

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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Meeting Dates for 2000-2001

13-15 Oct 2000	York	ASCGB Weekend in York
11 Nov 2000	Manchester	Chairman's Display – Martin Brumby
2 Dec 2000	Manchester	Austria and Italy – John Giblin
13 Jan 2001	Manchester	Ostmark – Brian Madely
10 Feb 2001	Manchester	Newspaper Stamps – Andy Taylor
3 Mar 2001	London	Joint Meeting
7 Apr 2001	Manchester	Postal Stationery – Henry White
12 May 2001	Manchester	Hesshaimer – Arthur Godden

Editorial 131

By Andy Taylor

Well, that's WIPA2000 over - roll on 2011! According to the Vienna newspapers, about 60,000 visitors attended during the week, including 3000 schoolchildren (it seemed like more!) on Youth Day "without significant problems". I'm not sure if the staff of the Austrian Post Office Stand directly opposite the stage would share that view, and certainly I had some Kafkaesque encounters with distinctly Habsburgian bureaucracy, while others found that a Ph.D. in orienteering was essential to find all the Postal Stationery exhibits. On the other hand, there can be few other countries where one can go to a stamp exhibition and chat about blackprints with the top management of the State Printing Works! As the WIPA Bulletin No 1 says, "Vienna is different".

The sheer scale of the exhibition was overwhelming: 50 hours of opening; 49 postal administrations; 110 dealers; 28 ArGes; 191 entries in the Literature class; and of course 2436 frames of philatelic excellence. To see every exhibit would allow 8.2 second per sheet... most people concentrated on their specialisms and even then ran out of time (or stamina). Besides, there were dealers to visit, friends to meet, special cancels to queue up for, Light Railways to catch, and Sachertorte to eat!

I chose to concentrate mainly on the Austrian classics, with so many rare or unique items such as blocks, multiples, and mixed frankings on display. One could easily pick out such unique items, as they had "UNIKAT" beside them, with a list of their previous owners. Varieties of colour, printing, paper or perforation; cancellations of all conceivable shapes; first issue FDCs; multiples from 2 to 20; St Andrew's Crosses in rainbow hues; all swam before my eyes. There was too much to be envious of: better to glean ideas for the improved rearrangement of my own meagre heap.

I, and others, did feel that the relative level of the prizes and medals was not what we would have awarded - in particular we rated the Z-hall displays of postage dues, newspapers and revenues higher than did the judges. But we were probably applying different criteria; indeed we spend an evening discussing and disagreeing on what the rules would be if it were us who made them. To Tonnes Ore, the only ASCGB member known to have exhibited, who had to accept the rules as laid down, our congratulations.

As predicted, the Post Office and the State Printing Works pulled out all the stops, and issued a multi-colour miniature sheet in commemoration of Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1928-2000), with an accompanying blackprint, sold as a pair stuck into a special folder; the sheet is also available loose.



Then there was the special Frama-type stamp - or is it a label? - sold only at the Austrian Post Office counter and the machines next it (or perhaps also by the Sammler Service?). There is no official FDC, so here it is cancelled at WIPA on the first day of issue.

The machines were heavily used: mobbed, really, although "queue rage" didn't seem to be much of a

problem. (It was different at the Special Cancellations counters upstairs!) About 50,000 stamps were printed, and a similar number sold over the counter. Over a tonne of coins had to be handled by the duty technician, and 35 rolls of the special posthorn logo'd paper.

The design is a Jugendstil frame enclosing REPUBLIK / value-in-schillings / ÖSTERREICH, all in a pale red ink, with a vertical row of black dashes on the left. All the specimens I have seen have weak printing at the top right, so here is an "editor's proof" of the design.



Considerable controversy had been caused by the special sheet containing the Basilisk stamp, available only as a "free gift" accompanying an entry ticket and yet classed as a normal stamp issue. Much pounding of keyboards has failed to produce an agreed view, so I'll leave those who make Official Rulings to make another one.

Another noteworthy item is the 4-stamp blackprint of the "150 years" stamp (well, mine is black & grey although a publicity leaflet asserts it is blue and grey). It is enclosed with the superb book "150 years of Austrian Stamps" which I'll describe later.

And then there's the series of "Wien lädt zur WIPA2000" miniature sheets, with the corresponding four blackprints: climaxing with a blueprint of the blackprint of the final sheet! After all this it comes as no surprise that the 8th Government Postage Stamp Printers Conference have awarded the Austrian State Printing Works their highest prizes for the "1000 years of Austria" miniature sheet and the "Centenary of death of Empress Elizabeth" stamp - it would have been surprising if they hadn't!



Our friend Hannes Margreiter was present to introduce his Bat postcard in the "endangered species" series, and he signed copies for those who could find him. Maybe I was distracted by the representative of the ArGe Türkei in his full Turkish costume, fez and all, but luckily without the scimitar.

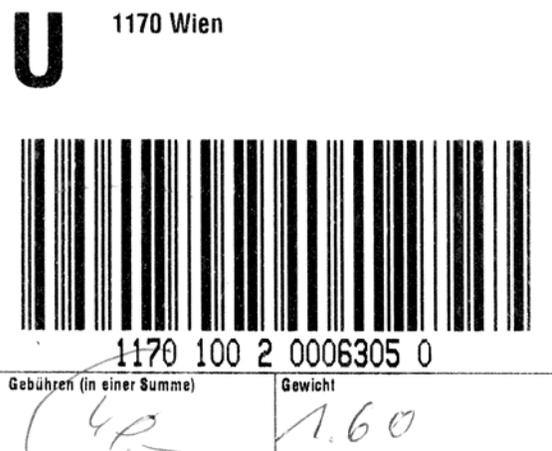


So, clutching my souvenirs I retreated to Baden (pausing at the well-stocked postcard stall in the local market) to sample the local wine and food at various more or less Ethnic Heurigers while dreaming of stamps, of familiar Strauss tunes played on

period instruments in the glittering Musikvereine, of railways light and heavy and dumplings likewise, of old friendships renewed and new ones forged... truly indeed is it said that Vienna is not a place but a state of mind.



Back to UK reality: having tried and failed to remove the Royal Mail International green labels from my WIPA correspondence, I went to our local Post Office to be informed that "they only get them stamps with pictures on the first Tuesday of each month", and sell out within a few days, so there's no point in asking for them. I think longingly of the Austrian post office in Going, a village too small even to appear on most maps, with its full range of WIPA miniature sheets: well, it was full when I arrived... On the other hand I hope the arrival of the RIPOSTE system doesn't imply the demise of the adhesive stamp!



MINUTES OF THE 52ND A.G.M. OF THE AUSTRIAN STAMP CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN HELD ON 14 MAY 2000 IN MANCHESTER

Ten members attended.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies from John Whiteside, Andy Taylor and the Flamands were noted.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the previous AGM, held on 11 September 1999, had been published in *Austria*. They were accepted by the meeting *nem con*.

3. **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Hon Chairman's Report**

Martin Brumby reported that the year had seen a full complement of meetings, and that they had been well attended. He understood that the weekend meeting at York had gone very well.

5. **Hon Secretary's Report**

John Beech reiterated that he would not be seeking re-election due to pressure of work which included more time being spent away from home.

6. **Hon Treasurer's Report and Membership Secretary's Report**

Joyce Boyer provided copies of the accounts for 1999/2000. They had not yet been audited as it had only been possible to finalise them within the previous few days. They had been prepared in a new format, but the corresponding figures for 1998/1999 were available. The large figure for auction receipts was explained. In order to allow the costs of producing and mailing the Journal, a new category of 'Editor's Expenses' would be introduced in future accounts. The entries relating to LUPUS, and the need to include these in the accounts, were explained. Outstanding expenses at 31 March 2000 included some officers' expenses, venue fees for two Manchester meetings and the ABPS membership fee. Planned expenditure for the near future included that for copying back numbers of *Austria* and the purchase of Club ties and Journal binders.

NB: any member is welcome to a copy of the tabulated financial statement - write to the Hon Treasurer.

It was agreed that the subscription rates should remain unchanged. However, increased prices for back numbers of *Austria* were agreed. Charges for ties and binders would have to take into account current postal charges. The accounts were accepted *nem con* and the Club expressed its thanks to Joyce Boyer.

7. **Hon Packet Superintendent's Report**

Henry White reported that the Exchange Packet had had a successful year, largely due to the efforts of three members. 604 views of packets had been undertaken; a lot of material was still to hand. He formally announced his intention to stand down. He would carry on until the end of August and was willing to help the incoming Packet Superintendent to

ensure a smooth hand-over. Those present wished to record their thanks to Henry for all his work over the years, and noted that under his stewardship nearly a quarter of a million pounds' worth of material had been circulated.

8. **Hon Librarian's Report**

Arthur Godden reported that the library still continued to function in a modest way. It was agreed that notwithstanding the current low usage, the library was a very important resource which needed to be continued.

9. **Hon Editor's Report**

In Andy Taylor's absence, his report was read out. The standardisation and regularity of issues were noted, and the meeting expressed its appreciation. He pointed out that he can only select from what has been submitted to him, and urged the writers among the membership to produce more for the Journal. He reported that a regular newsletter with auction list had been established. The meeting expressed its thanks to the Boyers for their help in enabling this.

10. **Auctioneer's Report**

Colin Tobitt reported that this year had gone well. There had been a turnover of £7919.30, and 70% of material offered had been sold. A surplus of £920.91 had been achieved. The Auctioneer acknowledged the help he had received from Martin Brumby during the year.

11. **President's Report**

John Giblin reported that as he was 75 this year, he would welcome handing over the chairing of meetings to the Chairman.

12. **Election of Officers for following season**

All officers were unanimously re-elected except for the following two posts, where the incumbent was not seeking re-election:

New Hon. Secretary – Gordon Rogers (proposed Joyce Boyer; seconded Martin Brumby; passed nem. con.)

New Packet Superintendent – Martin Brumby with effect from 17 October 2000 (proposed Henry White; seconded Brian Madely; passed nem. con.)

13. **Next Season's Programme**

The following programme was proposed:

13-15 October	York	ASCGB Weekend in York
11 November	Manchester	Chairman's Display – Martin Brumby
2 December	Manchester	Austria and Italy – John Giblin
13 January	Manchester	Ostmark – Brian Madely
10 February	Manchester	Newspaper Stamps – Andy Taylor
3 March	London	Joint Meeting
7 April	Manchester	Postal Stationery – Henry White
12 May ¹	Manchester	[Hesshaimer – Arthur Godden]

¹ Nature of meeting subject to confirmation in the light of the coming EGM

14. Any Other Competent Business

Two motions had been previously circulated for consideration:

Motion 1:

That the Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to take place at York on Sunday 15 October 2000 to consider and vote upon the following proposition: "That the ASCGB shall with immediate effect become the organisation described in and governed by the Rules laid before this meeting". It is noted that a major consequence would be that the new organisation would encourage the formation of local groups of members instead of holding regular meetings in its own right. The assets of the ASCGB would seamlessly transfer to the new organisation.

This motion was proposed by Martin Brumby and seconded by John Beech. It was passed nem con.

Motion 2

In the discussion concerning the previously circulated Motion 2, John Beech expressed concern regarding the conduct of a meeting in which a number of postal proxy votes might be cast. Following discussion of this, an amendment was proposed and accepted nem. con. The following amended motion (the amendment consisting of an addition which is not in italicised print) was proposed by Martin Brumby, seconded by John Beech and passed nem. con.:

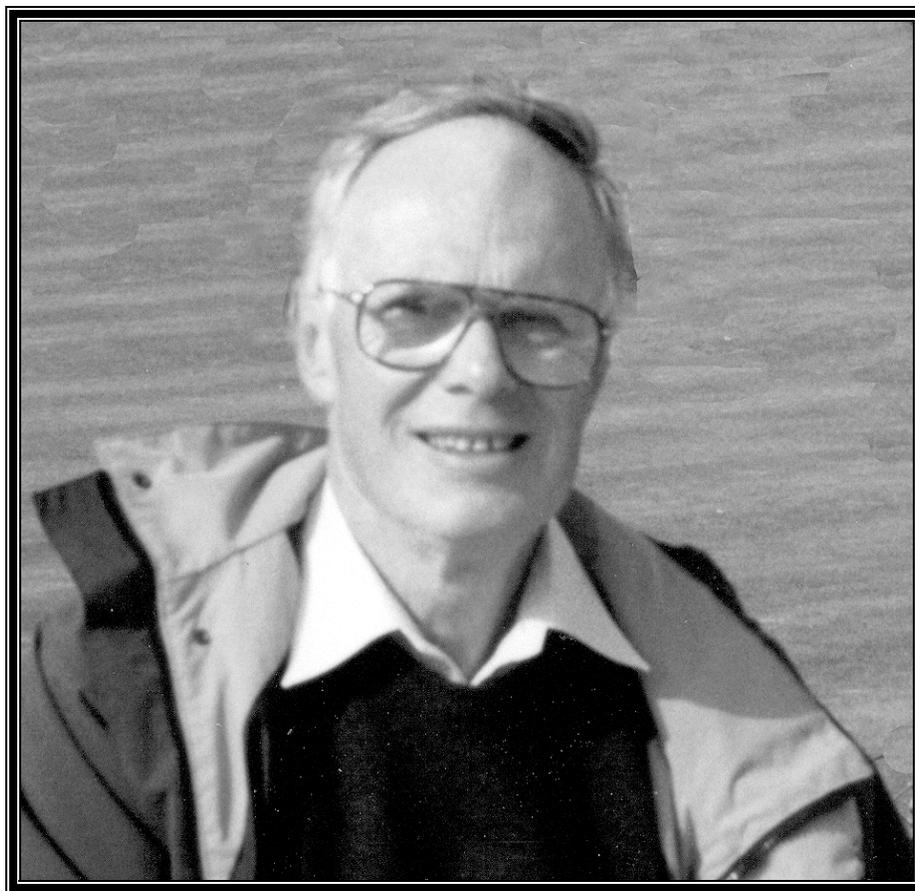
That ASCGB Rule 22 be amended by adding Rule 22a worded as follows:

22a. However, at the EGM convened for Sunday 15 October 2000, rule 22 shall be replaced by "At this Extraordinary General Meeting, postal votes on matters submitted to the meeting from Honorary Life Members and from Ordinary Members whose subscriptions for the year 2000-2001 have been paid shall be valid, provided they have been received by the Honorary Secretary before the start of the meeting. Those Honorary Life Members and Ordinary Members physically present shall also be entitled to vote by a show of hands. No member shall vote both by post and in person. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, any matter submitted to the meeting shall be decided by a simple majority. In the event of an equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second casting vote. During this Extraordinary General Meeting no amendments will be taken from the floor other than the correction of grammatical, typographical or factual errors. This Rule 22a shall be deleted on 1 November 2000."

15. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 16.05 hrs.

These minutes were prepared by the outgoing Hon. Secretary, John Beech.

The New Honorary Secretary



Gordon Rogers was born 1st August, 1932 at Mill Hill, London, NW7. Schooled at Christ's College, Finchley with further part-time studies at Hendon and Northern Polytechnics, London acquiring skills in Chemistry and developing an interest in palaeontology.

His working life was spent mainly at Mill Hill School as Laboratory Steward and with Schweppes Ltd. in the Quality Department which took him to work as Chief Chemist at the subsidiaries Jewsbury and Brown, Manchester and L. Rose & Co. Ltd., St. Albans where he met his wife Chris, getting married in 1980. For the last 18 years before early retirement in 1988 he moved to Head Office where he was involved in all aspects of Quality Management. It was then that his involvement with the UK Contract Packing Operations took him to Austria, amongst other countries, and started his interest in Austria and its stamps.

Early retirement gave him more time to pursue his interests in hill walking, bird watching, fossils and an allotment. He joined Bedford Philatelic Society in 1992 (President 1996-8 and Packet Secretary since 1999) where he learnt there was more to the hobby than filling albums with stamps. His biggest mistake in life was to learn French at school instead of German! An attempt to rectify this at evening classes learning (tourist) German proved little help with the vocabulary of Netto and Die Briefmarke!

“The build-up to WIPA 2000 (continued) by Nick Harty”

This article does not exist in electronic format.

The text follows.

The twenty-fifth item is a balloon cover; the 54th. special flight for Pro Juventute. The cover was posted on 11th June in special box at the WIPA office, taken to Ovebria at Omunden where an exhibition cachet was applied before being carried by balloon OE-ZPI and returned to Vienna. It had been intended to be carried by balloon OE-ZMR. 1000 covers were serviced.

The twenty-sixth item is a postal stationery envelope [no.21] issued on the 100th anniversary of the town of Schwaz in Tirol. The cover was produced by the airmail stamp club and flown by Austrian Airlines on 2nd July on a greetings flight to PHILEX FRANCE in Paris. The special cancellation has a representation of Louis Bleriot's aircraft together with WIPA and AA.

The twenty-seventh item is a special cover to commemorate the total eclipse of the sun on 11th August 1999. The cover is franked with 7 schilling Europa CEPT 1991 [ANK 2056]. The satellite illustrated is ERS-1. The special cancellation has the path of the total eclipse over a map of Austria together with the times and altitude of the sun.

The twenty-eighth item is a goodwill flight to Peking in China on the occasion of CHINA 99. The cover is a postal stationery envelope (no.20) issued to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Lauda air and Strauß Year. The TPO cancel Payerbach-Reichenau Wien 264 was applied on 28th May; it was flown on 20th August by Austrian Airlines and has an arrival mark in China.

The twenty-ninth item is a commemorative cover on the occasion of an exhibition held at Bruck an der Leida, BRUBRIA 99 on the 11th. September, franked with 5 schilling stamp issued April 1989 on the 750th anniversary of the town. [ANK 1979]. The covers were carried by an old Post Coach as is incorporated in the design of the special cancellation.

The thirtieth item is a Black Print of the miniature sheet produced for the third WIPA 2000 stamp issued on 17th. September 1999.

The thirty-first item is a registered first day cover from the philatelic salon at Hard near Bregenz on 17th September 1999. The stamp is the third of the WIPA stamp designs [ANK 2337]. Note that the registration label is that of Bregenz post office 6900 whilst the special cancellation is 6971 Hard Vorarlberg.

The thirty-second item is another registered first day cover of the third WLPA stamp posted at the Airmail exhibition held in Vienna. The special cancellation besides having two air liners has the designer of the stamp and the cancellation - Hannes Margreiter. Note also the welcome: Servus in Wien.

The thirty-third item is yet another registered first day cover of the third WIPA stamp posted at Hard philatelic exhibition and carried by a military helicopter to Schwaz post office before onward transmission to Vienna. The special cancel marks the important role of the military providing protection and assistance in Austria.

The thirty-fourth item is a joint souvenir cover with the United Nations Postal Authority in Vienna, for the way to WIPA 2000. It is franked with the 8 schilling stamp [ANK 1998] issued in 1989 to commemorate the 10th anniversary in Vienna with special cancel. In addition a 6.50 schilling stamp [ANK 299] issued 10 days before to remember those who died during U.N. peace keeping duties.

The thirty-fifth item is a commemorative cover 25 years of modern fieldpost offices in Austria as used by Austrian personnel when on detachment for United Nations duties. The stamp is the 7 schilling stamp [ANK 2176] issued on the entry of Austria into the European Community on 1st January 1995. Note: 1503 AUCON KEOR is absent from the decorative panel.

The thirty-sixth item is a commemorative cover produced for a philatelic exhibition at Pinkafeld, Burgenland - Youth Day - on 28th. November. The cover is franked with the 7 schilling stamp issued April 1993 to highlight Children's Rights [ANK 2 125].

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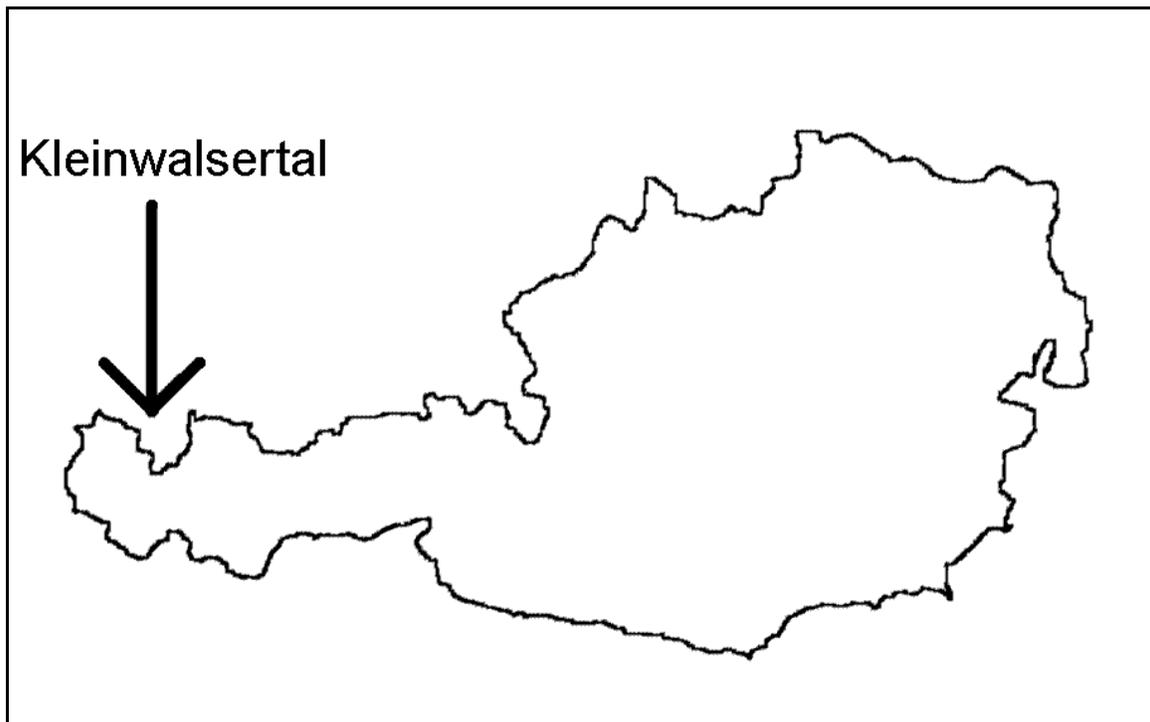
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The Postal History of Kleinwalsertal

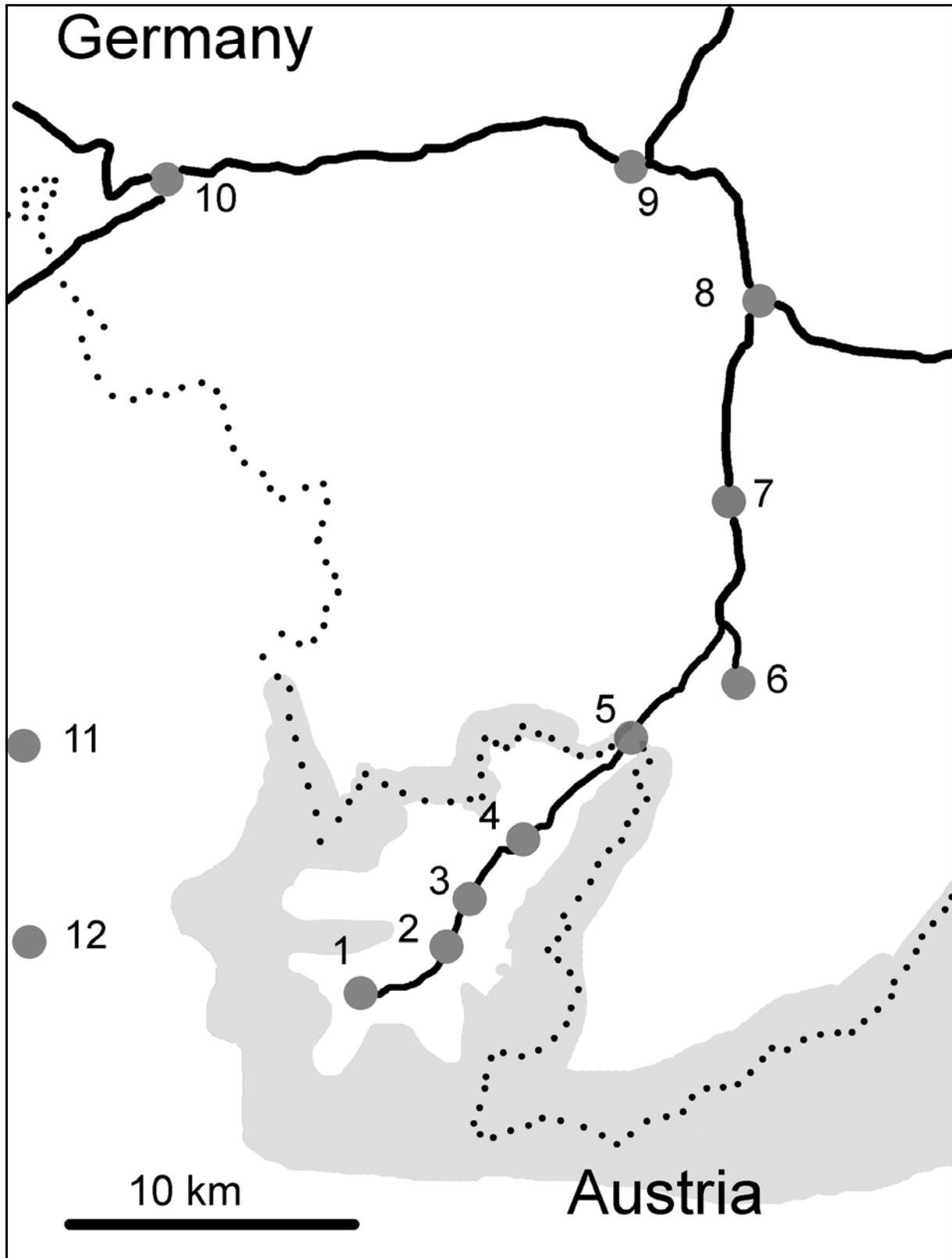
By Andy Taylor

[Inspired by an article from Salvatore Rizza, and incorporating material from Die Briefmarke, H G White, D McNally, and others (for which I thank them).]

The Kleinwalsertal is an isolated valley, part of the Austrian federal state of Vorarlberg, from the rest of which it is separated by a high mountain range. The highest peak is the Widderstein at 2535m, and the valley is surrounded by a ring of mountains many over 2000m. The only natural route into the valley leads from Oberstdorf in Bavaria along the narrow gorge of the river Breitach; from Vorarlberg the valley can be reached only on foot over a few high passes. The map below shows the location of the valley in Austria. In the second map, the mountains have been indicated by the grey shading; the German-Austrian border by a dotted line; and the roads by solid lines.



The area itself is almost 100 sqkm large and has about 4500 inhabitants. The first immigrants came from the Wallis district of Switzerland and settled in what is now Mittelberg; their old homeland gave the Walsertal its name. Today the inhabitants of Kleinwalsertal are a mixture of immigrants from all federal states of Austria, especially from Vorarlberg. During the Anschluß period about 1500 Germans immigrated, many of whom took the option in 1945 of becoming Austrian citizens. Politically, the Kleinwalsertal is a Gemeinde of Bregenz in Vorarlberg, called Mittelberg. With time, further settlements developed (Baad, Hirschegg and Riezlern), and today Riezlern is the largest and most modern.



Key: 1: Baad; 2: **Mittelberg**; 3: **Hirschegg**; 4: **Riezlern**; 5: **Walserschanz**;
 6: Oberstdorf; 7: Fischen; 8: Sonthofen; 9: Immenstadt; 10: Oberstaufen;
 11: Bezau; 12: Au

A location with such a unique situation has a similarly unique postal history, which will now be described and illustrated. The complications of fiscal transactions and their markings will be ignored; readers who require more information should contact the editor. Also ignored will be the postal and political history of Jungholz, a similar enclave of the Tirol, and most of the special cancels that may exist.

In 1891, Father J. Finch and Dr. H. v. Klenze wrote a history of the postal arrangements up to that date in the "Mittelberger Chronik", from which the following four paragraphs are derived.

The postal connections for so lonely an area are naturally a relatively newer arrangement, and until the middle of the 19th century there was no alternative to sending the letter by a messenger to Sonthofen who handed it there to the Royal Bavarian Post. On 18th January 1840 the Gemeinde wrote to the Royal Bavarian Post Office at Immenstadt, stating that they would like to exchange the Walsertal mail with the Oberstdorf messengers.

For mail to Austria, however, the troublesome route over the mountain passes to Bezau remained. In the year 1846 the Gemeinde contracted with one Anton Wallina to carry letters and money once a week to and from Bezau. From there they were exchanged with the messenger from Au, where they were handed over to the Austrian Post. Letters from Austria to the Walsertal were mainly brought by the tobacco carriers, who were not allowed to enter Bavaria and used the Starzljoch. Heavy snowfalls and avalanche danger often interrupted the traffic over the Starzljoch for weeks or even months.

On 20th January 1852 the district authority announced that the letter mail from Bezau and Bregenz would be routed via Sonthofen, and the post wagon would also call there. Since Oberstdorf had no postal delivery system, all postal items were collected from Sonthofen by Oberstdorf messengers, and the messenger employed by the Gemeinde picked them up twice a week at Oberstdorf.

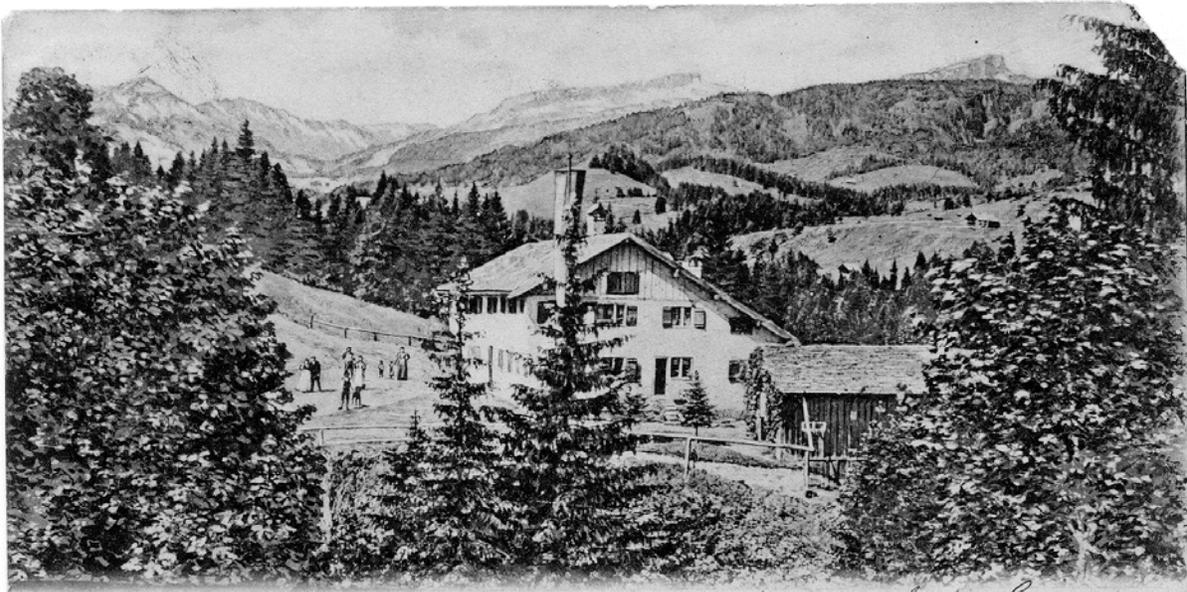
In 1862 the post office at Walserschanz was erected, and in 1877 the Karriolpost (it's a light covered cart) began running between Oberstdorf and Mittelberg, at first three times weekly, later four and from 1885 on all work-days. In 1886, Post Offices were opened in Mittelberg and Riezlern, with a Postablage in Hirscheegg, and the Walserschanz post office was demoted to a Postablage. In the winter a Rural Post connected with the Karriolpost.

The postal history of Kleinwalsertal can be divided into 5 periods:

- 1 - Prestamp and pre-post-office period up to 1862.
- 2 - Austrian post offices and postablagen 1862 to 1938.
- 3 - German post offices: German (1938-1945) & Austrian (1945-1950) territory.
- 4 - Austrian post offices (cancellers without postcodes) 1951 to 1966.
- 5 - Austrian post offices (cancellers with postcodes) from 1966.

1. The pre-post-office period.

Before the first post office opened in Walserschanz, post to and from Kleinwalsertal can only be recognised by the address of the sender or recipient. Since from 1 June 1850 Austrian mail (in general!) required stamps, this in Kleinwalsertal can be called the "pre-post-office period". Mail from Kleinwalsertal had to be brought to Bezau post office, and was there given adhesive stamps which were then cancelled there also. Naturally mail could be handed over also in Sonthofen or Oberstdorf; however it then had to be stamped with Bavarian stamps.



Walserschanz in 1905

2. Austrian post offices and postablagen - 1862 to 1938.

On 1st July 1862 the first post office in Kleinwalsertal opened. It was directly on the boundary with Bavaria and was called "WALSERSCHANZ" after the border inn. It was active as a post office till 30th June 1886, and was run by the innkeeper Ludwina Fritz. After that (until 1914) Walserschanz was a postablage.

With the opening of this post office the second period of the Kleinwalsertal postal service begins, and extends up to the Anschluß. In this period the Austrian postal administration opened further post offices and Postablagen, so that the situation in 1938 was the same as today. Austria joined the Bavarian Customs Union on 1.5.1891; this however had no postal effect, since mail from Austria-Hungary (or from 1918 from Austria) to Germany was charged at Austrian inland rates.

On 29th July 1886 both Mittelberg and Riezlern received their own post offices. The post office at Riezlern was in the Gasthaus zur Traube, Hailer's bakery, and the Angel Hotel, until it moved on 5th November 1960 to its own building. In Mittelberg it was in the Zum Widderstein, then in a house (which is still called the Alte Post) until its new office opened in December 1964. Until 8th July 1929, Hirschegg had only a postablage (it opened in the Zum Hirschen around 1900); as a post office it is housed in the Mesnerhaus. Baad, at the inner end of the valley, has never had any postal facilities!



Walserschanz 1882(?)



Mittelberg 1906



Riezlern 1886

When Walserschanz was demoted to a Postablage in 1886, it continued to use its cancellers directly on the Austrian stamps. Since it delivered most of its post to the Bavarian post office at Oberstdorf, and this was not allowed to cancel the Austrian stamps with its canceller, the normal rule was here reversed: Walserschanz cancelled the Austrian stamp directly, the Bavarian post office at Oberstdorf cancelled beside the stamp. Post up the valley to Mittelberg was cancelled according to the regulations.



The cancel on the left is on an 1893 card with attached reply portion, addressed to Frankfurt a.M., with the sender's address given as Oberstdorf (ie in Bavaria!) and a different Oberstdorf address pre-written on the reply part. I suspect it was purely philatelic, as such a card would not be on sale in Oberstdorf, and

Two for the price of one?

Just when I thought this article was completed, I acquired yet another postcard from Walserschanz; but it has a unique feature: it has two Postablage cancellations, one from Austria and another from Spielmannsau which is at the head of Trettachtal, a small valley to the east of Walsertal and thus in Bavaria. It is addressed to Augsburg, with a message about the sender's walking holiday.

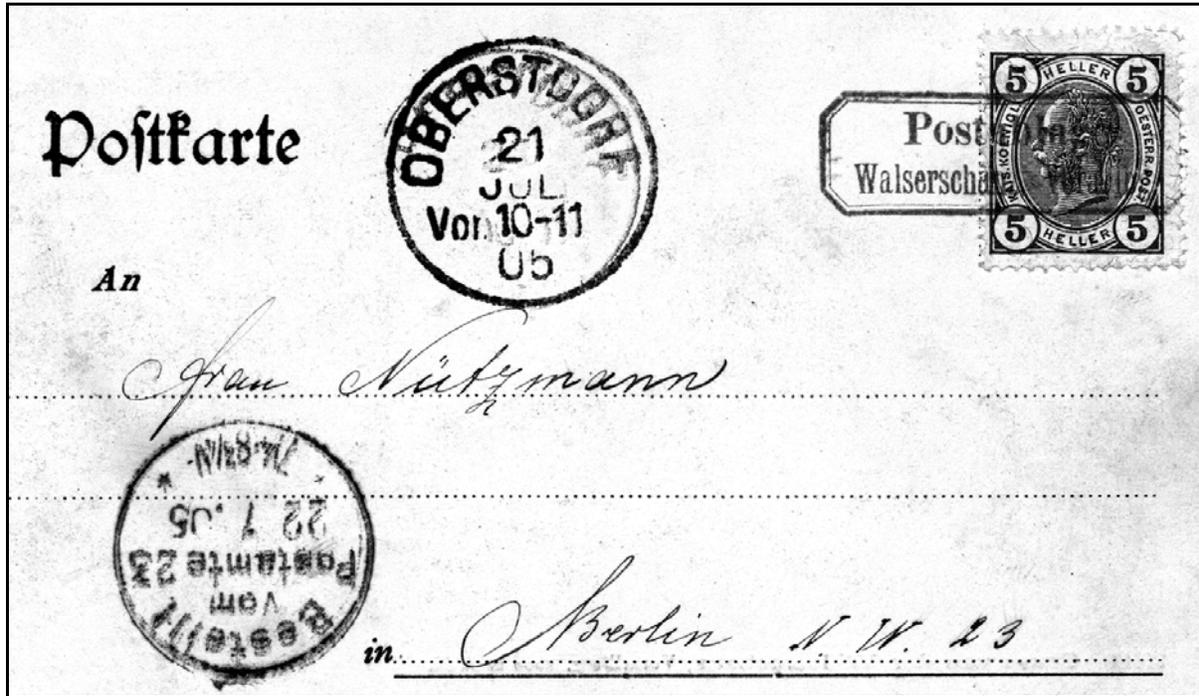


The markings are, from the left: the Spielmannsau hut cachet; the Oberstdorf Post Office cancel for 1907; the Spielmannsau Posthilf[stelle] cancel; a ringed figure '1' [does anyone know what it is?]; and the Walserschanz cancel [47x10mm, correct for the cancel date] applied as was normal directly on the Austrian stamp. It would certainly be possible for a determined Alpinist to make a round trip from Oberstdorf, calling at Spielmannsau (where he bought a cacheted postcard) and at Walserschanz (where he posted it). The picture on the card is of Spielmannsau with the Kegelkopf behind.



probably not at a Postablage either; and the card would not have been valid for the return trip! There are no other markings on the card, and one wonders if it ever entered the postal system.

The card below shows a 1905 cancel from Walserschanz ON the stamp and the Oberstdorf cancel beside it.



3. German post offices - 1938 to 1950.

a) German territory - 1938 to 1945.

In March 1938 the post offices were taken over by the German postal administration, and as in the rest of Austria introduced German stamps on 4th April 1938. As elsewhere, some Austrian stamps remained valid up to the 31st October 1938, so mixed frankings exist. The Gemeinde Mittelberg changed its country allegiance, being detached from Vorarlberg and connected to Bavaria; and the post offices likewise switched from the PTD at Innsbruck to the Reichspostdirektion at Augsburg. Thus the offices acquired also the German post code 13b (Postleitgebiet South Bavaria), not 12a and 12b as in the rest of Austria. The German postal administration introduced new cancellers, with the previous designation of Vorarlberg replaced by Kleinwalsertal. Also, for the first time, advertising cancellations (Werbestempel) were introduced for all three post offices.



b) Austrian territory 1945 to 1950.

In 1945 Kleinwalsertal became reunited with Vorarlberg, and so with Austria. The post offices remained however under German postal administration up to the 31st December 1950 (American zone, then German Federal Republic). The superior offices were Oberstdorf and Kempten (Allgäu) 2. As well as the Austrian stamps, a range of German stamps were valid in Kleinwalsertal:



American and British zone and Federal Germany [Mi 1-122]; Occupied Germany [Mi 911-970]; from 3rd October 1949 the stamps of the French zones: Baden [Mi 14-41 & 46-57], Rhineland-Palatinate [Mi 16-29], 32-41, & 46- 52, Württemberg-Hohenzollern [Mi 14-37 & 44-52]; and from 20 January 1950 the stamps of West Berlin [Mi 21-73]!

Austrian stamps were used for Austrian inland mail (including local mail in Kleinwalsertal). Up to mid-1947 the Austrian domestic mail (Kleinwalsertal to Austria) had to be submitted to BPA1, the US Censor in Munich. Thus one finds on Austrian domestic mail up to this time the red machine cancel of the US Censor in Munich, although in the western zones of Austria the censorship had been discontinued. German stamps were valid for mail to all zones of Germany, later FRG, GDR, Saarland and West Berlin; in the local Kleinwalsertal; and to all foreign countries. For mail to Germany the German domestic rates applied, for foreign countries the rates of the US zone of Germany.

Thus within Kleinwalsertal both the Austrian as well as the German stamps were valid. So one could use for one and the same shipment Austrian or German stamps, which one bought at one and the same post office counter! Mixed frankings were possible, since up to the currency reforms (Austria 3:1 in December 1947; West Germany 10:1 in July 1948) the exchange rate was ÖS1=RM1. Indeed the use of Austrian stamps was discouraged, since Bregenz had to pay for them in exchange for the services of the German post in the Kleinwalsertal. After the German 10:1 currency reform, one could use on 21 and 22 July 1948 in Kleinwalsertal 10-times-franking, or mixed franking between the old and the new stamps.

Since Kleinwalsertal is Austrian territory, but the post offices Mittelberg, Hirschegg and Riezlern were under German postal administration, mail stamped with German stamps should be considered as German Post in Austria (1945 up

to the currency reform of July 1948) or West German post in Austria (from currency reform July 1948 to 31 December 1950).



Walserschanz around 1950

4. Austrian post offices. (Cancellers without postcodes. 1951 to 1966).

On 31st December 1950 the German administration of the post offices of Kleinwalsertal ended, and they were taken over by the Austrian postal administration (PTD Innsbruck) on 1st January 1951. On the same date the sale and the validity on mail of German stamps ended, and mail to Germany had to carry Austrian stamps; likewise all foreign mail now required Austrian postage. At the same time the German cancellers were replaced with Austrian ones. It took some time to formally agree the arrangements, and a Memorandum of Understanding called the ÜZAG (Übereinkommen Zollausschußgebiet) was duly signed in October 1952!





The Austrian stamps were sold at the appropriate exchange rate in DM. From 1.1.1951-30.4.1961 this was 1:6; from 1.5.1961-31.10.1969 1:6½; and from 1.11.1961 1:7. A good example of the ensuing complications is that when the 1:6½ exchange rate started, there was no combination of Austrian stamps with which a postcard to Germany could be correctly franked! The post offices had also to sell Austrian stamps for Austrian shillings at face value, so that both currencies were valid side by side. For example, Austrian stamps with face value 1.40 and 0.70 (to make up a German rate of 30pf) could be bought for 2.10 Schillings as well as for 30 Pfennig. To ease some of the more common transactions, stamps with face values 4.20 and 5.60 (ANK 1644 & 1742) were issued on 22.6.1979 and 1.7.1982 respectively, being the direct equivalent for the then-current 60pf and 80 pf German inland letter rate.

PREMIER JOUR
ERSTTAG FIRST DAY

The image shows a 4.20 Austrian postage stamp from the 'Schönes Österreich' series, cancelled with a circular postmark from Hirschegg, Kleinwalsertal dated 22.6.79-11. The stamp features a mountain landscape with a church and a house. The text on the stamp includes 'HIRSCHEGG', 'KLEINWALSERTAL', and 'REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH'.

ERSTTAG

4.20
s

HIRSCHEGG
KLEINWALSERTAL
REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH

BRIEFMARKE
zur Freimarkenserie

≡ **Schönes Österreich** ≡

Motiv: Hirschegg im Kleinen Walsertal (Vlbg.),
Seehöhe 1150 m (Höhenluftkurort) – Österr.
Hoheitsgebiet, jedoch deutscher Wirtschaftsraum
Ortspostamt: 6992 Hirschegg (Kleinwalsertal)

Kombinationsdruck



Note that on the 1982 cover the upper cancel has the German postcode, the lower one the Austrian. Also, unusually, the slogan is SONDERTARIF, omitting the POST.

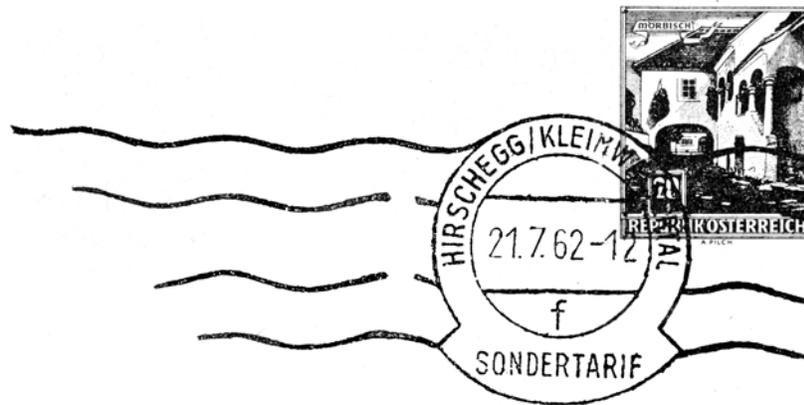
The Sondertarif

The basic arrangement was that mail from Kleinwalsertal to Germany would carry Austrian stamps but pay the German inland rate. Mail to Austria paid the Austrian internal rate; to anywhere else it paid the Austrian foreign rate (or should have - see examples later!). To indicate to the German delivery offices that the mail was stamped fully and should not have postage due levied, specifically produced postmarks were used; they carried the additional word SONDERTARIF or POSTSONDERTARIF (sometimes in the wording of a slogan), or had the German post code number instead of the Austrian one. The rate was calculated by converting the German postal rates into Schillings at the official exchange rate.





A special rule stated that, if the Austrian foreign mail rate was cheaper than the German inland rate, it could be used instead. This happened quite frequently, especially with heavy, Registered and Express mail, and an interesting study of the comparative rates is possible. It seems that several commercial firms used this discrepancy to their advantage! The post office employees were probably not so pleased, as the mail in either case carried Austrian stamps and they were under strict instructions from the Innsbruck PTD to calculate which country's rates had been used and then apply the correct canceller before putting the item in the same postbag.



The Sondertarif applied to all mail to the German Federal Republic; to Saarland from 6.7.1959; to West Berlin; to the German Democratic Republic until Dec 1974; and to the reunited Germany from 3.10.1990. Austrian foreign rates applied to all other foreign countries; to Saarland until 5.7.1959; and to the German Democratic Republic between Dec 1974 and 3.10.1990. For example:

- A registered letter posted to Berlin on 22.6.1979 cost 60pf postage + 150pf fee = 210pf, which at 1:7 is 1470 Groschen Sondertarif.
- A registered letter posted to France on 1.6.1983 cost 600gr (CEPT rate) postage + 1000gr fee = 1600 Groschen normal Austrian foreign rate.



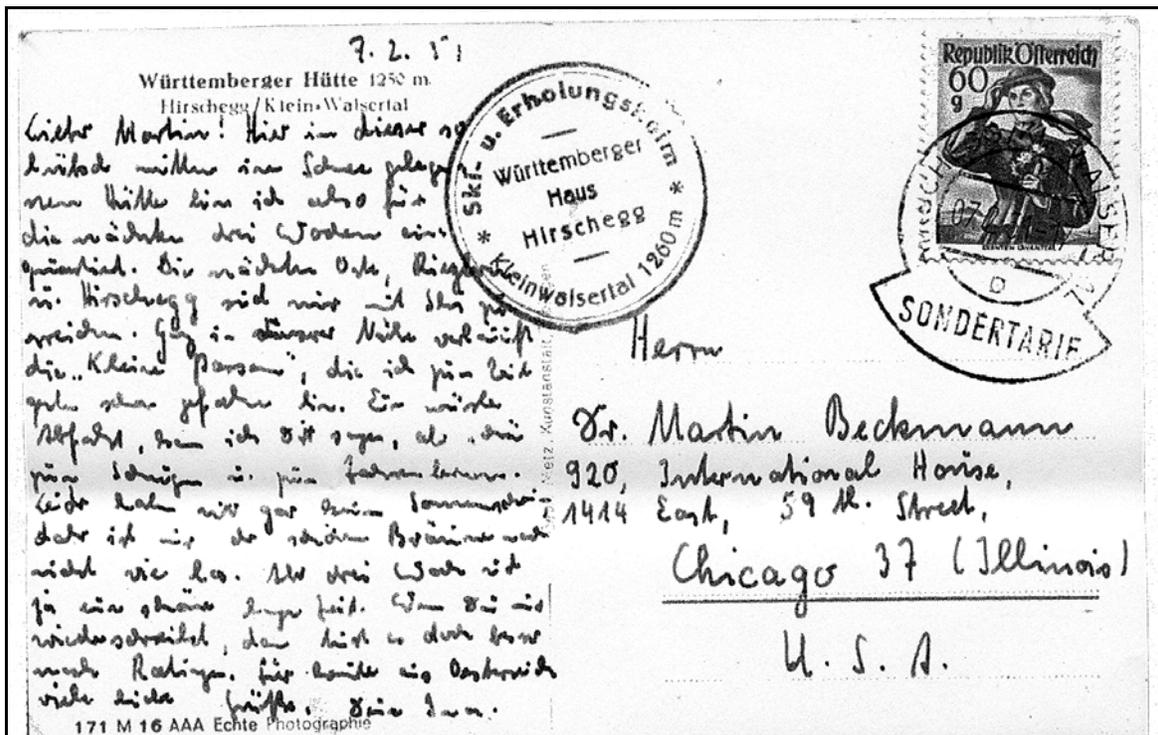
- Another fine mess! This piece is from a card posted on 15.5.1951 to London, when the German foreign rate was 20pf which at 1:6 is 120gr - and indeed there are two 60gr stamps. However, the Sondertarif only applies to German inland mail, so the special cancel should not have been used. Furthermore, the Austrian foreign rate at that date was only 100gr; and the use of a German stamp was not only superfluous but also invalid (as from 1.1.1951). It was to a philatelist, I note..
- A registered postcard posted on 22.6.1984 would cost 60pf postage + 200pf fee = 260pf, which at 1:7 is 1820 Groschen Sondertarif. However as normal Austrian foreign mail it would cost 400gr postage + 1000gr fee = 1400gr, so that is what the sender would do!

The next example (below) is a letter sent in 1955 to the small town of Angermünde in the Ruhrgebiet, south of Duisberg. Despite its being sent registered AND express AND air mail (what route??), it took three days to arrive. A clue may be the Munich BPA1 backstamp; and the rates do not add up to 20Sch. The elegant script **T** seems to have had no effect. Any ideas?

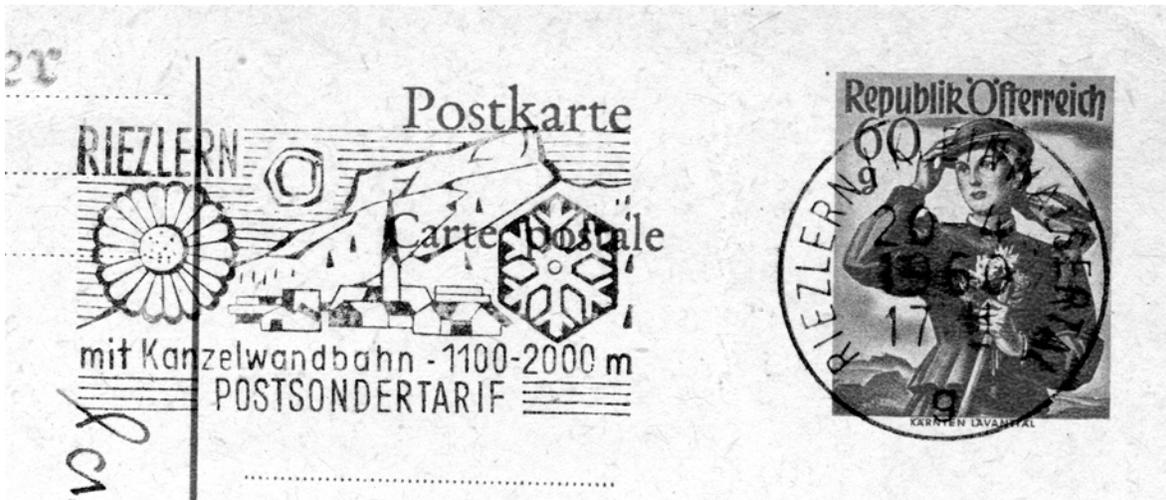




The card below was posted with the correct stamp and cancel for an inland postcard to Germany - but it's addressed to Chicago and arrived unmolested!



An example of an Ortswerbbestempel - a local advertising slogan. Note the POSTSONDERTARIF is in the slogan, not the cancel.



The cancellers with the 'counter letter' **b** were usually kept in the post office at Oberstdorf in Germany. The reason for this was that in the Postbox on the regular German postbuses between Oberstdorf and Mittelberg, mail was often deposited with Austrian stamps when the bus was on the Austrian part of the route. This mail would have had to be sent back by Oberstdorf to Riezlern to be cancelled. To avoid this delay, this canceller was made available in Oberstdorf for the cancelling of mail to Germany, to Austria, and to foreign countries.



Finally, the registered item of printed matter shown above was flown on the 33rd "Pro Juventute" Balloon Post on 14th March 1965. It took off at 11:15 from Riezlern and landed at 16:04 at Binnings near Kaufbeuren in Tirol. The portrait is of Felix Schmidbauer, who had taken part in many similar flights. The franking is 50 groschen inland printed matter plus 250 groschen inland registration fee, making 3 schillings in total.

5. Austrian post offices (cancellers with postcodes) from 1966.

With introduction of postcodes in Austria, the Kleinwalsertal post offices were assigned new cancellers. Due to the German inland tarif arrangements they also received cancellers with "SONDER/TARIF" or "POSTSONDERTARIF" and with German postcodes. Thus the three post offices of the valley have both an Austrian and a German postcode (they now have a 5-digit German code). See illustrations overleaf.

	Austrian	German	New German
Riezlern	A-6991	D-8984	D-87567
Hirschegg	A-6992	D-8985	D-87568
Mittelberg	A-6993	D-8986	D-87569

The postmarks with the Austrian postcodes and the machine cancel with the German postcodes were used for the first time on 11.7.1966; the remaining postmarks with the German postcodes from 11.8.1966. The introduction of postcodes produced interesting complications, as in Austria the place-name was not mandatory, the numeric postcode alone sufficing. Much mail from Kleinwalsertal addressed to Austria was thus delivered to the German town with the same postcode number: for example, mail to Vienna often went via Berlin!

The illustration below shows the nine cancel types tabulated above:



Meter marks are found; this is on Austrian mail from the Council Office.

Gemeinde Mittelberg
 Kleinwalsertal
 Postfach 43/44
 A-6991 RIEZLERN
 Kleinwalsertal



This is on a registered cover, also to Austria.

RAIFFEISENBANK
 KLEINWALSERTAL
 rGmbH
 Postfach 64
 A-6992
 D-8985 HIRSCHEGG



And here is an official cachet from the post office, used as the return address in a piece of official mail

POSTAMT
 6992 HIRSCHEGG
 Kleinwalsertal

Finally in this section, a couple of special cancels: first on 7.6.1991 to commemorate the centenary of the Customs Treaty between Austria & Bavaria.



And second the 600th anniversary of the parish, on 18.10.1991



For both, the German and Austrian cancels are shown; they are identical apart from the post code and, oddly, seem in both cases to have the same die number (2) for both versions.

Listings of cancellations

The cancellation listings below are the author's compilation from the various sources at my disposal. I have used my own judgement where they are incompatible: for example I have downgraded one source where the text does not match its own illustrations!

For the ASCGB cancellation coding system see Austria 108/17, 110/52, 117/22 (or www.kitzbuhel.demon.co.uk/austamps/cancelas1.htm) **In the tables below, '/' means 'new line' but '/' means that there is a '/' in the actual text of the cancel.** Types B1 and B2 are the two "modified keyholes" illustrated here ('B' means "special cancel, cannot describe, must illustrate").



B1



B2

HIRSCHEGG

In 1886 (according to the local source) or 1900 (Kuhnel), a Postablage opened in Hirscheegg (in the Zum Hirschen); on 8th July 1929 it was elevated to a Post Office and housed in the Mesnerhaus.

Postablage cancellations

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding & notes
K. k. Postablage / Hirschegg	DOo
* HIRSCHEGG *	gKo**
K. k. Postablage HIRSCHEGG	Eo 39x8 mm (steel canceller)
K. k. Postablage HIRSCHEGG	Eo 38x8mm (rubber canceller)
K. k. Postablage HIRSCHEGG, P. Riezlern	Eo (rubber canceller).

Post Office cancellations

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding	Counter letters	Known usage
HIRSCHEGG, VORARLBERG	DSe	a,b	1929-38
HIRSCHEGG (KLEINWALSERTAL)	DRe	a,b	1938-50
HIRSCHEGG (KLEINWALSERTAL)	gaEjeb+V		1938-50
	V="1150m + Sommerfrische + Wintersport"		
HIRSCHEGG // KL. WALSERTAL	DSe	c,d	1951
HIRSCHEGG // KL. WALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1	a,b	1951
HIRSCHEGG // KLEINWALSERTAL	DSe	c,d	1951-66
HIRSCHEGG, KLEINWALSERTAL	DSe	g	1960-66
HIRSCHEGG // KLEINWALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1	a,b,e	1951-66
HIRSCHEGG // KLEINWALSERTAL	ME+5W	a	1951-66
HIRSCHEGG // KLEINWALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1+4W	f	1951-66
HIRSCHEGG // KLEINWALSERTAL	ME+V	a	1951-66
	V="HIRSCHEGG, DER GEPFLEGTE KURORT, 1150m / POSTSONDERTARIF"		
HIRSCHEGG // KLEINWALSERTAL	gaEjeb+V		1951-66
	V="60 Jahre / im Dienste der heimischen /1894 - Wirtschaft - 1954 / Spar- u. Darlehenskasse / Kl. Walsertal"		
HIRSCHEGG // KLEINWALSERTAL	gaEjeb+V		1951-66
	V="Ihr Berater / in Geldfragen / Spar- u. Darlehenskasse / Kl. Walsertal Im Hirscheegg"		
HIRSCHEGG // KLEINWALSERTAL /	gaEjeb+V		1951-66
	V="Wer spart / hat auch Kredit / Raiffeisenbank / Kleinwalsertal / in Hirscheegg"		
HIRSCHEGG, KLEINWALSERTAL 6992	P2	a-c, e-g	1966 on
HIRSCHEGG, KLEINWALSERTAL 8985 SONDERTARIF	B2	a,b,e-g	1966-93
HIRSCHEGG, KL. WALS. T. 8985	MP1+V	c	1968

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding	Counter letters	Known usage
V="Hirscheegg der gepflegte Ort 1150 m / POSTSONDERTARIF"			
HIRSCHEGG, KLEINWALSERTAL	gEj+T		1960s
T="- in allen Geldsachen - / die Bank für Jedermann / Raiffeisenbank / Kleinwalsertal -rGmbH / A-6992 Hirscheegg - Postfach 64"			
HIRSCHEGG, KL. WALS. T. 8985	MP3+V	c	1985
V="Hirscheegg der gepflegte Ort 1150 m / POSTSONDERTARIF"			
HIRSCHEGG, KLEINWALSERTAL 87563 B2 SONDERTARIF		a,b,e-g	1993 on

MITTELBERG

On 29th July 1886 Mittelberg Post Office was opened in the Zum Widderstein, then in a house (which is still called the Alte Post) until its new office opened in December 1964.

Post Office Cancellations:

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding	Counter letters	Known usage
MITTELBERG	gEj		1886-1903
MITTELBERG in VORARLBERG	DR	a	1904-38
MITTELBERG, VORARLBERG	DSe	b	1931-38
MITTELBERG (KLEINWALSERTAL)	DRe	a,b	1938-50
MITTELBERG (KLEINWALSERTAL)	gaEjeb+V		1938-50
V="1218m + Sommerfrische + Wintersport"			
MITTELBERG // KL. WALSERTAL	DSe	c,d	1951
MITTELBERG // KL. WALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1	a,b	1951
MITTELBERG // KLEINWALSERTAL	DSe	c-e	1951-66
MITTELBERG // KLEINWALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1	a,b,e	1951-66
MITTELBERG // KLEINWALSERTAL	ME+5W	f	1951-66
MITTELBERG // KLEINWALSERTAL	ME+V	f	1960 on

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding	Counter letters	Known usage
V="KLEINWALSERTAL / MITTELBERG 1220m / DER KURORT VON RUF / POSTSONDERTARIF"			
MITTELBERG, KLEINWALSERTAL 6993 P2		a-d	1966 on
MITTELBERG, KLEINWALSERTAL 8986 B2 SONDERTARIF		a-c	1966-93
MITTELBERG, KL. WAL. T. 8986	MP1+V		1966 on
V="MITTELBERG 1220 m / DER KURORT VON RUF / POSTSONDERTARIF"			
MITTELBERG, KL. WAL. T. 8986	MP3+V		1986
V="MITTELBERG 1220 m / DER KURORT VON RUF / POSTSONDERTARIF"			
MITTELBERG, KLEINWALSERTAL 87569 SONDERTARIF	B2	a-c	1993 on

RIEZLERN

On 29th July 1886 Riezlern Post Office opened in the Gasthaus zur Traube, then Hailer's bakery, and the Angel Hotel, until it moved on 5th November 1960 to its own building

Post Office Cancellations

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding	Counter letters	Known usage
RIEZLERN	gEj		1886- 1904
RIEZLERN	DB	a,b,d	1905-38
RIEZLERN	DBe	a,c	1936-38
RIEZLERN	DBe(**)	a,c	1938
RIEZLERN (KLEINWALSERTAL)	DRe	a-c	1938-50
RIEZLERN (KLEINWALSERTAL)	gaEjeb+V		1938-50
			V="1100m + Sommerfrische + Wintersport"
RIEZLERN // KL. WALSERTAL	DSe	c,d	1951
RIEZLERN // KL. WALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1	a,b	1951
RIEZLERN // KLEINWALSERTAL	DSe	c,d,g,h	1951-66

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding	Counter letters	Known usage
RIEZLERN // KLEINWALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1	a,b,e	1951-66
RIEZLERN // KLEINWALSERTAL	ME+5W	g	1951-66
RIEZLERN // KLEINWALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1+4W	f	1951-66
RIEZLERN // KLEINWALSERTAL	ME+V	g	1951-66
V="RIEZLERN mit Kanzelwandbahn - 1100-2000 m / POSTSONDERTARIF"			
RIEZLERN // KLEINWALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1+V		1951-66
V="Gemeinde Mittelberg / KLEINWALSERTAL / Höhenluftkurort-Wintersportplatz /1100-1250 m"			
RIEZLERN // KLEINWALSERTAL	[commem]		14.3.1965
T="33. BALLONPOST / IN MEMORIAM FELIX SCHMIDBAUER / D-Ergee III"			
RIEZLERN // KLEINWALSERTAL	[commem]		14.3.1965
T="33. BALLONPOST / IN MEMORIAM FELIX SCHMIDBAUER / OE-DZB / PRO-JUVENTUTE / AUSTRIA"			
RIEZLERN, KLEINWALSERTAL SONDERTARIF	B1	i	1961-66
RIEZLERN, KLEINWALSERTAL 6991	P2	a-d,f,g	1966 on
RIEZLERN, KLEINWALSERTAL 8984 SONDERTARIF	B2	a-e, g-i	1966-93
RIEZLERN, KL. WALS. T. 8984	MP1+V	f	1966 on
V="RIEZLERN / mit Kanzelwandbahn / 1100 -2000m / POSTSONDERTARIF"			
RIEZLERN, KLEINWALSERTAL 8984	MP3+V	f	1.7.1982
V="RIEZLERN / mit Kanzelwandbahn / 1100 -2000m / SONDERTARIF"			
RIEZLERN, KL. WALS. T. 8984	MP1+V	f	1986
V="RIEZLERN / mit Kanzelwandbahn / 1100 -2000m / POSTSONDERTARIF"			
RIEZLERN, KLEINWALSERTAL 87567 SONDERTARIF	B2	a-e, g-h	1993 on
RIEZLERN, KLEINWALSERTAL	gEj+T		1969
T="Gemeinde Mittelberg / Kleinwalsertal / Postfach 43//44 / A-6991 RIEZLERN / Kleinwalsertal."			

WALSERSCHANZ

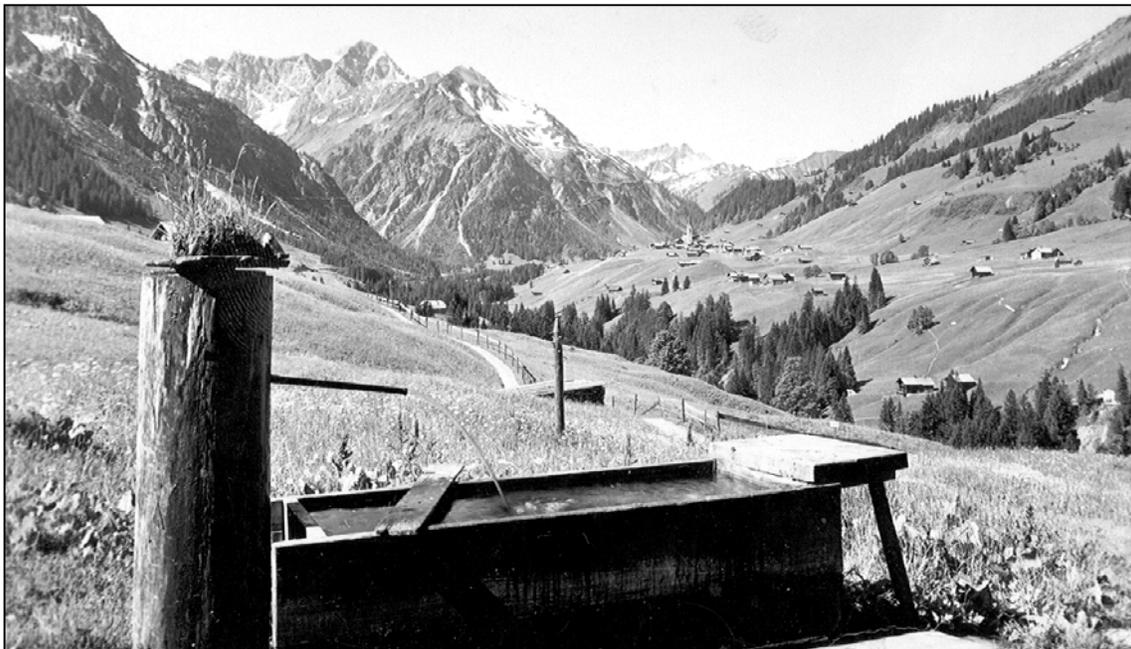
Walserschanz was opened as a post office on 1st July 1862 and was active till 30th June 1886. After that Walserschanz was a Postablage until 1914.

Post Office Cancellations

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding	Counter letters	Known usage
WALSERSCHANZ	aE		1862-86

Postablage Cancellations

Cancellation text	ASCGB coding & notes
Postablage Walserschanz, Vorarlberg	aLo 34x9 2.1887-8.1896
POSTABLAGE WALSERSCHANZ, VORALBERG.	gLo 43x8 7.1898-?
Postablage Walserschanz, Vorarlbg.	aKo 38x12 3.1897-9.1908
Postablage Walserschanz (Vorarlbg.)	agLo 45x11 7.1899-9.1901
Postablage Walserschanz, Vorarlberg.	agLo 47x10 8.1902-8.1907
POSTABLAGE WALSERSCHANZ VORALBERG	gEo 27dia 1908-8.1910
WALSERSCHANZ 1000 M ü M. * in Vorarlberg *	Eo 26mm dia



Mittelberg, 1950s

BOOK REVIEWS

The WIPA 2000 Festschrift.

By Andy Taylor

A Festschrift was published as part of the WIPA2000 proceedings (it also added to my collection of Royal Mail "found open in the post" labels!). It is lavishly illustrated in colour, printed in German only, and contains some articles on the themes of the WIPA symposia, plus others. The contents list follows; the last item on the list does not appear in the book!

Erich Bober	Grußwort
Dr. Ernst Bernardini	Die Einführung der Briefmarken in Österreich
Dr. Hadmar Fresacher	Die ersten Zeitungsmarken der Welt
Jurgen Vogel	Der DÖPV-Vertrag und seine Entwicklung zum Revidierten Postvereinsvertrag von 1852
Mag. Klaus Schöpfer	Vom Wiener Kōngreß zum österreichisch-italienischen Postverein
James Van Der Linden	Taxis und Paar: Die Geschichte der österreichischen Post in den Erblanden, dem Deutschen Reich und den Niederlanden
Albert Fillinger	Die Grande Armee in Österreich -Vom Lager von Boulogne nach Wien
Dr. Klaus Meyer	Die Desinfektion von Briefen in Österreich
Hermann Hader	Die Postverbindungen Österreich-USA und vice versa mit Transit durch beide Lander
Rene Simmermacher	Ionische Inseln -WIPA 1933: Die Sammlung Alphonse de Rothschild
Kurt Wolfsbauer	Der Postvertrag Österreich-Ägypten (gültig ab 1.10.1868) und seine Vorgeschichte
DI Wolfgang König	Das Jahr 1890 in der frankierten Fahrpost
Mag. Reinhard K. Schneider	Der österreichische Freistempel- Meilensteine
Dr. Christine Kainz	Post und Philatelie: Geschichte einer Freundschaft
Dr. Helmut Pfalz	Vor 75 Jahren: Einführung österreichischer Briefmarken in Schillingwährung
Dir. Manfred Paula, österreichische Staatsdruckerei	WIPA 2000: Treffpunkt und Diskussionsplattform

Theo C. Straub	Ausgewählte Philatelisten-Personlichkeiten: Sammler; Forscher; Publizisten, Händler; Fälscher; Organisatoren
Götz Schneider	WIPA 1933 und die Zeppelinpost
Dr. Helmut Seebald	Auslandseinschreibbrief" Rekommandiert" in der 2. Republik Österreich 1945 -2000
Mag. Erich Böck	Thematiker im Vormarsch
Karl Dostal	Musikschaffen in Österreich
Österreichische Staatsdruckerei	150 Jahre Briefmarken in Österreich: Geschichte und Geschichten



"Ferchenbauer 2000" - Österreich 1850-1918

Handbuch und Spezialkatalog: 6th issue

By Andy Taylor

This monumental work (1428 pages; 240x170mm; 2.91Kg; over £10 postage each way in the UK) was recently unveiled to the awaiting public. The celebratory cake was 1 metre square! The most obvious differences from the 5th edition are the increased weight, size and number of pages, and the lavish use of colour illustrations throughout. A quick comparison suggests that the areas covered, and the depth of detail, are similar; the principal change is the illustrations, and the clarity and readability of the text & tables. A summary of the contents pages follows, to indicate the vast coverage. Numbers in brackets eg (8) are the pages devoted to the immediately preceding topic. A copy is in the ASCGB library; those who wish to borrow it more than twice should consult the Editor, as it may be cheaper to obtain your own copy via the society! NB: all the prices are in Euros.

Introduction; multilingual vocabulary(8); Austrian postal history(7). **Letter Post in Austria:** Rates: inland(6), Europe(42), Overseas(26), UPU. **Postage stamps:** 1850 issue: introduction & discussion of types & subtypes(31); plate faults(47); valuations of multiples(7), of marginal & corner pieces(2), of printing types(11), of paper types(6), of special items(8), of mixed, half, unusual etc frankings(30), and of cancellations(15); fiscals used for postage(7); postage stamps used as fiscals(4); forgeries(7); essays etc (4). **Postage stamps issue 1858:** subtopics as for 1850 plus mixed 1st & 2nd issue(39). Similarly though with less detail 1861(18); 1863(15); 1863/64(22); 1867 used in 'Austria'(25); 1867 used in 'Hungary'(10); 1883(4); 1890(19); 1891/96(4); 1899(12); 1901/02(4); 1904/05(4); 1906/07(2); 1908(8); 1910(8); 1914(2); 1915(4); 1916/18(12). **Newspaper stamps** issue 1851(14); 1858(5); 1861(4); 1863(3); 1867(6); 1880(4); 1899(4); 1908(3); 1916(2). Express stamps 1916/17(4).

Austro-Hungarian military airmail: air & balloon mail from Przemysl(4); Adriatic; the 1918 airmail stamps. Special Frankings: cash(6); reistered(7); additional [inland & abroad](5); express(12); etc. **Disinfected mail**(4); postage dues & stamps(48); reprints(33); Stationery(54); retour-rezepisse(8); nachfrageschreiben(3). **Telegraph, pneumatic and telegram matters:** telegrams(26); pneumatic mail(19); telephone incl cards(7). **"FAHRPOST"** (postal waggons etc): history, money letters, parcels, etc inland & abroad(52); money orders((35); forms(7). **Court stamps**(4). **Newspaper tax stamps** (31). **Austrian Fieldpost:** overview(9); manouver-post 1893-1913(4);general fieldpost stamp issues(14); ditto for Italy(12); Montenegro(3); Rumania(3); Serbia(3); misc(12). **Foreign Mail:** Liechtenstein, all aspects(33); Levant incl Crete, all aspects(98); China(3); Lloyd(6). D.D.S.G.(12); Bosnia-Herzegovina, all aspects(124). **Indexes, contents list.**



Schriftenreihe Philatelistenklub Merkur, Innsbruck.

#1: Tiroler Werbestempel

Now replaced by #5(2000).

#2(1994): Festschrift - 65 Jahre Philatelistenklub Merkur

Formal greetings, society organisation & history, exhibition catalogue etc; and "Deutsche Dienstpost Alpenvorland" (47pp). The DDP was set up after 1943 in north Italy when the Reichpost became insecure, and this article describes and illustrates its organisation and its interactions with the other postal systems.

#3(1996): Festschrift - JUBA Telfs

Formal greetings, society information, exhibition catalogue etc (JUBA means Young Stamp Exhibition); "Werden Bildung und Erziehung durch die Philatelie ergänzt?" which discusses if philately can contribute to education and upbringing, and asserts that it can, using three examples of thematic displays; "Kinderlandverschickung im Gau Tirol-Vorarlberg" lists the codes (eg KLV-Lager 28) for a large number of hotels, guest-houses etc (familiar in today's holiday brochures!) to which children were evacuated in 1943-45 from the Ruhr and from Innsbruck to escape the increasingly-heavy bombing.

#4(1997): Festschrift - Philatelistischen Salon Telfs

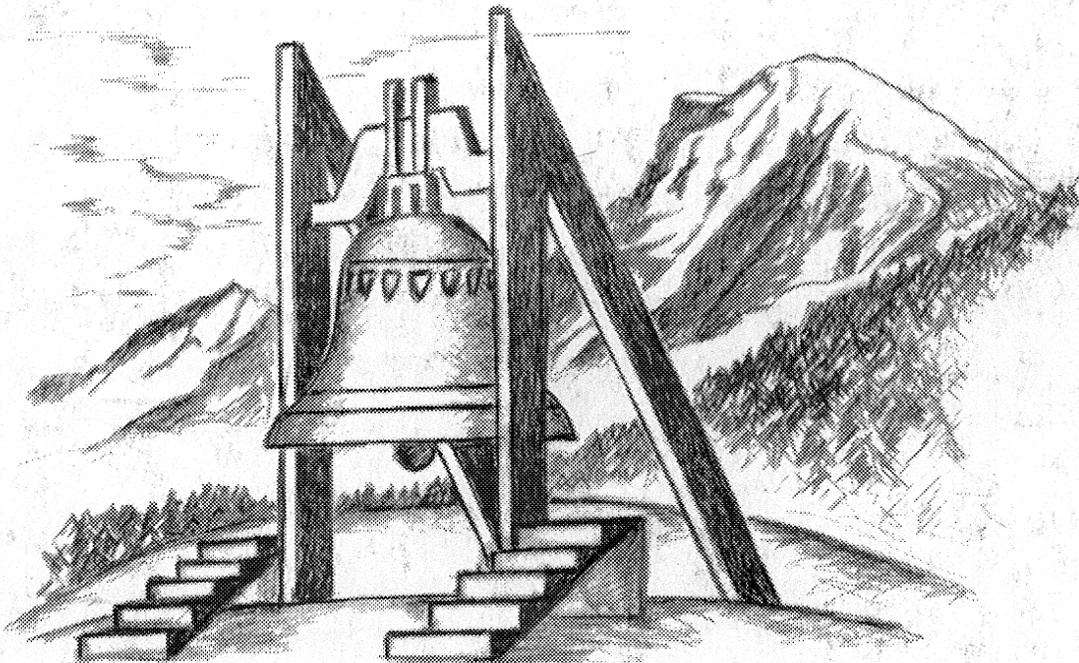
25 years of ARGE ALP (a co-operative partnership of 11 alpine regions); Austrian Bezirk cancellations (61pp) which are the octagonal ones often found on forms and sometimes on loose stamps containing a number that is not a



postcode: **the index of these numbers is included**; Censorship by the civilian administration in Tirol & Vorarlberg 1914-1916 (15pp).

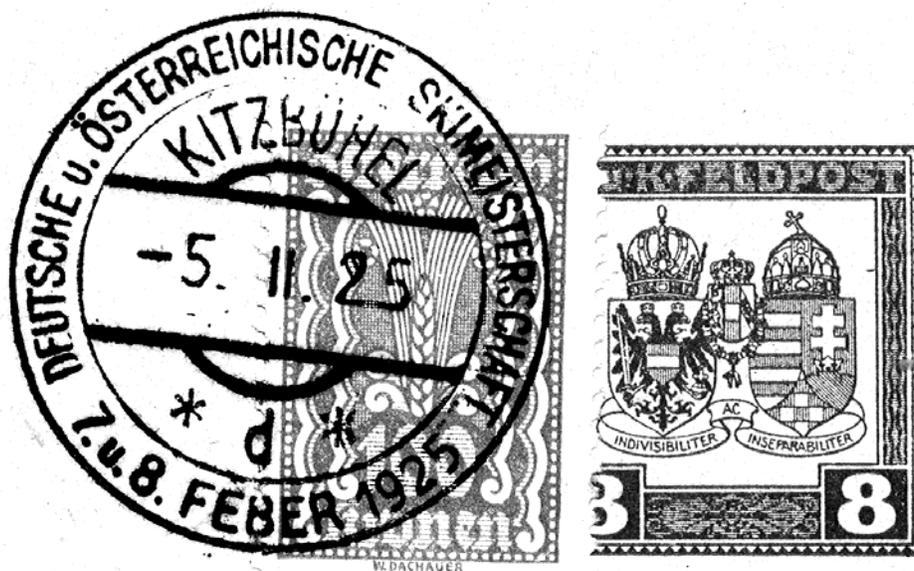
The cover shows a sketch of the Peace Bell (cast by Grassmayr of Innsbruck). The *Schönruh Morgenblatt* comments "*High above the Inn Valley, the bell of the alpine lands of Bavaria, Tirol and South Tirol rings out as a reminder of peace and good neighbourly relations. At the same time, it is a memorial to the 25 years of cross-border collaboration of the 'ARGE ALP Association' countries.*

The Peace Bell on the outermost western hill of the village of Mosern is an imposing sight. It stands all by itself in the middle of spectacular alpine scenery, in a spot affording a superb, far-reaching view up the Inn Valley. The Peace Bell is the largest bell in Tirol; it is 8'3" high and 8'4" in diameter. Its belfry has to support more than 10 tons of cast bronze, and withstand the dynamic extremes of the bell's vibrations as well. The clapper alone weights over half a ton. Every day at 5pm, the huge bell tolls and its peal carries far out over the Upper Inn Valley."



#5(2000): Tiroler Werbestempel

This is the third edition of this book, which lists, describes & illustrates the Werbestempel from Tirol, ie the cancellations with included words and/or pictures, familiar to most people from holiday postcards, but used from 1920 onwards. The term includes modern slogan cancellations, large circular cancels combining date/time information and advertising words, and small slogans such as the "*Denk... Feind hört mit!*" from Innsbruck in 1942. Prices are given, in Euros and Schillings: surprisingly high in some cases.



Note: it may be possible to obtain copies of these booklets: consult the Membership Secretary.

**"Handbuch Bosnien-Herzegovina"**

Dr O. Pongratz-Lippitt. A-1030 Wien. 193pp. 1650ATS (incl VAT; + postage)

H G White

In financial dealings there is always the exhortation to 'Read the Small Print' and readers looking for a Handbook on B-H should pay particular regard to the sub-title here. In effect, this new book sets out to amplify Passer's definitive account of the philately of B-H but only goes into new detail with the Postal History of the area from early Turkish rule and the postal markings from these early days to 1900, and an extensive chapter on the postal organisation of the Sanjak of Novi Pazar and its cancellations to 1918. In these two areas a valuable

addition to the German-language philatelic literature has been achieved, albeit in fields rarely seen by collectors of B-H and even less likely by buyers.

The coding system for cancellations is an extension of Klein but the listing system is complex and makes cross reference between text and illustration quite difficult. The actual listings follow Passer (ASCGB Library no.180) and T M Gordon (ASCGB Library no.126) closely but stop at 1900, for no other reason than that this is the cut-off point in the author's own collection (according to his preface). It leaves the seeker of an up-date on Passer bereft of nearly all the unnumbered 20th century offices and the sometimes uncertain listings by Pillauer (ASCGB Library no 79). The illustrations are very good, especially of the pre-1879 Turkish strikes, though again the originals are very rarely seen by collectors.

The chapter on the Sanjak of Novi Pazar breaks new ground and is to be commended. The listings of the Postal Stationery of B-H are already largely covered by Passer but are more detailed than by Ferchenbauer.

All in all, this is an attractive book, more coffee-table than comprehensive Handbook, with new information confined to the rarified areas of the Turkish administration and the Sanjak of Novi Pazar. At £80, it is dear even at the levels of specialised philatelic literature. Nevertheless, a copy will be added to the ASCGB library.



Handbuch für Christkindl Sammler

Joyce Boyer

The original copy of this loose-leaf book (number 270 in the ASCGB library) has now been replaced with an up to date version which includes details of the 85 cancellations used from 1950 to 1999/2000. After a brief introduction each cancellation is shown together with details of the design, designer, dates of use, size and colour, number and type of cancellers, number of items cancelled and any special points to note, and is followed by a list of prices. There is a section showing how to identify which canceller was used on the early covers before they started to number them, together with any defects. Details of official post and censor marks that can be found on covers, 'über Christkindl' and registered labels are given together with notes on some of the more unusual cancellations including UN Feldpost. The book also lists the stamps, with black print information, postal stationary cards and telephone cards depicting the church or village. Details, with illustrations, of the children's letters and Christmas cards, maxi cards, and Internet cards are given.

Following this there are illustrations of the Pestalozzi -Kinderdorfballoon flights covers with Christkindl cancellations, again with a list of values, and other balloon and airship flights, and airletters. Finally there are details of the Postbus Steyr-Christkindl, and various miscellaneous cancellations associated with Christkindl. An example of the special cancellation jointly sponsored by the Steyr Stamp Club and the Motivegruppe Weihnachten to mark the actual 50th anniversary of the first Christkindl cancellation is shown below.

Although written in German the many illustrations show clearly what is being referred to and I would strongly recommend anyone interested in making a collection of this material to borrow the book. Like me you will find that there can be far more to making a collection of Christkindl than just examples of the 85 cancellations used to date.

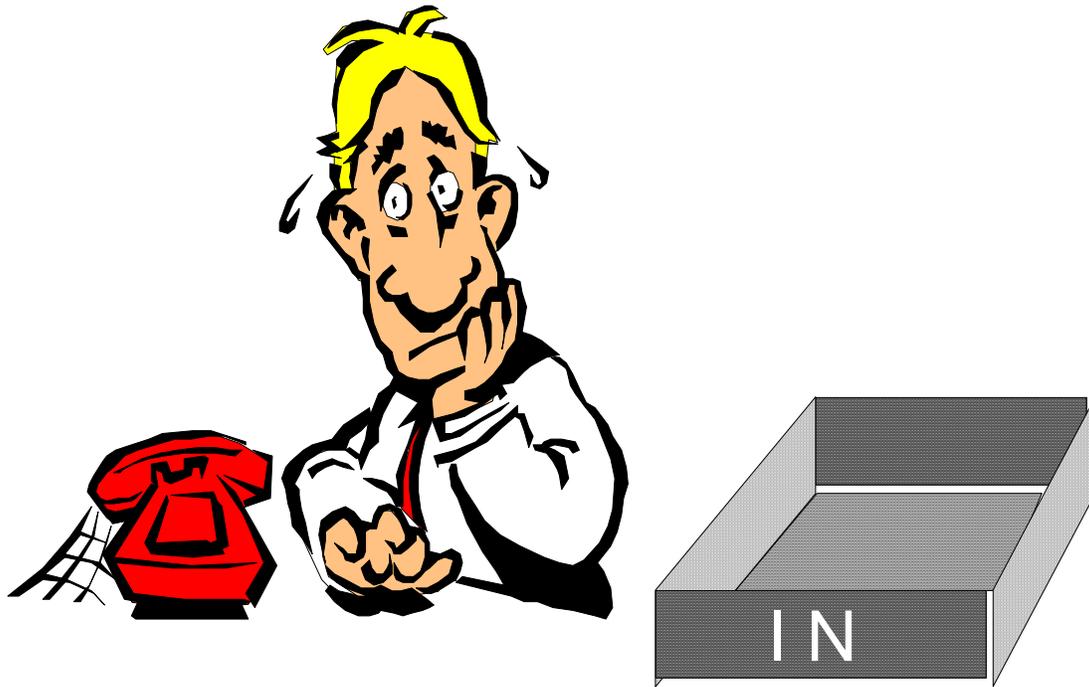


"150 Years of Austrian Stamps"

This lavishly-produced Austrian State Printing Works volume, available at WIPA2000, will be reviewed in the next issue.

IS THERE ANYONE THERE?

Andy Taylor



I try to have at least one lengthy and meaty article per issue, and am becoming experienced at turning notes and photocopies of a display into a feature. Our Treasurer informs me that one colour page per year can be afforded, provided it is philatelically justifiable. Articles which depend for their impact on numerous coloured illustrations, or are of less philatelic relevance, can be (and are) made available on our web site.

However, these are nothing compared with having something to print in the first place! The traditional sources of material must inevitably dry up, and new ones are needed. I have been fortunate in making contact with Henry Pollak, one of the few survivors of the defunct APS of New York and a former editor of their Bulletin. There are many areas which it had covered which we have yet to consider. It would be better if the information was updated by a Knowledgeable Person, and I will soon be publishing a list of such topics.

But at present I have almost nothing in reserve and no promise of anything more. In my previous incarnation I observed that we need 10 or more new members per year to remain viable, and that these are likely to know less than average. There is thus ongoing scope for articles explaining to the (relative) novice items which are so self-evident to the Expert that he cannot give source or justification! Also, philatelic knowledge changes, and just as everyone is said to have one novel in them, so does every philatelist have a speciality or rarity which they could share: at 240 members that should keep Austria going till 2060. Sharpen your quill and Get Writing!

125 Years of Registration Labels

by Andy Taylor

Registered Post itself is more than 300 years old. The first mention of registered shipments is in a Postal Directive of the elector Johann Georg II of Saxony for 24 September 1677. In Austria they were first mentioned in a Postal Directive of Leopold I for 16 April 1695. The labelling of registered shipments was originally done with a (mostly very ornate) 'Nb' sign (=Nota Bene). From 1824 special registration cancellers were gradually introduced (see for example 'Combined Town & Registration Cancels of Vienna', Austria 129 pp27-33).

The Paris UPU treaty made the use of a large Latin **R** obligatory for all member countries, and starting from 23rd Jan 1883 the majority of the post offices were issued with suitable registration cancellers. By this time, however, registration labels had long been in use in the German empire, from 1870 for Alsace. So on 15th March 1885 Registration Labels were experimentally introduced for 34 Viennese post offices within the Gurtel, ie today's districts 1 to 9 and 20 plus Favoriten, which had all been incorporated into the city in 1874. All other post offices including Vienna's suburbs continued to use Registration Cancels.

Thus, the k. k. Department of Commerce issued an ordinance in the 'Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt für das Verwaltungsgebiet des k. k. Handelsministeriums' of 12th March 1885: *"Introduction of Klebezettel for registered letters. The k. k. Department of Commerce has decided to allow the application of Klebezettel for registered letters, only at the Viennese post offices, as an experiment. These Klebezettel, which are to be affixed upon issue on the address side of the registered letter, are manufactured from yellow paper, are perforated, and contain besides the designation R the name of the issuing post office, then the number of the registered letter in black. Vienna, 2 March 1885"*.



Although the ordinance itself is dated 2nd March, it was only published on the 12th, which might be the reason why the earliest known registered letters with Registration Labels are dated 21st March 1885. Presumably the post offices had not been issued with Registration Labels on the 15th when the ordinance took effect. A commemorative stamp (ANK1837) showing a registration label of this first design was issued in 1985.

The new Registration Labels were printed in oblong format 39x14 mm on harsh, thick, yellow paper, which shows on examination a light gridded appearance (*maschige struktur*), with on the left in a box an elongated high and thin R. The remainder is divided horizontally with a line into two parts; in the lower the sign 'No' and the item number are displayed. The slips of paper were printed in two half sheets (1-50 and 51-100), whereby the outside edges remained imperforated. The upper box contained the post office name, usually with 'Wien' in somewhat larger type in the first line and in the second line the designation (for example Alsergrund, Landskrongasse, Minoritenplatz) in a very narrow, high font. Various perforations are found.



This example was posted from Vienna to Berlin on 2nd August 1889. With it and all subsequent illustrations, it is very difficult to represent the yellow colours of the labels in black & white!

The trial of Registration Labels was evidently successful, as 1½ years later a second Verordnungsblatt dated 21st September 1886 announced the introduction of Registration Labels to all 190 State (ärarischen) Post Offices of the Austrian Empire from 1st October 1886. Although the ordinance *says "in the identical manner"*, the appearance was changed considerably: different typefaces and a thinner, harder and translucent paper, corresponding to the simultaneous revenue stamp issues. The fragile paper is also the reason why flawless Registration Labels are rather rare.

The "nichtärarischen" (ie postmaster operated) offices continued to use Registration cancellers. On 1st September 1889, Registration Labels were

introduced also to these post offices, but to preserve a distinction were imperforate. In the course of the gradual change of the postmaster offices into state post offices, the imperforate Registration Labels were replaced; however the initial distribution was frequently so extensive that some small post offices were still using the very first Registration Labels in First Republic times.

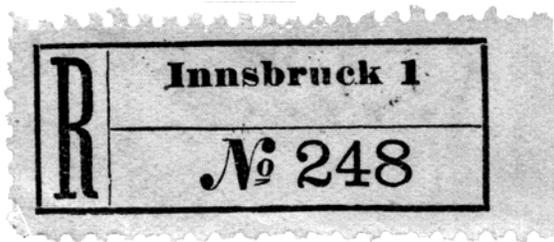


This is an official letter posted on 28 August 1891 from Königssaal in Bohemia to Prag.



While this imperforate label is from Karapeziu in Bukowina to Braunschweig, posted in April 1897.

From 1897, under the *Badenischen Sprachverordnung*, Bohemia, Moravia and Dalmatia were issued with bilingual labels, with not only the place-name but also the sign for 'No.' changed. While the Viennese post offices had been previously named after streets, places or buildings, they were allocated a serial number after the further incorporation of Viennese suburbs into the City on 1st January 1892. A somewhat larger Registration Label was issued (43x18 mm), which as well as the R, WIEN, the post office number, and the item number prefixed with 'No.', also had the postal zone number in a narrow vertical box on the right. The Registration Labels were used in this design to 1938, with only minor changes in detail.



Innsbruck to Prague, 23.10.1906



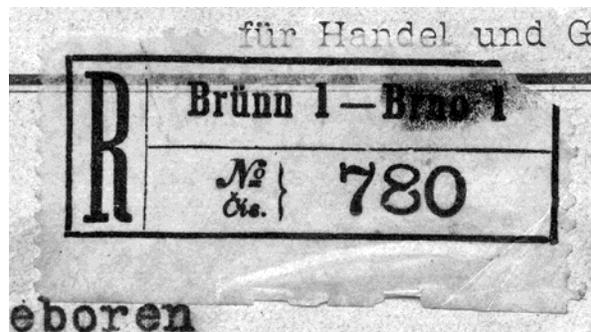
This is on an extremely tatty letter from Bohemia to London, posted in 1906.



This was posted to Oregon, USA, on 3.10.1908



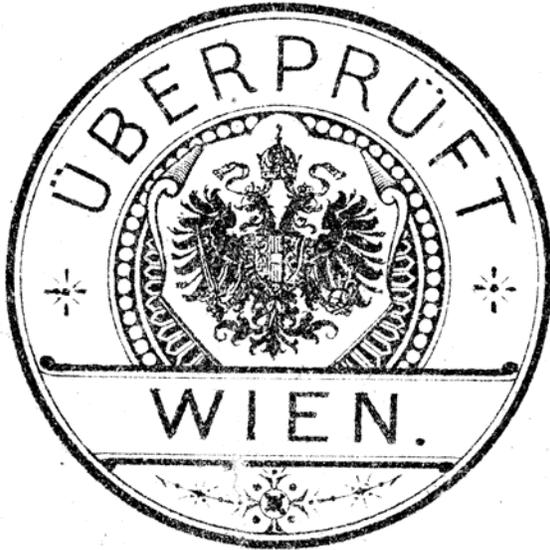
Klagenfurt to Berlin, 5.12.1917. Violet censor mark "Zenzuriert / K.u.k. Zenzurstelle / Klagenfurt 1".



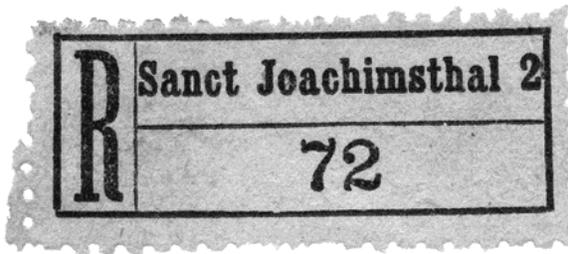
From a bank in Brunn to Huddersfield, 6.8.1907. So thin that the envelope's printing shows through! Dual language label; the Brno has been scored out with a blue crayon.



Vienna to Basel in Switzerland, 28.6.1915. The label has been folded over. Reverse has censor label and "Schwarz-Gelbes Kreuz" propaganda label.



The censor label on the previous item.



Posted to Vienna in early 1918

First Republic

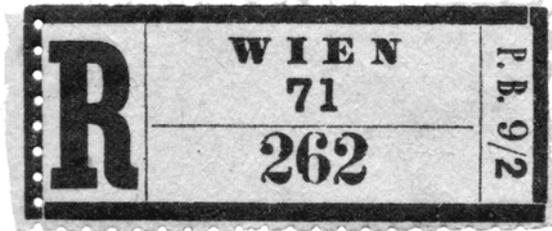
All issues originally displayed a 'No' before the item number, but this was left out from about 1911, leaving the registration number offset to the right; occasionally one sees remainders of the 'No.'. Also the paper underwent numerous changes in these years. The thin, yellow, so-called Pelure paper of the monarchy underwent many changes in the last years of the monarchy and the first of the First Republic. The dark, yellow thin paper changed to a light yellow, almost white thin paper; later the quality became worse, the papers became thick, harsh and in shades between grey and light brown. At one stage in 1919 a hard, thin, dark brown paper was used: evidently someone wanted a clear colour difference to document his dislike of the imperial colors black/yellow.



Posted in 1919



This is one of the dark brown labels. Posted in 1919 to Ridgways Limited, Tea Merchants to the Late Queen Victoria, London.



Posted to Holland on 21 June 1919.



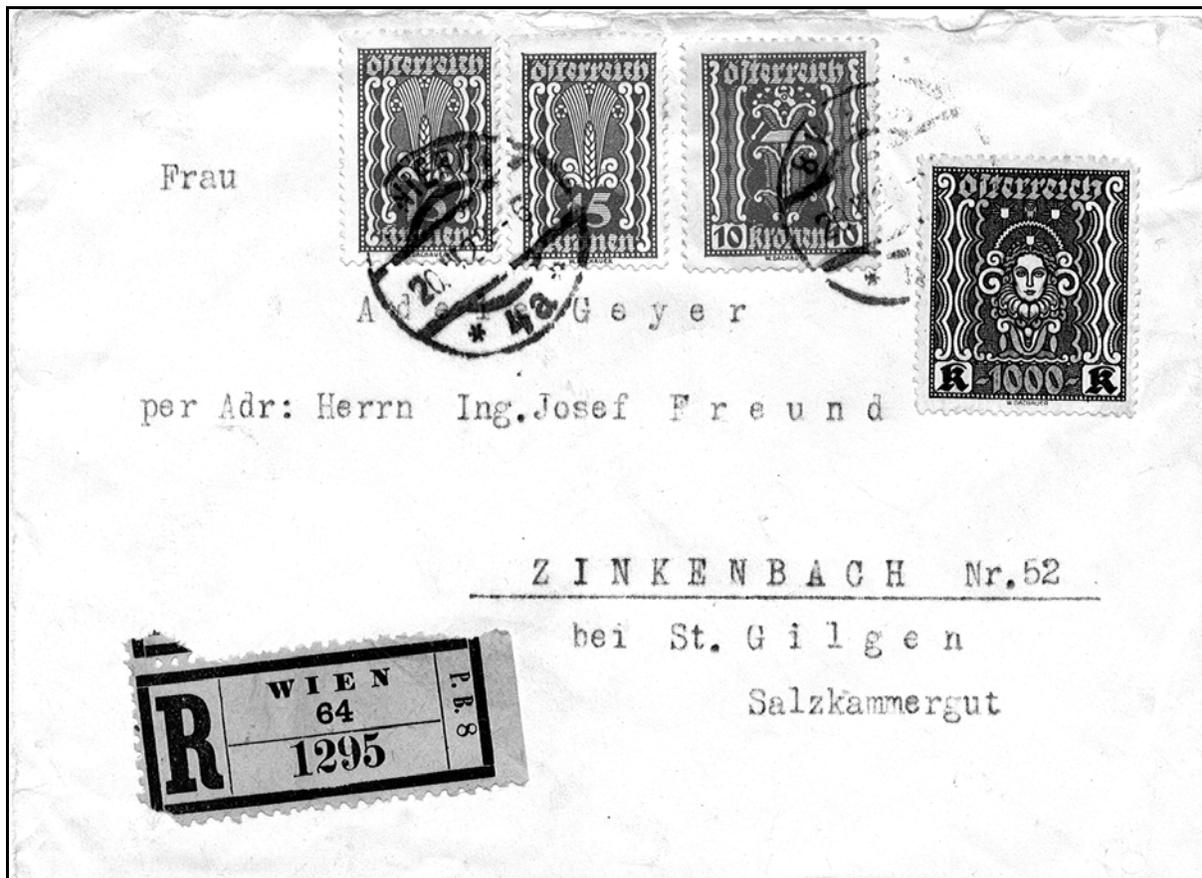
This Austrian label was used in 1921 on a letter from Czernowitz (which was formerly in Bukowina but by that date was in Romania) addressed to "*die lobl. Verwaltung der Wöllersdorfer Werk (ehemalige Munitionsfabrik) in Wöllersdorf, Deutsch Österreich*".



Posted on 28.9.1925 to Bavaria.

By 1924 two papers prevailed, which were used side by side to 1938: a hard, light yellow and a gleaming, white paper. The dark brown paper occurs in Vienna much more frequently than in the other federal states. The postal zone (Postbezirksangabe), which when required is placed vertically on the right in its

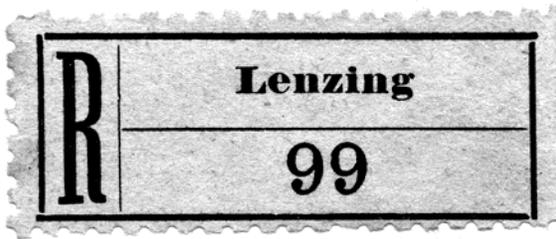
own box, occurs with the district number alone or with a subnumber; occasionally Roman numerals were used (eg P.B.1, P.B.3/2, or P.B.XX).



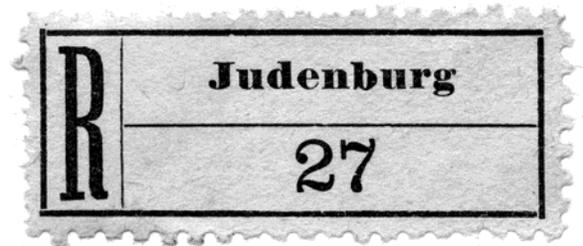
The cover above was sent by a Dr Geyer in Vienna on 20.6.1923 to his wife in Zinkenbach, now called Abersee, opposite St Wolfgang in the Salzkammergut; handwritten messages on the back about Vera and a parcel contrasts with the resplendent seals of the Österreichisches Staatsamt für Volksernährung! The rates are correct for a registered 20 gram letter.



The two labels below are from 1930 (Wien 1 Abt 4, on the yellow paper) and 1933 (WIPA1933, on the white paper). "Abt. 4" may have been the philatelic or personal-callers counter.



Lenzing to Salzburg, 2.7.1937



Judenburg to Villach, 7.5.1938, with mixed Austrian and German franking.

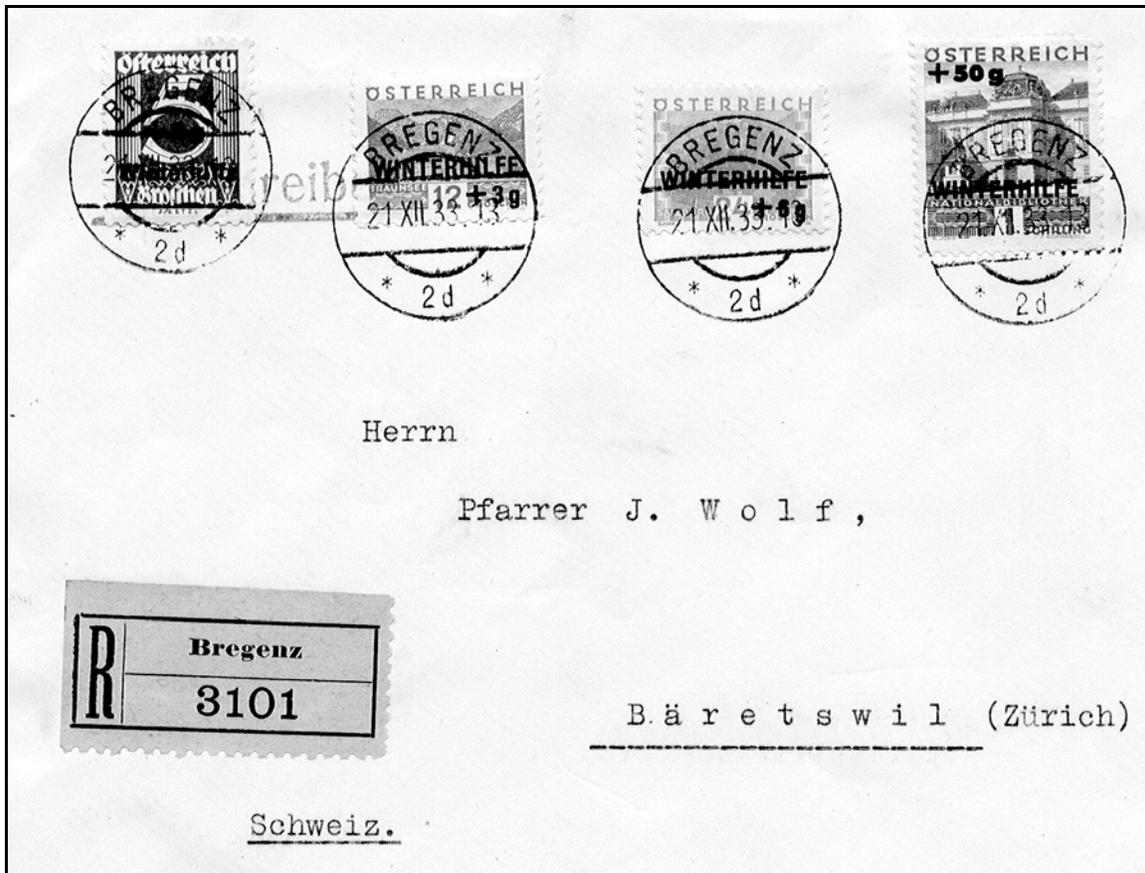
The following three covers show registration labels from Vienna (19.1.1933), Bregenz (21.12.1933) and Innsbruck (22.2.1936). [None are FDCs!]



Einschreiben

W. T. WILSON,
18 Livingstone Road,
Birmingsworth,
BIRMINGHAM,
England.

P. B. 1/1
WIEN
1
26.12.33
R



Herrn

Pfarrer J. Wolf,

Bregenz
31.01
R

B ä r e n s w i l (Zürich)

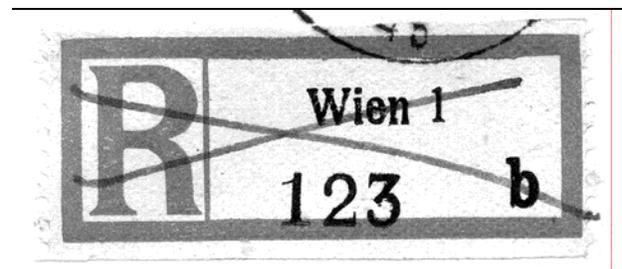
Schweiz.



The period 1939-45

After the invasion of Austria by German troops, the Austrian Registration Labels, just like the stamps, continued on sale. The post offices had both white and yellow paper available, since both had been issued simultaneously. However, very soon the Registration Labels of the German Reichspost were introduced, normally red with black inscription. Initially some places still had the designation "Österreich", which was however very quickly replaced by "Oberdonau". For the first time in Austria, they were printed in rolls of 1000 pieces. From 1940 the perforation was changed from L11 to L12½, and from 1942 the fonts were changed. In 1944 the Reichspost Postleitgebietszahlen (for Austria 12a and 12b) were introduced.

1941 Vienna local letter. German red label, crossed out in blue ink.



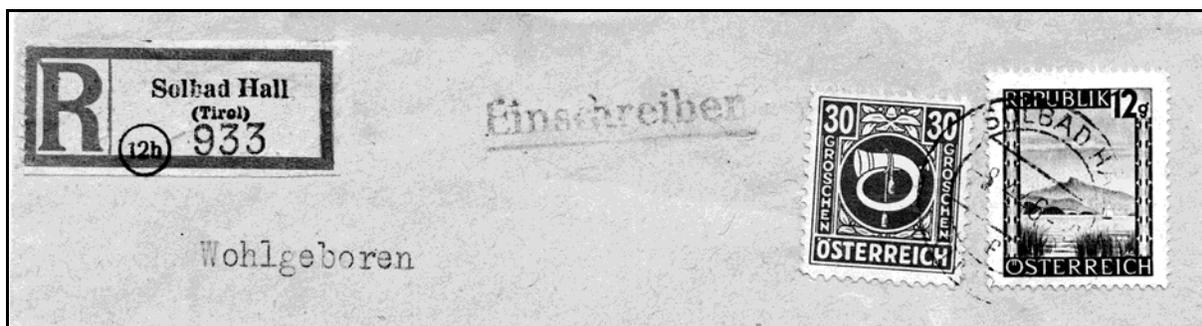
Towards the end of the war the quality of the paper worsened, and became more gray and porous. A large number of temporary arrangements were required, usually inserting the place-name either by means of cancellers or in writing on Blankozettel (these were preprinted blank labels, with a circle for the Postleitgebietzahl).

Beside the Registration Labels in rolls, the German Reichspost brought two other novelties: the "counter letters" ie small letters in the lower corner, with which the different counters or functions of a post office can be identified (still used), and the V-labels for value letters on thin dark red paper (not used today).

Emergency measures after WWII's end

The total breakdown at the war's end in 1945, followed by the invasion of the country by the four allied forces, also of course affected the postal system. Letter traffic recommenced on 2nd May 1945 in the Russian zone, followed by other zones soon after that. On 1st October 1945 letter traffic expanded to cover the whole territory of the federal republic; from 2nd January 1946 a limited overseas letter traffic was possible, and at the end of 1946 the last restrictions were removed. Registered Post was sometimes introduced along with normal post, sometimes later, depending on the administrative and political considerations: for a detailed account see Reference 9.

The Allies instructed the new postal administration that as soon as possible new printing plates for stamps, Registration Labels etc should be prepared. Meanwhile, all signs of National Socialism or the Anschluß were to be removed or made unrecognizable. Very often changes of the text occur on former German Registration Labels, mostly overprints made to obscure the Postleitgebiet-number. If the remaining text was not permissible, it had to be made unrecognizable. Proof of the use of unchanged German Registration Labels after May 1945 is almost always possible only on letters, or in a few cases by the use of stamps which were first issued after the end of the war.



The example above shows an unaltered German label still in use on 8.4.1946 on a letter from Solbad Hall (alias Hall in Tirol) to Wien (backstamp 9.4.46). The Posthorn stamp was valid until 31.5.46; the Landscape was issued on 24.11.45. The label should have been replaced by a provisional or definitive issue 12 months before its date of use! The rate is correct for an inland non-local 20-gram letter: 12 Groschen postage plus 30 Groschen registration. [Had the letter been philatelic it would no doubt have carried the 42 Groschen stamp issued that day!] For a full explanation of the 1945-46 rates see Dr C Kainz's article in Wurth's yearbook volume 7.



The above cover, from Köflach to Holland on 31 December 1946, has a nice "Zivilzensur in der Britischen Zone" mark as well as a Third Reich label!

The next one, again with an unaltered German label, was sent from Kitzbühel to Wien on 18.2.1947 (backstamp Wien 20.2.47). The rate is correct for a 20-gram letter in the period 1.1.47 - 31.8.47.



Finally, this somewhat overfranked cover went from Schärding am Inn to Geneva on 17.1.1947, arriving on the 23rd.



Beside German Registration Labels, remaining stocks of First Republic labels could be used. This possibility is however much rarer than the first, for such Registration Labels had to have been preserved in the post office throughout the war, and to have outlasted all orders for their destruction despite the considerable risk for the officials concerned. Proof of such use in the Second Republic is possible only on letters, and exceptionally on loose pieces.

If neither German nor early Austrian Registration Labels could be used, the individual Post Office had to create provisional Registration Labels for itself. Most wrote the Registration Labels directly on the letter, and added the place-name with a canceller, or by hand. Also Registration cancellers were (re)used.

Beside that, many post offices produced their own adhesive Registration Labels, with which all possible variations occur: Langstempel with written number and R, even simple duplicating processes and perforations were used. These provisional measures extended over several years and ended with the supply of new Registration Labels, which sometimes took a very long time.

The second part of this article will appear in the next issue, covering the 1945 provisional and definitive registration label issues, the complications of postcodes, and recent innovations such as barcodes and the RIPOSTE system by Opal, which prints a registration label on special adhesive paper with a background of yellow posthorns. The same system is used to print "postage paid" labels -does this signal the end of the postage stamp?

A Curious Bisect..

By Andy Taylor

A member sent me this Field Post Card, seeking comments on its genuineness. The stamp is a bisected 20H, 1917 issue, ANK222a [SG291a] ie the blue-green version; overprinted FRANCO. Its cancel is dated 10.1.19, and the card also bears a PLZEN cancel dated 9.1.19. It has no writing on either side.



Our expert describes it as "one of the horrors of DOUDLEVCE"! These items are quite common, although their status is unclear. A charitable description would be "philatelic confections produced by favour". Whether they were produced at the time, or later using backdated date stamps, is a moot point: the latter is the most likely. Another possibility is that they are total fakes, although this is probably not the case. The items are almost invariably Field Postcards, unaddressed, and without a message. Occasionally, they occur with typed or handwritten addresses, but these have invariably been added by an owner at a later date.

They purport to be from the village of DOUDLEVCE [its German name is DOUDLEWETZ], which is now a southern suburb of the city of PLZEN [PILSEN]. The German names have been removed from the cancellers. The cancellation of PLZEN 2, 'counter letter' 3a, is a genuine mark of that office, Votocek type G139, which was used unexpurgated in Austrian Imperial times. The Office was the first branch office to be opened in the city, not the railway station. The stamps on these cards are often bisected 20h. stamps for the 10h. postcard rate. The FRANCO overprint is really superfluous on a postage stamp, but was for application to postage dues when used as provisional stamps for ordinary postage.

Railway Official's Datestamps - Part III

By Andy Taylor

A member has sent me another specimen. It is on a picture postcard of the centre of Pottendorf (N. Ö., about 16 km N-E of Wiener Neustadt) addressed to a lady in Bremen. The date appears to be 13.X.02.?? and the rather imperfect cancel is **POTTENDORF-LANDEGG * K.K.pr.Sudbahn ? *** (where the '?'



represents one unreadable letter). John Batts comments that the railway was formed by a merger in 1858, and its full name was **die k. k. privilegierte Südbahngesellschaft**, so the unreadable letter may be "G". On the picture side is a brief handwritten message. On a current map, Pottendorf is the town and Landegg a suburb on the other side of a branch of the river Leitha; the railway runs between them. The sender adds:

The two articles are very illuminating - I know John Whiteside who is an absolute mine of information. However they shed little light on the Pottendorf item which differs in several ways from the ones illustrated.

It would be interesting to know whether there was a post office on the station of Pottendorf-Landegg. I believe this is the key question. If there was a post office there the most likely explanation is human error - the clerk simply picked up the wrong datestamp. If however, there was no post office on the station then I think the Pottendorf card is quite intriguing.

I was hoping the date would turn out to have been a Sunday (when the town

post office would have been closed) but I don't think it is. The date is unclear but seems to be 13th, 16th or 18th October, 1902. These were Monday, Thursday and Saturday respectively. I am just wondering whether the month is in fact September (there could just be a 'I' in front of the 'X') in which case 13th, 16th, 18th would have been Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday. Not a Sunday amongst 6 possible dates which is remarkable. So if you would like to publish the illustration and see what your members can make of it I shall be most grateful.

Editorial rag-bag.

By Andy Taylor

- ☺ The first issue FDC on the back cover of issue 130 has now been confirmed as being addressed to GRATZ (capital of Styria) and not Grätz in Silesia. The former was sometimes written with an "ä" at that time, and the latter office did not open until 1867.
- ☹ Editorial errors crept in to some of the discussion on the registered letter on the front cover of issue 130, and several people have sent comments. A supplementary article will appear soon!
- ☹ And a few of the rates in the Inflation Table have been queried: corrections are awaited.
- ☺ Our member Milford D Panzer, who lives in the USA, seeks an exchange partner: he offers USA & world and wants Austria & GB. If you are interested please write to the Membership Secretary.
- ☺ **A cordial welcome to the following new members:**
 - 1136 P. Bird, Coventry
 - 1137 E.M. Neishloss, Pittsburg, USA
 - 1138 R.W. Wiles, Peterborough
 - 1139 R.A. Lee, Braunton, N. Devon
 - 1140 P. Pernstich, Crawley, W. Sussex
 - 1141 R.R. Schneider, Belleville, USA
 - 1142 Ms. J. Steward, Newcastle upon Tyne
 - 1143 B. Clark, Hull
 - 1144 Mrs. C. Message, Walsall, West Midlands
 - 1145 R.M.W. Jackson, Sevenoaks, Kent
 - 1146 R.A. Krueger, Ft. Washington, USA.

- ☺ Collectors of Huts may like this cachet. It does suggest that Herr Kalus shouldn't throw stones...
- ☺ A member writes to plead for an article which provides beginner-level guidance on distinguishing between originals and reprints of the First Issue, particularly if you only have one specimen.



- ☺ I read that Vienna's administration has banned pig-wrestling in nightclubs (where "nearly-naked women wrestle with pigs in a mud bath") because Animal Rights campaigners have complained that it degrades the pigs.
- ☺ Nevertheless, Nick Harty intends to visit Vienna this December, for the Christkindl opening, St Nicholas Day, the stamp fair etc - generally similar to the December 1998 trip but with less pre-planned social activities. Anyone interested in joining him should contact him on 01947 82 12 05.
- ☺ I have been asked to provide the author's name on every article, so have tried to do so: if anyone feels that the previous anonymity was better do write.
- ☺ Indeed if anyone has an opinion on anything connected with Austrian Philately please write - this is your journal, not mine!



From the Treasurer

Joyce Boyer

I would remind ordinary members that their subscription for the year 2000/01 was due on 1st April 2000. If the label on your envelope has highlighted your membership number followed by 1999/00, then your payment is overdue. The ASCGB membership rule 7 states *'If the subscription for the society year is not paid by the end of September, membership will be suspended and the member debarred from participation in the affairs of the Society. If the subscription remains unpaid by the end of the calendar year membership will be deemed to have lapsed.'* In the past these dates have been a little elastic BUT this year it is proposed to enforce the first part. This means that if you have not paid by 1st October you will not be entitled to a vote in respect of the proposals regarding the Club's future which are to be considered at the Extraordinary Meeting to be held during the York weekend.

Please do not delay until the last minute - if your subscription is outstanding pay it today.

"How to make a Blackprint".

An Austrian State Printing Works speciality.

By Andy Taylor

All of us have admired the Blackprints produced by the Austrian State Printing Works (ÖSD) for new issues and special occasions. At WIPA2000, I was able to discuss the printing process with Herr L. Nowak of the ÖSD and with Prof. R. Zimmerl; what follows is my understanding; any errors are mine also!

When a special stamp is produced, it will use both line engraving and recess (halftone) printing. The artist's final design is separated into a plate for each of the ink colours to be used, and an additional plate is engraved for the black highlighting. The stamp is printed on the composite press, and can have up to seven colours of ink plus black in the engraved plate.

For the Blackprints, they do NOT make a copy of the finished stamp and print it in black ink! That would give a nasty black-and-white image. The technique which is used is basically simple - the skill lies in optimising all the variables to achieve an artistically pleasing result. For each of the colours of the stamp, ie for each of the printing plates used, a corresponding shade of grey is carefully selected. The printing press ink ducts are cleaned out and filled with their allotted grey inks (the black remains as black), the chosen paper is loaded, and the blackprint is then created by running the press in the normal way. For example, here is the Kitzbuhel Arms blackprint.

To illustrate this process, the next three pages show the "colour separations" for the Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black inks that would be used for a 3-colour-plus-black print of a colour photograph. The Black plate would be line-engraved to highlight the details. For a blackprint, the same colour plates would be used but with grey inks, as used here. See ANK1948 "100 Jahre Wiener Lokalbahn" (22.3.1988) for the

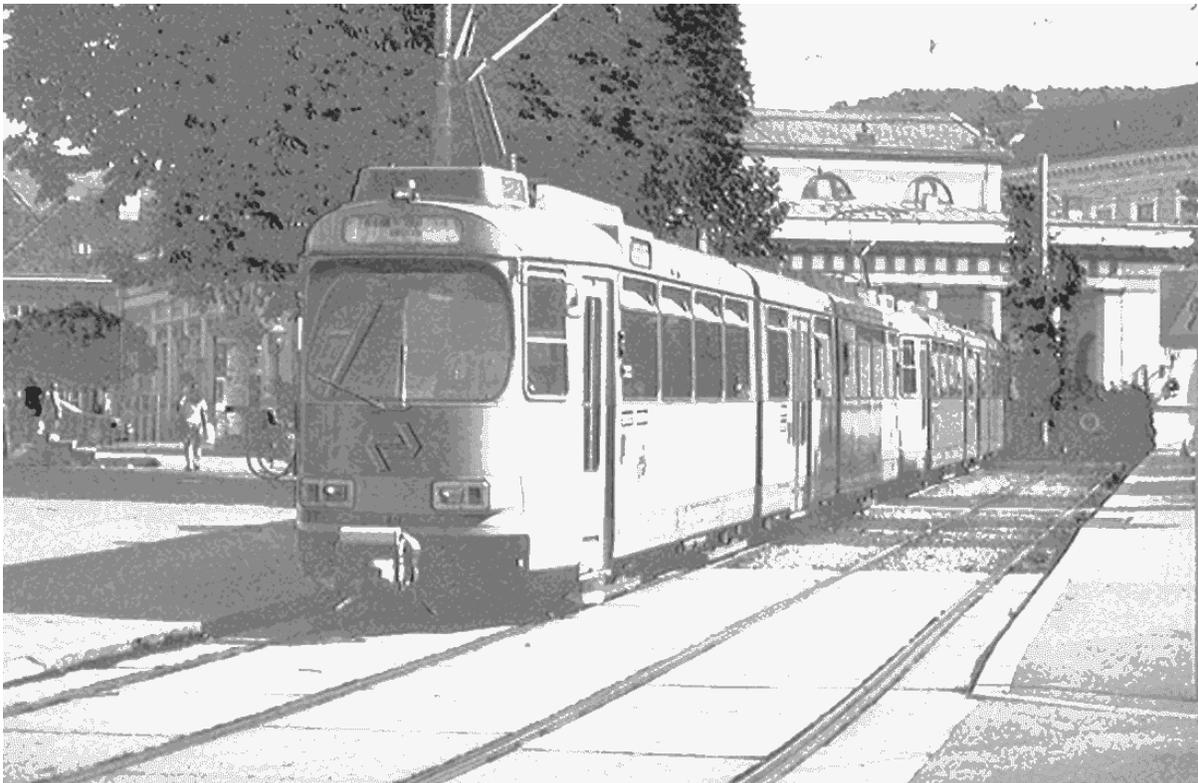
corresponding stamp, and see the magnificent book "150 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke", page 170, for an explanation in colour.



This is the Cyan plate:



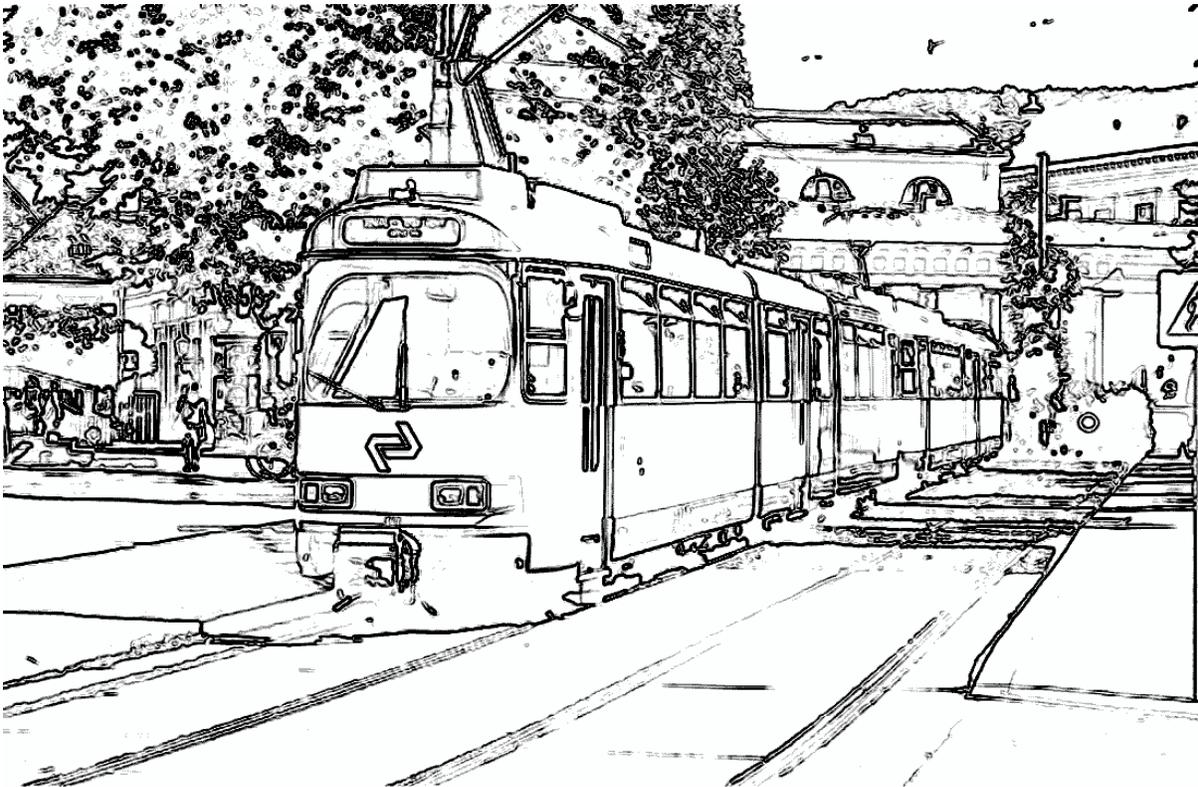
This is the Yellow plate:



This is the Magenta plate:



And this is the engraved Black plate:



The composite Blackprint:



And the result of printing a copy of the finished "stamp" in black ink:



NOTES from publications en route to the Library.

By Andy Taylor

Die Briefmarke

A reminder: every issue also contains news of Austrian philatelic meetings, book reviews, reports from Switzerland & Germany; illustrated lists of Austrian special cancellations and worldwide new issues.

Issue 5/2000: WIPA2000; new stamps & postcards, many to be issued during WIPA; history of Favoriten post and philatelic society; Rezepisse for the Vienna Klein Post; plate faults on 1945 Hitler overprints; many Poststelle closures and a 'demotion'; Austrian involvement in the WWI "Tauchboot"; the official WIPA Sonderstempels.

Issue 6/2000: WIPAs past and present; the Austria Centre Wien; ASCGB visit and Heuriger; postal history of Ybbsitz and of Florisdorf.

Issue 7/2000: Award for the State Printing Works; WIPA post mortems; "Tauchboot" continued; Austrian themes in Ukrainian philately; the Austrian post office in Jaffa in 1908; the refugee camp in Gmünd.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Militaria Austriaca Philatelia.

Issue 187: some practical difficulties expected during the transition to Euro-denominated stamps; KFOR; auction; NATO report.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-18

Issue 61: attractive colour cover; Q&A; cancels handbook 18th supplement; cancels of Italian post in post-23.5.1915 occupied area (eg Gradisca); WWI military post between Austria and Switzerland; Postanwiesungskontrollstempel; Clement's Fieldpost 1914/18 available (in photocopy?); German WWI fieldpost (cont). Supplement: Torpedoboat 81 - 100 cachets.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 50: Vienna Strahlenstempel; book reviews; index to issues 1-50; slogan cancels from Tirol; private stationery catalogue (cont).

Wiener Ganzsachen- Frei und Poststempelsammlerverein

Issue 2/2000: Airmail rates to Australia 1946-48; AGM reports; interim report on airmail rates to Argentina

Czechout

Issue 2/2000: BRNO2000; Money Orders in the 1st Czech republic; Bohemia/Moravia rates in WWII (cont); Pardubice overprints (cont); 'new issues' includes a postcard for the 100th anniversary of the Prague pneumatic post.

Monograph 13, by Robert Bradford: The Hradčany Issue 1918-1920. vii+33pp A4 including 2 pages of colour illustrations. The many varieties are described, illustrated and listed. The "impossible sun" is fully explained! Copies cost £8.25: write to me for details.

Czech National Day Exhibition: the Czech Ambassador in London has invited the Czech P.S.of G.B. to stage an exhibition at the Embassy from 26 to 28 October to coincide with the Czech National Day.

Sonderpostämter 1995-2000

This is the latest (8th) supplement to Dr Wurth's listing of special cancellations, including an appendix of special & balloon flights. The publication of this and future editions has been taken over by Verlag Christine Steyrer, the publishers of the Netto catalogue.

Der deutsche Bahnpoststempel..

..in the Ostmark 1938-1945 and the immediate postwar period. They are illustrated and listed.

The WIPA2000 catalogue

This was available (free) as you entered. It contains what you'd hope and expect, ie greetings from the Austrian President etc; names and photos of committee, jurors etc; lists of exhibitors, post offices, dealers; the official special cancels; plans of the halls; colour illustrations of some exhibits. And of course a list of the exhibits, in numerical order within each class .

BUKOWINA-Melange

By Peter R Elbau. 474 A4 pages on the history, postal history, and collecting highlights of Bukowina. Many illustrations, occasionally in colour. A review will appear in a future issue.

From the (new) Honorary Secretary

Gordon Rogers

Firstly I would like to record the fact that I am honoured to have been elected as General Secretary and hope I can live up to the high standards set by my predecessors. A personal word of thanks to John Beech for his period in office, for the work he has done and for his interesting articles in "Austria" -which I hope will continue from him as an "Ordinary Member".

We all read, with excitement, in Issue 100 that a stamp was to be issued to mark the centenary of the treaty between Austria and Switzerland on the regulation of the Rhine River and in Issue 82 that one was coming out to honour the bicentenary of the State Gambling Monopoly, but imagine in the year 2099 reading in Issue 428 (well, our successor members might!) that a stamp was to be issued for the 100th Anniversary of the Vienna Cricket Club or the 50th Anniversary of Test Matches between Austria and England. Not so impossible to predict as you might imagine as I read in a recent Middlesex CCC publication that cricket is, or is about to be, played in Vienna: perhaps a member may have more details about this and could let us know more of this momentous event!

WIPA2000 has passed but the effects on our pockets no doubt lingers on particularly so if we went every day. It is surprising what you see on the 2nd and 3rd visits that you missed on the first. My best purchase, however, was made in the open air antiques market in Baden, where we stayed, when I spotted an envelope stuffed with machine "slogan" cancellations for sale. It turned out to be kiloware of a superior kind and gave much pleasure when being sorted and added many album pages to the collection. The most enjoyable feature of the exhibition for me was the high number of entries depicting Austrian Stamps and Postal History (as one would expect) particularly a few on the same theme as my entry into the East Midlands and East Anglian Philatelic Federation Competition "The First Issues of Austria". Oh, and yes, they were a little better than mine! London 2000 presented the opposite picture - I could hardly find an Austrian stamp among the exhibits; no doubt I will be told I did not look hard enough but after about 200 frames you give up looking. Perhaps this is our fault, as members, as an entry has to be made before it can be selected for exhibition. At the regional and club level, however, we can promote the cause of Austrian Philately in this way and in so doing hopefully increase membership of the ASCGB.

I have received from ABPS [= Association of British Philatelic Societies Ltd; the ASCGB is a member] their 2000 directory, their accounts and a booklet entitled "The Organisation of a Philatelic Conference": should anyone wish to see them please let me know.