, were present for a performance of "Der Rosenkavalier" by Richard Strauss. That summer 46 performances were given, with 85,000 tickets sold. The Salzburg Festival was once again a functioning reality.

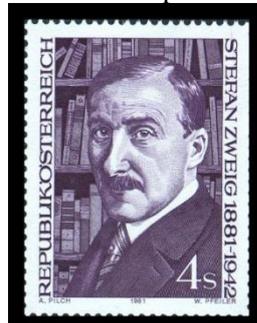
The Salzburg Festival's progress, from its very beginning, was never a smooth sailing. The money needed to get the festival started was not easily forthcoming, and the local population complained about the high ticket prices and the summer onslaught of festival attendees. [*They still do!*] Nevertheless, through the years the Salzburg Festival has attracted the world's leading designers, musicians, singers, writers, and orchestra conductors. The stamps displayed below depict a few of these famous personalities.



Hermann Bahr: Writer, Playwright, Essayist & Critic



Arthur Schnitzler: Writer



Stefan Zweig: Writer



Oskar Kokoscha: Artist, Poet, And Graphic Designer



Max Mell, Poet



Franz Werfel: Writer



Franz Lehár: Composer



Karl Böhm: Conductor



The architect Clemens Holzmeister built the "Large Festival Performance House" in 1960, where most of the opera performances are staged. A commemorative stamp was also issued to celebrate the Festival's Golden Jubilee in 1970



The Salzburg Post Office has done its part each year with the use of special Festival postmarks, a selection of which follows. There was no “Salzburger Festspiele” postmark in 1945, but two different commemorative cancels were used in 1946 and 1947. Nearly 250,000 paid spectators attended the 1994 plays and musical offerings. Millions more world-wide have also experienced the yearly musical and theatrical renditions of the Salzburg Festival through radio and television.





Hugo von Hofmannsthal’s original intent for the Festival in 1920 was to demonstrate Austria’s spiritual and moral traditions through its art, and to celebrate the music of Salzburg’s most famous native son, Wolfgang Mozart.



The first “Oster Festspiele” (Easter Festival) postmark appeared in 1968. Although the designs vary imaginatively they all include the name of the great conductor, Herbert von Karajan, who was the Easter Festival director.



A commemorative stamp was issued on 21 January 2020 to mark the centenary of the Salzburg Festival.

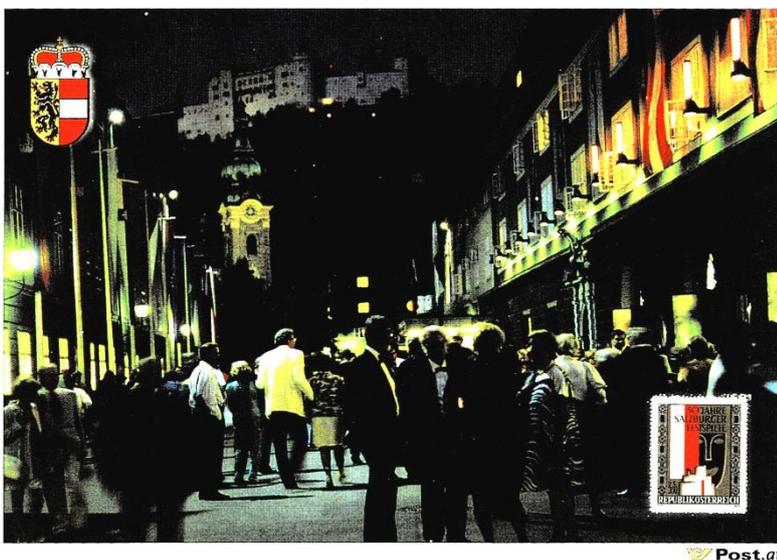


## The Salzburg Postal Directorate post cards

The Salzburg Postal Directorate issued official post cards in 2001. They are (semi??) official postcards with the Post.at logo in the bottom right corner, with an adhesive stamp on the non-picture side and a special cancel. They do NOT have an imprinted stamp. Thus, they are different from the Sissi cards which did have an imprint. They were described in Die Briefmarke 8/2001: *The Postal authorities in Salzburg have issued three cards for the Sonderpostamt at the Salzburg Festspiel, franked with appropriate adhesives cancelled with the Festival's Special Cancellation. They are serially numbered [the design, not each card]; the series is planned to be continued in future years.*

Card 1 shows an 1829 painting by Johann Michael Sattler of the Hofmarstall and Pferdeschwemme [where the Monchsberg tunnel reaches the old town]; Card 2 is a view of the same scene today; the former Hofmarstall is now the Festspielhaus. Card 3 is a night-time photo of the glitterati outside the Festspielhaus in the interval of a performance. On the front of each card is the Salzburg coat-of-arms and a reduced-size reproduction of the "50 Jahre Salzburger Festspiele" Festival stamp [ANK 1365]. The issue was 1500 sets, sold at 18 Sch from Post Offices 5010, 5020 & 5024 in Salzburg and at the "Salzburger Festspiele 2001" Sonderpostamt. The Special Cancel is the cover picture of the 2001 Salzburg festival programme, and shows a masked youth inviting you to the first Festival of the new Millennium





Perhaps unsurprisingly, the bulk of the centenary programme has been postponed to 2021.

The 2020 Salzburg Festival will take place from 1 to 30 August, but in a modified and shortened form: there will be approximately 90 performances over 30 days at a maximum of 6 venues. Of course, the centenary of the founding play “Jedermann” will be celebrated on 22 August 2020.

## DAMES OF THE ORDER OF THE STAR CROSS

*by Keith Brandon*

The Order of the Star Cross (*Sternkreuz Orden* in German, sometimes translated as Starry Cross) is a chivalrous order for catholic noblewomen which was founded in 1668. Although the Austrian Empire no longer exists, the Order continues to the present day under the House of Habsburg, and the Grand Mistress of the Order is appointed by the head of that dynasty.

The head of the House of Habsburg today is Archduke Karl von Habsburg, grandson of the last Emperor Karl and son of Crown Prince Otto. If some Court of Appeal in the sky were to overturn the result of the First World War, then Karl would be the current Austro-Hungarian Emperor. One might dispute the use of his title “Archduke”, but that’s what it says on his birth-certificate!



**Archduke Karl von Habsburg**

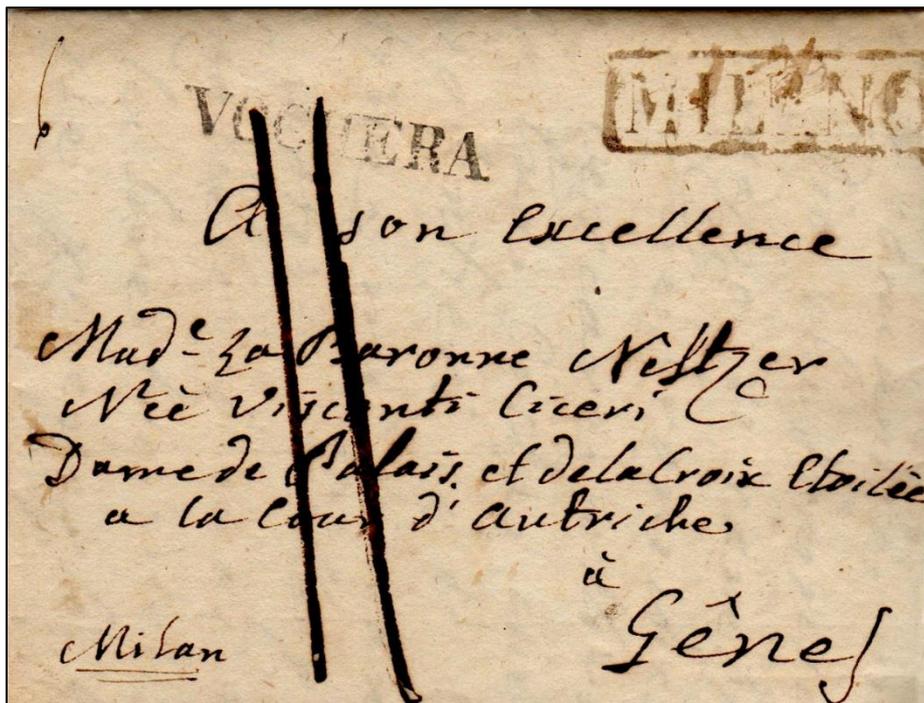
In March 2020, Karl tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. According to Wikipedia, he was the first royal person and head of a royal house to contract the virus. Of course, one might question whether he is the head of any royal house today, more than one hundred years after the Empire was broken up and Austria became a republic. [*Pedants are referred to Article 149(1) of the Austrian Constitution and Law 211 of 3 April 1919. Ed.*]

The Order of the Star Cross was founded in 1668 by Eleanora Gonzaga of Mantua, dowager empress of the Holy Roman Empire, after she experienced what she believed was a true miracle. Only high-born ladies - empresses, princesses and countesses - could be invested with the Order. Once invested, members were to “devote themselves to the service and worship of the Holy Cross, and to lead a virtuous life in the exercise of religion and works of charity”. Initially an Order of the Holy Roman Empire, it was bestowed by the Austrian Empire after the Holy Roman Empire was broken up in the early nineteenth century.

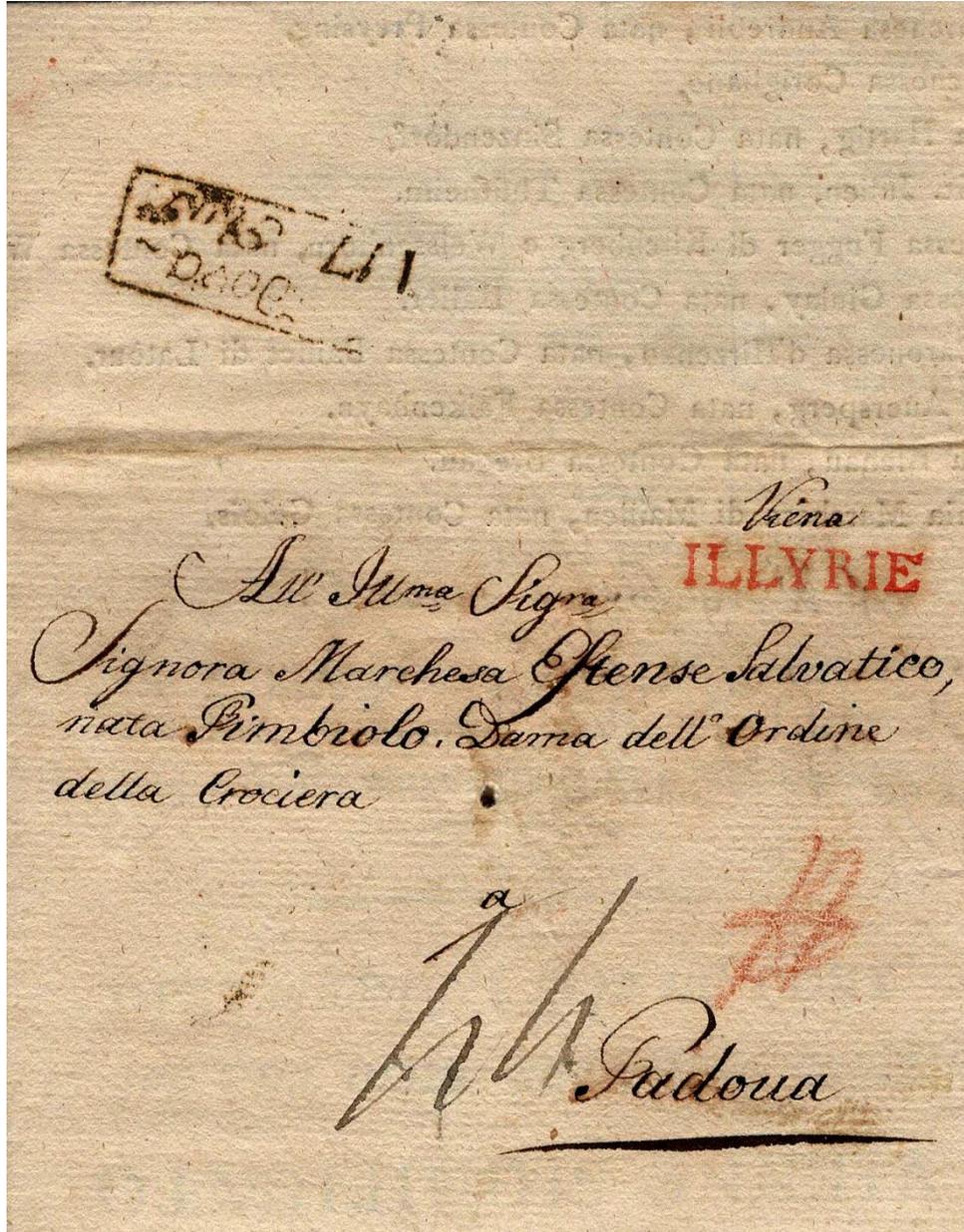
Because the Star Cross is a chivalrous order, members are entitled to have this as part of their official title, and one occasionally comes across letters addressed to them thus. The letter below, dated Laibach (Ljubljana), 29 November 1788 is addressed to Princess Beatrice of Portia, Dame of the Order of the Star Cross, at Cilli (Celje in eastern Slovenia). It was common in those days for the upper classes to write in French.



The second letter, again written in aristocratic French, is addressed to Madame Baron Nestzer, née Visconti Ciceri, Dame of the Star Cross. This 1816 letter was sent from Milan in Lombardy to Genoa in the Kingdom of Sardinia, also hand-stamped **VOGHERA** at the border.



The next letter, in Italian this time, is dated Vienna, 29 June 1810, and is addressed to the Marchioness Estense-Salvatico, née Pimbiolo, Dame of the Order of the Cross in Padova (Venetia). At that time, Venetia was occupied by Napoleon's puppet-state the Kingdom of Italy, and the letter had to transit through France's Illyrian Province on the way. Hence the **ILLYRIE** handstamp.



The contents are also of interest: a printed notice concerning a mass that had been read for the listed members of the Order of the Star Cross who had passed away in the year to 3 May 1810. (Shown on the next page.)

The Order of the Star Cross is headed by a Grand Mistress. The position was held by successive Empresses of the Holy Roman Empire until the Empire was dissolved in 1806, then by Empresses and Archduchesses of the Austrian Empire until 1918, and latterly by the senior female member of the House of Habsburg. Notable Grand Mistresses have included Empress Maria Theresa (1740 to 1780) and Archduchess Sophie (1848 to 1854, the mother of Emperor Franz Josef I).

Empress Zita (the wife of Austria's last Emperor, Karl) became Grand Mistress in 1916 and continued in the role in post-Imperial days until 1951. She was succeeded by Archduchess Regina of Austria (wife of Otto von Habsburg, the Crown Prince at the end of the Austrian Empire) who held the role from 1951 to 2007.



The present Grand Mistress is Archduchess Gabriela of Austria (born 1956), granddaughter of Emperor Karl, daughter of Otto von Habsburg and sister of the current head of the House, Karl von Habsburg. She is an abstract sculptor and art professor who spent some time teaching in Tbilisi and became Georgia's ambassador to Germany from November 2009 until January 2013. You can visit her website at the enviable address [www.habsburg.de](http://www.habsburg.de)



**Archduchess Gabriela of Austria**

### **Acknowledgements**

The background material for this article is from Wikipedia and the websites of Karl and Gabriela von Habsburg. The scan of the Milan-Genoa cover was kindly provided by APS member Martin Brumby. The other covers shown are from the author's collection.

## NAVAL INCIDENTS IN THE ADRIATIC 1915.

By Andrew Brooks

Between October 1915 and April 1917 Emanuel Mastovsky sent at least ten postcards to his sister, Fraulein Mizzi Mastovsky, who lived in Linz. He was an *Unteroffizier* (NCO) in the artillery aboard *SMS Habsburg*, based in Pola. Three of the picture postcards depict Austro-Hungarian success in the Adriatic in 1915.

Although both the writer of the cards and the subject are of Austro-Hungarian interest, the cards were printed and published in Germany. The artist, Willy Stower, was also German.

Chronologically the first postcard describes the shooting down of an Italian airship by an Austro-Hungarian naval aeroplane on 8 June (Fig.1). The *Citti de Ferrara*, a semi-rigid airship, took off from an airfield in Pordenone to bomb the Whitehead Torpedo factory and an oil refinery at Fiume. There was only slight damage in Fiume and after turning for home it was intercepted and shot down by a Lohner L flying boat L-48 of the Austro-Hungarian Navy, piloted by Lt. Gustav Klasing and Hans Rittar von Crouenwald.

Without going into great detail, it is necessary to explain the timing of Italian naval strategy in the summer of 1915. Firstly, the Treaty of London was signed in April and this committed Italy to enter the war within a month. Secondly, in May a naval convention was signed and the 'First Allied Fleet' was established. As well as the Italian and French contribution to this fleet, the British contributed four light cruisers and four pre-dreadnaught battleships. However, the mutual suspicions among the Allies over Adriatic operations never disappeared.

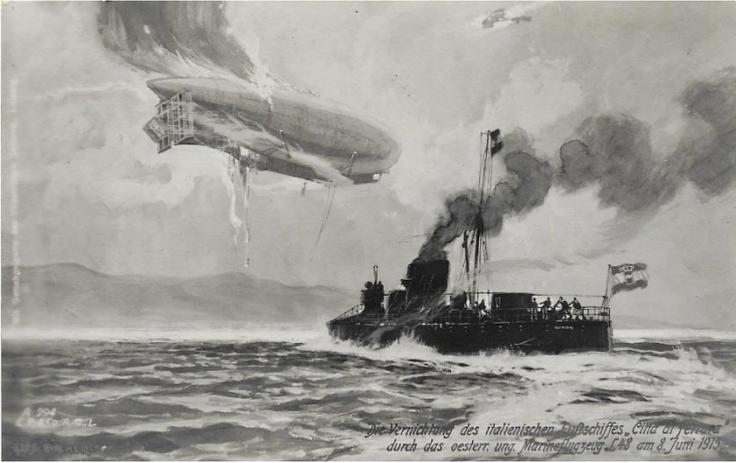
Operations began with a series of raids and bombardment of Austro-Hungarian coastal installations on 1, 5 and 9 June. It was whilst taking part in a sweep of the Albanian coast, escorted by French and Italian destroyers, that the British light cruiser (Fig2), *Dublin*, was damaged by a torpedo fired by the Austrian submarine U-1V on 9 June. She put shot-mats over the hole in the port side and was able to return to Brindisi. In this very animated postcard, you can see that *Dublin* had been incorrectly named as *Liverpool* - which at the time was in its home port of Liverpool having its boiler repaired! Eventually it did reach Brindisi but not until November 1915.

The commander in chief of the Italian fleet, the Duke of Abruzzi, was disappointed with the lack of results from these pin-prick raids and decided to occupy the island of Lagosta. Firstly, they intended to land on the small island of Pelagosa as a preliminary move towards landing on Lagosta (in the Adriatic near Ragusa). On 11 July the Italians occupied Pelagosa without opposition but on 27 July the landing was cancelled: the deciding factor was the loss of the Italian armoured cruiser *Garibaldi*. (Fig3). It had been sent to shell the railway between Ragusa and Cattaro on the morning of 18 July, but was torpedoed by submarine U-4 and sank within minutes. She was the flagship of the 5<sup>th</sup> Italian Cruiser Division, based at Brindisi and had previously shelled the same line on 5 June, but it had been repaired. Only 53 crewmen were killed; the remaining 525 men were rescued by destroyers. When you look at the postcard you might wonder why so few lost their lives. This was the second major loss within a week for the Italians (armoured cruiser *Amalfi* on 7 July) and made a landing on Lagosta 'inopportune'.

The remaining picture postcards in this group are either patriotic or connected with a seagoing theme. The postmarks are all *K.u.K. MARINEFELDPOSTAMT POLA* a This postmark type (Fig4) was used from May 1915 until the end of the war (double circle 28mm metal handstamp). Also, the circular single-ring cachet for *K.u.K. KREIGSMARINE HABSBURG* (with the date).

Only one of the three cards is signed 'Willy Stower' but it is very probable that they were all his work. Signatures of artists on original works of art are usually at the bottom corner of their work and this can be missed when the picture is reduced when it is made into a postcard. W. Stower (1864 - 1931) was a German artist, illustrator and author who was best known for his nautical paintings. He was a great favourite of Kaiser Wilhelm II and in fact some of his paintings were of his sponsor, the Kaiser. Prior to the war he is best known for his painting of the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912. During WWI he depicted naval battle scenes from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. Some examples include the sinking of *HMS Cressy*, the Bombardment of Scarborough and even one of the *SMS Emden* entering Madras harbour to destroy the Burmah Oil Company installations. All of these events happened in 1914.

Emil Pinkau of Leipzig printed and published the postcards and 'with permission' used illustrations from the *Illustrierte Zeitung* one of the most popular war illustrated publications. Both have their imprint on the front of the cards.



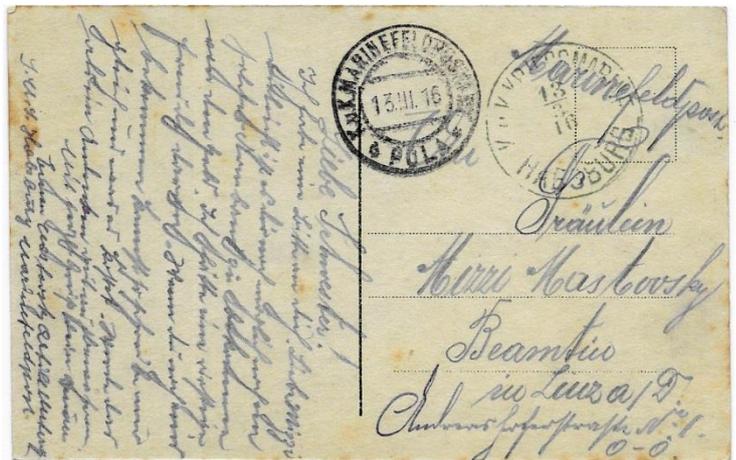
The *Citti de Ferrara*, a semi-rigid Italian airship, shot down by an Austro-Hungarian naval aeroplane on 8 June (Fig.1).

The British light cruiser *Dublin*, damaged by a torpedo fired by the Austrian submarine U-1V (Fig2),



The loss of the Italian armored cruiser *Garibaldi*, torpedoed by submarine U-4 (Fig3).

The cards are all cancelled  
K.u.K. MARINEFELDPOSTAMT  
POLA a (Fig4)



## THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, contact the Librarian. If you pay by credit card, it will appear as “German Railway Society” or “GRS” on your card statement. Some emails to “library@austrianphilately.com” are ending up in her spam bucket: instead, please use “mjoyceb@uwclub.net”.

### CDs

- ❖ *All CDs cost £10 or €15 including postage to anywhere in the world.*
- ❖ “**The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps**” by Dr. Stephan Koczynski. Enhanced and published on CD in fully-text-searchable form. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-07-4.
- ❖ **1910 Post Office Index.** This is the “*Verzeichnis der Post- und Telegraphen-Ämter in Österreich, Ungarn und in Bosnien-Hercegovina sowie der österreichischen Postanstalten im Fürstentum Liechtenstein und in der Levante*”, published in Vienna in 1910. It lists all the Austrian post offices open anywhere at that date; with symbols indicating the facilities available at each. The CD contains deep-cleaned pictures of the original pages, not searchable text. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-08-1.
- ❖ “**Rohrpost**” – **the pneumatic post in Vienna.** Second completely revised edition, now in web-site format in full colour with numerous added appendices. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-10-4.

### Books

- ❖ “**The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant: Tchilinghirian and Stephen Revisited**” by Hans Smith. Written in English and in full colour throughout, with over 200 A4 pages of text and illustrations and a comprehensive listing of all known postmarks of the consular offices. ISBN 978-0-900118-09-8 Price **£50. There's only four copies left** of this important work, and there are no plans to reprint it. P&P £5 in UK, elsewhere at cost.
- ❖ “**A Celebration of Austrian Philately**”: the APS 60th anniversary ‘Festschrift’. viii+162pp. A4 in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-05-0. Price £10; P&P £3 in UK, elsewhere at cost.

### Other items

- ❖ **Back numbers** of “Austria” are **£1** each to members (**£5** to non-members), subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Be aware that they will not be reprinted when copies run out. Postage extra at cost. Bulk orders by negotiation.
- ❖ Some back numbers of *Austria* are available to read on the APS website. They are selected from issues 127 onwards; we do not have electronic versions of previous issues. Go to the home page <http://www.austrianphilately.com/index.htm> and select [Specimens and Indexes of the APS Journal "Austria"](#) in the left-hand box. [webmaster@austrianphilately.com](mailto:webmaster@austrianphilately.com) would welcome comments on this feature.

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*Not holding a Fest deprives members of the opportunity to show off their displays. There is an alternative: put them on the APS web site as a **Guest Display**, to join the three already there. Get in touch with the Editor and between us we'll make it happen!*

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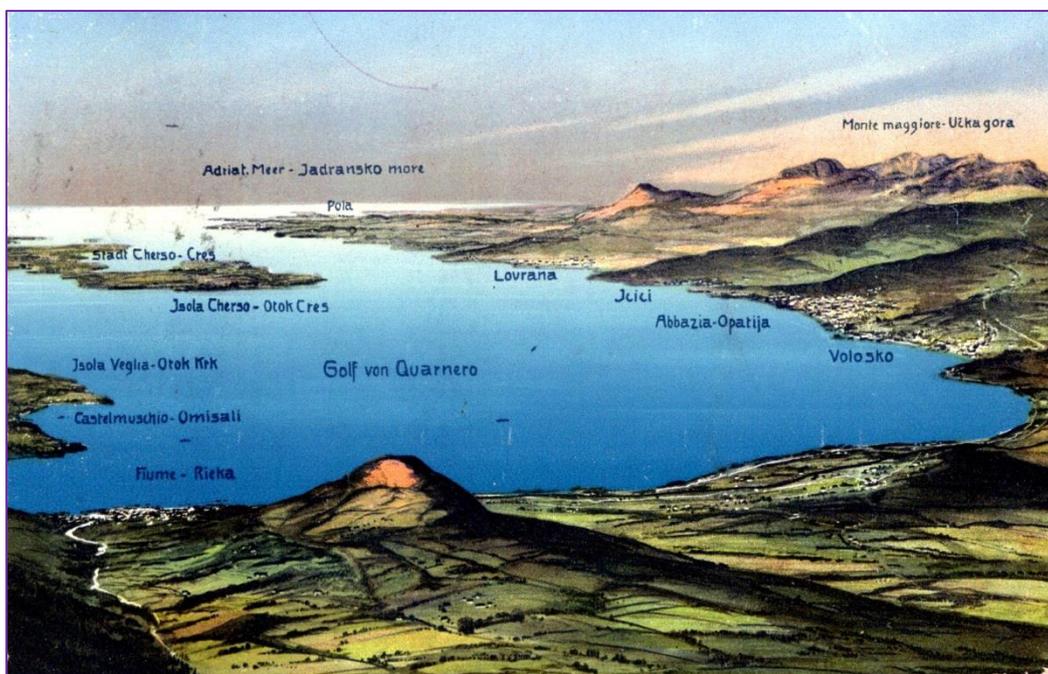
# LIFE ON THE AUSTRIAN RIVIERA

by Keith Brandon

Before the First World War, the Austro-Hungarian Empire possessed a long coastline on the Adriatic Sea. It started on the northern edge of the Adriatic, between Venice and Trieste, continued round the Istrian peninsula to Fiume (*Rijeka* in Croatian) and then down the length of the Croatian coastline to northern Montenegro. The islands of the eastern Adriatic also belonged to Austria.

The area north of Trieste plus the Istrian peninsula were known as the Austrian Riviera; the coastline of the area coloured pink in the postcard at right. This was the closest part of the Mediterranean for the citizens of Austria, Germany and the rest of Central Europe. During the latter part of the nineteenth century sustained peace, rising prosperity and the growth of the rail network led to the increasing popularity of holidays in this area.

This article focuses on the most famous part of the Austrian Riviera; Abbazia (*Opatija*) and the surrounding resorts in the Gulf of Quarnero (the north-eastern part of the Adriatic Sea). The view portrayed in the postcard below looks south from behind Fiume. The Istrian peninsula stretches away to Pola (*Pula*) in the distance. Fiume is in the bottom-left corner, facing the Gulf of Quarnero and the islands of Veglia (*Krk*) and Cherso (*Cres*). At the right-centre of the card can be seen the string of resorts, Volosca (*Volosko*), Abbazia, Ičići and Lovrana (*Lovran*). This stretch of coast, sheltered by Mount Učka, enjoyed a benign climate all year round.



Abbazia, 18km south-west of Fiume, was the main resort on this stretch of the Riviera. In 1873, the Austrian Southern Railway opened a branch from St Peter in Krain (*Pivka*) to Fiume, stopping at Mattuglie (*Matulji*) for Abbazia. From St Peter there were connections to Trieste, Vienna and beyond. In the other direction, there were connections from Fiume to Zagreb, Budapest and beyond. This opened the door to tourism in Abbazia and its neighbours. The population of Abbazia grew from 4,775 in 1880 to 11,825 in 1910. The postcard below, mailed in 1894, shows a view of the town.



These visitors did not comprise charabancs of cotton-workers during Wakes Week. The Austrian Riviera was very much the preserve of the middle and upper classes. As well as hotels, opulent villas were built for the more demanding noble guests, clearly seen in the illustration on the postcard above. Emperor Franz Josef used to spend several months in Abbazia in the winter, along with several other European crowned heads. This top half of a double postcard gives a flavour of the gentility of the resort.



A post-office first opened in Abbazia on 8 October 1885. Material is easy to find because of the high volume of tourist mail sent.



5 kreuzer letter-card (Italian/Illyrian language variant) to Switzerland cancelled **ABBZIA / 1.3.94.**

Most of the visitors arrived and departed from Mattuglie/Abbazia station, as did most of their mail. The town's post-office, located at the railway station itself, opened on 21 October 1891.

Picture-postcard to Theresienstadt (Bohemia) cancelled with the town's first postmark **MATTUGLE / MATULJE / 24.2.98** and received two days later. The card would have travelled by rail via St Peter and Vienna.



Mattuglie was 3km inland from the Adriatic and 5km from Abbazia. Visitors needed to use taxis to get from the station to the Riviera resorts. The preliminary planning for an electric tramway started in 1900 and it went into operation on 9 February 1908. The tram, seen at the centre-left on the postcard below, started at Mattuglie station and had twenty-six stops on the way to Lovrana, many of them at specific hotels. At busy times, a luggage-wagon was added to the tram. There were no postal facilities on board. When the tramway was closed in 1933, some of the rolling-stock was sold to Ljubljana for their tram-service.

The Abbazia tram  
 ►



ABBAZIA - Slatina

After Abbazia, the main resorts on the Austrian Riviera were Volosca, Ičići and Lovrana, each of which had a post-office. Volosca was a community in its own right in Austro-Hungarian times, but is now part of the city of Opatija. It lies to the north of the city, on the coast, and its post-office opened on 1 June 1887.



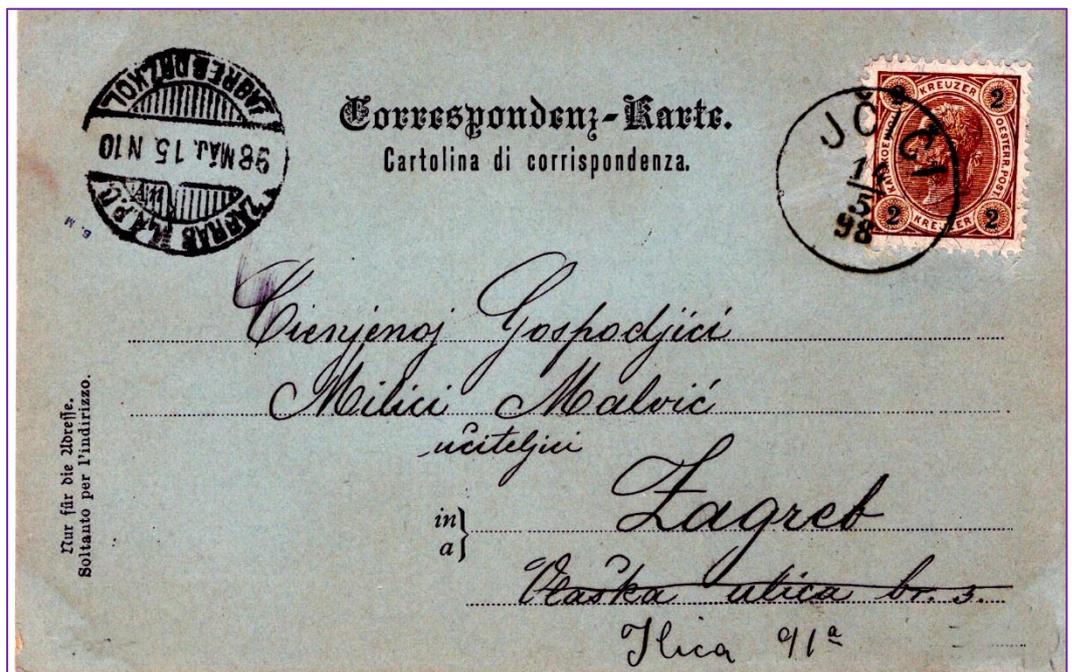
Picture-postcard showing the Villa Minich in Volosca, typical of the large houses built along the Austrian Riviera for the wealthy. The eminent Hungarian statesman Gyula Andrassy died at the Villa. The front, with the stamp and address, is below.



The postcard was cancelled **VOLOSKA / 31.3.99** and travelled from Mattuglie station via St Peter and Vienna to its destination in Bohemia.

Ičići lies 5km south of Opatija, but the two towns are today linked by the development of the Riviera. A post-office opened on 20 December 1892, using the spelling Jčići in the postmark. The popular resort of Ika, which did not have its own post-office, was also served by the Ičići office.

Picture-postcard franked 2kr and cancelled **JČIČI / 14.5.98**. Received in Zagreb the next day



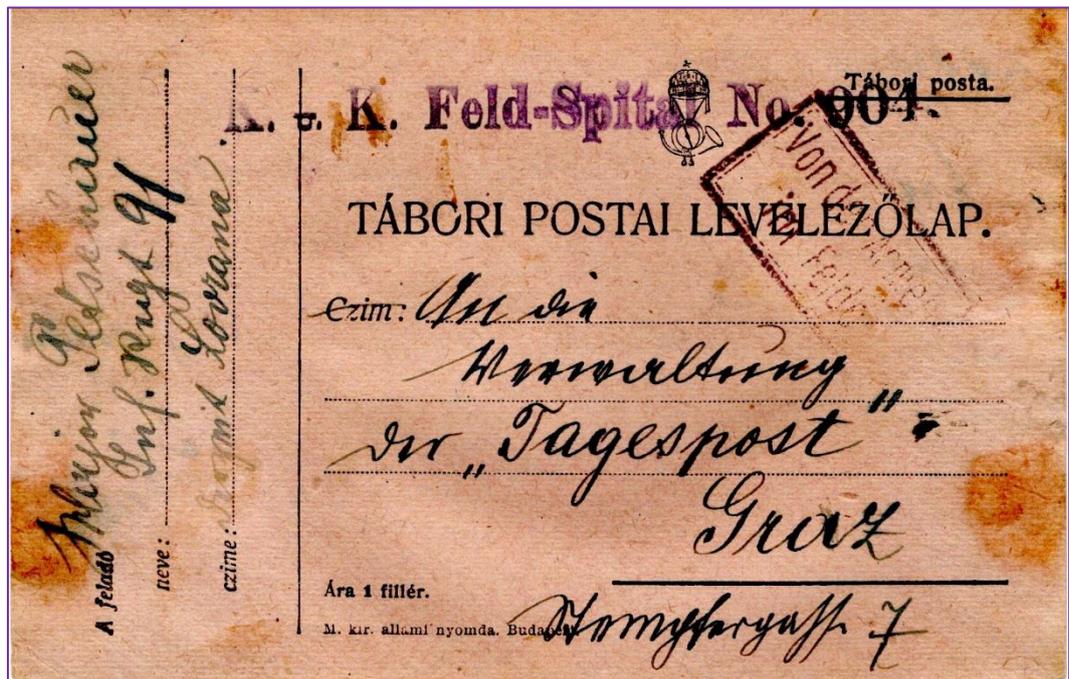
The southernmost of the main Riviera resorts was Lovrana, a coastal settlement of some 4000 people today, 7km south of Abbazia. In the early Middle Ages it was an important town and shipbuilding centre. However its importance declined as other ports in the region (Trieste, Fiume, Pola) developed. By the end of the nineteenth century, however, it had become a fashionable resort for the Austro-Hungarian nobility. The post-office first opened its doors on 1 June 1869.



Picture-postcard cancelled barred **LOVRANA / 1.3.98**. Put on board the train at Mattuglie, and travelling via St Peter and Vienna to Wiesbaden in Germany. Redirected to Vienna.

Several of the hotels on the Austrian Riviera were used as military hospitals during the First World War.

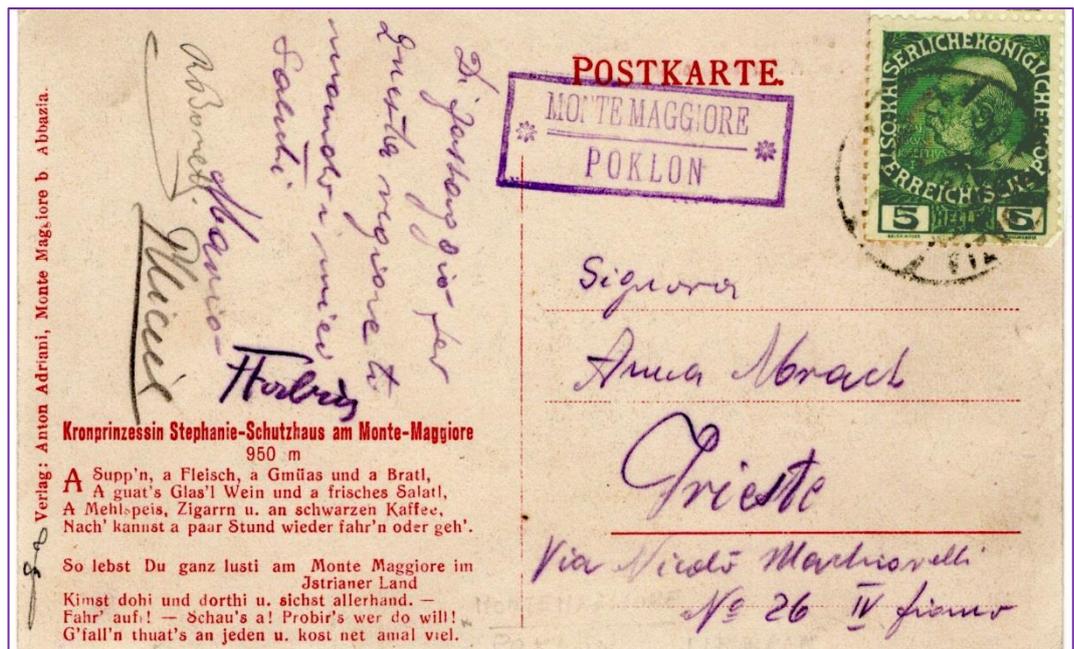
Hungarian fieldpost-card written from Lovrana on 13 April 1917 with hand-stamp **KuK Feld-Spital No.904**.



The mild year-round climate on the Riviera around Abbazia was due to the shelter given by Monte Maggiore (Mount Učka), the highest peak on the Istrian peninsula (1396m). This provided the opportunity for visitors to the coastal resorts to go up on to the mountain to enjoy some fun in the snow. A mountain hostel was built at Poklon by the Austrian Touring Club in 1887, the Kronprinzessen Stefanie Schutzhaus. A postal-agency opened at the hostel on 16 May 1914, supervised by the Abbazia post-office.



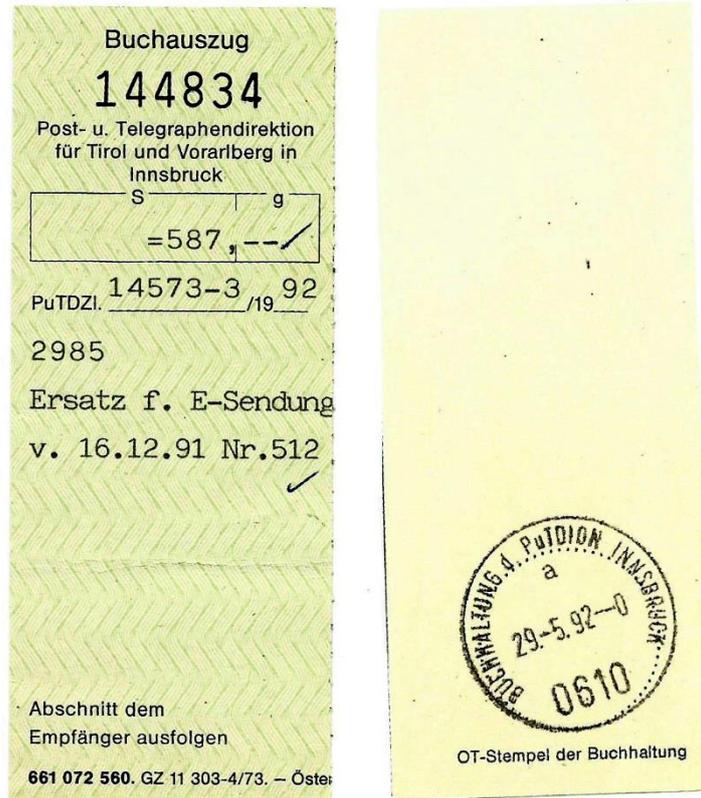
Postcard produced especially for the Crown Princess Stefanie Hostel depicting visitors enjoying tobogganing. Handstamp of the postal-agency \*MONTE MAGGIORE / POKLON\* and postmark of the supervising post-office ABBAZIA. From there the card would have gone by rail from Mattuglie station to St. Peter, and transferred there to the Trieste train.



The resorts of the former Austrian Riviera remain popular with holiday-makers today. Even now, over a hundred years later, Austrians make up the largest number of tourists to Opatija.

# AN UNUSUAL ITEM

Joyce Boyer



What did you do during the Lockdown? Like many of us I started to look at things put away or on hold ‘until I had more time’.

After sorting out Bodensee mail, 1948 costumes postal stationery and ordinary mail and a few oddments, I picked up the ‘Modern Innsbruck’ file – that is post-1950 material. At the bottom of the file was this item. Both sides of this small item are shown above 4.25 x 10.5cm. What is it?

Trying to translate the wording did not make a lot of sense – something about accounting, a book statement, cut off from the receiver.

I sent a scan to Hans Moser in Innsbruck with the question and here is the reply:

“You have got something unusual from the accounts department. Something registered [E-Sendung = Einschreiben] was missing and this department had to pay 587 schillings. The cancellation was used from 1967 to 1998 and can be found in Stohl, section K.”

I have now written the piece up but have to decide where to file it - Modern Innsbruck or Austrian postal forms?

*[This is Stohl K0002f, rated 60 Stohl-points. Each Directorate (Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg, Vienna) is listed with a range of wordings (although Vienna has many more than the others!). For Innsbruck there's RECHNUNGSDEPARTEMENT DER K.K. POST- U. TELEGRAPHEN-DIREKTION INNSBRUCK; BUCHHALTUNG D. POST- U. TEL.DION INNSBRUCK; POST- U. TELEGRAPHENDIREKTION FÜR TIROL UND VORARLBERG IN INNSBRUCK 0600; and BUCHHALTUNG D. PuT DION INNSBRUCK 0610. The number isn't the postcode; it must be a Post Office List for this function – Graz is 08nn, Innsbruck 06nn, Klagenfurt 09nn, Linz 04nn, Salzburg 05nn, and Vienna 01nn. These are reminiscent of, but different from, the numbers used on the octagonal money-handling cancels. Ed.]*

# CHRISTMAS 1915

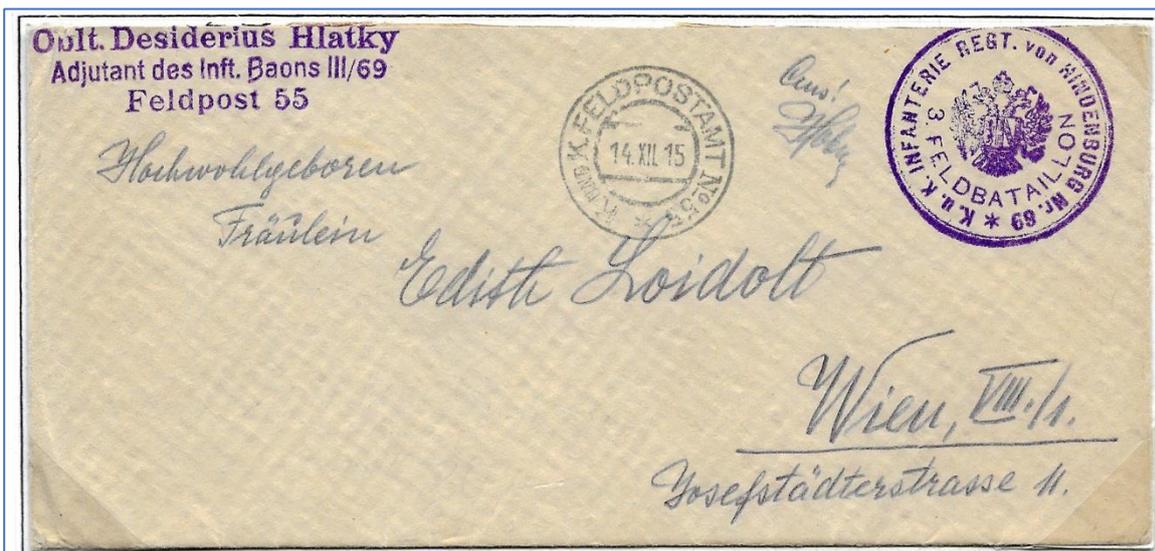
By Andrew Brooks

This Christmas card with a picture of a stern, slightly startled, Erzherzog Eugen was posted in December 1915 to a lady friend in Vienna. The sender was an Adjutant in the Austro-Hungarian Army.



The card measures 17mm x 21mm. Plain on reverse. The message is difficult to read but it mentions the South-West Front, Erzherzog Eugen and Christmas 1915.

The envelope has a postmark *K. und K. Feldpostamt No 55* (Bosnian type) dated 14/12/15. There is a circular unit cachet; *K.u.K. Infanterie Regt. von Hindenburg Nr.69\*/ 3 Feldbataillon*. Another cachet; *Oblt. Desiderius Hlatky / Adjutant des Inf. Baons 111/69 / Feldpost 55*. The last cachet was personal to the sender of the card and he has also self-censored the card in manuscript. He has addressed the card to *The Honourable / Fraulein / Edith Loidolt / Wien VIII / 1 / Josefstadterstrasse 11*.



The first page of the four- page letter has the same circular cachet seen on the envelope. ‘Adjutant’ has been stamped twice as well as the date ‘14. Dez. 1915.’ A cachet K.u.K. Infanteriebataillon/ “von Hindenburg” Nr.111/69. This completes the only official markings on the letter although a small hand-drawn red square contains the words ‘Stempl 10K.’



The letter takes the form of a ‘Declaration’ on the first page and then on the inside and back page is the letter ‘proper’. It is very long-winded and only in its closing paragraphs does it make some interesting comments. It can be seen that this ‘Declaration’ is addressed to Edith and Herta Loidolt and we presume that they were sisters.

*‘In the presence of the above Commanding Officer, I affirm most solemnly; My Edith and Herta to be kind and true, their every wish to fulfil, their negligence at once full to forgive, for my part never to quarrel, neither to put every word on the scales.’*

On the inside page the letter begins ‘Dear Edith’ and Herta must have been included as a courtesy on the previous page. The following extracts have been selected for their interest.

*‘The seal will help the Widows and Orphans to alleviate their sorrow you will agree.’*

*‘Both my batmen are injured, the one who looks after my horses, severely. My grey carrying horse ‘Neka’ died from a Grenade. I might as well throw most of my belongings away and have lost about 800K.*

*Thank God that I am alright and healthy, there is plenty for me to do. The fog is away but, in its place, we have the Bora. The war seems to be also cold because last night everything was peaceful!!*

*In sincere friendship*

Always Yours

P.S. You Dear "Gurkel" [cucumber] tomorrow you will receive a letter, today my eyes are closing down.'



This Cinderella stamp was included in the letter and depicts von Hindenburg, the Colonel-in-Chief of the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

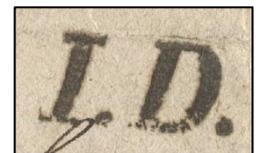
[Cinderellas like this are quite common; they were often sold to raise funds for the widows and orphans of a regiment. Ed.]

In the period leading up to Christmas 1915 the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment had been involved in the fighting on the Isonzo. The regiment had previously been on border security in Bosnia before being moved to the South-West front. Between the 10<sup>th</sup> November and the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1915, they fought in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo. The fighting took place on a narrow front of 33Km between Plave (10Km north of Gorizia) and the coast. The massed Italian attacks in November concentrated around Gorizia and the Karst Plateau but by December the fighting became sporadic and as the letter suggests the weather put a complete stop to the fighting for the remainder of the winter. In this 4<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Isonzo the Austro-Hungarians lost 4,000 killed and had 32,500 casualties. The Italians lost 7,500 killed and had 49,500 casualties.



## A MUCH-TRAVELLED "I.D." COVER

This very interesting cover/envelope was sent to a military officer and forwarded several times. The words and image were emailed to me with the suggestion that publication might produce more information about it. Unfortunately, the name of the sender has become detached from the data – I apologize to her or him!



Unpaid envelope from the Imperial Royal Privileged Austrian State Railway Company (Oesterreichische / Staats Eisenbahn / Gesellschaft), posted at Vienna on 9 March (1859) and addressed to 2nd Lt Konrad Traugott attached to a Regiment in Prag. Taxed at 20 Neu-Kreuzer (3rd distance: 15 Kr + 5 Kr (unpaid) = 20 Nkr (after 1 Nov 1858). At Vienna, an unusual "I.D." handstamp marking was applied. It is in the same color ink as the Wien postmark. A partial second strike is under the postmark. An embossed seal is on the flap.

Received at Prag on 10 March, and forwarded to Milano, Lombardy (15/3) and Treviso, Venetia (17/3) and returned to Vienna on 23 March ("Zurück dem Aufgeber"). Possibly Lt Traugott was involved in the Austrian war with Sardinia, hence the movement.

I have never seen this "I.D." marking, and it is unlisted in any of Mueller's handbooks on prestamp or later handbooks on cancellations. Do you know what this marking represents, and perhaps we can ask the membership. It is a most interesting cover, which I have had for at least 10 years. Perhaps the marking had something to do with the forwarding or abatement of taxation.

On the envelope flap is an embossed seal, partially missing details, but that which is readable is the same as the oval marking on the front side.



## 2020 NEW ISSUES (3<sup>rd</sup> instalment)

by Andy Taylor

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date; quantity printed; designer; engraver if any; printing method; printer; and sometimes details on the design. Many issues are also available in mini-sheets, blackprints, 'Bunddrucke' (ie printed in different colours from those issued) etc. Austria Post seem to have adopted a permanently minimalist approach to both the English and the German descriptive details on their website, so I supplement some descriptions from sources including Die Briefmarke and both English and German Wikipedia.

A memo from John Batts points out that the **Roter Blitz - Graz-Köflacher Bahn Reihe VT 10** stamp on p.35 of the last issue shows a railbus, not an engine as I said; a clue is in its designation "VT". The German described it as a Triebwagen.



**Herbert Brandl** 85c; 25.06.2020; Regina Simon; 235,000; Offset; Enschedé. This year's stamp from the "Modern art in Austria" series shows a work by the Austrian artist Herbert Brandl, who is regarded as one of the main proponents of the "New Wild Ones".

**Wallfahrtskirche Götzens** 1Eu35; 29.06.2020; Kirsten Lubach; 180,000; Offset; Enschedé. The parish church of Sts. Peter and Paul in Götzens is the motif for this year's stamp from the "Churches in Austria" series. It is considered one of the finest Rococo village churches in Tirol.



**100th anniversary of the Lipizzaner Stud Farm in Piber** 1Eu; 04.07.2020; Anita Kern; 350,000; Offset; Enschedé. (Also available as a herd of 10). In 1920 the Lipizzaners, the famous white horses, found a new home in Piber in Styria where they live surrounded by lush meadows and green forests. As the only federal stud farm in Austria, Piber has the task of breeding the Lipizzaner stallions that appear in the world-famous Spanish Riding School in Vienna. In the minisheet margins are illustrations of some of the special poses the horses can adopt.

**Traditional Gastronomy: the Schweizerhaus.** 1Eu75; 11.7.2020; Regina Simon; 135,000; Offset; Enschedé. The Schweizerhaus is in the Prater in Vienna. There has been a "Swiss Hut" here since 1766, but the present building has been run by the Kolarik family for 100 years. Besides the classic Viennese culinary specialties, such as goulash and Wiener Schnitzel, the trademark dish of the restaurant is Schweinsstelzen.





**150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Franz Lehár.** 2Eu75; 11.7.2020; Karin Klier; 310,000; Offset; Enschedé. Together with Emmerich Kaiman, Franz Lehár (30 April 1870 - 24 October 1948) is considered the main representative of the Silver Operetta era, which dates from 1900 to around 1940. Franz Lehár was born in Komorn in what is now Slovakia in 1870. At the age of twelve he studied violin at the Prague Conservatory, and when he was twenty he became the youngest military bandmaster in the monarchy.

Lehár finally settled in Vienna and devoted himself primarily to composing operettas. In 1905 he made his breakthrough as an operetta composer with “The Merry Widow” (Die lustige Witwe). Many of his works are still popular today, such as “The Tsarevich”, “The Land of Smiles” or “The Count of Luxembourg”.

Until his death in 1948, Franz Lehár spent almost every summer in Bad Ischl. His residence there, the Lehar Villa, is now a museum in honour of the composer.

**125 years of Swarovski.** 4Eu30; 18.07.2020; David Gruber; 205,000; Offset with silver foil; Enschedé. In 1895 Daniel Swarovski founded a company that revolutionised the world of jewellery – even today Swarovski crystals are known for their exceptional brilliance



**PUCH MV 50 V.** 2Eu30; 08.08.2020; David Gruber; 360,000; Offset; Enschedé. The design for this year’s stamp from the “Motorcycles” series is decked out in the modified yellow Austrian Post livery: It is the MV 50 V, a moped from the traditional Austrian Puch brand.

**Kunsthau Graz.** 2Eu75; 20.08.2020; Karin Klier; 310,000; Enschedé. This year’s design for the series “Modern architecture in Austria” shows the Kunsthau Graz, a museum of contemporary art and an impressive landmark of the Styrian capital.



**Chanterelle mushroom.** 85c; 28.08.2020; Marion Füllerer; 350,000; Offset; Enschedé. The brilliant yellow chanterelle mushroom is the first design in a new series of special stamps, “Austrian mushrooms”, which is meant to showcase the wide range of indigenous mushrooms. Minisheet of 10.

**Antonio Canal, aka Canaletto – The Dogana at Venice.** 2Eu10; Kirsten Lubach; 11.09.2020; Kombi print; Enschedé. Giovanni Antonio Canal was one of the most important proponents of veduta painting. A detailed view of his home town of Venice adorns this stamp from the “Old masters” series, which has been embellished with engraving.



**South Burgenland – Uhdler.** 85c; David Gruber; 19.09.2020; 350,000; Offset; Enschedé. A particular speciality from the South Burgenland region is the incomparable Uhdler, which is the subject of this year’s special stamp from the “Austrian wine regions” series. Minisheet of 10.

## NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

Note that most of the items described are not retained long-term by the Society, although copies may be available for a short period.

### **Die Briefmarke**

**2020/7-8:** the last King of Opera - Franz Lehár's 150th birthday; the Austrian Post Office in Liechtenstein (ii); smuggling mail in 1945 (ii); 150 years of the Franz Joseph Bahn; caring for old items; events and cancellations; society news; new issues etc etc.

### **Germania**

**Vol 56 Nr 3:** new Hon Treasurer urgently sought; Official mail in German-occupied Poland (iv); illustrated advice on what should (eg very fine used) and should not (eg badly faulted stamps, forgeries etc) be in your collection; new issues; and as always many interesting and excellently-printed articles on a variety of subjects.

### **Stamps of Hungary**

**Nr 222 September 2020:** Timeline to Trianon, Part 7: 1 July 1920 to 30 September 1920; More on Archduke József's Refugee Fund; On the trail of the 1919 overprints Part 18: The Temesvár postage stamp issues under Serbian and Romanian Occupation, 1919; More on General Harry Hill Bandoltz; The curious case of letters to Switzerland, 1946; etc etc.

### **Czechout**

See [www.czechout.org](http://www.czechout.org) where you can read (but not copy or print) every issue including the latest.

**Vol 38/1 (March 2020):** Czechoslovak Censorship; the KLV Camps; from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to an Independent Czechoslovakia; etc etc.

**Vol 38/2 (June 2020):** Polish Annexation of Teschen Silesia, 1938–1939: Zaolzie; Hradčany Perforations; Liberation Stamps and Their Usage; etc etc.

**Vol 38/3 (September 2020):** Melbourne–Czechoslovakia 1956 Catastrophic Mail; The 400 Haler Hradčany: Types and Subtypes; many Queries and Replies; etc etc

## **Book reviews**

### **Universal Postal Union 75th Anniversary:**

**Worldwide Specialized Stamp Catalog**, by David H. Silverstein, self-published 2020, soft binding, A4, 258 pages. ISBN 978-0-578-65878-0. Available at US \$45 (plus postage) from the author at [vavivoy@gmail.com](mailto:vavivoy@gmail.com); or 9355 113th Street, #3839, Seminole, Florida 33772, USA. Reviewed by Rex Dixon.

The first convention of the General Postal Union, later the UPU, was signed on 9 October 1874, which is considered its 'founding day'. On 20 June 1947 the UPU Congress agreed: "With a view to commemorating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Universal Postal Union, the Congress expresses its desire that the Administrations of the Union will find themselves able, in 1949, to issue a series of stamps to celebrate this event." Over 185 member countries and colonies issued some 700 commemorative stamps and sheets.

The author has researched and assembled information on all these issues, contacting a vast range of collectors throughout the world. Germany is well represented as there were six stamp-issuing authorities in 1949, two of which - BRD and DDR - were among the handful of countries that issued stamps on the anniversary day itself, a Sunday. Illustrated are not only the stamps themselves but also complete sheets of Rheinland-Pfalz, BRD and DDR, minister sheets, FDCs, and many of the numerous listed flaws.

The lengthy appendix on cinderellas, fantasies and forgeries includes reproductions of these stamp on the sheetlets issued for the philatelic salon of the 19th UPU Congress in Hamburg in 1984, the 'Maryland forgeries' of the West Berlin stamps, and various other philatelic souvenirs.

The quality of the printing is high, that of the images varies according to the sources the author was able to access. The binding makes it difficult to open the book out flat, a common problem with 'perfect binding', but that doesn't detract from its readability. The author is to be congratulated as being the first to successfully attempt a comprehensive study of this anniversary.

*Reproduced with their permission from Germania, August 2020. The Editor has a copy of this book, and you may borrow it for the cost of both-ways postage.*

## 90 Jahre Briefmarkensammlerverein Favoriten – Festschrift



The special Personal-stamps, shown on the front cover.

In the early 1920s a large number of stamp collectors could be found in various pubs and cafes of Favoriten, the 10<sup>th</sup> district of Vienna, at that time a purely working-class district. Although the establishment of an association was frequently suggested again and again, perhaps because of the political conditions at the time the collectors did not take such a step. It was not until 1930 that the small group joined the ABSV (Arbeiter Briefmarke Sammler-Verein) as the Favoriten Section. By the end of the year there were 31 members, and 45 by 1931. Possibly caused by party political influences, a group left and set themselves up as the Favoriten Free Stamp Group. Older APS members will understand the problem.

The height of the economic crisis in 1933 was followed by a ban on political parties and thus the dissolution of the ABSV. The Favoriten section separated in good time and set itself up independently as the Briefmarkensammlerfreunde Wien-Süd. On January 16, 1935, an agreement was finally reached about the merger of the two collector groups, and the 61 members gave themselves the club name Briefmarkensammlerverein Favoriten, and after a long and heated discussion they joined the VÖPh. Older APS members will understand the problem.

Since then the BSVF has had many trials and tribulations, but has survived! It has produced a steady stream of commemorative labels, cancels, and personal stamps – which are recorded in this 50pp A5 booklet. The editor has a copy, which can be borrowed for the P&P cost.

## THE ARMY SIGNALS CANCEL (yet again)



Dear Editor: Why is “UKRAINE” printed on the stamp?

Response: Dear Mr XXXX,

Thanks for your letter and photocopied cover.

I’m afraid it’s a chimera – “a fabulous beast made with parts taken from different animals”. The various cachets etc are mostly real, but cannot occur on the same cover. The ARMY SIGNALS pops up from time to time; it seems that when its genuine use ended it was stolen and reused later to deceive collectors.

The stamp with the overprinted UKRAINE is genuine – it was used (not on this cover!) in German-occupied areas of Ukraine – but the vertical bars (which are only on the stamp) and the blacked-out bit at the bottom are not.

I think its history is this:

The cover was sent to Herr H Seyfurth, Schneidersomething (?) – a Schneider is a tailor – in Waltershausen in Thuringia, Scheld-Strasse 19, Deutschland. Waltershausen exists: a medieval-looking town. The (15a) was the postal zone code. ‘Russisch Zone’ is Russian occupation zone. The figure ‘1’s look genuinely European (I’m less sure about the handwriting). What looks like V.v. in front of the Scheld-Strasse 16 is probably Z.z. = Zur zeit, at this time – the equivalent of the English c/o. Putting the town first and street second is usual.

There is no indication of where it was posted; most likely within the Russian zone of Germany as cross-zone mail was discouraged and inter-country forbidden.

In the middle of the top is Gebühr Bezahlt, ie charges paid in cash - common when no stamps are available.

The upside-down red ПОЧТА-СССР 49 is some kind of Russian postal marking – guessing, Censor 49 has examined the item.

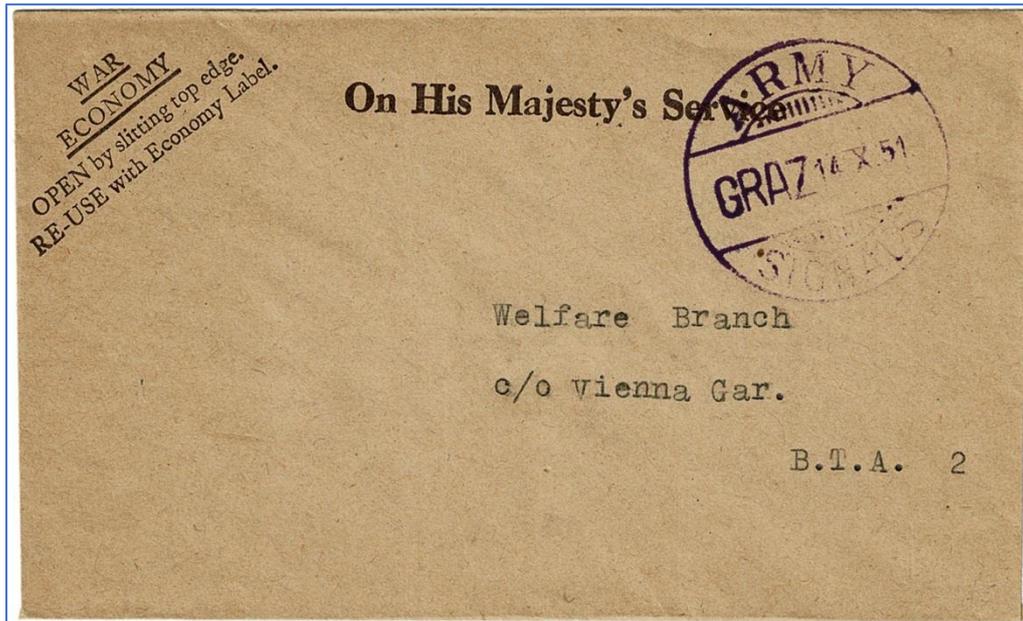
I think that all these are genuinely used – ie the cover does have genuine parts. It could be a total fake, though ☹

The cover was delivered to Herr Seyfurth. It then fell into the hands of philatelists, or rogues, who set about decorating it to increase its sales appeal.

The ZENSURIERT ... 00 looks a bit home-made to be genuine. So does the Land Commission at top left – and in German a Commission is a Kommission since about 1900. A Land is the German word for a state.

The ARMY SIGNALS cancel was added, and the Hitler-head stamp.

Sorry if this is not what you hoped to hear!



And like the traditional Corporation Bus, you see none for ages then several come at once. Nothing on the back of this, clean ... but it appears to have been licked and sealed when brand new - I wouldn't think they'd send it with contents but unsealed. Probably an "inside job"...

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