AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

Published by the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain for private
circulation to members: not to be quoted without permission.

Meeting Dates for 2000

March 4: London: Joint Meeting with Association of Austrian Philatelists.
April 8: Manchester: The Danube - Arthur Godden.
May 13: Manchester: Annual General Meeting.
WIPA2000 trip: 29th May - 4 th June
YORKFEST2000: York, from 13th to 15 th October.

Editorial 129

Well, it may (or as pedants assert may not) be a new millennium, but it feels much like the last one. It was Karl Marx, apparently, who said 'History repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce'. I can't help remembering the many other times in the last hundred years when foreign countries have expressed strong and sometimes justified views on the composition of the Austrian government, and on the activities taking place on its soil. The Austrian Federal Constitution begins "Austria is a democratic republic. Its law emanates from the people.". I hope for them that wisdom prevails, and that the new millennium does not presage tragedy.

I see that WIPA2000 plans to complement the exhibition with a wide variety of afternoon symposia, including talks on the Italian-Austrian and German-Austrian Postal Treaties, disinfected mail, transatlantic mail, and the introduction of postage stamps into Austria. "Alterations are possible", unsurprisingly. ASCGB visitors will need to balance their aural German comprehension skills with their need for a (hopefully) comfy seat!

Philately's more peripheral areas include the Vienna censor marks on cards from the General Gouvernment area to Polish internees in Hungary and Romania - a subject no more obscure than many that our members specialise in! I recently noticed "Polish Exile Mail in Great Britain 1939-1949" by G K Kay and R Negus which covers such marks. Copies (£20) available from HH Sales.

As I said in the Newsletter, the next issue of Austria (no. 130) is due in May, almost the 150th anniversary of Austria's first postage stamp. It would be nice if it had some items of direct relevance! Does anyone have a Festschrift secreted away, or an exhibition-standard FDC which I could use as an illustration? On the same lines of thought, the ASCGB WIPAfest party is staying in Baden bei Wien: does anyone have some examples of that town's postal history?

2002 is the European Union target for plans to reduce state monopolies on letter delivery, according to recent newspaper reports; they will be removed in 2008. The British Post Office (plc-in-waiting) wants to follow the German one in international expansion. I wonder what effect this might have on the Austrian mail system: a Eurostamp with a design resembling a barcoded label for a jar of pickled gherkins or broccoli somehow lacks philatelic appeal!

Kindly note that each article and feature in this magazine is copyright, and must not be reproduced without the consent of the Editor and of the author. The Editorial expresses the prejudices of the Editor, not the opinions of the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain

The Unification Issue - Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I am sorry that my personal submission to the Unification Committee has provoked the Hon. Sec. into a long, public counter-argument ("Austria" 128 p.56) but my views were not unique, as noted by the Hon. Ed. on p.57.

If we are to bow completely to political correctness and national sensitivities, then we should go back and consider that the ASCGB and AAP are already misnomers. The ASCGB is not "The AUSTRIAN Stamp Club" nor are AAP members "AUSTRIAN philatelists" since except the eight very honoured members residing therein, none of us are AUSTRIANS. And if we look forward in the current political trend, in order: Northern Ireland may soon not exist as part of the UK, the UK is becoming Dis-United, whilst for some republicans even 'Kingdom' is an anathema.

We have reached our present status by offering a study group of Austrian Philately in the ENGLISH language which even the 30 or so members from non-English-speaking countries find of value. To retain some indication of this aspect in our name should therefore remain a prerequisite. "English" or "England" would probably infuriate our 9 Scottish residents, so why abandon British i.e Great Britain with the well established reputation abroad? I do not recall anyone from outside objecting when they joined the ASCGB (though tax exiles in the Channel Islands may have had reservations!) Does anyone want to belong to the E.S.S.S.A.P (English-Speaking Society of Students of Austrian Philately)?

So, let us go back further into history and join the great English writer who said (R & J, II, ii, 43): "What's in a name? .. a rose by any other name would smell." and leave Our Rose as un-sullied as possible.

H G White, Evesham, 27.1.2000

✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍

[Loci probandi sunt! The reference is to Shakespear(e), Romeo & Juliet, Act II scene 2. Juliet encounters Romeo by moonlight and says about his surname *"Tis but thy name that is my enemy../ O, be some other name! / What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet; / So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd, / Retain that dear perfection which he owes / Without that title*.".   Is not Juliet asserting that Romeo's name is irrelevant; she ardently desires union with Romeo, not R. Montague Esq.

The Österreichischerbriefmarkensammlervereingrossbritanniens, ie ASCGB, is according to its rules "established for the study and encouragement of philately, pertaining particularly to Austria and related territories" - which makes it, not a Stamp Club for Austrians, but a Club for Austrian Stamps. And 'Austria' as we know it only

acquired that name in 1915; before then the non-Hungarian part of the Empire was "the lands represented in the Reichsrat". A prolific source of linguistic confusion here is the use of the same word for a country, its language, and its inhabitants: and as a study of Austro-Hungary rapidly shows, emotions run high when people who regard themselves as X are described as Y. Politicians wax eloquent over the question of how a nation is to be described: is it those who live in A, those who speak B, or those who resemble C? A language was once defined as a Dialect with an army!

By Juliet's logic, the name of the putative organisation need bear no relation to its function: as is increasingly if unhelpfully common these days. I wonder if company names such as 'Cirrus', 'Pharmacia', or 'Thus' are deliberately chosen to invoke a mood rather than to convey information: and who could fail to approve of a political organisation called The Freedom Party? Ed.]

✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍ ✍

Dear Sir,

I would like to make some comments on the proposed amalgamation of the ASCGB and the AAP.

Last summer I met a number of Austrian stamp collectors in the Innsbruck area and also visited one of the Innsbruck Stamp Clubs. These meetings had all been arranged after obtaining addresses of the various people during our visit to Vienna in 1998. When speaking to them the name of 'The Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain' and some of its members were known by repute and I am sure helped me when making my initial approaches. One comment was that the club had often been mentioned in Die Briefmarke in the past. For this reason I would like to suggest that the name of the overall organisation remain as the ASCGB.

My thoughts are that a main subscription would be paid by all members to the overall organisation who would be responsible for the printing and distribution of 'Austria', the Newsletter with Postal Auction, and organising the annual and any other 'Fests'.

The two existing groups that hold meeting would become self supporting 'local groups' and I would expect the members meeting in London would continue to be known as the AAP. The Manchester group would need to consider a change possibly adding 'Manchester' or 'North West' to ASCGB. Other groups formed by members in this country or abroad could consider their own name but all would be under the overall organisation of the ASCGB.

If you either support or disagree with me, then please let the Secretary know [**now!** -Ed] so that your thoughts may be added to the members' input when the proposals are considered further by the working party.

M. J. Boyer, Pinchbeck, Lincs. 3 Feb 2000

"The philatelic build-up to WIPA 2000, by Nick Harty"

This article does not exist in electronic format.

The text follows.

WIPA 2000 will be the sixth International Philatelic Exhibition to be staged in Vienna. The first time was in 1881, followed by 1890, 1933, 1965, and 1981. The main sponsor is the Austrian State Printing Works and co-sponsors arc Bank of Austria, Austria Centre - WIPA venue, Austrian Airlines, Austropa - official WIPA travel agency, Telekom Austria and Austrian Postal Authority.

The purpose of this Exhibition is to celebrate the 150th birthday of the first Austrian Stamp series issued on the 1st June 1850 consisting of five Kreuzer values for Austria and five Centesmi values for Lombardy & Venetia.

Each exhibition has gone from strength to strength and increased in size and production of philatelic material. In 1964 a series of eight stamps was issued on 20th July inviting persons to the Exhibition in 1965 [Wien lädt zur WIPA 1965]; and on 4th June 1965 a further set was issued for the Exhibition. In 1979 a single stamp was issued on 30th November inviting persons to visit Vienna in 1981 [Wien lädt zur WIPA 1981], the design was the first stage printing of the design to be issued in 1981; on 21st November 1980 a second stage printing of the design was issued followed by the finished design issued in a miniature block on the 20th February 1981.

The Exhibition WIPA 2000 is no exception and promises to be even more lavish and expensive on the collector's pocket. On the 23rd. May 1997 the first stamp was issued in a miniature block of four [Wien lädt zur WIPA 2000]. This was followed by the issue of the second design on 6th November 1998, again in a miniature sheet of four stamps. In 1999 a third design was issued on 17th September in a miniature sheet of four stamps. It should be mentioned that each of the designs has a postal value of the registration rate current at the time of issue, with a surcharge for philatelic funds. This year has just seen the issue of a miniature sheet on 21st January 2000 incorporating the three stamps issued in 1997, 1998 and 1999 with the inscribed year changed to 2000 and a WIPA logo making up the block which has resulted in a lower price.

The Austrian Postal Authority together with the State Printing Works have been generous in donating a free souvenir block featuring the new 10 schilling definitive stamp in the series Austrian Myths and Legends also issued on 21st

January 2000. There is, however, a catch because it will only be given with the purchase of either a day or a season entrance ticket and only whilst stocks last!

The Organising Committee of WIPA 2000 has been busy in organising a series of official philatelic covers in the build up to WIPA 2000. Interested Philatelists were invited to subscribe to a package guaranteed to supply one of each cover, bulletins, goodies and entrance tickets.

The first cover was produced on 8th. March 1997, to commemorate the first day of Numiphil 97 with a special cancellation 1150 from Wien and featuring the new logo for WIPA 2000. 800 covers were serviced.

The second cover was also produced on 8th. March 1997. This was a white card with UNPA special cachet but note that the United Nations 7 Schilling stamp has been cancelled with circular date cancel Wien Vereinte Nationen 1400. 800 covers were serviced.

The third cover is registered and was produced for the opening of GRAZ 97 on 23rd. May 1997. The stamp is the first of the three designs for the build up to WIPA 2000 and is cancelled with a special cancel on its First Day of Issue: 8010 Graz. Note the self adhesive bar coded registration label. 800 covers were serviced.

The fourth item is a Black Print of the first WIPA 2000 block and was released on 3rd. May 2000.

The fifth item is a cover produced on 4th July for the opening of the philatelic exhibition Gmunden 97. The stamp is the seventh in the series of The Day of the Stamp issued on 9th May 1997. 800 covers were serviced.

The sixth item is a First Flight cover commemorating the Austrian Airlines service to Delhi on 25th October 2000 and also First Day cover for the Modern Art issue of 17th October. All the covers were damaged with only 732 surviving.

The seventh item is a fest cover issued for the philatelic exhibition held at Floridsdorf on the 30th January 1998. The locomotive in the design of both the cover and the special cancel is "Austria". The special cancel is serviced by 1150 Wien. 800 were produced.

The eighth item is a registered cover produced to commemorate the first use of the special post office for WIPA 2000. It is franked with a 32 schilling Frama. Note also the use of self-adhesive bar coded registered label. 900 covers were serviced.

The ninth item is a postal stationery card No 43 Schloß Hellbrunn Salzburg with over-printed 1 Schilling Mariazell. The cancel is the first day of use of the new OT canceller issued for the opening of the new WIPA 2000 post office. 900 cards were serviced.

The tenth item is a goodwill flight cover to Tel Aviv in Israel on 13th May 1998. Covers were lodged on 29th April at the stamp exhibition in Vienna "50 years of Israel"; dispatched to Austrian Airlines on 12th May; arrival special cancellation Tel Aviv 13th May 1998. 900 covers were serviced.

The eleventh item is a commemorative cover carried by the 19th Pro Juventute airship flight flown from Koflach on the 1lth June 1998. The cover was the First Day of use of the Pitney & Bowes Meter franking machine. Note the cachet: bad weather delayed the assent. 1000 covers were serviced.

The twelfth item is a First Day Cover of the ninth design for the Day of the Stamp cancelled with special hand cancel commemorating 50th anniversary of Köflach Stamp and Coin Club on 12th June 1998. Note WIPA 2000 vignette. 900 covers were serviced.

spacer page

spacer page

Stamps of the Second Republic: 1991: part 40

Second half of the year

By J F Giblin

40.17 The St Pölten issue of 5th July 1991

Fig 980: Town Hall (SG2268)

The fifth anniversary of the elevation of the city of St Pölten to the rank of capital of the province of Lower Austria, in the place of Vienna, was commemmorated by issuing a 5S multicoloured stamp on 26th June 1991 (FDC 5th July). This stamp was designed by Marianne Siegel, to depict the front elevation of the St Pölten Town Hall, and printed in photogravure only (light cobalt, cream, rose-carmine, grey, lilac-brown, black and gold) in an impression of 2.9 million; comb perforation 13¾.

St Pölten was already the largest city of Lower Austria, so that it was natural that it should be chosen as the administrative capital of that province in order to relieve pressure on Vienna. Standing upon the Traisen river, with its own statute of 1922, it is a central point for the commerce of the Alpine Foreland. Originally a Roman town of the Aelium Celts, it is first recorded in 799 as "Treisma" and is now named after the patron saint of its cathedral, founded at the end of the 11th century as an Augustinian Abbey and given its own bishop in 1785 by the Josephine reforms. It was in the possession of Passau until 1490, and has the oldest market charter (of 1058) of Lower Austria.

40.18 The Otto Wagner issue of 10th July 1991

Fig 981: Vienna City Railway (SG2269)

The S.G. catalogue points out that this 4S50 multicoloured stamp, issued on 26th June 1991 (FDC 10th July) should really be considered as part of the anniversaries set of SG2253-2255 issued on 8th February 1991. It was the 150th anniversary of the birth of Otto Wagner that was the reason for issuing this stamp, which was designed by Auguste Böcskör, to depict the Karlsplatz Station of the Vienna City Railway which Wagner designed. It was engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and printed in both recess (black) and photogravure (light cobalt, dark blue grey, orange, yellow green, gold, red lilac, and brown ochre) in an

impression of 2.9 million; comb perforation 13¾. A short biography of Otto Wagner is given in the original P.O.A.S. page 89.

40.19 The Canoeing and Rowing issue of 20th August 1991

Fig 982: Rowing (SG2270)

Both the Junior World Canoeing Championships and the World Rowing Championships were held in Vienna during August 1991. To mark these events, a single 5S multicoloured stamp was issued on 6th August 1991 (FDC 20th). This stamp was designed by Maria Schulz and printed in photogravure only (grey, brown-ochre, sepia, light orange-red, corn flower blue and chrome-yellow) in an impression of 3.3 million; comb perforation 14¼:13½.

Only the rowing championship is depicted on the stamp, and the blackprint points out that this event was inaugurated in 1962 in Lucerne. Since then it has been held in 1966 (Bled), 1975 (Nottingham), 1976 (Villach), 1979 (Bled), 1981 (Munich), 1982 (Lucerne), 1986 (Nottingham), 1989 (Bled) and 1990 (Tasmania).

40.20 The Radiology Congress issue of 13th September 1991

Fig 983: X-Ray Tube (SG2271)

The European Radiology Congress was held in Vienna during September 1991. To mark this event a 7S multicoloured stamp was issued on 3rd September 1991 (FDC 13th). This stamp was designed by Stefan Kalmar to depict an X-Ray or Röntgen tube, and printed in photogravure only (yellow, red, blue and black) in an impression of 2.9 million; comb perforation 14.

It was Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (1845-1923) who, on 8th November 1895, had described a "new type of ray" (which he called X-Rays) that were capable of penetrating solids and producing shadowgraphs. This technique became widely used in medicine as a diagnostic tool.

40.21 The Paracelsus issue of 27th September 1991

The 450th anniversary of the death of the physician and scientist, Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim, known as "Paracelsus" (1493-1541) was commemmorated by issuing a 4S multicoloured portrait stamp on 17th September 1991. This stamp was designed by Lucie Buchheim and printed in photogravure only (brown-ochre, brownish-carmine, dark brown-red and black) in an impression of 2.9 million; comb perforation 14¼:13½. The author (583) has previously provided a short biography of this alchemist, who was born at Maria Einsiedeln and died at Salzburg as personal physician to the Archbishop. His career bridged the transition from doubtful alchemy to scientific medicine.

Fig 984: Paracelsus (SG2272)

40.22 The 22nd annual "EUROPA-CEPT" issue: the "Austro Mir 91" issue of 2nd December 1991

The "Austro Mir 91" Soviet-Austrian Space Flight, the first Austrian expedition into space, was initiated in June 1987 at a cost of 160 million schillings. To mark the success of this joint venture a 9S multicoloured stamp was issued on 17th September 1991 (FDC 2nd October). This stamp was designed by Valentin Wurmitsch to depict the space station with its project logo "Austromir" and printed in photogravure only (blue, blue-green, yellow, red and black) in an impression of 2.9 million; comb perforation 13¾.

The space station itself was 32.9 metres long and had a maximum width of 29.7 metres. The mass was about 130 tonnes and the crew was 5 to 6 persons, orbiting at 200Km above the earth. The Europa theme for 1991 was "Europe in Space".

Fig 985: MIR Space Station (SG2273)

40.23 The Folk Customs and Art issue of 4th October 1991

A set of three stamps was issued on 17th September 1991 (FDC 4th October) as the first series of such stamps dealing with "Austrian Folk Customs and Art". These stamps were designed by Maria Schulz with the following themes:

SG2274 - 4S50: Almabtrieb (driving cattle down from their summer pastures), Zell, Tirol

SG2275 - 5S: Winzerkrone (A vintage, ie grapes, crown), Neustift, Vienna

SG2276 - 7S: Ernte-Monstranz (Harvest Monstrance), Nestelbach, Styria

Fig 986: Almabtrieb, Vintage Crown, Harvest Monstrance (SG2274-2276)

They were engraved by Kurt Leitgeb and were printed in both recess (black) and photogravure as follows: 4S50 and 7S ultramarine, yellow, red, dark blue-grey; 5S dark blue-grey, Turkish blue, yellow, matte purple. The impression for each value was 2.95 million (in sheets of 50 pieces); comb perforation 13¾.

On the 4S50 stamp a cowherd is shown driving specially decorated cows back to the valley at the end of pasture (Alm = pasture land) high up in the mountains during the summer. The 5S shows a decorated pole hanging over grapes and a bottle of wine (Winzer = wine grower or dresser) when the wine-making is complete. The 7S value depicts elaborate cakes, presumably for the harvest festival. A "Monstrance" (Latin monstrare: to show) is a vessel in which the Host is displayed.

40.24 Austrian World of Work issue of 11th October 1991

Fig 987: Weaver (SG2277)

In this, the fifth series, the theme chosen was a woman weaver at her textile loom. This 4S50 multicoloured stamp was designed by Werner Pfeiler and issued on 2nd October 1991 (FDC 11th). It was printed in photogravure only (ultramarine, yellow, rose-carmine, black-brown, red and dark blue-grey) in an impression of 2.9 million; comb perforation 13¾. Comment has already been made in AUSTRIA (no. 117, Autumn 1996, p64) about the background to the stamp series on this theme.

40.25 The 17th Modern Art issue of 11th October 1991

Fig 988: The General
(SG2278)

The Austrian Modern Art subject selected selected for depicting on a 5S multicoloured stamp issued on 2nd October 1991 (FDC 11th) was "The General" by Professor Rudolf Pointner. This design was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (carmine) and photogravure (sulfur yellow, Turkish blue, brown-violet and black) in an impression of 3.1 million; comb perforation 13¾.

Rudolf Pointner was born on 16th March 1907, the son of an official in Zara in Dalmatia. At the age of 10 years he came to live in Styria where he absorbed the myths and legends of that province. He became a member of the Wiener Hagenbund but lived mainly in Graz where he was still active in 1991.

40.26 The Julius Raab issue of 29th November 1991

Fig 989: Julius Raab
(SG2279)

The centenary of the birth of the Austrian Chancellor (1953-61) Julius Raab (1891-1964) was celebrated by issuing a portrait stamp on 13th November 1991 (FDC 29th). This 4S50 multicoloured stamp was designed by Peter Konkolits, engraved by Annemarie Kalina and printed in both recess (black-brown) and photogravure (brown-ochre) in an impression of 2.85 million; comb perforation 14¼:13½. Since a portrait stamp was issued for the 90th anniversary of his birth (SG1918) the author (584) has previously provided a short biography of this Austrian politician who was born on 29th November 1891 in St Pölten and died in Vienna on 8th January 1964. Originally an architect, he turned to politics in 1927 and apart from the period of the second World War served his country continuously in many offices.

40.27 The 27th Christmas issue of 29th November 1991

Fig 990: Nativity (SG2280)

The annual Christmas stamp was issued on 13th November 1991 (FDC 29th) as a 5S multicoloured value. This stamp was designed by Sepp Buchner to depict "Geburt Christi" (ie The Birth of Christ) after a fresco in the Parish Church of Baumgartenberg in Upper Austria. It was engraved by Wolfgang Seidel and printed in both recess (brown-black) and photogravure (Turkish blue, yellow, matte purple and gold) in an impression of 8 million; comb perforation 14:13¾.

The fresco has the Holy Family in the centre of a wooden stall while two bending angels are placed on the right of the design. This fresco is dated as having been painted between 1696 and 1699 and was possibly the work of the young Johann Bernhard Corlone.

References to Part 40

581   Giblin J.F. "Bruno Kreisky", Addendum 181 to P.O.A.S., AUSTRIA no 114 Winter 1995 page 58.

582   Idem, "New Issues 1991 Part 3": AUSTRIA no 97 Autumn 1991 page 4

583   Idem "Paracelsus", Addendum 182 to P.O.A.S., AUSTRIA no 119 Spring 1997 page 61.

584   Idem, "Julius Raab", Addendum 118 to P.O.A.S., AUSTRIA no 64 Summer 1983 page 44.

[See also the expanded biography of Raab in the internet version of the State Treaty article, http://www.kitzbuhel.demon.co.uk/austamps/sjr01d.htm]

The People on Austrian Stamps: Addendum 193

Sealsfield, Charles SG2323 - 1993

Karl Anton Postl was born on 3rd March 1793 at Poppitz in Southern Moravia. He was the son of Anton Postl, a farmer, and of the latter's wife Juliane Rabel. As a boy he was educated first at the Lower Grammar School in Znaim from 1802 to 1807 and then at the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Prague where, in 1808, he became a novice. He was professed as a monk in 1813 and worked on secretarial and parochial activities. However in 1823 he fled from the monastery in reaction to the Metternich regime and, using the name Charles Sealsfield, travelled to New Orleans; going through the southern states, the Mexican province of Texas, and probably into Mexico itself. He returned to Europe in 1827 and published (under the name of Charles Sidonis) "The United States of North America" (1828, in both German & English). For the next four years, Charles Sealsfield worked as a journalist and published "Austria as it is; or Sketches of Continental Courts" (1828); and "Tokeah or the White Rose" (1828; 2 vols; in German 1833).

He then decided to write a new type of fiction: in his ethnographic novels he used white heroes in works dealing with the inhabitants of Mexico and the USA, preserving his anonymity until 1845. Having come from a multi-ethnic region of the Habsburg Empire, he was able to interpret American Society along multicultural lines as the image of the USA as a melting-pot was developing. Thus he wrote "Der Virey und die Aristokraten, oder Mexico in Jahre 1812" (3 vols 1834); "Die Deutsch-amerikanischen Wahlverwandtschaften" (4 vols 1839-40); Das Cujütenbach oder Nationale Charakteristiken" (2 vols 1841); "Süden und Norden" (3 vols 1842-3); and finally "Lebensbilder aus der westlichen Hemisphäre" (5 vols 1846). He became a citizen of the United States, stating that he had been born in Pennsylvania!

All his novels were published in an edition of 15 volumes under the name of Charles Sealsfield between 1845 and 1847. He then went to live in Switzerland for health reasons, and died on 26th May 1864 at Solothurn. It was only when his will was published that his true identity became known. Reference may be made to "Who was Who in America" (1607-1896) p472 which was published in New York in 1963.

The People on Austrian Stamps: Addendum 194

Jägerstätter, Franz SG2353 - 1993

Franz Jägerstätter was born on 20th May 1905 at St Radegund near Salzach in the Upper Austrian Innviertel. He was the son of Franz Bachmeier, a farmer's labourer, and of Rosalia Huber, a farmer's maid. The boy was brought up by his grandmother, Elizabeth Huber, and attended the one-class elementary school in St Radegund for seven years. In February 1917, his mother married a farmer, Heinrich Jägerstätter, who adopted the boy and gave him his surname. Franz now came into contact with literature for the first time and became a voracious reader.

His step-father warned him that "those who do not read will never be able to stand on their own feet and will easily become the puppets of others". In 1925, Franz went to work for three years at Eisenerz in Styria but then returned to take over his step-father's farm. In 1936 he married Franziska and they had three children.

After the Anschluß he rejected National Socialism, but in December 1940 he was conscripted into the German Army. By April 1941 he had returned to his farm determined not to fight for Hitler, having seen the persecution of priests and the murder of the mentally handicapped. His family, his priestly friends and even the Bishop of Linz, who he consulted, all tried to dissuade him from being a conscientious objector in view of his responsibilities to his family. He refused to take this course, and on 1st March 1943 he declared his position to the military authorities at Enns. For two months he was imprisoned at Linz, and then in May 1943 he was transferred to Berlin. There, on 6th July 1943, he was tried before the 2nd Panel of the Reich's Court Martial under Werner Leuben, and condemned to death, although he stated that he was prepared to serve in the medical corps out of Christian charity. On 9th August 1943 he was taken to Brandenburg-Havel and beheaded there at 4pm. The Diocese of Linz has now initiated the procedures for the canonisation of Franz Jägerstätter.

The People on Austrian Stamps: Addendum 195
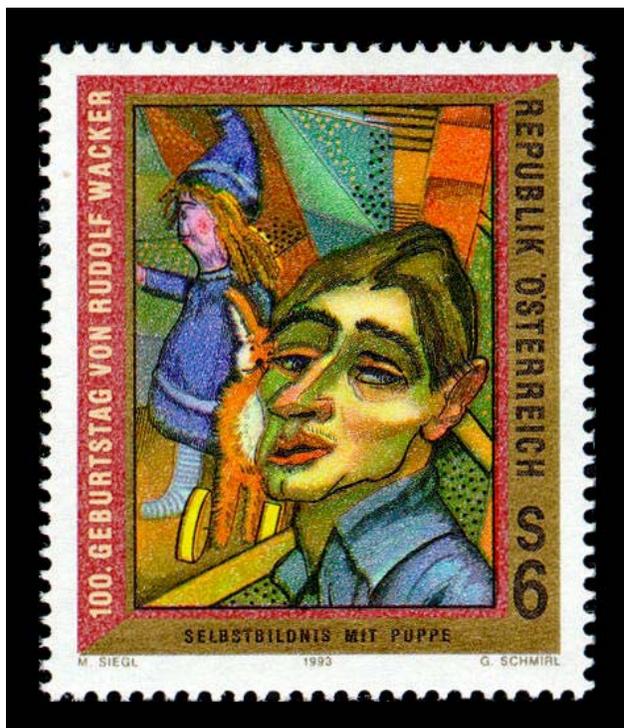
Wacker, Rudolf SG2355 - 1993

Rudolf Wacker was born on 25th February 1893 in Bregenz. He was the son of Romedius Wacker, an architect, and of the latter's wife Marianne Wüstner. The boy grew up in Bregenz with his two brothers, Franz and Romedius, and his sister Maria. On completion of his primary schooling, he attended the Bregenz Grammar School from 1904 to 1909, and then the Bregenz Art School for two years. Having failed the entrance examination for the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, he studied with a private painter's (Bauer) school and then attended, from 1912 to 1914, the Weimar Art Academy. During the First World War he was taken prisoner near Olyka in Russia on 7th October 1915, and was imprisoned in a prisoner-of-war camp at Tomsk in Siberia. However, he was granted permission to work as an artist, and even joined the "All Russian Union of Workers in Fine Arts", working in both Tomsk and Moscow.

Rudolf Wacker returned to Bregenz in 1921 before working in Berlin, where he married Ilse Moebius from Goslau on 26th December 1922; their only child Romedius was born in July 1929. He returned in 1924 to Bregenz to live in his mother's house and to be supported by his brother Franz who was an eye specialist. He participated in Vienna exhibitions, selling some drawings and lithographs, and in 1925 was a founder member of the Union of Artists on the Bodensee called "Der Kreis". Although he attempted to obtain professorships in Vienna and Weimar, he was unsuccessful; but after 1936 he taught in the Bregenz Art School. He had sold a painting to a museum in 1928, and in 1934 one of his paintings was selected for the 19th Venice Biennale. After the Anschluß he was interrogated by the Gestapo in May 1938 and this led to an attack of angina pectoris. In June he was expelled from the artists' union and from his teaching position. In the following year his medical condition worsened, and he was admitted to an hospital at St Gallen where his wife nursed him. Rudolf Wacker died at Bregenz on 19th April 1939.

The People on Austrian Stamps: Addendum 196

Peregrin Lanzios: Saint
SG2331 - 1994

Peregritius Lanziosi, the Servite saint, was born about the year 1265 at Forli, which is 30km inland from Ravenna in Northern Italy. Six years later the Servite Order founded a priory in Forli and its Prior General, Philippus Benitius, later paid an official visit there in order to attempt to resolve a major dispute between Pope Martin IV (1281-1285) and that town. During the discussion a group of unruly youths, including Peregrin Lanziosi, stormed in and thrust the Prior outside the town gates. Indeed the Prior had boxed the youth's ear and this so disturbed the boy's conscience that he followed the holy man and begged his forgiveness. Not only was he forgiven, but was welcomed into the Servite Order, did his noviciate in Sienna, and then returned to the priory in Forli, not as a priest but as a professed monk. There he prayed deeply, became learned in holy scripture, fasted constantly and served the poor all his days.

These strenuous activities led to Peregrin rupturing a varicose vein in his right leg and the doctor advising that amputation was necessary. However, on the night before the proposed operation, Peregrin dreamed that Our Lord had cured his affliction, and when he awoke in front of the crucifix, as shown on the altar painting depicted on the stamp, he found that his leg had been healed miraculously. This event made Brother Peregrin very famous, and he lived at Forli renowned for his sanctity until his death there on 4th May 1345. He was beatified by Pope Paul V (1605-1621) in 1609 and canonised by Pope Benedict XIII (1724-1730) on 27th December 1726. During the canonisation process many cures for leg injuries and cancers were attributed to him, and he was proclaimed the patron saint and protector for the sick, especially for cancer patients. Both the Servite Churches in Vienna and Luggau have chapels dedicated to St Peregrin, whose feast is celebrated on 4th May. [*but this stamp was issued on 26 August 1994: ANK2165.*]

Austrian Scout Postal Cancellations

by J.F. Giblin

Introduction

The first sixty-three special Austrian scout postal cancellations were listed in AUSTRIA No 35 (October 1975) pp.21-25 and in AUSTRIA No 45 (July 1978) p.28. The corresponding meter marks were given in AUSTRIA No 47 (January 1949) pp.21-23. In view of the period that has elapsed since these articles were published, it has been thought appropriate to continue the listing of the special scout postal cancellations as follows.

N.B. The officially recognised Scout body in Austria is the "Pfadfinder Österreichs" (P.Ö.). The "Österreichischer Pfadfinderbund" (Ö.P.B.) is not recognised by the international scout body. (cf. pp.14-16 of Austria No 35).

1978

No 64   50 Years of Scouting in Perchtoldsdorf 1928-1978. 29.4.1978 Postage Stamp Exhibition 2380 Perchtoldsdorf.

No 65   Town games of the Scout Postage Stamp Show of the S.T.P.S. for the 850th Year of Graz. 8010 Graz. 21.5.1975.

No 66   Postage Stamp Exhibition. 50 Years of Scouting. 8280 Fürstenfeld - 14.7.1978.

No 67   5 Years of the Scout Group of Schlins - Jupident. Postage Stamp Exhibition B.S.V. - Z.L.D. 25.11.1978. 6324 Schlins.

1979

No 68   Austrian Scout Association Postage Stamp Exhibition 45 Years of XVIII Column. 1150 Vienna. 22.4.1979.

No 69   50 Years of Scouting in Steyr. 999th Year of Steyr. Ö.P.B.S.G. Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition in the Bummerl House. 4400 Steyr. 26-27. 5.1979.

No 70   Jamboree Postage Stamp Exhibition. S.T.P.S. XV World Jamboree. 8010 Gras. 5-6.7.1979.

No 71   Ö.P.B.S.G. Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition 2700 Wiener Neustadt. Provincial Meeting of the N.Ö. Cubs and Brownies in the Year of the Child. 6.10.1979.

No 72   Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp Exhibition. 50 Years of the Scout Group 55 in the Atzgersdorf. 1929 -1979. Hugo v. Hofmannsthal. 1150 Wien. 26.10.1979.

No 73   Jamboree on the Air 1979 Postage Stamp Exhibition St. Scout B.S. World Savings Day. Styrian Savings Bank. 8010 Gras. 29-31.10.1979.

1980

No 74   Ö.P.B.S.G. Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition 1930-1980. 50 Years of Scouting in Wels. 4600 Wels. 21-23.5.1980.

No 75   50 Years of the Scout Group of Leobersdorf. Ö.P.B.S.G. Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition. 2544 Leobersdorf 14.6.1980.

No 76   Baden Powell. 1st Memorial March. Postage Stamp Exhibition B.S.V. Z.L.D. 6824 Schlins. 14-15.6.1980.

No 77   St. Georg - Adriach. Postage Stamp Exhibition. 8130 Frohnleiten. 4-5.7.1980.

No 78   50 Years of Scouting in Feldkirch 1930-1980. Postage Stamp Commercial Show in the Palais Liechtenstein. 6800 Feldkirch 4.10.1980.

No 79   Ö.P.B.S.G. Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition Group 27 Donaustadt 1930-1980. 1150 Wien. 19.10.1980.

1981

No 80   Austria Jamboretto 8103 Rein. Postage Stamp Exhibition St. P.S. 29.7.1981. 2-7.8.1981.

No 81   50 Years of the Scout Group Schwaz. Postage Stamp Exhibition 6130 Schwaz 19.9.1981.

No 82   30 Years of the Scout Group Oberwart. Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp Exhibition. 7400 Oberwart. 26.10.1981.

No 83   750th Anniversary of the death of St. Elisabeth, Patroness of the Catholic Brownies. 1150 Wien. 14.11.1981.

No 84   70 Years of the Scout Group Wien 1 "St. George" Christmas Postage Stamp Show. 1150 Wien. 28-29.11.1981.

1982

No 85   125th Anniversary of the Birth of Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp Show. 1150 Wien. 22.2.1982.

No 86   800 Years of St. Francis of Assisi. Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp Show. 1150 Wien. Protector and Patron of the Catholic Cubs. 75 Years of the World Scout Movement. 14.5.1982.

No 87   50 Years of the Scouts of Friesach. 9360 Friesach. Carinthia. 29-30.5.1982.

No 88   50 Years of the Scouts 2540 Bad Voslau Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp Exhibition. 4-5.9.1982.

1983

No 89   Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition. 15th European Forum of the Scout Guild. 5611 Grossarl. 23-24.1.1903.

No 90   4th International Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition in the World Scout Year. 1150 Wien. Austrian Scout Postage Stamp Collectors' Guild. 18-19.2.1983.

No 91   4th International Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition. 1150 Wien. 35 Years of the Austrian Scout Postage Stamp Collectors Guild. 21-22.2.1983.

No 92   World Year of the Scout St.P.S. Postage Stamp Show. 8010 Graz. The Year of the Scout 1982-1983. 22-23.4.1983.

No 93   60 Years of the Scout Group of St. George. Graz 1 - Münzgraben-Eisteich. 8010 Graz. St. P.B.Ö. Postage Stamp Exhibition. 18.6.1983.

No 94   10 Years Scout Group "We create encounters" 6824 Schlins Postage Stamp Exhibition B.S.V.-Z.L.D. Schlins - Jupident. 18-19.6.1983.

No 95   Scout 83. Closure of the World Scout Year. Wien-Donauinsel / 15th World Jamboree Canada. 75 Years of Scouting Ö.P.B.S.G. Scout Postage Stamp Show. 1150 Wien. 19.6.1983.

No 96   8th Internal Provincial Camp of the P.P.O./CO. 4880 St. Georgen im Attergau. St. P.S. Postage Stamp Exhibition. 6-7.8.1983.

No 97   15th Day of the Death of Dr. A. Tysowskyj. 1010 Wien (ditto in Ukranian) Special Show (70 Years of Ukranian Scouts) 26.11.1983.

No 98   European Conference of Catholic Scout Leaders. 5010 Salzburg. Postage Stamp Show. 26.11.1983.

1984

No 99   Opening of the Federal House of the Scouts and Guides of Austria. Postage Stamp Show. Week of St. George. 1010 Wien. 27-28.4.1984.

No 100   20th St. Nicholas Procession of the Ö.P.B.S.G. Scouts. Christmas Postage Stamp Show. 2136 Laa an der Thaya. 30.11-1.12.1984.

1985

No 101   55th Mothers' Day Festival of the Scouts. Postage Stamp Show Ö.P.B.S.G. 1010 Wien. 12.5.1985.

No 102   1910-1985 Postage Stamp Show Ö.P.B.S.G. 2700 Wiener Neustadt. 25-26. 5.1985.

No 103   Day of the Flag. Scout Idea. 1010 Wien. Postage Stamp Show Ö.P.B.S.G. 26.10.1985.

No 104   75 Years of Guides 1910-1985. Postage Stamp Exhibition St.P.S. 6130 Schwaz. 26.10.1985.

1986

No 105   75 Years of Scout Group Wien 1. St. George. 1150 Wien. Ö.P.B.S.G. 24.4.1986.

No 106   St. George's Day. Vienna Scouts. 75 Years 1911-1986. 1150 Wien. Ö.P.B.S.G. 27.4.1986.

No 107   Postage Stamp Show Ö.P.B.S.G. - St.P.S. 1946-1986. 40 Years Trofaiach. 8793 Trofaiach. 17.5.1986.

No 108   50 Years of the Scout Group Kleinmünchen Linz 5. Postage Stamp Exhibition St. P.S. 4010 Linz, Donau. 31.5.1986.

No 109   40 Years of Linz XII Urfahr 1890-1956 Franz Schückbauer. Postage Stamp Exhibition St.P.S. 4010 Linz. Donau, 14.6.1986.

No 110   Postage Stamp Exhibition. 1926 - 60 Years - 1986. N.Ö. Scout Group St. Polten Ö.P.B.S.G. 3100 St. Polten. 21.6.1986.

No 111   6th Federal Camp - Scouts - Lower Austria. QUIPU 86. Ö.P.B.S.G. Commercial Show. 3180 Lilienfeld. 9.8.1986.

No 112   40 Years Vienna Scout Group 4. Charles of Austria. 20 Years APK. Prince Eugen. Ö.P.B.S.G. Jubilee Exhibition. 1010 Wien. 27-28.9.1986.

No 113   Exhibition: "Gloggnitz-Pitten in the Late Middle Ages". Good Deed Postage Stamp Show Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp. St. Bernhard 2640 Gloggnitz. 18.10.1986.

No 114   B.S.V. Commercial Show International Year of Peace 1986. Scout Home 2020 Hollabrunn. 24-26.10.1986.

1987

No 115 50 Years of Scout Group 4690 Schwanenstadt. Postage Stamp Show B.S.V. Tergolape. 20-21.6.1987.

No 116 Int. S.B.G. Federal Camp. SBG Scouts and Guides. 5722 Niedernsill. Postage Stamp Commercial Show. Ö.P.B.S.G. 8-9.8.1987.

No 117 Scout Group Ö.P.B.S.G. Dedication of the Home Construction. 2544 Leobersdorf. 12.9.1987.

No 118 75 Years of the Austrian Scout Association. Peace around the World. Good Deed. 1912-1987. Scout Postage Stamp Collectors Group. Commercial Show. 1150 Wien. 26-27.9.1987.

No 119 Postage Stamp Commercial Show. 40 Years of Scout Group 11. St. Severin 1947-1987. Ö.P.B.S.G. 1150 Wien. 11.10.1987.

No 120 Postage Stamp Commercial Show. St.P.S. Founding of the Scout Group Judendorf - Strassengel - Gratwein on World Saving Day. 8112 Gratwein. 30.10.1987.

No 121 Flight of the Scouts and Guides to the 7th World Jamboree in Australia Scout Postage Stamp Show. Ö.P.B.S.G. 1150 Wien. 13.12.1987.

1988

No 122 1969'88. 20th European Forum of the Scout Guild. Grossarl. 16-23 January 1988. Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp Show. 5611 Grossarl. 18.1.1988.

No 123 600 Years of the Market Commune of Laxenburg. Good Deed. Exhibition. Ö.P.B.S.G. 2361 Laxenburg. 9-12.4.1987.

No 124 40 Years of Scout Group 19. Breitensee. Scout Postage Stamp Show. 1150 Wien. 23-24.4.1988.

No 125 10 Years of Scout Group. Weitensfeld. Postage Stamp Exhibition. Ö.P.B.S.G. 22-23.5.1988. 9344 Weitensfeld.

No 126 9th Internal Provincial Camp of the P.P.O./Ö.Ö St.P.S. Postage Stamp Exhibition. 4880. St. Georgen im Attergau. 6.8.1988.

No 127   Ö.P.B.S.G. Good Deed Exhibition. 3264 Gresten. 25.9.1988.

No 128   1913-1988. 75 Years of Scouts in Styria. 3010 Graz. 25-26.10.1988.

No 129   40 Years of Ö.P.B.S.G. in the B.V. of Scouts. Scout Postage Stamp
         Exhibition. 1150 Wien. 17.11.1988.

No 130   10 Years 1979-1989. Austrian Scout Association X. Column. Postage
         Stamp Exhibition. Ö.P.B.S.G. 1150 Wien. 26-27.11.1988.

1989

No 131   Bilaterale '89. Scout Postage Stamp Exhibition. 5280 Braunau am Inn 29-
         30.4.1989.

No 132   4th Parish Festival in the Crimea. 58 Year Group 58. B.M. Commercial
         Show. PSV St. A. 1150 Wien. 20-21.5.1989.

No 133   40 Years Scout Group Linz 8. Elselsberg - Pichling. Postage Stamp
         Exhibition. St. P.Ö. 4010 Linz, Donau. 26-27.5.1989.

No 134   60 Years Scout Group. Salzburg 6 - Maxglan. Postage Stamp Show.
         5010 Salzburg. 27-28.5.1989.

No 135   60 Years Scout Group. Amstetten Don Bosco. Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp
         Exhibition. 3300 Amstetten. N.Ö. 17-18.6.1989.

No 136   10 Years New Franz Merzl - Scout Hut. Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage Stamp
         Show. 2500 Baden bei Wien. 20.6.1989.

No 137   10 Years of Scout Group. 81 Glanzing. 1979-1989. Ö.P.B.S.G. Postage
         Stamp Exhibition. 1150 Wien. 30.9.-1.l0.1989.

No 138   1914-1918 Scouts in the Littoral. Postage Stamp Show. Ö.P.B.S.G. 1.
         Column Ö.P.B. 1150 Wien. 28-29.10.1989.

No 139   150 Years Post Office in Laa. 25th St. Nikolaus Procession. Postage
         Stamp Commercial Show S.C. - LAA Section. Postage Stamps of the Laa
         Scouts. 2136 Laa an der Thaya. 2.12.1989.

Wien Combined Town and Registration Cancellers

H G White

Although town marks were first used in the late 18th century, separate marks to denote Registered Mail were not introduced until the 1830s. Handstamps combining both town and registration also appeared at this time. However, Vienna pre-empted all others by introducing in 1824 a single line [Mü 1697 Ra] ("Mü" are references to E Müller's Handbooks; "K" to Klein's.)

V.WIEN:RECOM:

This was a modification of the late 18th century **'V:WIEN'** cancels [Mü 1697 H and I] and, uniquely for a post-1818 cancel, it still includes the **'V'** (for 'von').

[*Note that in Müller's two books on early postmarks, the wording of listings in the catalogue sections are only simplifications of the cancel, and that the accurate versions with actual typescript, punctuation and so on are given in the illustrations in the preceding text.*] The straight-line cancel was followed in 1833 by an elaborate double framed oval [Mü 1697 Rb] illustrated on the right

When the inclusion of dates in the hand stamps was ordered, a bold three-line cancel **WIEN/RECOMMAND:/date:** [Mü 1697 Rc] was introduced in 1837.
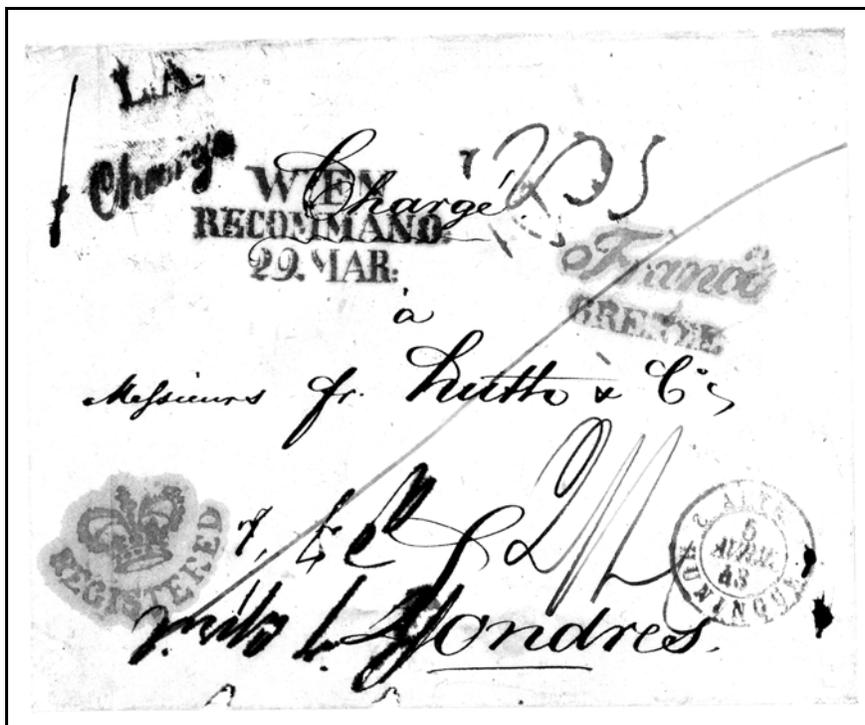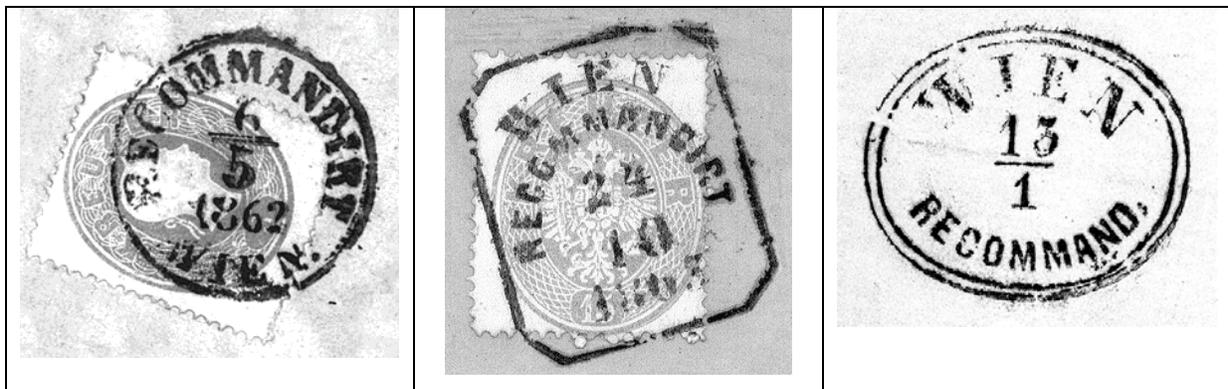
This 3-line version remained in use after postage stamps appeared in 1850, but almost at once circular date stamp cancellers replaced it. Three versions of these CDS were produced, varying in the type of lettering, the first two having a life of only 1-2 years before the third became standard in 1852. Initially, cancellations were in black but in 1857 the colour was changed to red and one can find dated examples on all of the first five Classic stamp issues until this circular type gave way to a vertical rectangle in 1863.

| 3-line version on a stamp | CDS version 1 | CDS version 2 |
| [Mü 3214Ra] | [Mü 3214Rb] | [Mü 3214Rc] |

| CDS version 3 | 1863 rectangle | Arrival mark |
| [Mü 3214Rd] | [Mü 3214Re] | [Mü 3214Rf] |

The example on the right of the second row above is an unusual oval arrival mark for registered mail, similar to the 1833 type above, which Vienna retained when the rule of placing the stamp paying the registration on the **back** of the letter ceased in 1866 and with it to a large extent combined town and registration marks. The envelope has the double-oval mark on the back; the front (shown overleaf) has **EXPRESSBRIEF** and **RECOM** marks in red. The literature, incidentally, is unclear on express rates before 1900.

Plain ovals as illustrated below (**WIEN/RECOMMAND**) with day/month figures inside or a blank for the registration serial number [Mü3214Rg = K6242c] followed. On the second example, the postmark was applied twice: once in red (wrongly, and crossed out in black) to indicate prepayment, then again in black to indicate no such payment, as this was an official letter for which no charge was made anyway. The manuscript "239" is the serial number.

Klein records many variants of these ovals, followed by CDS types which gradually incorporate the full day, month and year. A plain RECOMMANDIRT [K6264q] used in Vienna in 1876 is shown here; these were followed by CDS types which gradually incorporate the full day, month and year. One such example is on the back of this letter from DOBRA b. LIMANOV via SKOMIELNA-BIAŁA to MAHR. OSTRAU, redirected via Krakow station to WIEN, arriving 12/1/77 with Klein 6242j arrival mark.
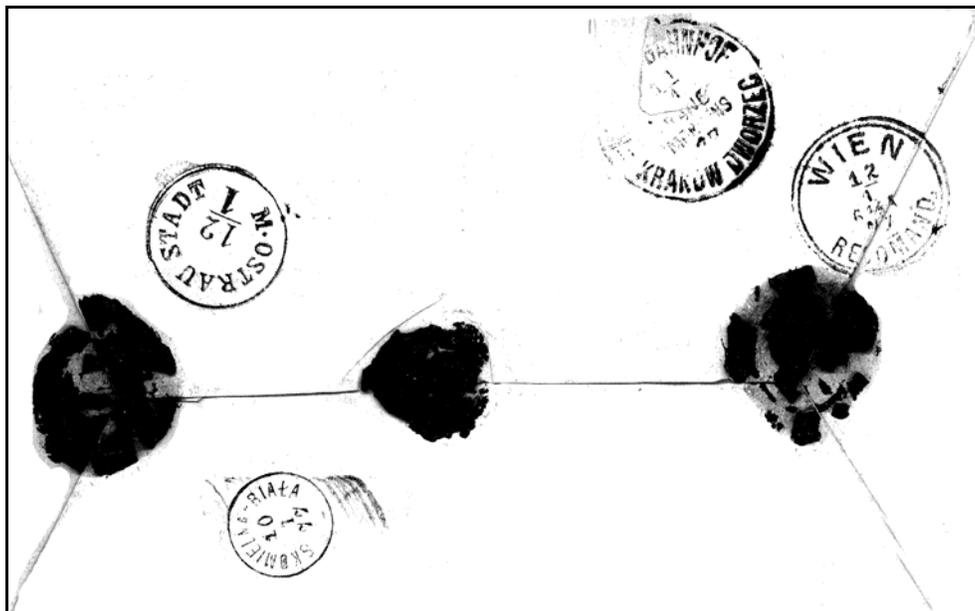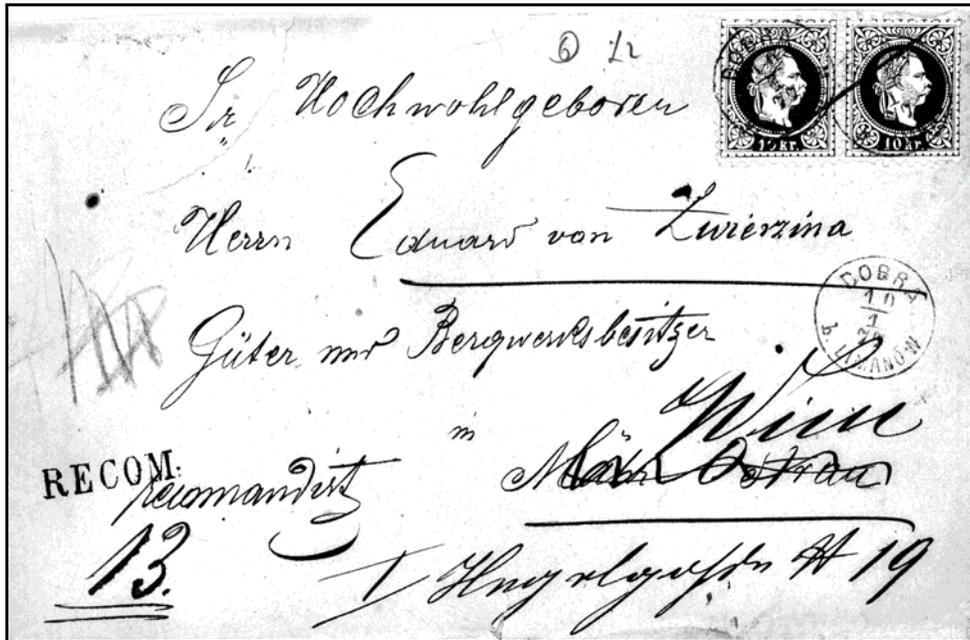
The final type of marking [K6256c] was a half-framed **RCMDT** below which the serial number of the letter was hand-written. There are many variations of this, which are spread over many of the Viennese sub-offices and other cities.
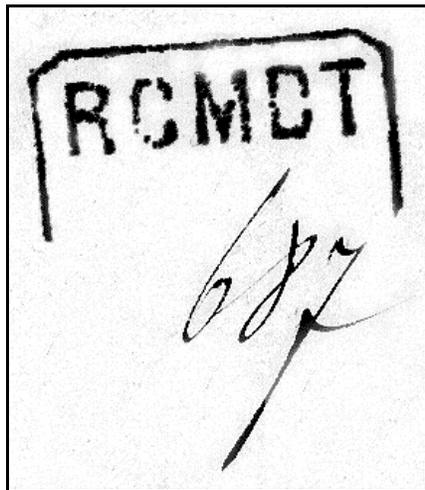
In the late 1840s of the pre-stamp period, the Combined Town and Registration Marks in Vienna seem to be confined to the Head Post Office. Whereas ordinary mail handed in at the City Post Letter Collecting Agencies received the appropriate LCA cancel (often the attractive boxed ribbon type with the LCA name or number in the ribbon) on the **BACK** of the letter, the Head Office cancel was struck on the **FRONT**, especially if it was a distant letter. (A 'distant letter' is one with a destination well outside Vienna, as opposed to a local letter which may not even have gone through Head Office, thus by intent or idleness missing its front cancel.) I have not seen a registered letter handed in at a Letter Collecting Agency which then received the Head Office 3-line type then in use on the FRONT. See for example the 1849 letter illustrated on the following page, addressed to GLOGGNITZ and handed in at a Letter Collecting Agency **"H BRIEFS No. 54"** (=Wieden) which is correctly back stamped but has only a single-boxed **FRANCO** and double-boxed **RECOM** on the front, which Müller states were used only by the City posts (Mü 1949b and 1949c).
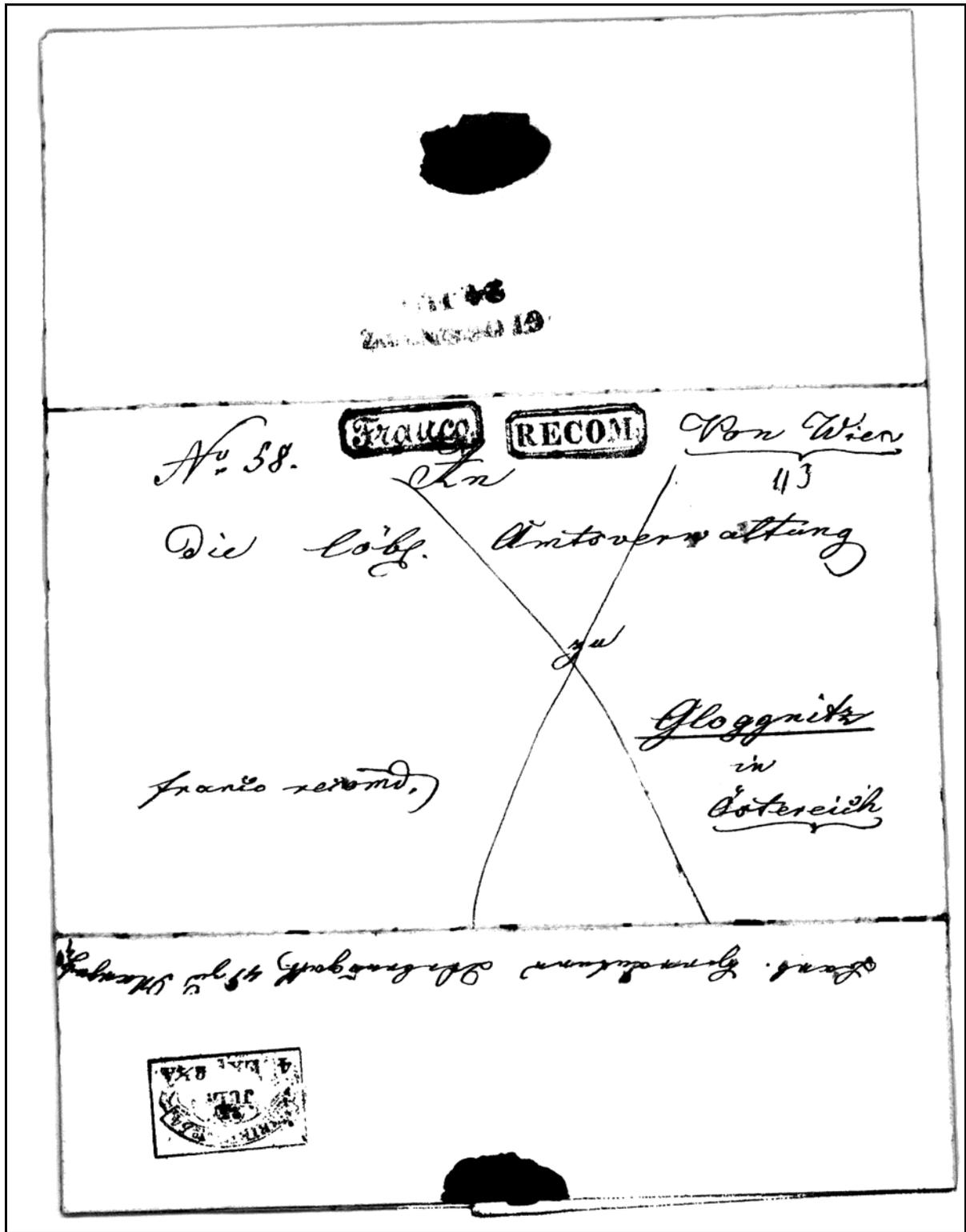
Similarly, this registered letter to BUDAPEST was posted in 1874 at the sub-office of Franz Josef Quai with the ordinary CDS cancel and double-boxed **RECOM:** (with blue handwritten number underneath) exactly as in 1849.
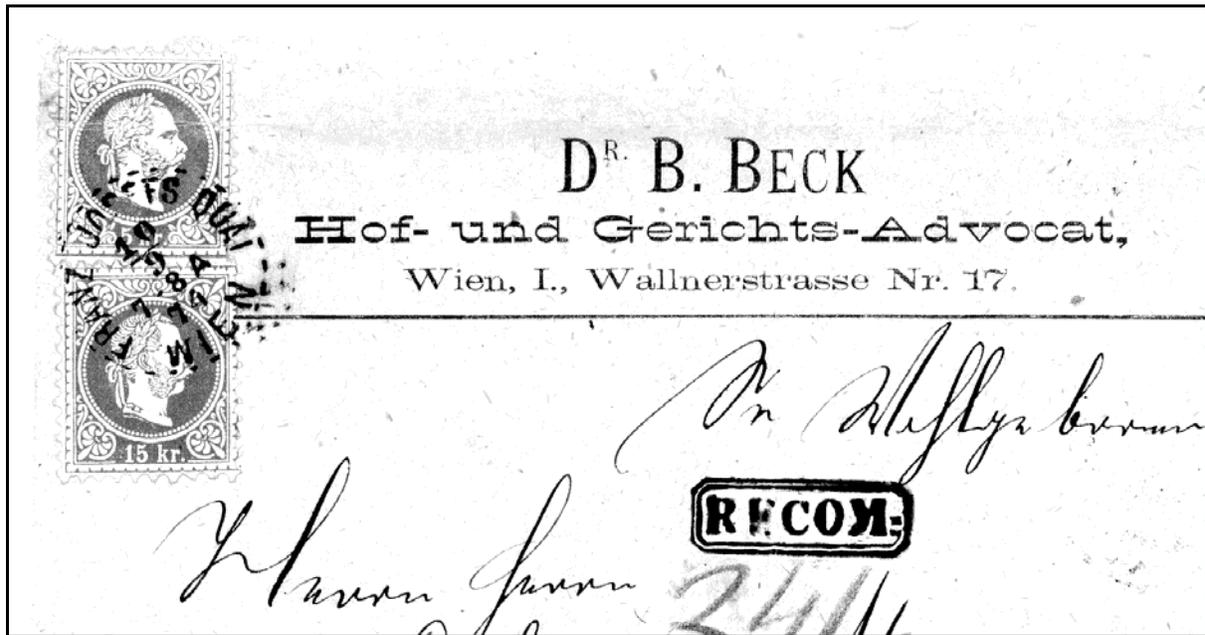
Only after 1860 in the post-stamp era did six of the main sub-offices in Vienna receive the Combined Town and Registration Marks, mainly ovals. These included the well-known large oval "**K.K.BRIEF-FILIALAMT**".

Even in Klein's post-1867 listing only seven offices are included, and then only on the 1867 issue since their usage was curtailed by the introduction of the U.P.U. labels in the 1880s (black type on yellow was chosen by Austria) which saw the end of the need for specific hand stamps for registration.

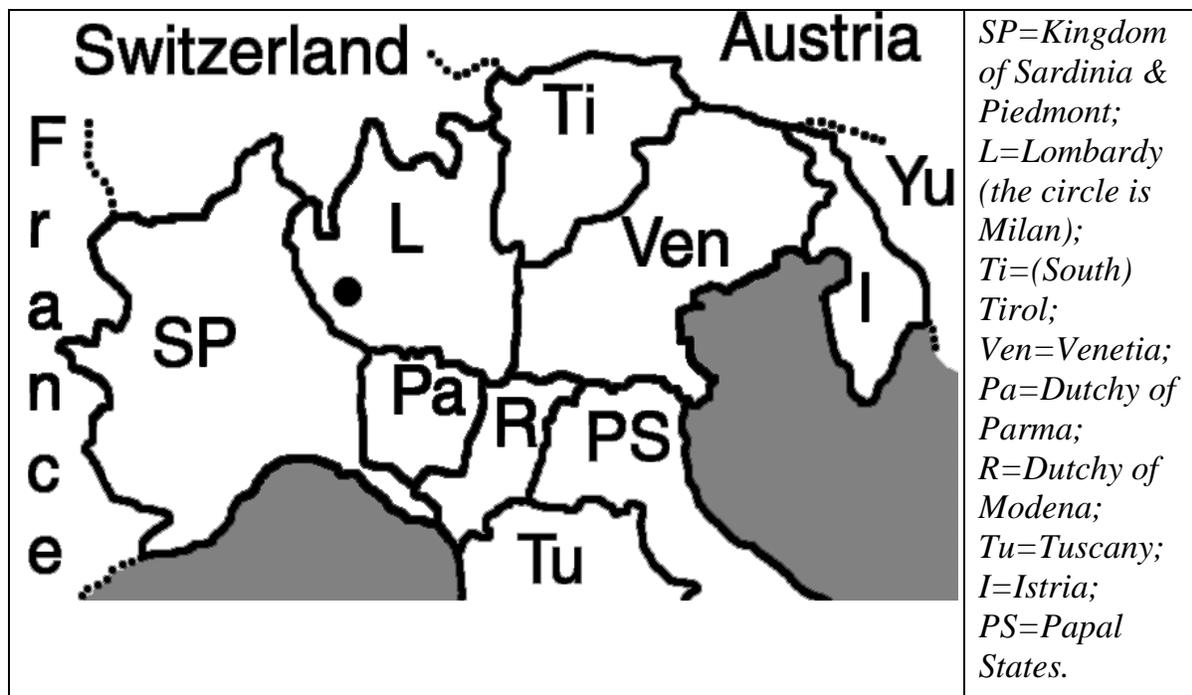# The Austrian military occupation of the Oltreticino Novarese in 1849

Reprinted from La Voce Scaligera, Journal of the Associazione Filatelica Numismatica Scalegera, Verona, Italy, May 1998
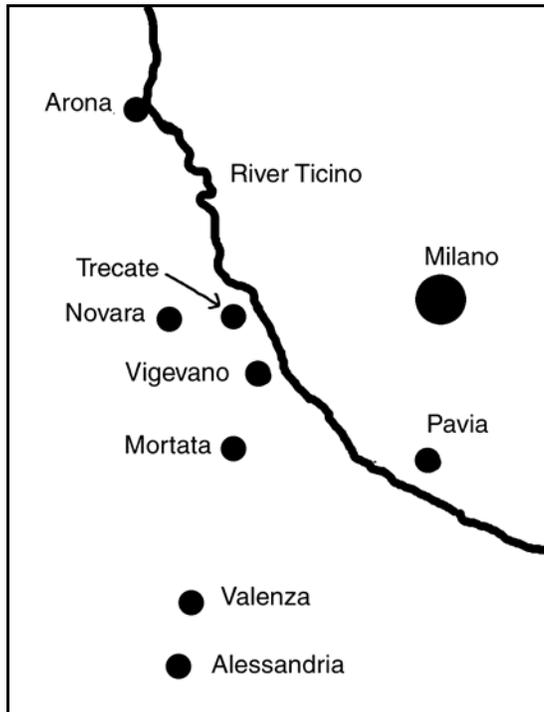
By Elio Balossini; translated by Salvatore J. Rizza

[*Introductory historic and geographic background: 'Oltreticino Novarese' is translated as 'beyond the Ticino River in the area of Novara". The Ticino River was the border of the Lombardy Region under Austrian occupation in 1849, when the Sardinian Army, over 50,000 strong, moved forward under the leadership of King Carlo Alberto from its Piedmont territory in an attempt to forcibly occupy Lombardy. The King was first across the Ticino River bridge near Trecate and met no Austrian resistance. Marshal Radetzky had out-maneuvered the Sardinian frontal attack. He had marched his army farther south, crossing the Ticino, and put himself to the rear of the Sardinian Army. Upon hearing the report from his scouts, Carlo Alberto turned his army about and fought the Austrians 'beyond the Ticino River before Novara'. The Sardinian Army was soundly defeated with huge losses. Carlo Alberto surrendered and was forced to abdicate in favor of his son Victor Emannuel who was married to an Austrian Archduchess. He received relatively better surrender terms than his father, but it still cost his kingdom dearly.*]

The tragic Battle of Novara of 23 March 1849 saw the defeat of the Army of Sardinia which was beaten by the Royal Imperial Austrian Army and was the inglorious end of the First War of Independence. The Austrians occupied the upper reaches of the Novara-Ticino River area, and from Arona to Borgoticino to Mortara and Valenze and the fortress stronghold of Alessandria.

[*The map shows the countries which came together to form the northern part of Italy*.]

SP=Kingdom of Sardinia & Piedmont; L=Lombardy (the circle is Milan); Ti=(South) Tirol; Ven=Venetia; Pa=Dutchy of Parma; R=Dutchy of Modena; Tu=Tuscany; I=Istria; PS=Papal States.

The Austrian High Command for the Piedmont region was installed at Novara. This occupation continued until 26 August when, after the signing of the Treaty of Peace of Milano on 8 August 1849, the Duke of Genoa entered Novara, and the Austrian troops recrossed the Ticino River and returned to Lombardy.

The relations with the Austrians were initially handled by the Sardinian Commissioner of War for the Novara Division, Michele Rapallo, who utilized for his very own office correspondence the interesting handstamp illustrated below, which was used continuously until 1864.
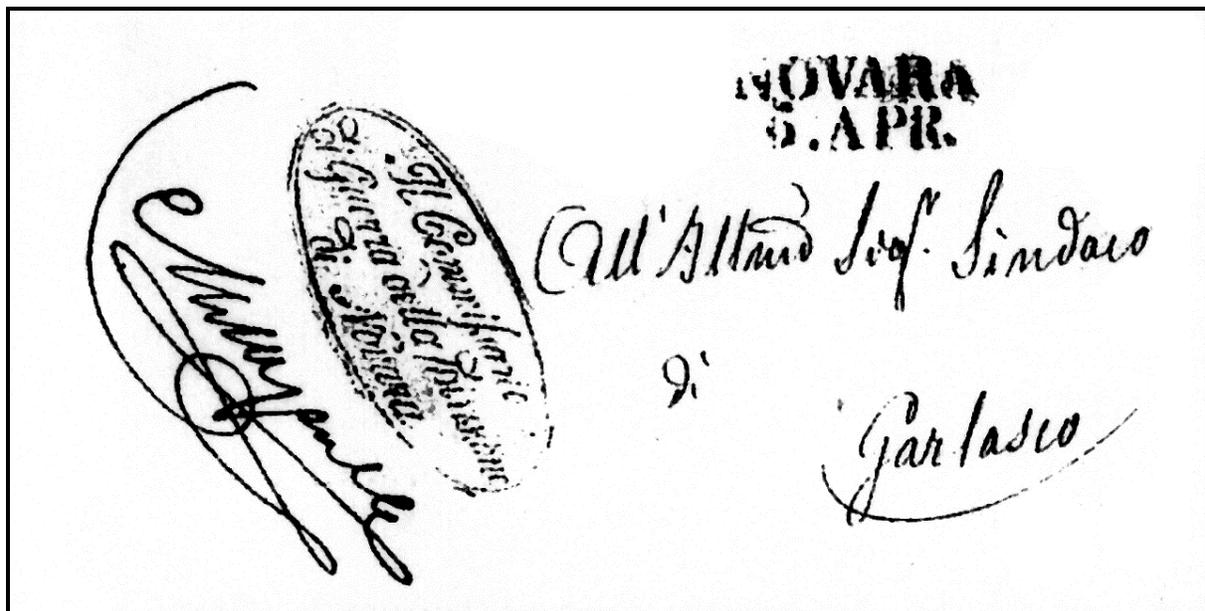
From the middle of April 1849, the Sardinian Government found it necessary to send a high military office, Colonel Mathieu, with the duty of Royal Extraordinary Commissioner attached to the Austrian General Headquarters, that had stayed in Novara until the withdrawal of all the Austrian troops from the Piedmont region. Colonel Mathieu utilized for his very own office

correspondence the rare handstamp, "The Royal Commissioner Attached to the Austrian General Headquarters", which was used between April and August 1849. I also know of a letter from Colonel Mathieu bearing the same franking, but handwritten.
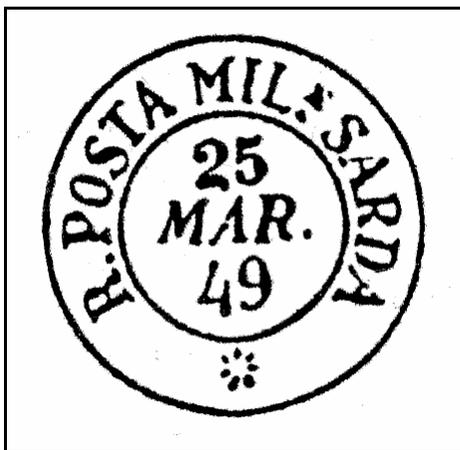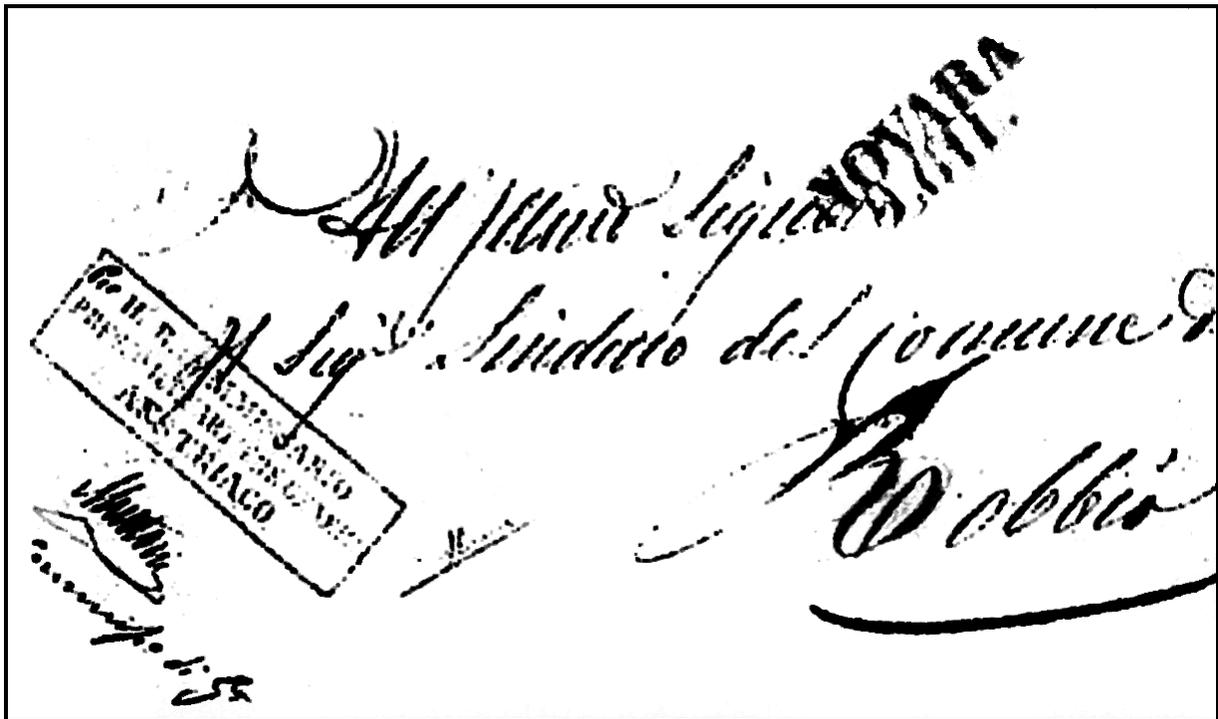

Concerning the correspondence of the Sardinian military, keeping in mind the very short period of hostilities (20-23 March 1849), that correspondence is truly rare. According to Pozzolini Gobbi, there are only two letters known bearing the new postmark with a rosette within a double circle, and the phrase "R.POSTA MIL. e MIL. SARDA", both used with the date, 25 March 1849, as shown here.

This postmark replaced the preceding straight line block letter postmark utilized in the military campaign of 1848. As interesting as is the evidence given in the Sardinian military postal history, the same can be said for the Austrians. The Administrative Management of the Imperial Royal Field Posts of Milano (one of four in operation in the Austrian military campaign of 1849) instituted at the end of March 1849 an Express Military Courier for the transport of the military correspondence of the IV Army Corps occupying the Eastern Piedmont Region.

The Service, initially, connected Milano with Novara, where, on 30 March 1849, an Imperial Royal Post Office had been established in the field. A unit of Austrian infantry collected and consigned to this office the correspondence addressed to and coming from the Austrian units occupying the region beyond the Ticino River in the Novara Region. In the last week of April the route of the Express Courier Service was lengthened to Alessandria with intermediate stops at Mortara and Valenza. The civil Sardinian Post Office was in this locality functioning as a collection and distribution point for the Austrian military. The office of the Austrian Imperial and Royal Post Office for the Novara Campaign was never provided with a postal handstamp, while the Sardinian post offices at Mortara and Valenza postmarked the Austrian military correspondence with the normal double-circle handstamp which had recently been introduced. I don't know about Alessandria because I have never seen Austrian military correspondence originating from that locality.

The Austrians withdrew from Alessandria on 18 June and from Valenza on 11 August 1849. The daily service of the Express Courier of the Austrian military from Milano was progressively limited to Valenza and Novara, and was thereafter definitely suspended during the last week of August 1849, when the occupation troops vacated the Ticino Region and reentered Lombardy.

From this quite interesting and as yet practically unknown period of postal history, I am able to show two very rare existing documents.
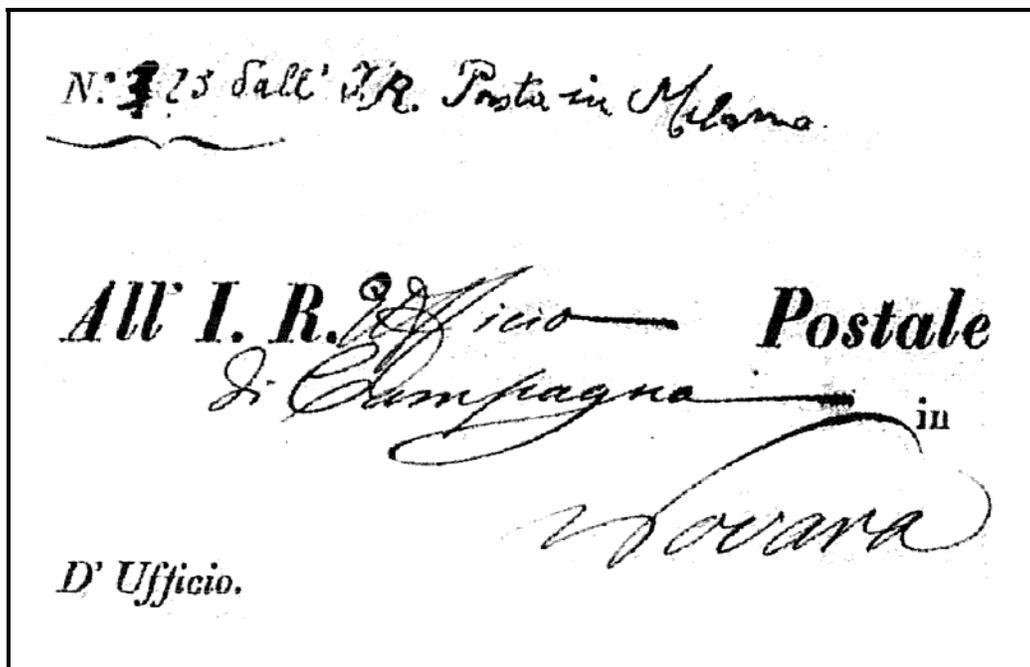
The first is a letter from the Imperial and Royal Purveyor of the Austrian Posts at Milano, dated 6 April 1849, and addressed to the postal office for the Novara Campaign, in which it speaks about equipment that will be necessary for the functioning of a campaign post office.

The second is a letter dispatched from Novara on 4 May thereafter and addressed to the Milanese Director of the Austrian Campaign Post Office, in which there is a complaint of a lost document that had been consigned to the military postal courier on the Novara-Mortara route. On the front of this letter there is, as frequently occurred with the correspondence from the Austrian office, the sender being identified as the Office of the Campaign Military Post Office of Novara.
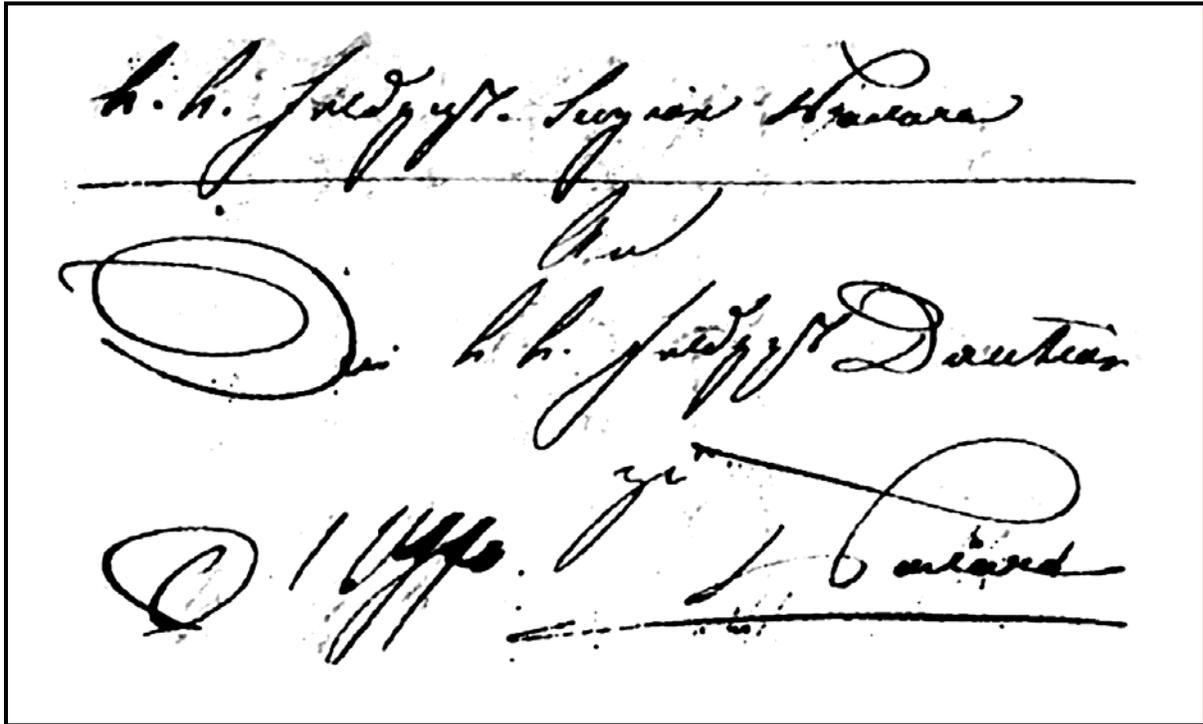
To close these short notes, I would like to underscore that, because of the brevity of the military campaign of 1849, which concluded the First War of Independence of our Risorgimento, the postal history documentation received is truly quite small, and at times quite rare, whether it be Sardinian or Austrian. For that which concerns the Austrian occupation of the region beyond the Ticino River at Novara and/or Alessandria, all the affirmations that I have made are corroborated by original documents that I have examined. There is no existing literature worth mentioning. I hope that this article will stimulate some research by colleagues to establish whether there existed in Alessandria a second office of the Imperial and Royal Campaign Post Office in the Piedmont Region occupied by the Austrians.

Railway Official's Datestamps

The illustrations below show oval datestamps, used on postcards in 1916-1917. The cards appear to have been granted the "Free Post Concession" as military mail. But, is this an official usage, or is it a soldier persuading a railway official to put an official-looking cancel on his card in the (successful) hope that the postal service would treat it as a unit handstamp and allow the mail to go free? And what are these stamps for - are they depot, conductor, or station master's datestamps? All three are picture cards of Lemberg (Lwów)

The first one is stamped BEREZOWJCA-OZAROW and is dated 30.9.1917. It addressed to somewhere in Moravia. There is a faint splodgy purple cachet (not shown on the illustrated snippet) which could be a censorship mark.
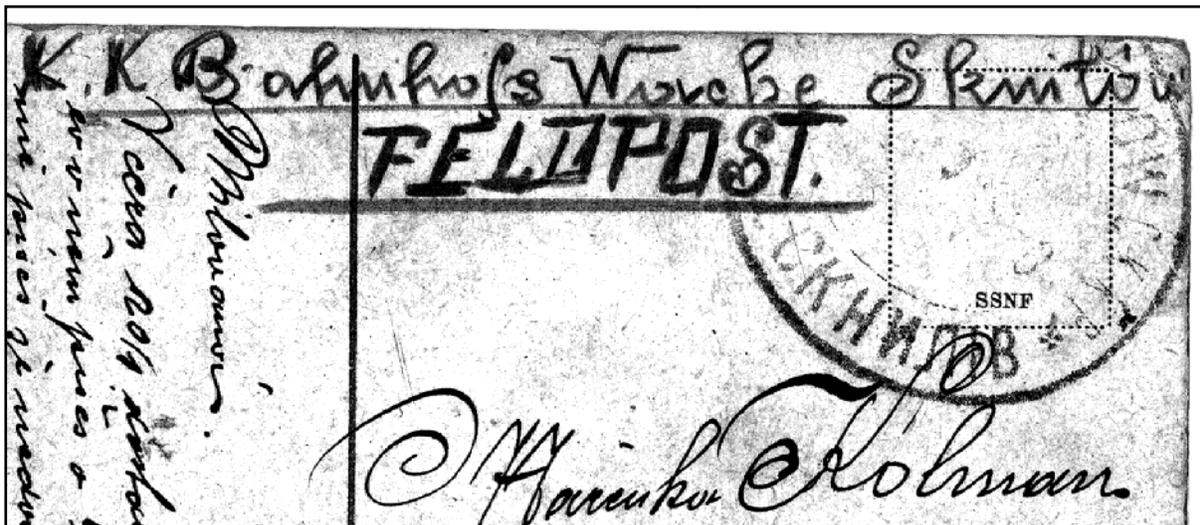
The second is again from Lemberg (Lwów) addressed to somewhere in Bohemia. The K K Bahnhofs.. mark is in heavy blue crayon. The datestamp is Ukranian-Austrian from SKYNLIV, dated 21.1.1916.

The third also carries the Ukranian-Austrian datestamp from SKYNLIV, dated 31.3.1916. It is to the same addressee as the second example. The FELDPOST.. is in heavy blue crayon, and the card also has a KuK Militärzensur / Lemberg 2 cachet.

Can anyone tell us more about these cachets, or on the validity of their usage?

Welcome to New Members!

1126 - C G Murray, West Midlands
1127 - D J Price, Crewe
1128 - A Wiener, New York, USA
1129 - D McNally, Ontario, Canada
1130 - J Griffiths, Bristol
1131 - J Smythies, California, USA
1132 - W G Barb, Bucks
1133 - G F Small, Worcs
1134 - R E Stenham, Middlesex
1135 - R Lazarri, Venezia, Italy

NOTES from publications en route to the Library.

Die Briefmarke

Issue 12/1999: (the UK copies were delayed 6 weeks en route!) Interviw with new boss of Austrian Post AG; the stamp issues planned for 2000; Christkindl~ the first 50 years; thematic~bells; the designer Maria Schulz; Stockerau; WIPA symposia; plus reviews new issues etc as normal.

Issue 1/2000: WIPA Souvenir block; A century-&-a-half of philately; new issues, special cancels etc; space mail; bells; thematic~fungi; numismatics; the CHUST issue of 1944; WPIA2000 expects to have 150 dealers and 25 postal administrations; literature reviews etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Militaria Austriaca Philatelia.

Issue 184: Recent & future events; much current UN & NATO info; auction lists.

Issue 185: Book auction; Q&A; fieldpost money order control cachets; section reports; UN etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-18

Issue 59: Meetings & exhibitions; wants lists; Fieldpost cards with large NUBOIS cachet; a U-29 cancel; the 1914 Fieldpost regulations; Fieldpostoffice-money order cancel numbers cross-reference table; new discoveries on the issue date of the 1918 Karlfonds stamps.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 48: The Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem: the Bethlehem cancel of 1899; book & stamp reviews; privately-printed stationary (cont)

Czechout

Issue 4/1999: Postal evolution in Hlučín (concl.); the Prague local posts.

Wiener Ganzsachen Frei- und Poststempelsammlerverein

Issue 4/1999: Airmail postage rates from Austria to Argentina in 1946-48

Issue 1/2000: Laibach cancels; Special rates from France?; Galtur.

In Ungarn verwendete numierte Postformulare zwischen 1830 und 1875

This 161-side thesis records a presentation to the first Hungarian-Austrian postal history symposium at Magdalensberg on the numbered postal forms sold in Hungary between 1830 and 1875. The various forms and systems are explained (in German) followed by tabulations of the forms with their German and Hungarian titles. Among the over 50 illustrations are reproductions of the original Official Decrees and examples of used forms in one or both languages. **ASCGB Library item 322**.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The siege of Przemysl - I may not learn how to spell it the other way. The book Peter refers to by "a Herr Wolter" is a 2-volume set entitled "Die Postzensur, Handbuch und Katalog" by Karl Kurt Wolter, published in Munich in 1965. Volume one is pre-history up to 1939, volume 2 is World War 2 and beyond. The two pictures are in there, and they are terrible. The one that is not a post office seal must itself have been copied several times before Wolter got it, it's just about illegible. Incidentally, this is a great, pioneering, book. It contains a history of censorship of the mails which is just fascinating to read. It does a creditable job of listing censor markings for the entire world - nothing like Thielk for any particular country, of course, but still very nice. The printer and publisher were a firm called Georg Amm, 85 Nuernberg, Kirchenweg 56.

Henry Pollak

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Dear Editor,

I have just received the copy of 'POSTCODES OF AUSTRIA' which I requested from John Anthony following the announcement in AUSTRIA. I considered writing thanks to him but decided it should be more public. A comprehensive work like this, attractively produced, with no charge for postage or packing is mind-boggling.

He asks for thoughts on how it might be improved. My only criticism is that he hasn't put his name on it.

John R. Batts

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Dear Editor,

The Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain now has its own online forum. On the message board, you can view discussion folders quickly in the left-hand column and read up to 20 messages at a time. You can even attach files (such as pictures and programs) directly to messages just like e-mail. It's fast, easy, and efficient. At present, the Forum is private to ASCGB members, and of course you need internet access to participate. The best way into the Forum is at the following URL: http://www.delphi.com/ascgb In order to provide personalized services and access control, you'll need to go through a quick registration if you've never participated in a Delphi Forums online community before. It only takes a minute and it's free!

Douglas Martin <Douglas.Martin@ukgateway.net>

That Gurahoncz cancel…

By Andy Taylor

Question: From a Dorotheum auction came a beautiful example of the 5 kr. red value on piece with a full clear "Gurahoncz" circular postmark on the fine whiskers printing. A Ferchenbauer certificate accompanied this item, and states "Österreich 1867 (Ryan No. 574/400)". My question is: "How can this item be 1867 when the fine whiskers printing was not issued until 1874?"

This question raises many interesting matters! I have tried to consult enough experts, and collect enough information, to provide a comprehensive answer, without writing a treatise on the entire history of the Austro-Hungarian Postal System! It took a lot longer than I expected…

Summary

➢ All stamps of the 6th issue of Austria are referred to as "the 1867 issue" irrespective of subtype or printing date.

➢ It is not true that all stamps printed before 1874 are coarse-whiskered and all on or after that date fine-whiskered.

➢ Gurahoncz is in Hungary, so 1867-issue stamps were invalid there from 1st August 1871.

➢ As the particular stamp in question is a 5kr, it can be "typed" and its earliest printing date determined. The appearance of the Imperial & Royal Whiskers is irrelevant! The differences between types are explained later.

➢ The most probable explanation of this stamp is that it is a finely printed specimen of the "coarse whiskers" stamp, printed for the Kingdom of Hungary, sold and used in Gurahoncz while still valid (ie before 1st August 1871) and correctly cancelled where it was posted.

The first and second issues of Hungary

The First Issue of Hungary is the coarse printed issue of 1867, printed in Vienna but issued exclusively in and for Hungary. These stamps were later issued in Austria, as the 1863/64 issue ran out. They were invalidated in Hungary from 31st July 1871. Stamps with the exclusively Hungarian design of Franz Josef heads (with St. Stephen's crown and Hungarian coat of arms) were issued in Hungary officially on the 1st May 1871 but actual sales started a little later, as the 1867 stamps were used up. Earliest recorded dates are between 7th May and 23rd June (for different values of the Litho printings) and betwen 2nd July and 29th August for the line engraved stamps.

How could an Austrian stamp acquire a Hungarian cancellation?

➢ The most probable way is that it was printed for the Kingdom of Hungary, sold and used there while still valid (ie before 1st August 1871) and correctly cancelled where it was posted.

➢ Possible but less likely is a post-1871 stamp issued and used in Austria, not cancelled there, and cancelled on arrival in Hungary. This is not as uncommon as usually supposed, because perception of this is skewed by Vienna, which had the special blank 3-ring cancels for that purpose, with a "1" or other number in the middle, and other cancels counted as "mute". Those are not especially rare, and when you try to estimate how often uncancelled letters were cancelled later, those are a large part of the sample. If a letter wasn't addressed to Vienna, or didn't go through it, it may well have been cancelled somewhere else as it went through, or at the destination, and using whatever canceller seemed appropriate.

➢ It could have been on a Newspaper stamp, which were cancelled on receipt. However the 5kr was not valid for newspaper post.

➢ It could have been on "Paquebot" mail. However Gurahoncz, being in the middle of Transylvania, doesn't lend itself to this!

➢ It could have been on a Post Office Form such as a Paketsbegleitbriefe or a Recepisse. However these are distinctive if the stamp is stuck to a piece.

➢ It could have been by fraud, favour, fake, forgery and so on.

Coarse vs fine whiskers

The "coarse vs fine" whiskers are a consequence of the printing arrangements, and are not a design feature. The stamps were printed from "plates" comprising 100 individual cliches held within a frame. The plate was placed face-up on the bed of the press; above it were two rollers, a smaller one for the ink and a larger one for the paper. As the plate was traversed forwards and backwards, both rollers rotated. The plate was inked by the smaller roller, the skill of the printer ensuring that neither too much nor too little ink was applied. Meanwhile the paper was gripped to the larger roller (in English called the Impression Cylinder), which as it rotated pressed it on to the just-inked plate, causing the image to be printed. This roller was steel covered by a "make-ready" to allow the raised parts of the plate to press into the paper without creating indentations in the roller. Apart from the recognised subtypes of the 5kr, the differences are reputedly due to the use of felt or soft card as a make-ready under the stamp paper for the "coarse" prints, and a strong paper make-ready under the "fine" or "hard" prints, with variations caused by changes in the stamp paper itself, the make-ready becoming hard with repeated use or absorption of ink, etc etc. **It is not true that all stamps printed before 1874 are coarse-whiskered and all on or after that date fine-whiskered.**

Gary Ryan has pointed out that illustrations of the 'coarse' and 'fine' prints (such as that given in Michel or Gibbons) are "an oversimplification and considerable experience is sometimes required to differentiate between the two." Study of the paper or the perforations can assist. However, a more reliable guide for the 5kr value is available, by examination of detailed design variations: see below. The first type II appeared in 1872, hence no type II stamps were sold in Hungary.

The Ferchenbauer Certificate's Number

The certificate refers to ***Ryan No. 574/400''.*** However, there are (at least) three Ryan catalogues, and you have to know which issue of which stamp you are looking at in order to ensure you use the correct one! In particular, you have to know that Gary Ryan has proved to the satisfaction of most philatelists that the "First Issue of Hungary" is the coarse printed issue of 1867, printed in Vienna but issued exclusively in and for Hungary. The number 574 for the GURAHONCZ cds comes from the "First Issue of Hungary" book, where it is given 400 points for 1868, 1869, 1870 & 1871 dates, 500 for 1867 dates. The cancel in question is recorded between 1866 and 1887, after which it was replaced by various other cancels with the same name; the place was renamed as Honcztő in 1911 and now rejoices in the name Gurahonț in Romania.

Traditional Classification of Austrian Stamps

The 'traditional classification' of Austrian Stamp issues may lack logic, in that it separates issues that would be better grouped, groups issues better separated, and omits some entirely! But it is too well established to amend. According to Müller it is:

Issue	Year	Description
1	1850	Arms in rectangle
2	1858	Kaiser facing left, embossed in a square
3	1860	Kaiser facing right, in an oval
4	1863	Arms in Oval, perf 14
5	1863/64	Arms in Oval, perf 9½
6	1867	Kaiser facing right, in a square (coarse or fine)
7	1883	Double Eagle
8	1890	Kaiser facing left, in a square (Kreuzer); also 1891 octagons

Issue	Year	Description
9	1899	Kaiser facing left, in a square: Heller (and also the 1901, 1904, 1905 & 1906/7 issues)
10	1908	Jubilee issue

So "*the 1867 issue*" is a term used to cover all issues of the "Kaiser facing right, in a square" design, even a stamp printed in 1882!

The types and subtypes of the 5Kr value of the 1867 issue

The 5kr stamp, of which 1,260,000,000 were printed as it was the inland letter rate, is the only value of this issue which occurs in two different types. The stamps printed from 1872 originate from a new master die, the original having either rusted or worn out (sources differ!). Each type comes in two (some say more) subtypes, identification of which can assist in deciding when, and in which country, a specimen might have been issued or cancelled.

In AUSTRIA 5/14, John F Giblin wrote about the 1867 issue, describing two subtypes of each of types I & II. There were two dies, from each of which two plates were made. In addition, he described the die and cliche preparation process, and tabulated the impression types and paper varieties - see below. He outlined the numerous colour variations, and the even more numerous perforation ones!

In articles in Die Briefmarke, translated into English by J .F. Giblin and printed in AUSTRIA 86/9, 87/44 and 88/39, Friedrich Schaffer identifies and describes seven identifiable subtypes. As the series of articles suddenly ceased, he may well have found more. He expounded on the printing history, the papers used, the flaws etc. However, his ideas do not seem to have been widely adopted. He does observe that the traditional classification of 'coarse' and 'fine' would be more useful and meaningful if replaced by 'soft' and 'hard' printing, caused by the use of felt and paper underlay respectively. He adds that, while 'hard' printing began at the end of 1874, coarse-looking stamps can be found from printings made up to 1883!

J .F. Giblin also translated a German translation of a Hungarian work (AUSTRIA 66/41, 67/38, 68/36, 70/30). It states that all the 5Kr stamps used in Hungary are Type I (defined as below) and identifies three subtypes thereof - but not the same three as Schaffer! Mixed pairs of subtypes are known. Numerous defects can be traced to imperfections in the felt underlay; as the issue was prepared and printed in a hurry there was no time to evolve a better method (ie the 'hard printing' introduced later).

Identification of the types according to Ferchenbauer.

In the 5th edition of his Handbook, Dr U Ferchenbauer divides the 5kr into two types, each with two subtypes. The distinguishing features occur in the figure "5" itself, and in the top and bottom corners of the ornament at the bottom left hand corner of the stamp.

In Ferchenbauer's **Type I** the "5" has a bent top; the "5kr." is offset to the right of centre; and the small ornamental piece at the bottom left <u>does not extend</u> into the curl above it. This is clearer in an enlarged sketch:
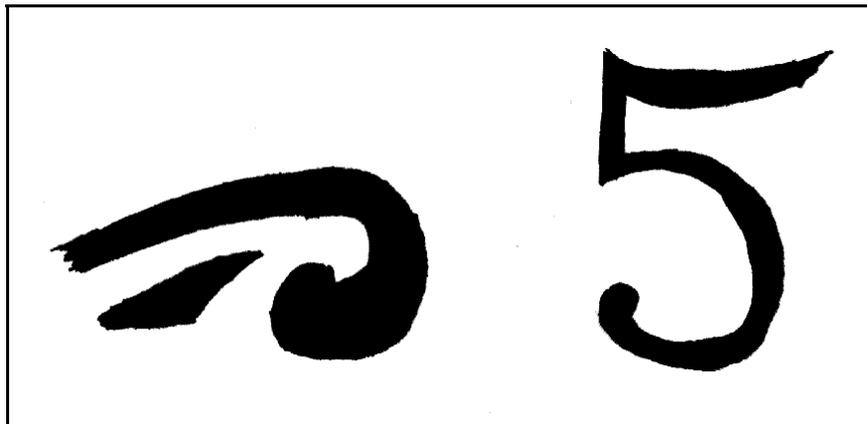
Types Ia and Ib are separable by the shape of the ear:

In **Type Ia** the ear appears correctly.   In **Type Ib** the ear has an extra line, making the lobe appear separate.

In Ferchenbauer **Type II** the "5" has a flat top; the "5kr." is centred; and the small ornamental piece at the bottom left <u>does extend</u> into the curl above it. This is clearer in an enlarged sketch:

Types IIa and IIb are separable by the shape of the little piece at the top of the bottom left ornament:

In type IIa it is **separate from** the main ornament.

In type IIb it is **joined to** the main ornament.

Other catalogues in common use more or less follow the same pattern:

Ferchenbauer	Michel	ANK	SG
Ia	Ia	Ix	A
Ib	Ib		
IIa	IIa	Iy	B
IIb	IIb	II	C

(which for example means that a stamp with the features of Ferchenbauer Type IIa would be classed by Michel as a IIa, by ANK as a Iy, and by SG as a B) and they record the usage of the types thus:

	Ferchenbauer	Michel	ANK	SG
"Coarse Printing"	37 I Type Ia 37 I Type Ib 37 I Type IIa	37 I Type Ia 37 I Type Ib 37 I Type IIa	37 I Type Ix 37 I Type Iy	AH52 Type A AH53 Type B
"Fine Printing"	37 II Type IIa 37 II Type IIb	37 II Type IIa 37 II Type IIb	37 II	61 Type B 62 Type C

Note that a (Ferchenbauer) Type II can be coarse, but a Type I cannot be fine whatever its whiskers look like!

The printing impressions

(J F Giblin's explanation.) It is usual to divide these impressions merely into 'coarse' and fine', but in fact they may be divided again into four distinct subdivisions. The impression roller was originally covered with a felt layer, but this was found to use too much ink, and in Autumn 1874 it was replaced by a harder roller thought to be made of either rubber or of a decoupage of paper - more probably the latter. The impressions may thus be divided as in the table.

The table further gives the various changes of paper which were introduced as the printings were required. These changes of paper were not abrupt, but were introduced as needed. The first two types of paper had a sheet watermark "BRIEF-MARKEN" horizontally in the middle over two counter-sheets of 100 stamps each. Paper C of 1883 was similarly watermarked, but with letters which although still 23-24mm high, were now 478mm instead of 428mm long.

Impression	Roller-layer	F's Types	Dates	Paper
Coarse	Felt	Ia (1867) Ib (1870) IIa (1872)	1869-74	A
Intermediate	Felt: slowly hardening	IIa	1874-75	B
Fine	Paper	IIb	1874-83	B
Very Fine	Paper: slowly hardening	IIb	1883-84	C

Types of Printing Paper:

A - Soft, uniform thickness, rough surface, fairly smooth.

B - Thinner, smoother, rather brittle.

C - Rather thin, hard, smooth, shiny and more brittle.

Perforation varieties (according to Ferchenbauer)

The 'coarse printing' is always Sheet Perf 9½, except that type IIa also comes in 10½. 'Fine printing' (ie later type IIa and all type IIb) began as 9½, but the enormous demand forced the use from 1877 of line perf machines normally used for Fiscal stamps. The following line perfs are recorded:

Perf:	9	10½	12	13	9: 10½	9: 12	9: 13	10½: 9	10½: 12	10½: 13	12: 10½	12: 13	13: 10½	13: 12
IIa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
IIb	Y	Y			Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Michel adds that sheet perf 9 was "±¼"; line 9 was 8½-9¾; line 10½ was 10-11; and line 12 was 11½-12½.

Further reading

More information can be found in Müller's "Specialised Catalogue of Austria 1850-1918", 5th edition published in 1952, ASCGB Library item 21.

See also Müller (ASCGB Library 68 & 76); Ferchenbauer (ASCGB Library 41); Puschmann (ASCGB Library 240) etc etc. Perhaps the most comprehensive treatment is that by Waschutt (ASCGB Library 52) which covers developments year by year for each value in great detail. All are in German. See also "Bélyegkőnyv" etc by Gabor Visnyovszki (in Hungarian, German & English: reviewed in Austria 124 p52; ASCGB library 306).

Gary Ryan's works are in English, although you have to know which issue of which stamp you are looking at in order to ensure you use the correct one!

- **Cancellations of Hungarian P.O.s on Austrian Stamps**. This covers the 1850-1867 issues of Austria. ASCGB Library item 167.
- **Cancellations of Hungarian P.O.s on the First Issue of Hungary**. Vol 1 covers postal history, Vol 2 covers Miscellaneous markings. ASCGB Library item 168A&B.
- **The Rarest Mixed Frankings of Hungary** (ie the 1850/58, 1863-4/7, and 1867/71 issues. ASCGB Library item 241.

Members' Queries

❖ On the reverse of a letter sent from Triest to Wien on 25 Nov 1852 is a red
(the normal colour for Wien arrivals) arrival mark "9 Uhr Abends" in a
23mm circle. Has anyone seen one before? The left hand illustration is "as
found", the right one "as cleaned up".
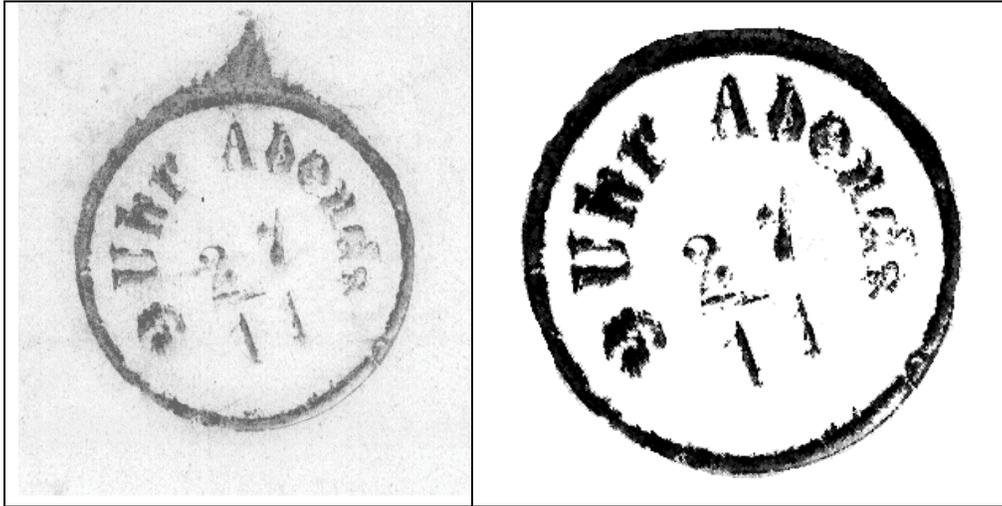
❖ "It is well known"© that dumb cancels such as those illustrated below were
used in Viennese offices to cancel mail which **arrived** uncancelled. So
what's this one doing on an envelope addressed to the BBC German Service
at Bush House, Aldwych, London?
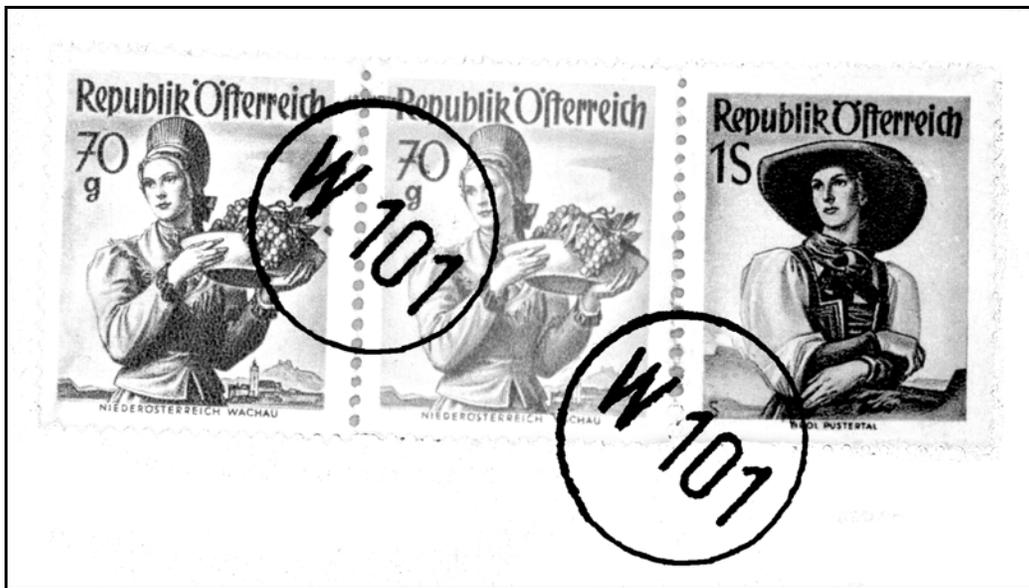
❖ In the article on Wien Combined Town and Registration Cancellers later in this issue, the note in italics on the first page was added at the editor's request to draw attention to the differences between wordings in the catalogue listings of Müller's "Handbook of the Pre-stamp Postmarks of Austria" compared with his illustrations. It highlights a problem Henry White has had for years, where one of the early 'town' cancels of Vienna "**V.WIEN**" is listed four times in the book and its three supplements but with only one illustration (the latest). All are straight-line Roman capitals (RL) and their dates are:

In the book   Mü 1697H   1787

In the book   Mü 1697c   1818

Supplement I   Mü 1697I   1788

Supplement III   Mü 1699b   1848 (the Reichsrat)

HGW has two examples, both said to be from 1788 though confirmed by the contents of the letter in only one. Both cancels are 20mm by 3mm and the "W"s are actually two Vs overlapping. Can anyone provide proven examples of Mü 1697H, I and c to explain the differences between them?

❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧

YORKFEST2000

There's still room for you!

The Annual Weekend in 2000 will be in the same venue as last year: Lady Anne Middleton Hotel, York, from Fri 13th Oct till Sun 15th Oct 2000 (although you can arrive earlier and/or depart later). The programme is planned as much the same as last year; the costs only about 5% more; please return your booking form to Andy Taylor NOT the hotel ! The Competition Letter for 2000 will be **R** for Renaissance or Rätzel or Rhubarb or Rechtsradikal or…

❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧   ❧

Answers to Queries: Johann-Adolfhütte

A member asked about the single-circle cancellation "**Johann-Adolfhütte**" (Klein 1968) from the district of Judenburg in Styria. I commented that, according to Klein, the Hut opened on 8 May 1870, and asked if anyone knew where exactly the Hut was, and if it had been rebuilt, renamed, or demolished?

John Batts emailed that, after the Zweite Weltkrieg, the Wiener Staatsoper was in ruins. The rebuilding involved the provision of a number of large steel roof trusses. The large and well-known steelworks [at Judenburg] chosen for the job made an additional half truss and set it up in their grounds as a memento of the occasion. They now have the additional achievement of being described (Winter 1999 p.15) as a 'Hut'. Congratulations ! It has been rebuilt in part a few times, it has also been renamed a few times - it was Voest Alpin last time I was there but I think it has changed again since then. It has not been demolished.

Henry Pollak also emailed: "Johann-Adolfhütte - When you look in the new book by Stohl, you find that it was renamed **Allerheiligen bei Judenburg** on 4.4.1908, and closed on 13.7.1923. I have a copy of the 1930 Austria census, and when I looked in there I found the following: The politische Bezirk Judenburg (political unit) has as one of its subdivisions the Gerichtsbezirk Judenburg (court district) which is divided into 33 areas one of which is Pöls. Pöls is divided into four areas, one of which is Allerheiligen, and within that there is a unit called Johann Adolfhütte containing 6 buildings and 112 people. There is a symbol next to this entry which means "factory". THAT brings us back to the beginning: Besides the standard meaning of Hütte familiar to hikers and tourists, there is another basic meaning, namely "foundry". A kiln, a furnace, a forge may all be called Hütte. I am no expert on the history of that area, but I bet this was a foundry before it was a village, and in 1870 that's where they put the post office. Post offices in factories were nothing unusual - e.g. Wöllersdorf was a munitions factory! In 1930, this area was served by the PO at Pöls. One final note: When did the PO at Pöls open? Answer: 8 May 1870 also! Where is all of this physically? In my circa-1910 Baedeker, one of the insert maps with Judenburg at its center shows the Johann Adolfhütte about 7 km northwest of Judenburg. Pöls is another 5 km further west.

Editorial grovels! I had assumed "Hütte" as in Bothy, accomodation for climbers somewhere up a mountain, not as in iron and steel works! Allerheiligen is still on the map. The rebuilt Staatsoper was shown on ANK1030, issued in 1955.

Austrian Stamp Issues planned for 2000

21.01: Austrian Myths & Legends: the Basilisk of Wien (10 Sch)

21.01: National Customs: Chapel processions, Carinthia (7 Sch)

21.01: Wien lädt zur WIPA 2000 (133 Sch)

11.02: National Customs: Cavalcade of Masks, Telfs

3.03: International Horticultural exhibition (7 Sch)

3.03: Hunting & environment - return of ibex to Austria's mountains (7 Sch)

3.03: Austrian football championships: FC Tirol (7 Sch)

28.04: 200th anniversary of first ascent of the Großglockner (7 Sch)

28.04: 150 years of protecting monuments (8 Sch)

28.04: Austrian Myths & Legends: Der Hexenritt

9.05: Europa 2000 (7 Sch)

9.05: National beauty spots: Weisssee, Salzburg (7 Sch)

19.05: 75 years of Klagenfurt Airport (7 Sch)

19.05: Traditional arts & Crafts: Vita des Malachias - Zwettl Abbey (9 Sch)

30.05: 150 years of Austrian Stamps

30.05: Tag der Briefmarke 2000 (7 Sch)

31.05: Confetti (a children's TV programme) (7 Sch)

16.06: 100th anniversary of discovery of blood groups (8 Sch)

16.06: 100th anniversary of first regular Austrian bus route (9 Sch)

16.06: Austrian Myths & Legends: Die Laib-Brot-Marter, Niederösterreich

25.08: National Customs: International Rafting, Carinthia

15.09: 100 years of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra

15.09: Summer Olympics 2000

15.09: UNESCO Cultural Heritage: Hallstatt - Dachstein

13.10: Traditional arts & Crafts: Codex 965 - National Library

13.10: Austrian working environment: Printing & Paper

13.10: Modern Art: 26th issue

24.11: 50th anniversary of the Austrian Association for Adult Education

1.12: Christmas 2000

The list gives the planned day and month; the subject; and the face value if known. Where the translation is unclear I have kept the original. As always, amendments are possible (nay, likely!).

From the Secretary

This quarter the Secretary's column is essentially an update of the items in the last issue of *Austria*. Firstly there is the continuing saga of the 'merger' discussions. I have continued to sound out ASCGB members at the Manchester meetings and also the members who are also AAP members, at their London meetings, and some of you have written in with your views. The most encouraging sign is that there is a clear majority view among ASCGB-only members that some form of merger along the lines suggested is an appropriate and welcome change. I have only heard one voice expressing any kind of clearly 'anti' view, that of a member of both groups, and the core of his argument was that he could see no point in such a 'merger'. The point of the 'merger' lies in the unified image we would present to the outside philatelic world, and the reduction in the considerable confusion we engender in prospective members at the moment. If I had a pound for every time I received a request from overseas asking about details of membership of the AAP (which is pointless unless you can attend meetings in London) rather than the ASCGB, I would not be, admittedly, an enormously rich man, but I could certainly buy myself a fine Naval cover!

The issue, or rather the issues, of a new name, is more complex. A very clear majority accept either the need for a new neutral name or the need to adopt a name that reflects the standard of our hobby – the Austrian Philatelic Society (APS). Should we then become the APS, the APSGB or the APSUK? Last quarter I put an argument that the APSUK would be more desirable than APSGB. Elsewhere in this issue you can read Henry White's argument in favour of the retention of GB. I beg to differ with him on two grounds: I see no sense in deliberately upsetting the member from Northern Ireland who has clearly expressed his view that GB is inappropriate and offensive to someone from the Six Counties; and I can see no need to add GB to show that we are an English-speaking group – the only likely alternative would be German-speaking, and therefore would be an abbreviation beginning with Ö or Oe, not A! I should also add that I have been persuaded by the arguments of those who do not want any geographic or political qualification at all. They argue, and I now agree, that we should be internationally minded, and we should welcome any attempt to set up meeting groups in Northern Ireland, Austria, the United States, or wherever any set of members wish to do so. To have Great Britain or United Kingdom in the name would clearly discourage any such developments.

My Austro-Hungarian Navy website is now up and running, although not yet complete. The lack of completeness is partly with respect to what I plan - photos in particular are still needed - but also because such a site will always need additions as new facts come to light. I would welcome in particular information on the movements of those ships that actually moved during the war: destroyers, torpedo boats and submarines. Go to ***http://www.stile.coventry.ac.uk/cbs/staff/beech/ahnavy/index.htm*** Any feedback would be appreciated, to ***John@Beech.net***. For those who use the internet, there is news of a new electronic forum for members elsewhere in this issue.

Not all developments are electronic ('Thank goodness' some will cry!). Matters are well in hand to enable back numbers of *Austria*, binders for *Austria* and club ties to be available to members once again.

And finally..

Christkindl Cancels - information sought

This year, cancels from Christkindl were available by post and, if you were lucky, by requesting an Internet Christmas Card - there was no bar on sending yourself one! Nick Harty asks for your assistance in a survey he is undertaking.
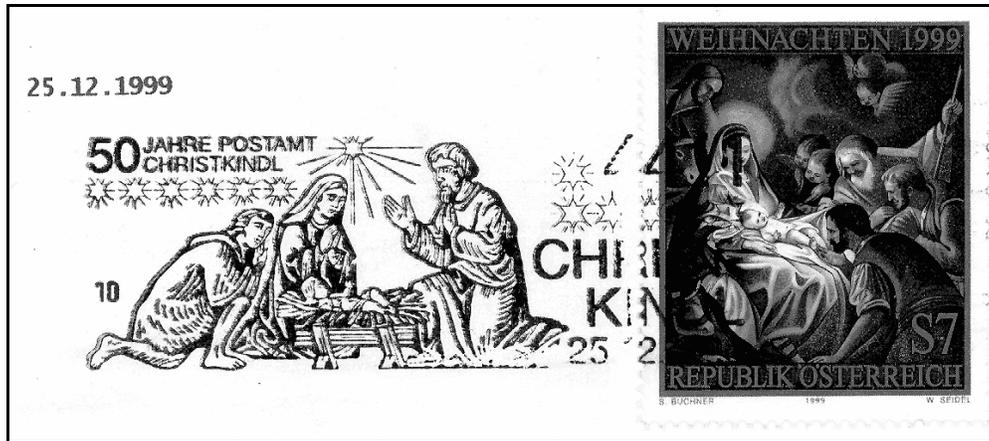
(As these specimens of Internet cards show, you could request any date in the Christmas season! When it was dealt with is a different matter.)
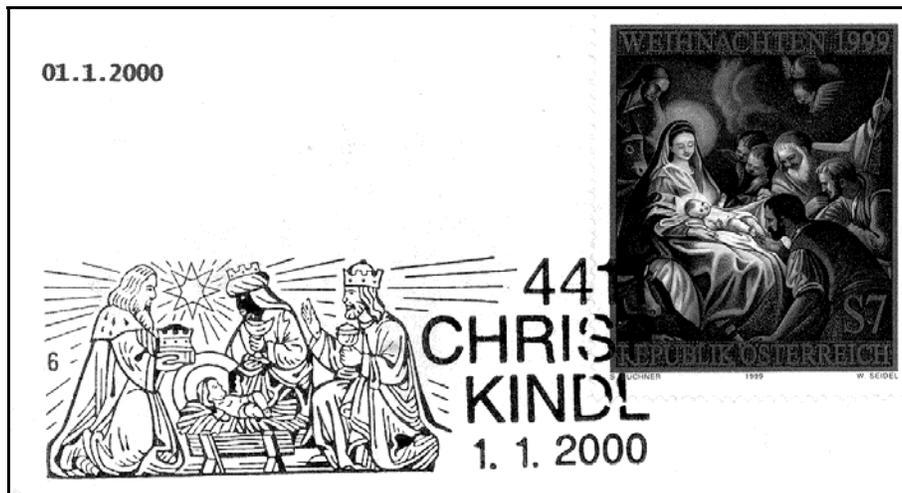
If you look at the examples above, in the left margin of the cancel is a number: 10 in the top one, 6 in the bottom one. This is the die number. If you received any item with this year's Christkindl cancellation, Nick would like to know the cancel date, the die number, the nature of the item (card, envelope etc) and for Internet cards the name of the sponsor (eg Quelle).