

# AUSTRIA

## Edited by Andy Taylor

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No 137	CONTENTS	Spring 2002
Editorial		2
Euro-innovations		4
Hon Sec's Cantfest Report		6
2002 New Issue programme		8
A Decree of Maria Theresa		10
The Prislopbahn: a forgotten railway line		18
Austrian Pre-Franked (Postal Stationery) Postcards (Chapter 2)		24
Cantfest displays		37
Additions to the Library		43
Trans-Tirol TPOs		44
<b>Advertisement: Rodolphe de Maleingreau</b>		<b>47</b>
The Theatre in Austria		48
Notes on Publications		56
Balloons & Airmail Prior to 1914		58
Questions, Answers, Letters...		61
Meeting Dates for 2002		64
Book Reviews		65
<b>Midland Group initial meeting</b>		<b>68</b>

The Hon Exchange Packet Superintendent observes that two packets have gone missing in recent months, and that this is attributable to ignoring of the Rules. Members who have mislaid their copy of these rules should ask for another one, or may preserve their anonymity by obtaining it from our web site:  
[www.kitzbuhel.demon.co.uk/austamps/apsrules/packet.htm](http://www.kitzbuhel.demon.co.uk/austamps/apsrules/packet.htm)

## Editorial 137

By Andy Taylor

The Austrian Post Office seems to be turning into a sordidly commercial organisation. It could be argued - and has been, at length and with passion - that Special Post Offices have an invaluable publicity function to the organisations whose events they grace, while making money for the post Office because few of the stamps sold will require any subsequent service such as letter delivery. However, the charge for a Special Post Office in 2002 is to be €1000 for 8 hours, €1800 on Sundays and Holidays - plus 20% VAT! Many organisations, such as the Ukranian BSV, simply cannot afford this, and may even have to shut up shop. Austrian stamps may be designed and printed in other countries, eg Czech Republic, and the print runs for commemorative stamps will be typically one-sixth of last year's figures.

According to "Philatelic News" (see next article), definitive stamps will be sold at all post offices, while most commemoratives will only be available on subscription and in small packets in the main tourist towns. The Bund Deutscher Philatelisten have formally complained to the UPU (of which Austria was a founder!) that this doesn't comply with the UPU definition of a postage stamp, which is required to be generally available to the public.

I also note that the "Internet Xmas Card" service, previously free and sponsored by Blue Danube Radio before it went down-market, reappeared but at €1.8 each. However, when the UK postal system talks of ceasing all non-domestic parcel services and runs out of Xmas stamps, who are we to cast aspersions!

"The usual suspects" visited Vienna last December, ostensibly for Numiphil (where most items were dual-priced in Euro and Schillings or DM) but in reality for a generally-successful philatelic Bummel around dealers, Glühwein and postcard stalls, and the Bierklinik. A midnight tour around the philatelic sights of central Vienna produced the interesting insight that the present roof of St Stephen's owes its appearance to the valiant efforts of one eminent philatelist and a donation for another. A select few took the advice in the last issue and visited Steyr, travelling thence by Oldtime Postbus to Christkindl Postoffice (housed in an excellent restaurant) to post our Xmas cards with Schilling stamps and avoid this year's tripled charge for an "Über Christkindl" label. Oddly, delivery of such mail to the USA took about 4 days, while Prioritybriefs failed to arrive in Vienna before the party had left: see 'letters'!

During the visit, a plenary session in the Griechenbeisl resolved to create an informal organisation called the "Österreichischen Briefmarkenkünstler Schützverein", for the protection of that endangered species the Austrian Postage Stamp Designer. The subscription is one obol. Details from your Editor.

Those who went to the trouble of preparing "Last Day of the Schilling Stamp" covers for franking on 31 Dec 2001 (or at least with cancels so dated) discovered that it's the sale of Schilling stamps that ceases on that day. The stamps themselves can still be used until the end of June, so the exercise will need to be repeated! An excuse for another trip?

There has been announced *A Pleasant Surprise for Philatelists Issued on the Occasion of Transition to the Euro Currency.* "On 1.1.2002, Österreichische Post AG issued a special postage stamp devoted to the theme 'Transition to Euro'. This will be the first stamp in the history of Austrian philately showing a motive on the reverse side also. The front side shows a map of Europe and a three dimensional representation of a 1 Euro coin; the gummed face of the stamp shows ATS coins still valid up to end of February. When used, the reproduction of the Schillings just disappears - exactly like the real coins will do in March 2002. There is absolutely no sanitary risk, as the ink composition has been chosen to be innocuous."

The pleasantness of the surprise is modified by the discovery that the special postage stamp is printed in sheetlets of four stamps and has a face value of €3,27 (ie 45ATS in old money). That's nine quid per sheet. The only listed primary use of such a stamp is to post an inland letter weighing between 1 & 2 kilogram - preferably containing a brickbat.

### Austrian Post Office publicity material



Research in Vienna into listings of Ortswerbestempel cancellations shows that there is no one book containing all of them (as Wurth does for the Special cancels), nor is anyone known to be writing one. There are many books about specific areas, which include them as a chapter. A mention in a 1937 issue of "Die Postmarke" of the n<sup>th</sup> part of an update to a previous list finally convinced me that the subject is Too

Big for a UK-based Society to cover! The information we have collected will be kept, in case it prove useful.

A member has asked for (and rapidly been sent!) the accumulated knowledge on Special Cancels and Office Closures. And the Technical Info on New Stamps (eg size, colours, perfs, gum) has been used to prepare articles on post-1999 New Issues, which will appear later in the year. I aim to catch up by the end of 2003 so you can expect one such article in every issue until then, and one in every other issue thereafter! Those who feel that articles on Army or Navy are called for, to balance the recent preponderance of Air, are invited to write some.

# Philatelic News: Innovations to be introduced with the EURO

From Österreichische Post AG press releases

## **Postage stamps and postal stationery:**

There will no longer be just one date of issue per month. Postage stamps and postal stationery will be issued, as far as possible on the exact date for which they were meant, but will be available already somewhere in the midst of the month preceding their validity for posting.

As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002, post offices will sell only a limited choice of special postage stamps. Christmas postage stamps and postage stamps bearing a message (Valentine, Love, etc.) will, however, still be available in all post offices in the same way as standard postage stamps and postal stationery. Special postage stamps will be held in future by general post offices of provincial capitals only, except for special postage stamps having a specific relation to a region which will, of course, also be available in the region to which they belong.

Additional orders for special postage stamps may be placed by subscribers using the fax form enclosed with their original order. Österreichische Post AG's philatelic service will then send customers their order free of postal charges.

## **Post.Mobil:**

Special Österreichische Post AG post offices will be designated **Post.Mobil** as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002. Post.Mobil service will be responsible for temporary post offices and special forwarding events. Information on the use of special cancellation marks by Post.Mobil special post offices will be given in the "Philatelic News" issued by Österreichische Post AG.

## **Central cancellation office:**

A central cancellation office serving all of Austria will be created on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002, to fulfil all requests for special cancellations. Requests for cancellation giving all details on the cancellation required are to be addressed: Post Office 1150 Vienna, Central Cancellation Office - Philately, A-1150 Vienna. Do not forget, however, to enclose an envelope bearing your address, duly franked or with the correct number of International Reply Coupons.

## **Special cancellations:**

Österreichische Post AG will make use of an appropriate cancellation mark for each and every issue of a new standard postage stamp, special postage stamp, or postal stationery. In case of events organised to celebrate issue of postage stamps for which Österreichische Post AG chooses to open a Post.Mobil office,

special cancellation will be made by this Post.Mobil. Post.Mobil opened on request of a philatelic association, a company, organisers of a fair or any other Organisation, may, as the case may be, use other special cancellation marks.

Should you not be in a position to visit yourself a specific Post.Mobil, kindly send your requests for cancellation to the Central Cancellation Office. Special cancellation marks will no longer show distinctive signs.

### **Last date for requests for cancellation:**

In order to meet all cancellation requests, requests sent up to the end of the month following that of the date of use of the special cancellation mark (proved by date-stamp on the envelope) will be treated by the Central Cancellation Office, except for special mail forwarding events or air mail sent by special flights, the latter being bound by the published last date for posting.

### **Additional first day cancellations:**

Additional first day cancellation is available in the Central Cancellation Office and in Post.Mobil offices only. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002, Post offices 1010 Wien, 1014 Wien, 1015 Wien, 1090 Wien, 1103 Wien, 1150 Wien (except the Central Cancellation Office - Philately), 3100 St. Pölten, 4010 Linz/Danube, 5010 Salzburg, 6010 Innsbruck, 6900 Bregenz, 7000 Eisenstadt, 8010 Graz, and 9010 Klagenfurt will no longer make use of additional first day cancellation marks.

In exceptional cases however, i.e. if the locality where Post.Mobil is established is related to the motive (building, memorial etc.) of a new postage stamp, Post.Mobil office may be equipped with an additional first day cancellation mark. Exceptional use of additional first day cancellation mark will be announced in each case and will be reserved exclusively to one Post.Mobil office. No exceptional use of additional first day cancellation mark by post offices as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002.

### **Philatelic Information:**

Philatelic information will in future be published multicoloured on A5 cardboard postcards. Front side will show the postage stamp (in colour), and give the most important information on printing procedures. Back side will contain a short description of the theme in German and English, and one or two corresponding photographs as the case may be. Philatelic information will continue to be sold for the price of EUR 0.36.

### **Orders for philatelic articles:**

All philatelic articles are to be ordered from the "Sammlerservice der Österreichischen Post", Steinheilgasse 1, A-1210 Wien, Phone: +43 1 250 25 4040, Fax: +43 1 250 25 4080, e-mail: [sammler-service@post.at](mailto:sammler-service@post.at), Internet homepage: [www.philatelie.at](http://www.philatelie.at)

# Cantfest Report <sup>1</sup>

by Hans Smith

Canterbury's Bakers Temperance Hotel, called latterly 'The Chaucer', was the welcoming venue for what by common consent was one of best annual 'fests' we have had since the idea was first formed back on the blasted heaths of Todmorton all those years ago. Ably and efficiently organised by Gill and John Cottrell, the meeting for the first time combined the now traditional design of our fests with a well attended first AGM of our Society in its new form. Fortunately, the hotel's temperance origins did not extent to the well stocked bar and an excellent dinner, and the general sophistication of the weekend as a whole and the maturity and wide-ranging interests of the displays prompted one member to voice the opinion at the AGM that the function would have made it well worth while not only our UK members but those from farther afield attending for the weekend. Not even the bucketing rain (the heaviest since 1695, said the news!) could dampen our spirits; all credit is due to Gill and John, and we are already looking forward to next year's event at the same venue.

The two competitions attracted a wide variety of displays and once more demonstrated the tremendous depth and variety we can achieve. Joyce Boyer won the four-sheet competition (a subject beginning with 'T') with a display of Trans Tirol TPOs, the prize being a book on Canterbury and, of course, the right to choose the subject for next year's competition, and Andy Taylor won the new competition, one sheet on any non-Austrian subject, with 'Tramway mails of Hamburg'.

In my report to the AGM I stressed the importance of members entering competitions at local to national to international level, as this makes the philatelic public more aware of Austrian philately which, after all, is one of the Society's aims. Recent successes earlier this year include a vermeil-winning display of WWI Hospital Mail by John Presland at the 'Cuprum' international show in Lubin, Poland, and a vermeil for our member G.M. Barling at Autumn Stampex for a display of the postal history of Sarmia ('Srem') which contained a section on the Austrian offices in this former Austrian - now Yugoslav - province of the Empire. Last but certainly not least, Ernst Oberthaler won a gold medal and a silver salver at a regional show, our Chairman Martin Brumby handing over the certificate at our Annual Dinner. Congratulations to all! Please tell me of any competitions you enter and of the awards obtained, if possible with sufficient notice to ensure our members can visit the show concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> Received, owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding, the day after the previous 'Austria' was sent to the printers. [*See editorial note below on publication schedules*]

As always, some important ideas and information emerged at the AGM: firstly we are contemplating the appointment of a press (relations) officer (any volunteers?) and, secondly, we discovered that there are nuclei of members living in the London and the Manchester areas who do not attend their local groups: they don't know what they are missing!

I look forward to meeting as many members as possible on our outing to Vienna next month<sup>2</sup>. The ineffable Robert Avery has booked us an excellent hotel and has again laid on a first-class programme, while our visit coincides both with the Vienna Advent Fair and the annual stamp fair. We also hope to meet some of our Austrian members.



### ***APS publication schedule for 2002 and later years:***

#### **From Your Editor.**

**Newsletters** are normally sent for printing in the middle of January, April, July, and October & posted (by airmail to all non-UK members) about 10 days later.

**Journals** are normally sent for printing in the middle of February, May, August, November & posted (by whatever you have paid for) about 3 weeks later.

The schedule may of course be delayed by illness, holidays, equipment breakdowns or the wrong kind of snow; it is rarely brought forward except for the inclusion of a date-critical item. So for example anyone wishing to advertise an event on 1<sup>st</sup> March needs to tell me by early January for the Newsletter, or by the previous Halloween for the journal.

I am always willing to discuss with anybody how to turn their philatelic knowledge into an illustrated article. But I can't print promises!



#### **We welcome as new members:**

1172 L F Cremana (USA)	1173 B Meyer (USA)	1174 N Rogers (Cambridge)
1175 G M Titman (Surrey)	176 R de Maleingreau (London)	177 L W Ricker (USA).

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<sup>2</sup> (ie December 2001, as explained in the first footnote! Ed)

## The 2002 New Issue Programme

As issued by the Austrian Post Office; received 10/1/2002.

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Month of issue</b>	<b>Value Euro</b>
Euro Definitive Series "Holidays in Austria": - Schönlaterngasse in Vienna	January	0,51
- Hadres in Lower Austria	January	0,58
- Steinernes Meer in Salzburg province	January	0,73
- Inneralpbach in Tirol	January	0,87
- Heiligenkreuz in Lower Austria	January	2,03
Small sheet "Introduction of the Euro"	January	3,27
Olympic Winter Games 2002	February	0,73
Bouquet (of flowers)	February	0,87
Series "Philis"; 1st Value	March	0,58
Women's Day	March	0,51
Series "Philis"; 2nd Value	April	0,58
Caritas	April	0,58
Alfred Kubin 125th anniversary	April	0,87
Europe 2002	May	0,87
Series "Confetti": "Mimi"	May	0,51
Series "Philis"; 3rd Value	May	0,58
Lilienfeld monastery - 800 years	May	2,03
Small sheet "Day of the postage stamp 2002" (with surcharge)	May	1,60 +0,80
Block "250 years of Schönbrunn Zoological Garden": - 1st Value	June	0,51
- 2nd Value		0,58
- 3rd Value		0,87
- 4th Value		1,38
Teddy-bear	June	0,58
Series "Design Austria"; 1st Value	June	1,38

<b>Designation</b>	<b>Month of issue</b>	<b>Value Euro</b>
Series "Traditional Arts and Crafts": "Crystal cup"	June	1,60
Ars Electronica / Klangbogen"	September	0,58
The new Viennese museum of contemporary art	September	0,58
Series "Cars": "Old-timer"	September	0,51
Series "Motorcycles": "Puch 125"	September	0,58
"Rote Nasen"	September	0,51
Series "Domestic animals": "Dog"	October	0,51
Series "Modern Art in Austria"; 28th Value	October	0,58
Series "Railways"; 1st Value	October	0,51
"National park Thayatal"	October	0,58
Series "Design Austria"; 2nd Value	November	1,38
"Caritas"	November	0,51
"Austrians living abroad"	November	2,47
"Christmas 2002"	November	0,51
<b>"The above programme is subject to modifications or additions"</b>		

As in previous years, stamps may be obtained about 14 days in advance, for fixing to FDCs etc.



### ***Editorial New Year Resolution:***

***"I will attempt to reply to all letters within six weeks of receiving them."***

Anyone who feels that the letter they wrote last year has been lost or ignored is invited to remind me!

## A Decree of Maria Theresa

by A. Taylor



alter N Waldau (life member, American Philatelic Society) has a copy of a decree of Maria Theresa relating to the improvement of rural roads and via his son Richard has sent me a photocopy for which I gratefully thank them. The decree is on parchment paper measuring 18" x 25½". There are no tears, and no discoloration. The imprint from the press can be viewed and felt on the reverse of the document. The decree is printed in florid Fraktur script, dated 24 July 1761, and begins with the formal listing of Maria Theresia's titles - these cover not only "Austria" but also "Hungary" (as well as most of Europe!) and the female forms are used. It's interesting that, as I understand it, all the titles bar the last are hers in her own right - the semicolon in the original thus separates them from that which she held as wife of the Grand Duke of Tuscany.

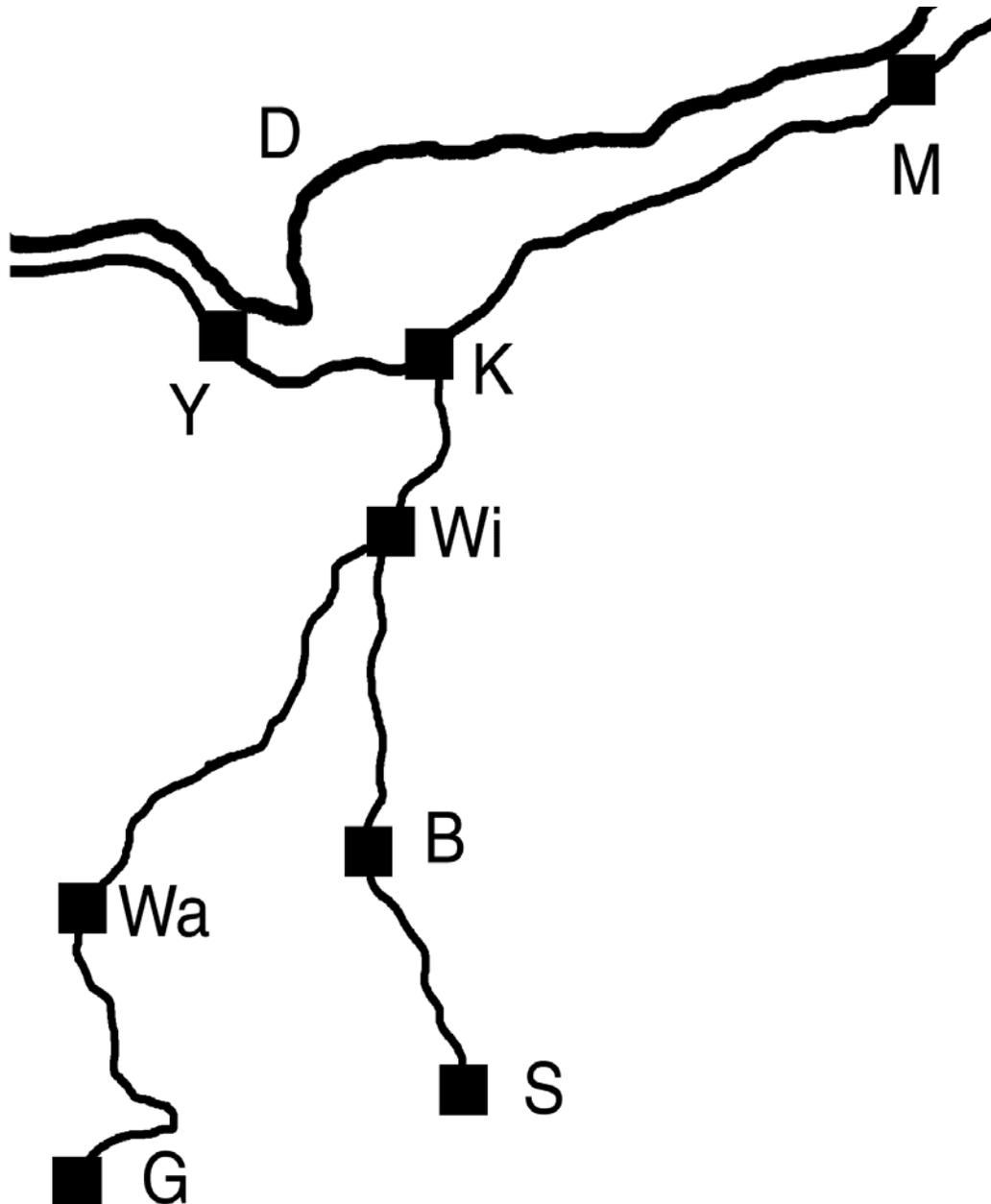
The second part concerns the setting up of a network of Toll Stations to recoup the cost of the improvement of specified roads in a rural area to the South of Ybbs (on the Danube, between Vienna and Linz). The third part (beginning *Soldemnach*) is a detailed list of the tolls to be charged, and lists of those exempt (which included the postal services). Below you will see the original; my transcript; and my attempt to give a flavour of its meaning without having to spend months in pedantic seclusion! I thank various colleagues, especially John Whiteside, whom I browbeat into rendering assistance.

One justification for this article is to emphasise that there were TWO postal systems in operation by 1750. A: the **Letter Post**, which did what you'd expect; B: the **Fahrpost**, which dealt with (i) parcels (ii) people (iii) letters of value. I have seen illustrations of what are in effect tickets: "Take the bearer from A to B by coach / received a large sum of money / signed A Clerk". And a 'letter of value' might contain the pay, in cash, for a regiment on manoeuvres [*incidentally they provide one of the few legitimate uses of the 10 Kronen of 1916: see 'Austria' 133 p43*]. The relation between the Letter Post and the Fahr Post has only recently started to get disentangled (OK, they knew at the time, but the knowledge was subsequently lost), which also means that much that was written between say 1850 and 1970 is wrong. **I hope that with other people's assistance an article on this might appear in future.**

I suspect these Decrees were printed at the State Printing Works. They probably had the Formal Titles ready set up in single-letter type and added the particular text; note that as was customary foreign words such as 'Primò' were printed in roman type. Mr Waldau's document will certainly be "an original", but probably

not "the only original" of that document - logistically, I suspect they would be hand-written by some clerk in the Court office on a "print 20 of this with the type C Imperial Header" order form, and sent to the printers. Then one copy to the archives, one to those named, one to the provincial government and so on.

The following Andy-map shows the places mentioned:



D is the river Danube; Y = Ybbs; K = Kolm; M = Melk; Wi = Wieselburg; B = Burgstall (now called Purgstall); S - Scheibbs; Wa = Wang; G = Gresten.

*There follow (a) a picture of (b) my transcript of (c) my "reasonable endeavors" translation of the Decree.*



**Er Maria Theresia**  
**Kaiserin, in Germanien, zu Sunn**  
**Königin, Erz-Herzogin, zu Oesterreich, &**  
**Manland, zu Steyer, zu Kärnten, zu Crain, zu Mantu**  
**Marggräfin des Heil. Römischen Reichs, zu Mähren,**  
**gefürstete Gräfin zu Habsburg, zu Flandern, zu Tyr**  
**Elfaß, Gräfin zu Namur, Frau auf der Windischen M**  
**Groß-Herzogin zu Toscana, &c. &c.**

Entbieten allen, und jeden sowohl geist- als weltlichen Standes, was Würden, oder Weesens die seynd, den auch alles Gutes, und geben hiemit jedermänniglich zu vernehmen: Was massen Wir die von der Linzer-Haupt-St Gresten führende Eisen-Commercial- und Proviant-Strassen in Anbetracht des hierunterwaltenden Nutzens, und Vort setzen, verfolglicly sothane Strassen mit standhaften Chausséen, mittelst Unseres R. O. Weeg- und Brücken-Amts-D Weeg-Fundo anticipirende baare Geld hinwiederum eingebracht werde, unterm 18<sup>ten</sup> innlebenden Monats Julii weite stall, und Wang mit Abnahm der bey allen hierländigen Weeg-Mauth-Schranken nach Maßgebung des unterm 9. S Strecken, auf welche die Schranken-Mauth ausgemessen ist, mit ihren Chausséen, Wassergräben, Canalen, und Br Privat-Gründe, welche durchschnitten, und zu erdeuten Strassen gezogen werden würden, nach dem Regulativo, wie Solchemnach befehlen Wir hiemit gnädigt und wollen, daß

Primò: bey diesen dreyen neu zu errichten bewilligten Schranken Bieselburg, Burgstall, und Wang nach vore Wagen beladen, oder nicht, schwer oder ring, hinaus, und herein 2. Kreuzer, diese nämliche Gebühr auch

Secundò: von denen Reit-Hand- oder getriebenen Pferden, Maulthierern, oder anderen solchen Vieh, dann vo

Tertiò: von denen Schöpffen, Schaafen, Lämmern, Schweinen, und all-anderen derley ringen Vieh nur ein fen belegte Dämme, und Seitengräben sehr schadhast macht.

Von dieser Weeg-Mauth-Gebühr hingegen wollen Wir die alleinige zum Feld- oder Acker-Bau ein- und anderer zum Feld-Bau gewidmete Wägen ausgenommen haben.

Sonsten solle niemand von wem das Zug-Reit- oder getriebene Vieh immer seye, ausser Unsere Kaiserl. Königl. und Uebergebung der Original Anweisung.

Weiters die leer hin und her kommende Post-Wägen, und Pferde, wie auch die etwa auf obbesagten Strassen pa Sonderheitlich aber die bey Unserem Kaiserl. Königl. Hof würklich bevollmächtigte Botthschafter von denen fremd

Und also auch die würkliche Kaiserl. Reichs-Hof-Rätthe, und Reichs-Canzley-Berwandte (wann selbe mit ihren der um den Lohn fahrende Fuhrmann die Gebühr zu bezahlen hat, von der Weeg-Mauth frey gelassen werden.

Wir versehen Uns demnach gnädigt, daß jedermann diese zu Nutzen des Landes sowohl, als jeden Particular stellen Einnehmern bey dessen Abforderung mit keiner Unart begegnen werde, dann es geschiehet hieran Unser ernstlic leisten wissen wird. Gegeben in Unserer Residenz-Stadt Wienn den 24. Monats-Tag Julii im ein tausend sieben h

**Franz Ferdinand Graf von Schrattenbach**  
**Statthalter.**

Thomas Ignaz Edler v. Pöck.  
 Kanzler.



# I von Gottes Gnaden Römische kaiserliche Königin, Herzogin zu Burgund, Ober- und Nieder-Schlesien, zu Brabant, zu Flandern, zu Parma, und Piacenza, zu Limburg, zu Luxemburg, zu Geldern, zu Württemberg, zu Burgau, zu Ober- und Nieder-Lausnitz, Fürstin zu Schwaben und Siebenbürgen, zu Pfaltz, zu Kyburg, zu Görz, zu Gradisca, und zu Artois, Landgräfin in Sachsen, zu Portenau, zu Salins, und zu Neuchâtel, Herzogin zu Lothringen und Bar;

den dieses Unser gnädigstes Patent zu lesen, oder zu hören vorkommet, Unsere Kaiserliche und Landes-Fürstl. Gnade, lassen bey Kolm abseits über Wieselburg, nach Burgstall und Scheibbs, dann von Wieselburg rechter Hand nach heils sowohl des Landes überhaupt, als jedweden Particularis in einem jederzeit gut wandelbaren-dauerhaften Stand rectoris Daniel von Moser herstellen zu lassen befunden, und damit das zu diesem Bau nöthige-unnittelst aus dem ers beschlossenen haben, daß auf diesen erbauenden Strassen dry Weg-Mauth-Schranken nemlich zu Wieselburg, Burg- septembris 1750. ergangenen Weg-Mauth-Patents übrigen Gebühr angeleget, jedoch diese erst damalen, wann die ücken in vollkommenen Stand kommen, und befahren werden können, errichtet: übrigens jene nutz- oder fruchtbare es sonst anderwärts beobachtet wird, denen Eigenthümen vergütet werden sollen.

esagter Massen hergestellten Strassen von jedem bespanntes Pferd, Ochsen, oder anderen Zug-Vieh, es seye der n dem Horn-Vieh ohnweigerlich abgeföhret, hingegen

: Pfennig für das Stück bezahlet werden: immassen alles dieses Vieh durch den Trieb die Weege, und die mit Wa- rten über die Gräniz hin, und her zu gehen etwa nöthig-habende Fehsungs-Flug-Egge, oder mehr andere solche Hof-Staat mit eigenen Post- oder Vorspann-Pferden, dann die Militar- oder Jägerey-Vorspann gegen Vorzeig- lrende sogenannte Ordinari, wann mit selben kein Passagier reiset, desgleichen auch die Staffetta, Kist, und Wägen. den Höfen.

: eigenen- oder Post-Pferden, und nicht etwa mit anderen gedungenen Pferden durchfahren, in welcher letzterem Fall is gewidmete Weg-Mauth-Gebühr ohne mindester Weigerung willfährig entrichten, und denen obiger Orten ange- her Will und Meinung, deme jedermänniglich bey sonst auf sich ladender Verantwortung den genauen Vollzug zu ündert ein und sechzigsten Unserer Reiche im ein und zwanzigsten Jahre.



## Wir Maria Theresia von Gottes Gnaden...

Römische Kaiserin, in Germanien, zu Hungarn, Boheim, Dalmatien, Croatien, Slavonien, u. Königin, Erz-Herzogin, zu Oesterreich, Herzogin zu Burgund, Ober-und Nieder-Schlesien, zu Braband, zu Mayland, zu Steyer, zu Kärnten, zu Crain, zu Mantua, zu Parma, und Piacenza, zu Limburg, zu Luxemburg, zu Geldern, zu Württemberg, Marggräfin des heil. Römischen Reichs, zu Mähren, zu Burgau, zu Ober- und Nieder-Laussnitz, Fürstin zu Schwaben und Siebenbürgen, gefürstete Gräfin zu Habsburg, zu Flandern, zu Tyrol, zu Pfyrt, zu Kyburg, zu Görz, zu Gradisca, und zu Artois, Landgräfin in Elsass, Gräfin zu Namur, Frau auf der Windischen March, zu Portenau, zu Salins, und zu Mecheln, Herzogin zu Lothringen und Barr; Gross-Herzogin zu Toscana u. u.

Entbieten allen, und jeden sowohl geist- als weltlichen Standes, was Würden, oder Weesens die seynd, denen dieses Unser gnädigstes Patent zu lesen, oder zu hören vorkommet, Unserere Kaiserliche und Landes-Fürstl. Gnade, auch alles Gutes, und geben hiermit jedermänniglich zu vernehmen: Was massen Wir die von der Linzer-Haupt-Strassen bey Kolm abseits über Wieselburg, nach Burgstall und Scheibbs, dann von Wieselburg rechter Hand nach Gresten führende Eisen- Commercial- und Proviand-Strassen in Anbetracht des hierunterwaltenden Nutzens, und Vorthiels sowohl des Landes überhaupt, als jedweden Particularis in einem jederzeit gut wandelbaren-dauerhaften Stand setzen, verfolglicly sothane Strassen mit standhaften Chausséen, mittelst Unseres N. O. Weeg- und Brucken-Amts-Directoris Daniel von Moser herstellen zu lassen befunden, und damit das zu diesem Bau nöthige-immittelst aus dem Weeg-Fundo anticipirende baare Geld hinwiederum eingebracht werde, untern 18ten innlebenden Monats Julii weiters beschlossen haben, daß aufdiesen erbauenden Strassen drey Weeg-Mauth-Schranken nemlich zu Wieselburg, Burgstall, und Wang mit Abnahm der bey allen hierländigen Weeg-Mauth-Schranken nach Maßgebung des unterm 9. Septembris 1750. ergangen Weeg-Mauth-Patents üblichen Gebühr angelegt, jedoch diese erst damalen, wann die Strecken, auf welche die Schranken-Mauth ausgemessen ist, mit ihren Chausséen, Wassergräben, Canalen, und Brücken in vollkommenen Stand kommen, und befahren werden können, errichtet: übrigens jene nutz-oder fruchtbare Privat-Gründe, welche durchschnitten, und zu erdeuten Strassen gezogen werden würden, nach dem Regulativo, wie es sonst anderwärts beobachtet wird, denen Eigenthümern vergütet werden sollen.

Solchemnach befehlen Wir hiermit gnädigt und wollen, daß

Primò: bei diesen dreyen neu zu errichten bewilligten Schranken Wieselburg, Burgstall, und Wang nach vorersagter Massen hergestellten Strassen von jedem bespannten Pferd, Ochsen, oder anderen Zug-Vieh, es seye der Wagen beladen, oder nicht, schwer oder ring, hinaus, und herein 2 Kreuzer, diese nämliche Gebühr auch

Secundò: von denen Reithand- oder getriebenen Pferden, Maulthieren, oder anderen solchen Vieh, dann von dem Horn-Vieh ohnweigerlich abgeführt, hingegen

Tertiò: von denen Schöpfen, Schaafen, Lämmern, Schweinen, und all-anderen derley ringen Vieh nur ein Pfennig für das Stuck bezahlet werden: immassen alles dieses Vieh durch den Trieb die Weege, und die mit Wasen belegte Dämme, und Seitengräben sehr schadhafft machet.

Von dieser Weeg-Mauth-Gebühr hingegen wollen Wir die alleinige zum Feld- oder Ackerbau ein- und anderer Orten über die Gränitz hin, und her zu gehen etwa nöthig-habende Fechsungs-Pflug-Egge, oder mehr andere solche zum Feld-Bau gewidmete Wägen ausgenommen haben.

Sonsten solle niemand von wem das Zug- Reit- oder getriebene Vieh immer seye, ausser Unsere Kaiserl. Königl. Hof-Staat mit eigenen Post- oder Vorspann-Pferden, denn die Militar- oder Jägerey-Vorspann gegen Vorzeig - und Uebergebung der Original- Anweisung.

Weiters die leer hin und her kommende Post-Wägen, und Pferde, wie auch die etwa auf obbesagten Strassen passirende sogenannte Ordinari, wann mit selben kein Passagier reiset, desgleichen auch die Staffetta, Ritt, und Wägen.

Sonderheitlich aber die bey Unserem Kaiserl. Königl. Hof wirklich bevollmächtigte Bothschafter von denen fremden Höfen.

Und also auch die wirkliche Kaiserl. Reichs-Hof-Räthe, und Reichs-Kanzlei-Verwandte (wann selbe mit ihren eigenen - oder Post-Pferden, und nicht etwa mit anderen gedungenen Pferden durchfahren, in welchen letzterem Fall der um den Lohn fahrende Fuhrmann die Gebühr zu bezahlen hat), von der Weeg-Mauth frey gelassen werden.

Wir versehen Uns demnach gnädigst, daß jedermann diese zu Nutzen des Landes sowohl, als jeden Particularis gewidmete Weeg-Mauth-Gebühr, ohne mindester Weigerung willfährig entrichten, und dener obigen Ort angestellten Einnehmern bey dessen Abforderung mit keiner Unart begegnen werde, dann es geschieht hieran Unser ernstlicher Will und Meinung, deme jedermänniglich bey sonst auf sich ladender Verantwortung den genauen Vollzug zu leisten wissen wird.

Gegeben in Unserer Residenz-Stadt Wienn den 24. Monats-Tag Julii in ein tausand sieben hundert ein und sechzigsten Unserer Reiche im ein und zwanzigsten Jahre.

Franz Ferdinand Graf von Schrattenbach - Statthalter

Thomas Ignaz Edler v. Pock. - Canzler

LS<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> LS means Lack Siegel, ie the original had a wax seal affixed.

## **We Maria Theresia by God's Mercy....**

Holy Roman Empress, in Germany; Queen of Hungary, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia; Arch-Duchess of Austria, Duchess of Burgundy, Upper and Lower Silesia, Brabant, Milan, Styria, Carinthia, Krain, Mantua, Parma, Piacenza, Limburg, Luxemburg, Geldern, and Württemberg; Marquise of the Holy Roman Empire, of Moravia, Burgau, Upper and Lower Laussnitz; Princess of Swabia and Transylvania; Countess-electress of Habsburg, Flanders, Tirol, Pfyrt<sup>i</sup>, Kyburg<sup>ii</sup>, Görz, Gradisca, and Artois; Countess of Alsace and of Namur; Lady of the Windisch March, of Portenau, Salins, and Mecheln; Duchess of Lorraine and Barr; Arch-Duchess of Tuscany etc etc.

Greetings to all both spiritual and temporal, of whatever rank and status they may be, who read or come to hear of this Our most gracious patent of Our Imperial and Princely goodness and generosity. We give each of them to understand as follows: We have given Our attention to the roads for the transport of iron, goods and comestibles from Kolm on the Linz High Road to Wieselburg, then to Burgstall and Scheibbs, and from Wieselburg on the right to Gresten. In consideration of the prevailing utility and advantage to the country in general, and in particular at these times of transition, of pursuing the provision of roads with strong and reliable surfaces, We desire Our Director for the Office of Roads and Bridges in Lower Austria, Daniel von Moser, to accomplish this.

In anticipation of the demand for money that this construction will make upon the Roads Fund, We further concluded on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July last that on the rebuilt roads there shall be three Toll Stations, namely at Wieselburg, Burgstall, and Wang, accompanied by the removal of all existing Toll Stations officially set up following the Road Toll Patent of 9<sup>th</sup> September 1750 for which the customary fee has been paid. However if the stretches between which the tolls are charged together with their surfaces, ditches, canals and bridges have been kept in perfect status and can be travelled on, - and also incidentally any nut or fruit orchards which are cut through or requisitioned for road construction - then according to the regulations and as is customary elsewhere their owners should be compensated.

We therefor graciously command and ordain that:

Firstly: at these three newly erected Toll Stations of Wieselburg, Burgstall, and Wang when the aforesaid roads shall have been improved, each yoked horse, ox, or other draught animal, be the wagon loaded or not, heavy or light, coming or going, [shall pay] 2 Kreuzer; the same fee for:

Secondly: ridden or led horses, mules, or other such beasts, and all driven horned cattle without exception; however:

Thirdly: wethers, ewes, lambs, pigs, and all other similar beasts are to pay only a pfennig each: in flocks all these animals, and females accompanied by offspring, severely damage the road and the side ditches.

We exempt however from this road toll everything exclusive to cultivation or farming at villages and other places in the Gränitz<sup>iii</sup>, and arriving or departing crops, ploughs, harrows, or other such vehicles required for agriculture.

Nobody else to whom draught, ridden or driven animals belong is excluded, apart from Our Imperial Royal Court with its Post- or draught-horses, except Military or Hunting transport against the production and handing-over of the original receipt.

Furthermore, empty post-wagons and spare horses coming and going, as well as the so-called Ordinari on the above mentioned roads, when no passenger is travelling with it, likewise also Couriers, Riders, and wagons.

Especially the plenipotentiary ambassadors of foreign courts authorised by Our Imperial Royal Court

And therefore the Imperial Court Councillors on duty and the Officers of the State Chancellery are excused the road toll (provided they travel with their own or with post horses but not for example with other licensed horses, in which latter case the carter travelling for reward will pay the fee). [*HS's correction!*]

We do not delude ourselves, that everybody will uncomplainingly pay each aspect of these road tolls which are dedicated to the improvement of the country, and the working inhabitants of the above-mentioned places should note that it shall follow from this Our earnest Will and Opinion that each individual summonsed and held responsible will know the exact penalties.

Given in Our city of residence Vienna on the 24<sup>th</sup> Day of July one thousand seven hundred and sixty one in the twenty second year of Our reign.

Franz Ferdinand count of Schrattenbach - Governor

Thomas Ignaz Baronet Pock. - Chancellor

LS [= wax seal]

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i Pfyrt is also known as Pfirt, Ferette or Ferrette and is in Alsace, east of Basel and south of Mulhouse. It seems to have come to the Habsburgs by marriage.

ii The County of Kyburg is in Thurgau, Switzerland and was acquired by the Habsburg family in 1264, never really forming part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

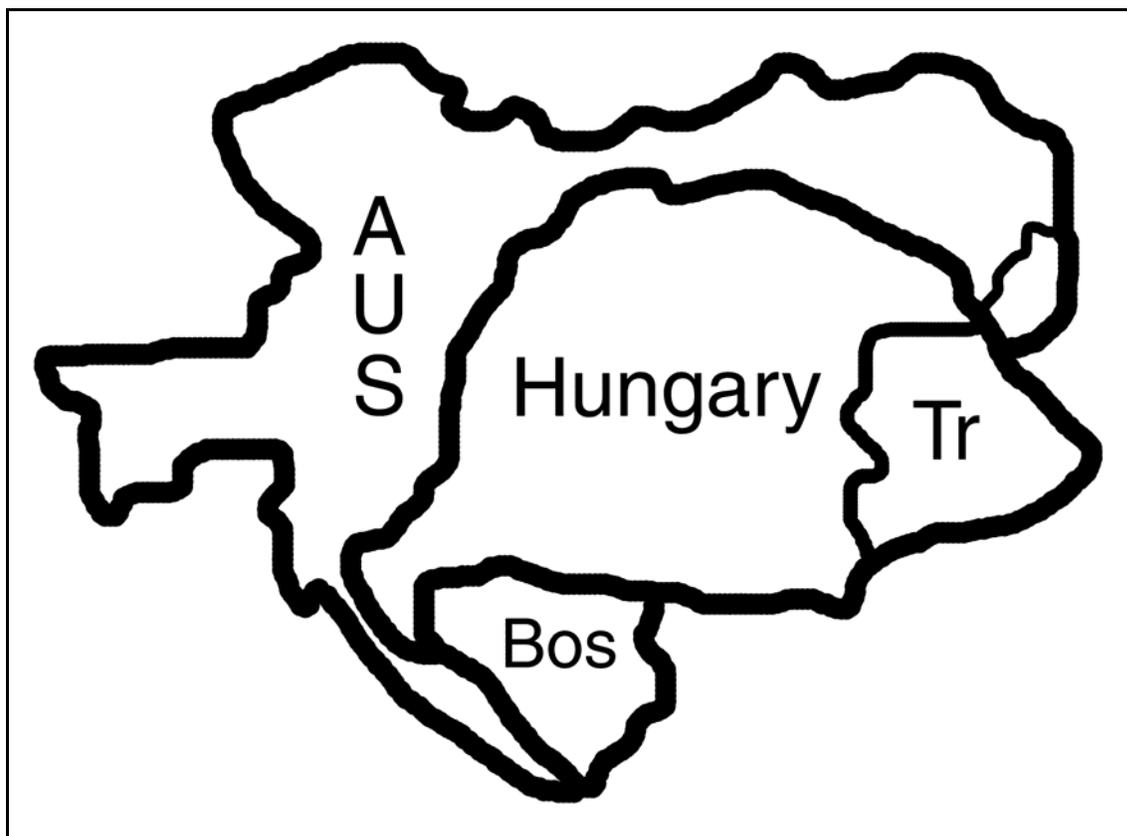
iii I construe Gränitz as a place, or the name of a river, but it may be derived from the same root as Grenze meaning Boundary or Border.

## A Forgotten Railway line: the *Prislobbahn* from Borsa to Jakobeny.

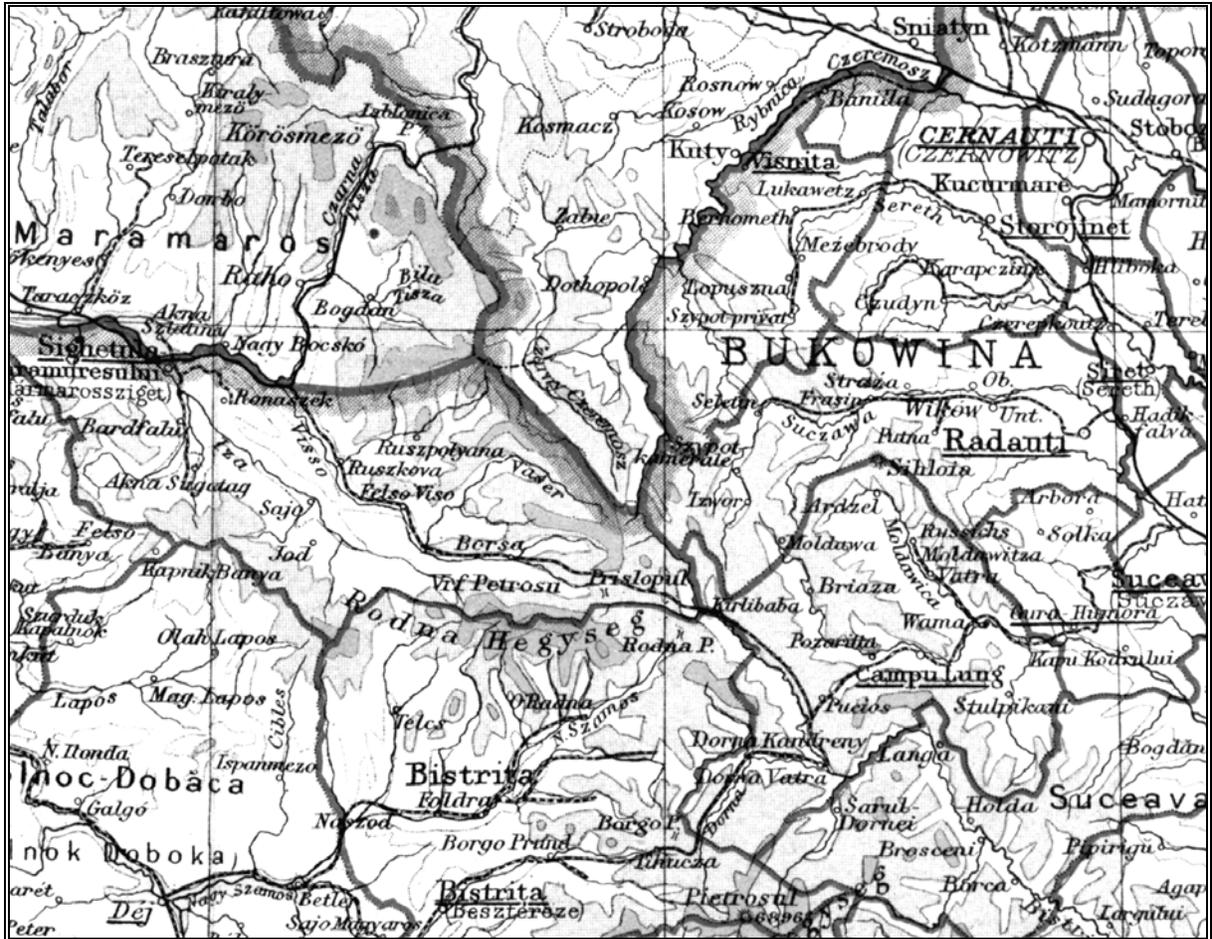
By Grecu Dan Simion

The huge railway network of the occupied territories during WWI was concentrated in the three Heeresbahnen: Heeresbahn Nord, in Radom, for the occupied Poland and Russia; Heeresbahn Süd, in Belgrad for the occupied Serbia; and Heeresbahn Südost, in Craiova for the occupied Romania. However the Austrian Army used a few single railway lines, namely the *Prislobbahn* from Borsa to Jakobeny (80km), the *Gröderbahn* from Klausen to Plan (31km), the *Fleimsthalbahn* from Auer to Cavalese (35km), and the line from Virpazar to Bar (41km). The Prislobbahn between Borsa & Jakobeny was, even if for a short time and only for military purposes, the first and only link between Máramaros county and the Bucovina, therefore it is worthwhile to take a look at its history, unjustly forgotten today.

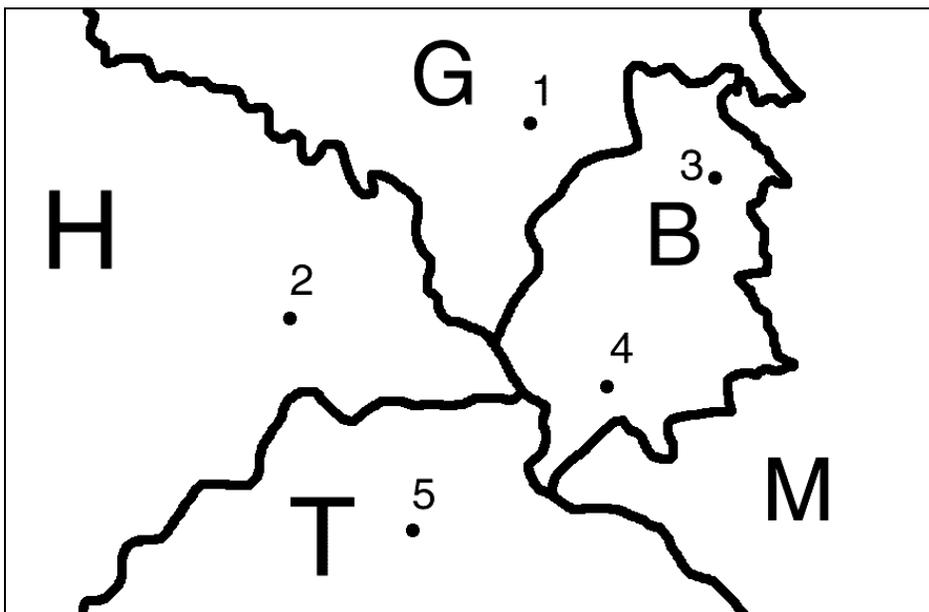
Firstly, interpolates your Editor, where was it? His first rudimentary sketch-map shows the Austro-Hungarian Empire; we are concerned with the border between Hungary and Bukovina (the small anonymous area on the right)

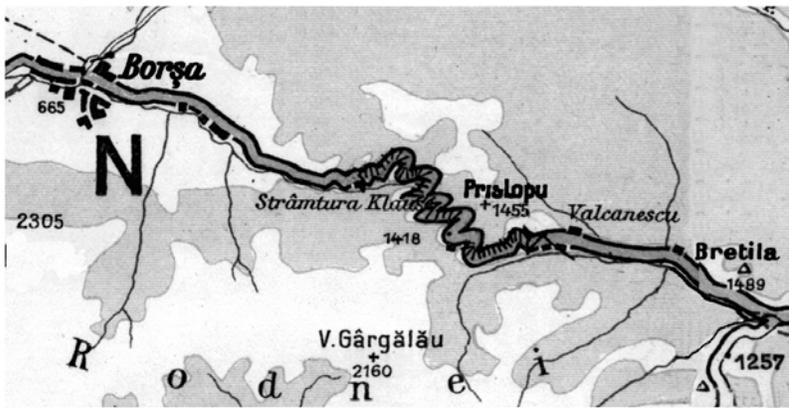


Zooming in (and with post-war place names) to the southern tip of Galicia:

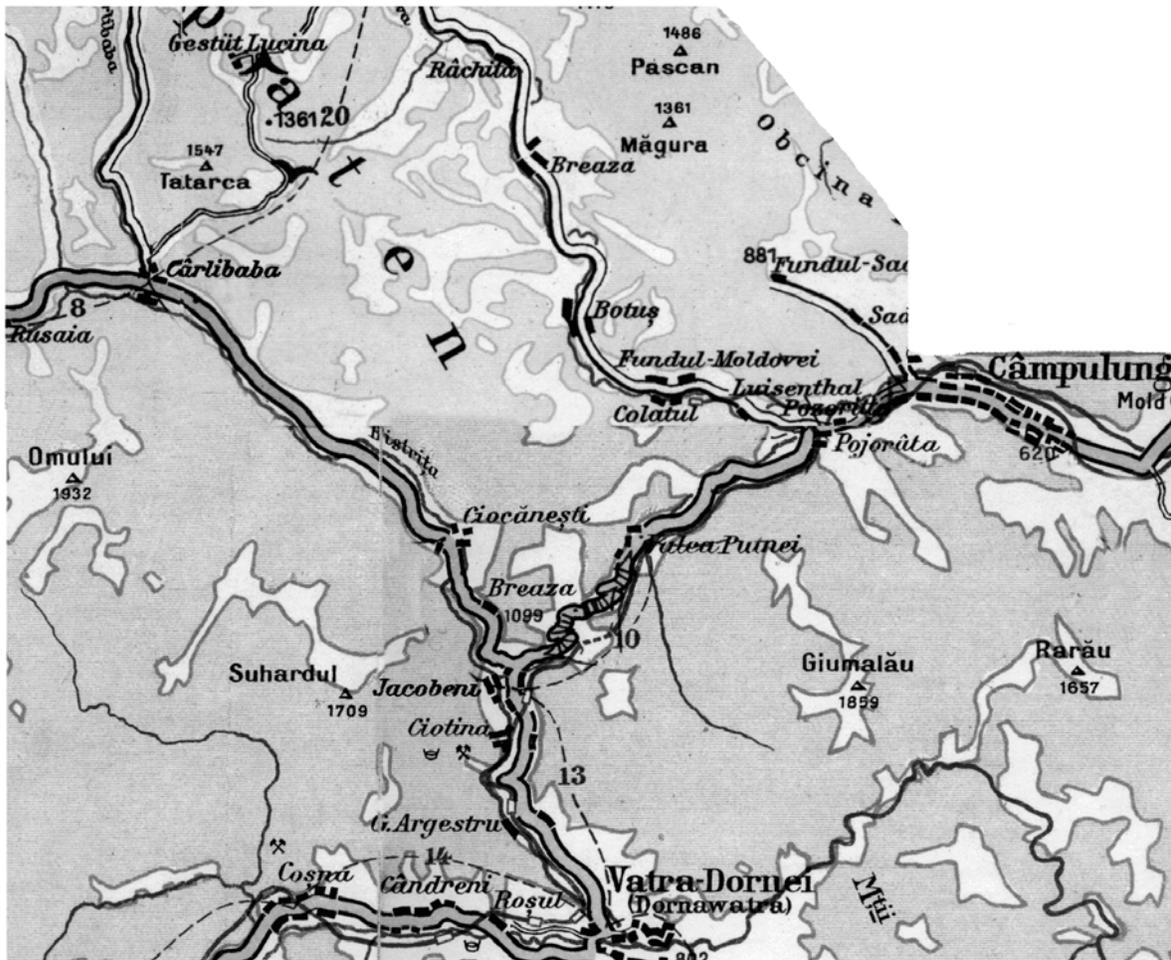


Another sketch map might help: G = Galicia; H = Hungary; B = Bukovina; T = Transylvania; M = Moldavia. The towns shown are: 1 = Kolomea; 2 = Szigeth; 3 = Czernowitz; 4 = Kampulung; 5 = Bistriz. [The Editor apologises if he has named a town in a politically-inappropriate language!]





Continued on  
section below



The narrow-gauge line (760mm) was built in a hurry shortly after 1914 by the Austro-Hungarian Army, using the manpower of the Russian POWs. It was connected to the normal line at the railway stations of Borsa and Jakobeny (13 km N of Dorna-Watra), thus linking the existing railway lines Visóvölgy - Borsa (55 km, opened 18.9.1913) and Kimpolung - Dorna-Watra (opened 28.10.1902). Built along the Bistrița Aurie river (Árany Beszterce in Hungarian, translated as Golden Bistritz), with a maximum of declivity at the Prislop Pass (1416 m) of 7mm/m (*in British Rail terms 1 in 19.23*), the line was 80 km long,

52 km in Transylvania and 28km in Bucovina. It crossed the border at Karlibaba. The route is shown on the modern road map on the previous page.

Its strategic character was surely of great importance during the war, taking into account that all the Russian occupations of Bucovina (Nov 1914 - Feb 1915 and Sep 1916 - July 1917) stopped on the heights along the eastern bank of the Golden Bistritz, on a line East of Kirlibaba - East of Jakobeny (Mestecăniș peak), thus never occupying the Dorna-Watra district. Therefore, between September 1916 and July 1917 during the most difficult months, the railway line provided the military supplies from the Hinterland directly to the Bucovinian frontlines.

The table below lists all the available information on the localities and railway stations along the Prislobahn. The first column gives the Austrian/Hungarian names of the places before 1918; the second column the Romanian names of the places (where there are two names, the first is as in 1928, the second is the present-day one); the third column shows the railway stations still existing in 1928 (extracted from an 1928 auto atlas); and the last 2 columns give the abbreviations for the respective counties, before 1918 and today (MM = Máramaros (now Maramureș), BN = Beszterce-Naszód, BU = Bucovina, & SV = Suceava):

Name in 1918	Name 1928 / 2001	Stations 1928	1918	2001
Borsa	Borșa	Borșa	MM	MM
Gaurafantánu	Gaura Fântâni / Stațiunea Borșa	Gaura Fântâni	MM	MM
--	--	Prislop	MM	MM
--	--	Măgura	MM	MM
Irvaesului	-- / Șesuri	Irva Leșului	MM	SV
--	-- / Țibău	Țibău	MM	SV
Kirlibaba	Cârlibaba	Cârlibaba	BU	SV
Lajosfalva (Radnalajosfalva)	Cârlibaba Nouă		BN	SV
--	Valea Stânei		BU	SV
--	-- / Botoș		BU	SV
Czokanesti, Ciakanestie	Ciocănești		BU	SV
--	Breaza / --*		BU	SV
Jakobeny	Iacobeni	Iacobeni	BU	SV

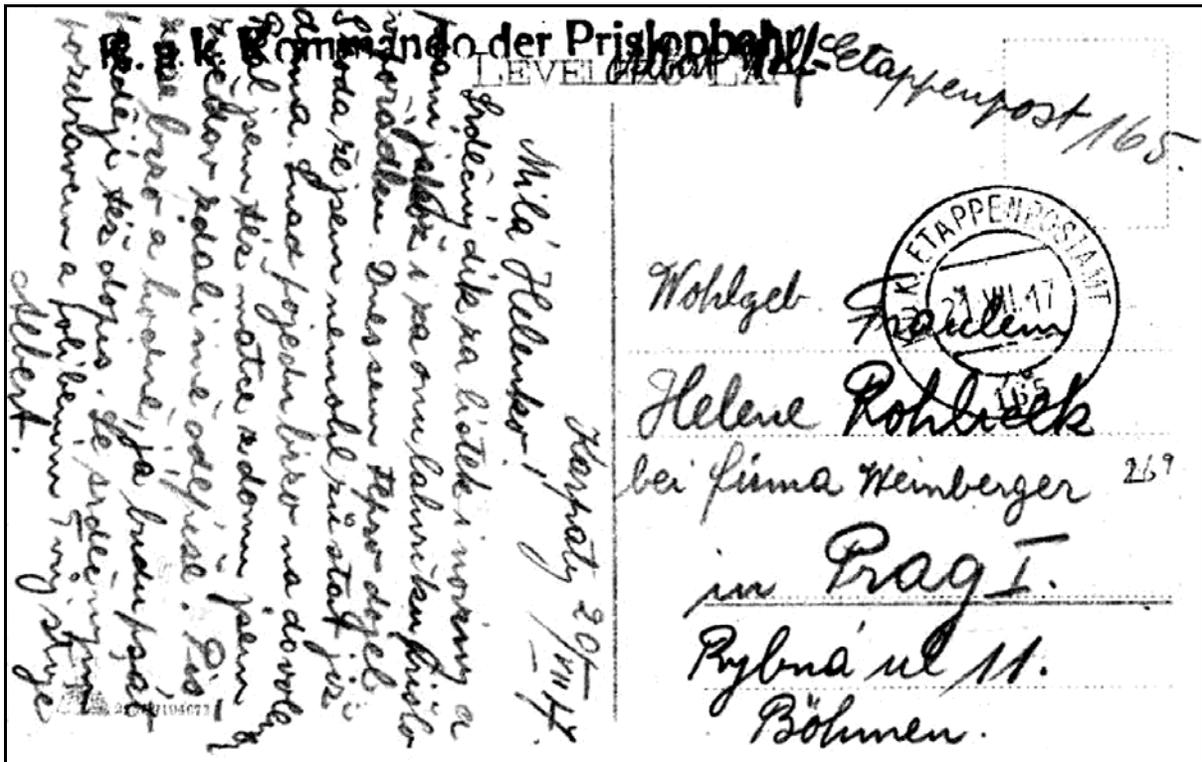
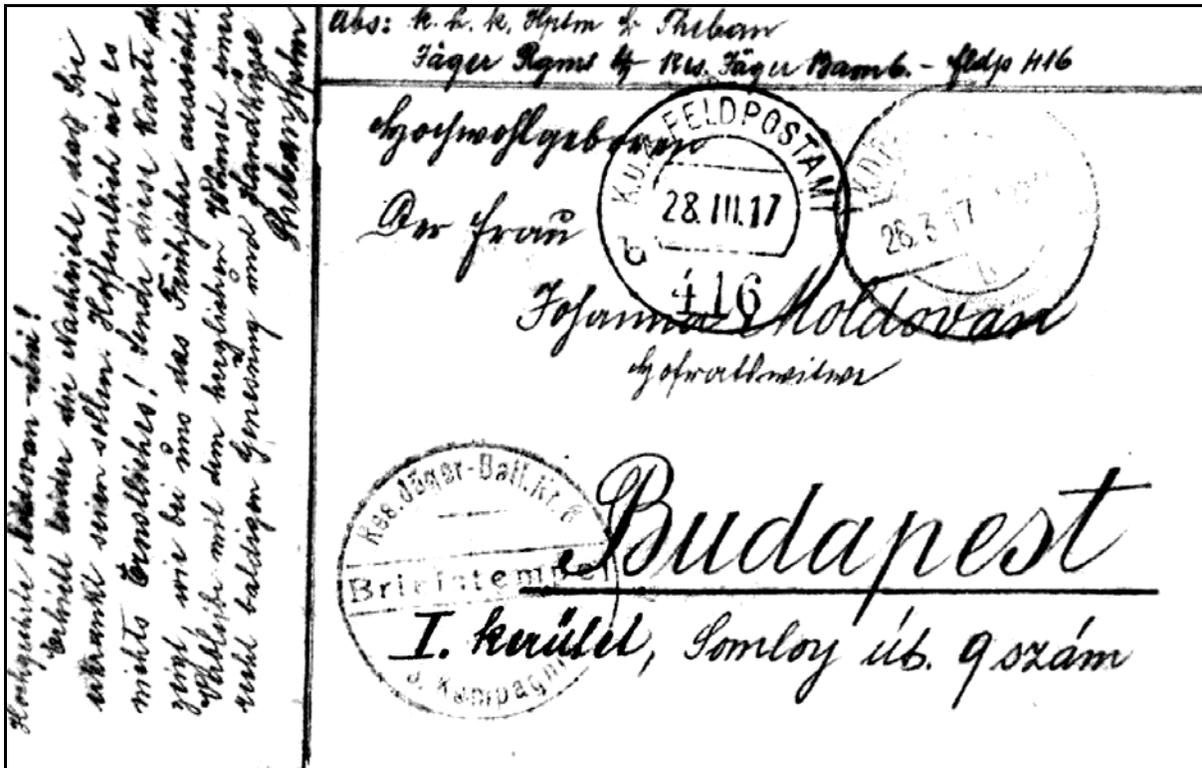
*\*today included in Ciocănești. Not to be confused with Breaza of the Moldova valley.*

The line was exploited exclusively by the Austro-Hungarian Army for its military transports. During the withdrawal at the end of the war, the Army took with all the locomotives and wagons (which were initially brought from Austria) and finally destroyed the line and the installations. Thus the line became unusable and was then completely dissolved in 1931 (as one can see in the table, the line and stations were still preserved as of 1928 only from Borsa to Kirlibaba).

The first illustration below shows both sides of a contemporary photo depicting the charm and difficulty of the Prislopbahn's route. Entitled Prislop-Straße, the postcard presents the view of a segment of the line (possibly from the Prislop Pass area), which suggest (at least for this section) that the line was built along one side of the existing road, explaining the speed with which 80 km of line were built. On the other side of the road a few German soldiers march slowly in a fairy ambience with a lot of snow. The photo-postcard was sent by a German soldier of the 6th Reserve Jäger Battalion (from the 4th Jäger Regiment), through the Austrian Feldpostamt 416 and a German Feldpostamt, in 28.3.1917 (during the 2nd Russian occupation of Bucovina).

The second illustration is of a postcard sent from K.u.k. Kommando der Prislopbahn (=the Prislopbahn's command), through the Austrian Etappenpost 165, in 21.7.1917, at the end of the 2nd Russian occupation in Bucovina. One can now just speculate on the exact location of the EPA 165 and of the Prislopbahn's command (Dixon-Nuttall says it existed, but not where), but probably it was one of the places Borsa, Kirlibaba or Jakobeny.





# Austrian Pre-Franked (Postal Stationery) Postcards

## Chapter 2 - the inter-war years

By Henry White

The end of world war one and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire left Austria in turmoil, and in the following five years it was subject to very severe inflation. Postage rates of postcards had just been increased to 10H for internal mail, but were still only 10H for abroad (see Table I) - a very strange situation. This anomaly and level persisted even after the First Republic was formed on 12th November 1918 and issued its first PSC in 1919 with a 10H crimson imprint from the small definitive issue of that year. Stocks of the earlier monarchy issues were overprinted appropriately for use in the newly emerged independent countries of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania, Italy and Yugoslavia, whilst the 10H Imperial Crown and the 2H express stamps used to augment the 8H cards were, like the 1916 set of definitives, overprinted "**Deutschösterreich**" for the new Austrian democratic republic. But no sooner was the new 10H PSC available than inflation began to spiral, and postcard rates were raised to 25H at home and 40H abroad, and then on and on, ever upwards.

As in the early days of the monarchy, new PSCs used the same designs for the imprinted stamps as the current definitives. At first the small vertical shield on eagle (1919-1920) then the larger version (1921), but once again, following earlier practice, a separate design of an eagle arising from flames in a square format was developed in 1922 when the use of "Deutschösterreich" was forbidden. Thus although new values were introduced as the rates spiralled, only three designs were used during these five years of severe inflation.



Table I - Inflation-period postal rates							
Infl Prd	From	Postcard Postage Rate			Printed Rate		PS card values S = Single D = Double
		Inland *	Ausland local**	Ausland	Inland	Ausland	
a) Small eagle and shield issue							
I	1.9.18	10H		10H	3H	5H	10H S
II	15.1.20	25H		40H	10H	20H	25H S D 40H D UPU
III	15.4.20	50H		80H	20H	40H	50H S 80H S UPU
b) Large eagle and shield issue							
IV	1.2.21	1Kr		3Kr	40H	1Kr	1Kr S D
V	1.8.21	2Kr		6Kr	80H	2Kr	2Kr S D
c) Eagle above flames issue (all subsequent values in Kronen until period XIV which is Groschen)							
VI	1.12.21	5	12 ***	15	2	5	5 S D 15 D UPU
VII	1.5.22	12½	35	45	5	15	12½ S D
VIII	21.8.22	50	140	180	20	60	50 S D
IX	18.9.22	100	280	360	40	120	50+50 S 100 S
X	1.11.22	200	720	900	80	300	100+100 S 200 S D
XI	1.8.23	300	900	1200	100	400	100+200 S 300 S D
XII	1.12.23	500	1400	1800	100	600	500 S D
XIII	1.12.24	700	1800	2400	100	800	700 S D
XIV	1.3.25	7Gr	18Gr	24Gr	1Gr	8Gr	-----
* "Inland" included Germany until the Anschluß; Hungary till 31.12.21; Yugoslavia till 31.1.21; Czechoslovakia till 14.1.20; Liechtenstein till 31.1.21							
** Reduced local Ausland rates were introduced from 1.5.22 to Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Italy & Romania and, says Michel, from 1.12.24 to Poland							
*** This 12Kr rate is given only by Karasek (APS Lib 200 pg 114), and has never been seen "in the wild". Examples welcomed!							

The respective denominations were as given in Table I, incorporating the inflation periods and postage rates as set out in 'Austria' 111 p.17 with later corrections. Special cards for mail abroad, with UPU headings, were only made for the three values marked "UPU" (ie 40H, 80H & 15Kr). They are quite rare used, whether as halves or complete; Schneiderbauer does not quote a price for the 15Kr used.

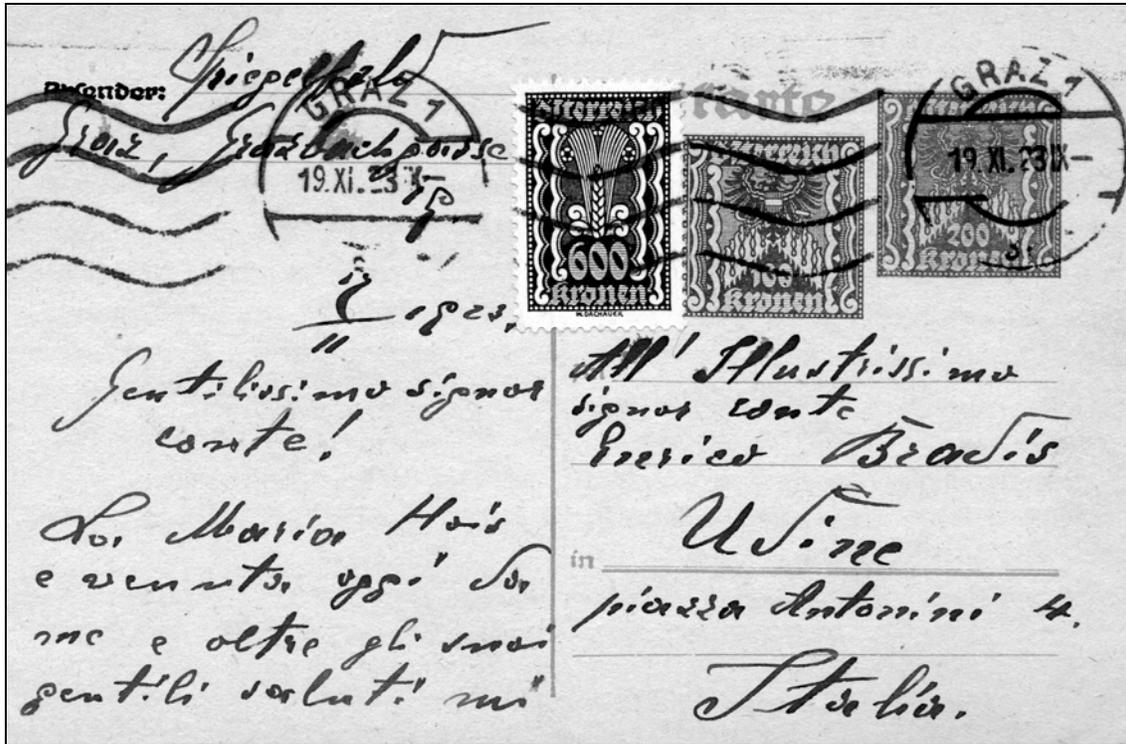
During this severe inflation period which saw the internal postcard rate rise 7000-fold (10H to 700Kr), the rate changes often followed very rapidly. Whilst the dates on which the changes occurred are completely documented, there are almost no precise dates for the issue of the new PSCs, nor for that matter for the corresponding definitive stamp to cater for the new rate. So it is entirely feasible that a new card did not appear in time before the rate had gone up again. This makes the collecting of used examples of single franked specimens used within the relevant periods very difficult, or maybe even impossible if the card was not available until after the next rate increase. Particularly difficult or impossible cards are the 12½, 50, 100 and 700 Kronen (the corresponding durations of these rates were 3½, 1, 1½ and 3 months). Conversely, most used examples of these cards occur with copious additions of adhesives to fit newer rates. Schneiderbauer does say that the 100Kr was only valid for six weeks, but this is the duration of the rate period IX and not the time that the 100Kr could have been used alone. With ten of these cards, it did become possible to use a single-franked card for printed matter as this cheaper rate caught up in later periods.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 1925, a new currency was introduced where 10,000 Kronen = 1 Schilling = 100 Groschen [*abbreviated Gr hereafter*] but the postage rate remained at 700Kr = 7Gr inland and 2,400Kr = 24Gr abroad for another seven months. So most 700Kr single franked cards exist used well after the end of the Kronen era, but as noted above are rare if used before 1<sup>st</sup> April 1925.

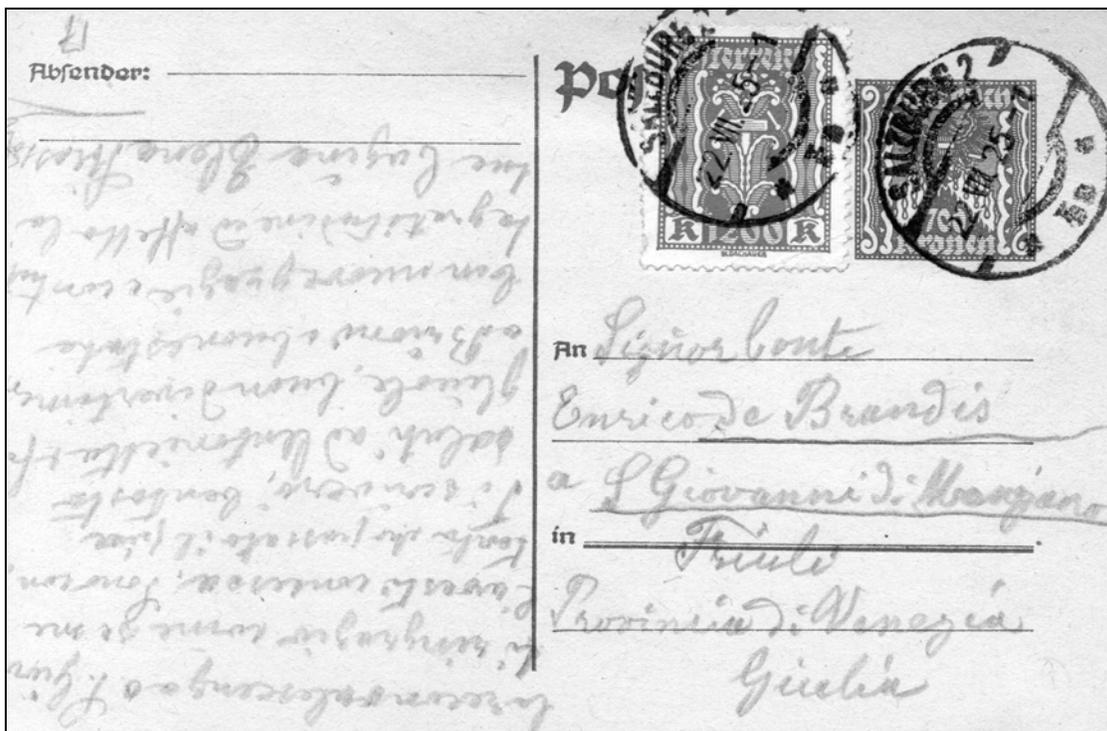
<b>Table II - Groschen-period postal rates</b>						
From	Postcard Postage Rate			Printed Rate		Swiss ** Border
	Inland	Ausland local	Ausland	Inland	Ausland	
1.3.1925	7Gr	18Gr	24Gr	1Gr	8Gr	16Gr
1.10.1925	8Gr	18Gr	24Gr	1Gr	8Gr	16Gr
1.12.1926	10Gr	18Gr	24Gr	2Gr	8Gr	16Gr
1.9.1932	12Gr	24Gr	30Gr	2Gr	8Gr	20Gr
1.5.1934	12Gr	25Gr	35Gr	3Gr	8Gr	25Gr

\*\* From 1.3.1925 special reduced rates were available for "local" mail going from specified offices in Western Austria to Eastern Switzerland, but the

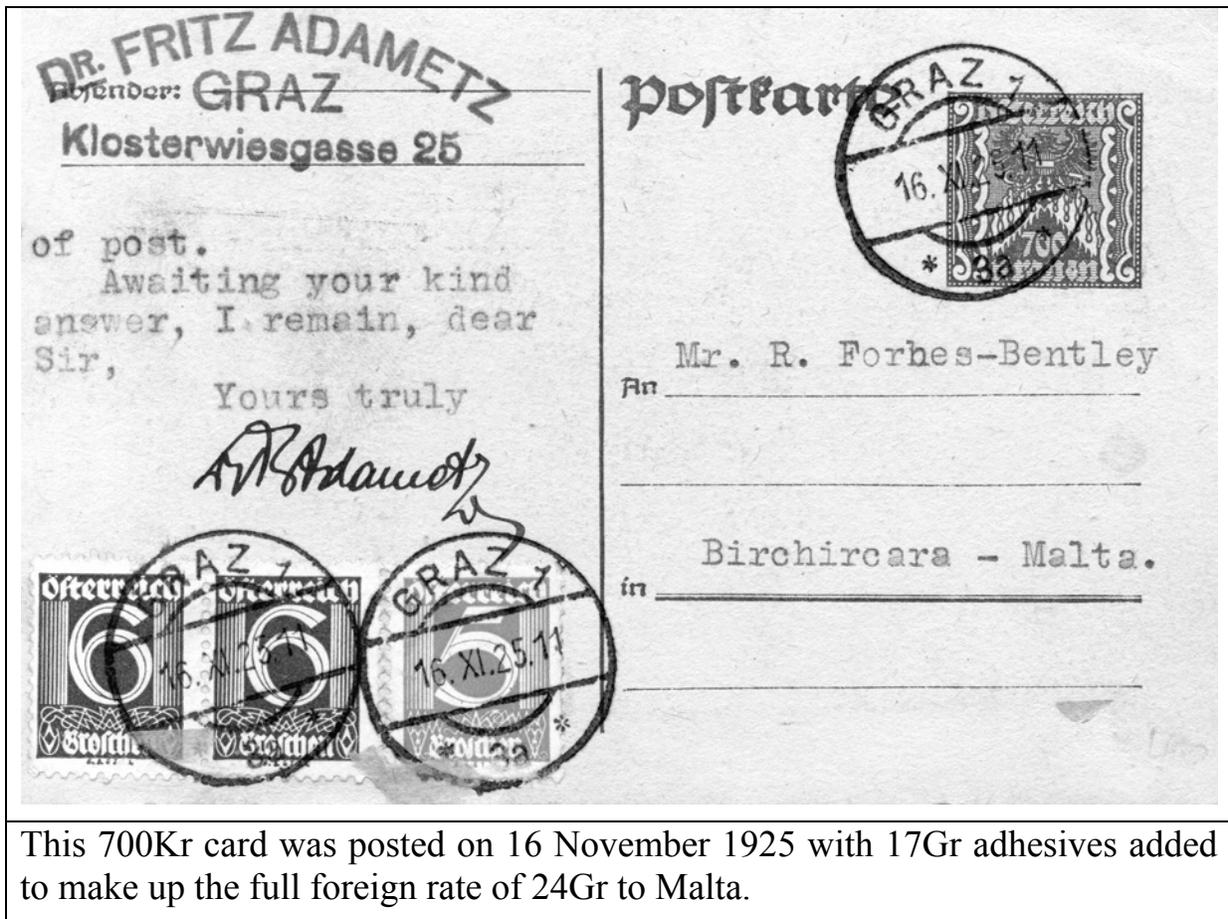
volume of such mail did not warrant special PSCs and none with these denominations were made.



This is a 200Kr card officially uprated to 300Kr by adding a 100Kr, with an additional 600Kr adhesive to make up the 900Kr Reduced Foreign rate to Udine in Italy on 19 Nov 1923.



This 700Kr card was posted on 22 July 1925 and shows a late usage of the 1200Kr adhesive to make up the 18Gr Reduced Foreign rate to Friuli.



This 700Kr card was posted on 16 November 1925 with 17Gr adhesives added to make up the full foreign rate of 24Gr to Malta.

### *The Schilling currency period*

The introduction of the new currency seemed to liberate and rejuvenate the production of PSCs, though postage rates still went on escalating. Plain cards with a stylised single headed eagle as imprint and a Gothic "Postkarte" heading were introduced in 1925 in both single and double (ie reply) versions. There were individual cards for the postal rates then operating, viz. 8Gr for inland mail, 18Gr for the special reduced rate for neighbouring countries (see Table II above) and 24Gr for full rate Ausland mail. The Inland rate of 7Gr only existed for seven months and a 7Gr card was never made, hence the profusion of 700Kr cards used after 1.3.25; it remained valid until 30.6.26 according to Schneiderbauer. Initially these plain cards had just a single line at top left for the sender's address; then 'Absender' and 2 lines; and finally 'Absender' and no line. See illustration below.

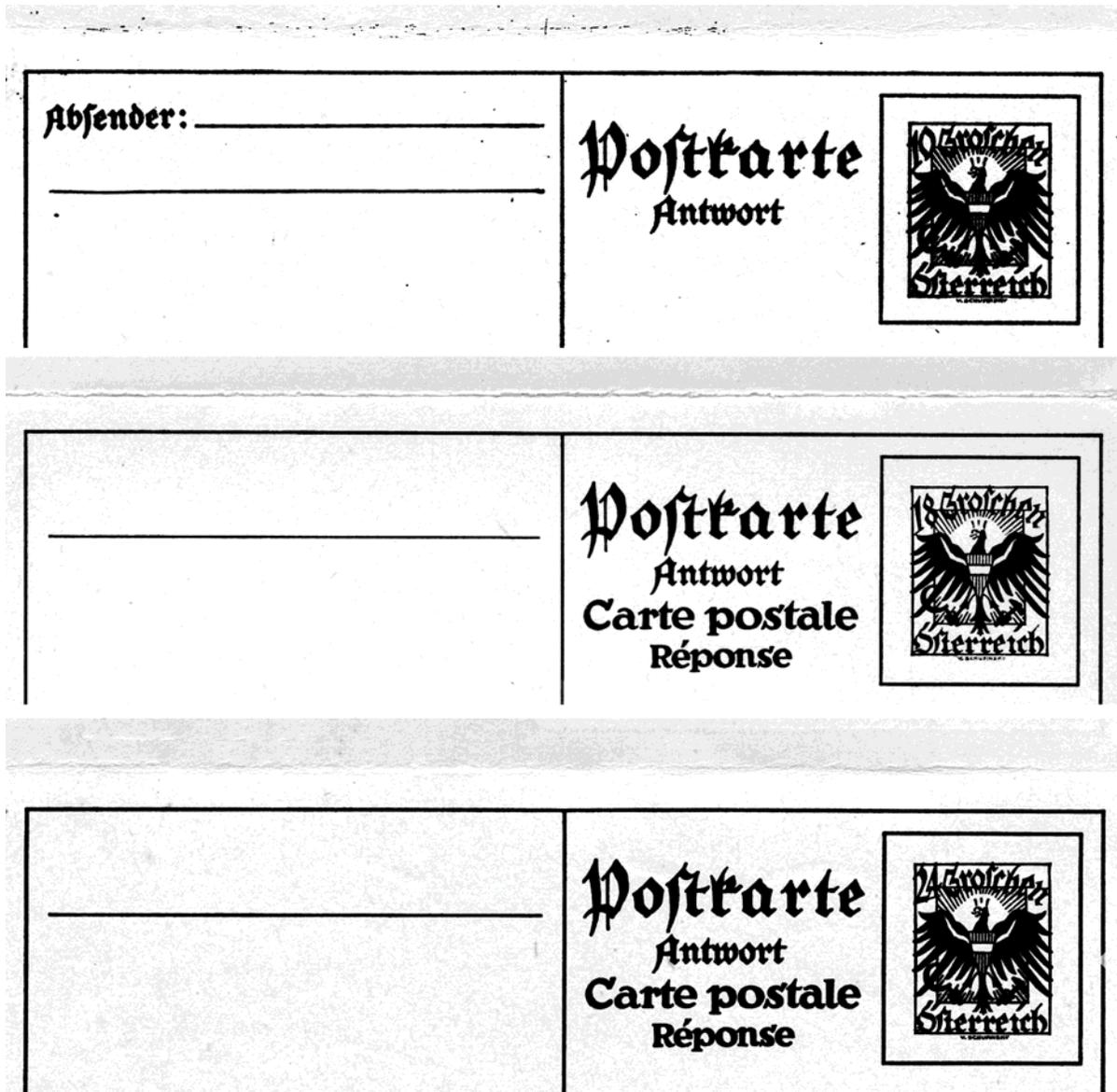


**Postkarte**  
mit bezahlter Antwort  
**Carte postale**  
avec réponse payée



No specific UPU cards were made but the reply cards had 'mit bezahlter Antwort' under Postkarte on the 10Gr and a further 'Carte Postale/ avec réponse payée' on the 18Gr and 24Gr since these were

intended for despatch abroad. The 'answer' sides are illustrated on the next page. Schneiderbauer does not draw attention to these extra texts when listing the reply cards.



In 1934, the single-headed eagle imprint was replaced by a more elaborate double-headed version.



Thus, taking into account the postage rate increases in Table Ia, these plain cards and their changes may be tabulated as in Table II; an example follows...

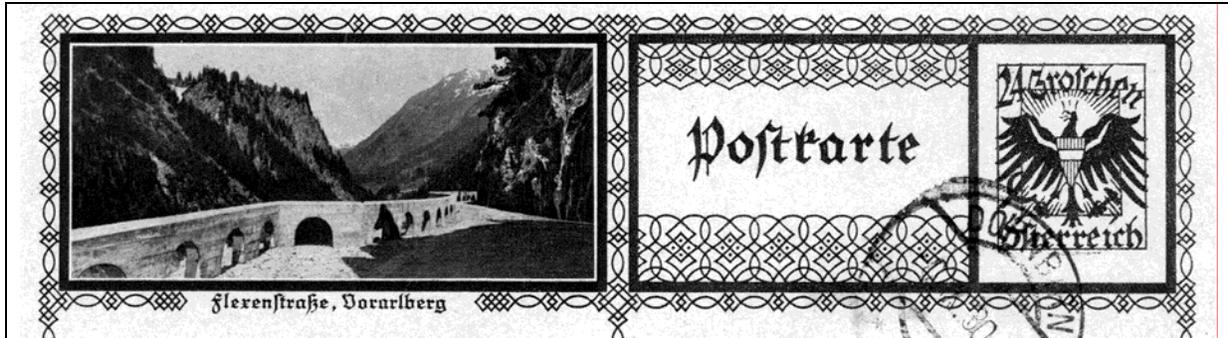
Table II: Plain PSC cards issued from 1925 to 1938				
'Sender' layout →	Single-headed eagle			Double-headed eagle; A + no lines
	One line	A + 2 lines	A + No lines	
8Gr	S <sup>25</sup> D <sup>25</sup>			
10Gr	S <sup>26</sup>	S <sup>27</sup> D <sup>27</sup> *		
12Gr		S <sup>32</sup> D <sup>32</sup>	S <sup>34</sup> D <sup>34</sup>	S <sup>34.5</sup> D <sup>34.5</sup>
18Gr	S <sup>25</sup> D <sup>25</sup>			
24Gr	S <sup>25</sup> D <sup>25</sup>	D <sup>32</sup>		
30Gr		D <sup>32</sup>		

The superscripts are the years of issue. \* = on either buff or yellowish card

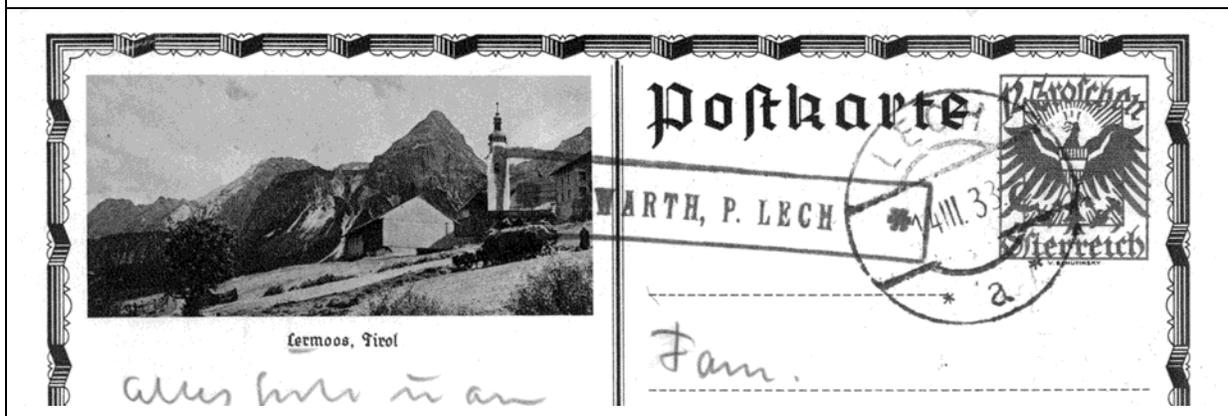


In 1927 and 1928 respectively, special 10Gr cards were issued to commemorate the centenaries of the births of Beethoven and Schubert. As in the case of the Franz Josef Jubilee cards, the backs were completely occupied by the pictures, i.e. there was no space for any message. There were no special cancellations.

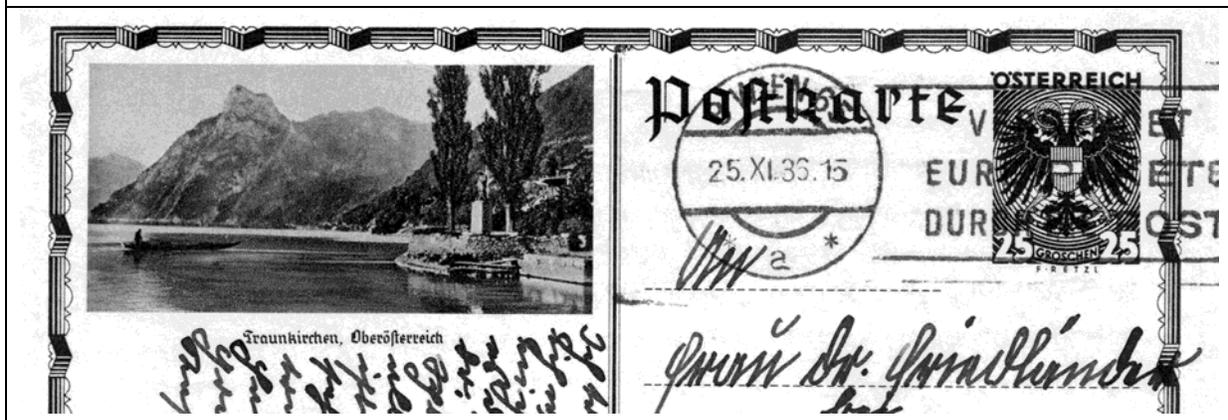
But by far the largest effect of the new currency was the introduction of picture-bearing PSCs, not only for the higher denominations (where a tourist advertising emphasis might have been expected), but also on the Inland version, notable the 10Gr brown which is without question the most popular PSC of this era. Four changes in format were made in the eleven years they were issued:



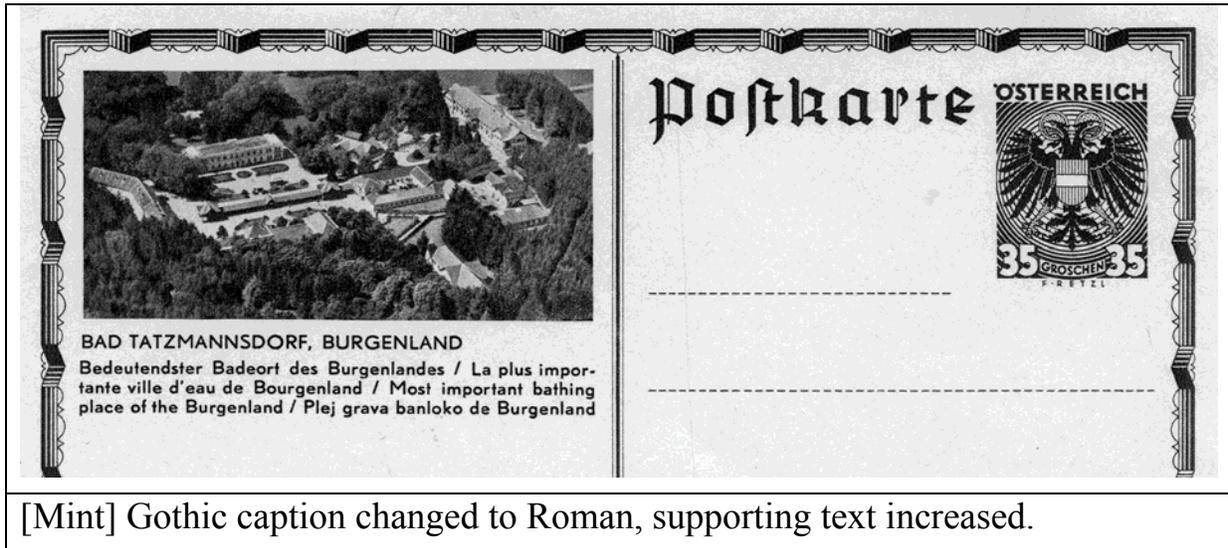
[8.9.30 Dornbirn to Rohrsach:] A whole framed strip printed across the top of the card, with a popular view in the left half and 'Postkarte' & the stamp on the right, all within a decorative outer frame.



[Warth, Postablage of Lech {very late usage!} to Berlin 14.3.33:] Changed design, dropping the solid lines around the picture, Postkarte and stamp but strengthening the outer decorative frame.



[Wien to Czechoslovakia 25.11.36] Stamp design changed to the double-headed eagle, with a Gothic caption below the picture.



[Mint] Gothic caption changed to Roman, supporting text increased.

These were only issued as single cards. Again, we tabulate these pictorial cards and their issues in Table IV.

<b>Table IV: 1925 - 1935 Pictorial PSC cards</b>				
Value	Whole strip	Partial strip	Double-headed eagle	
			Gothic	Roman
10Gr	S			
12Gr		S	S	S
18Gr	S			
24Gr	S	S		
25Gr			S	S
30Gr		S		
35Gr			S	S
Dates:	1927	1932	1934.5	1936.7

There is a very peculiar feature to these pictorial cards. Whereas the plain cards were printed in one strike, with the pictorials the picture and heading were printed separately from the stamp. This gives at least three major differences in colour of the first 10, 18 and 24Gr; and given enough examples it would be

possible to stretch this to several more. Strangely it is in the imprinted stamp where the differences are greatest; the broader variations are shown in Table V.

Table V: Pictorial card colour variations						
(Sch)	10Gr		18Gr		24Gr	
	Stamp	Picture	Stamp	Picture	Stamp	Picture
'o'	v. dark brown	Dark brown	Dark olive	v. dark olive	Brown-red	Brown-red
'a'	Brown	Dark brown	Light grey	Dark green	Venetian red	Brown red
'b'	Light brown	Mid brown	Olive green	Olive green	Scarlet	Scarlet

Here 'o', 'a' & 'b' correspond to Schneiderbauer's numbering. Whilst 'o' & 'a' are on buff card and 'b' is on cream, this is in no way responsible for such large variations.

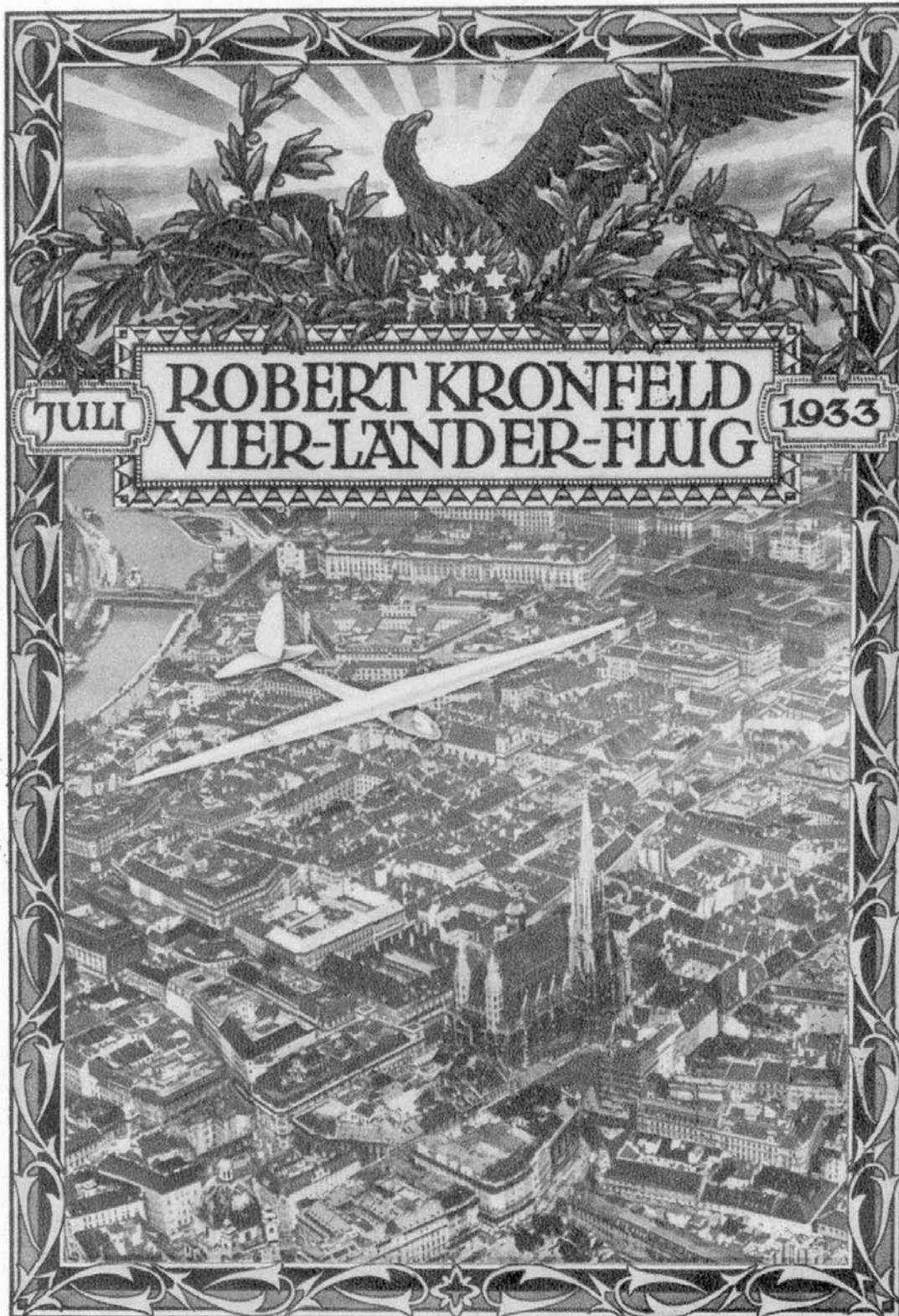
These pictorial cards were issued in sets of 20-30 with different views, so that the number of combinations of type, denomination and picture runs into hundreds. Examples of the higher values (as in the case of the plain cards) are relatively rare and command high prices.

This took the ordinary cards up to the Anschluß of 1938 when German PSCs took over. Two of the Austrian double-headed eagle PSCs were overprinted with 6pf and a swastika, but these are only listed by Schneiderbauer as unused.



However there were some more official special issue PSCs. In addition to the Beethoven and Schubert cards, there was a set of three cards to celebrate the "Four Lands" glider flight by Robert Kronfeld in 1933 with the 12, 24 and 30Gr single-headed

Eagle imprint, plus the 2Schillings air mail imprint of ANK484. Adhesives appropriate to the destination were also added, and items were "posted" at WIPA1933 before the actual flights on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> July 1933. The picture side is shown below.



R. Junk

Phot. Österr. Lichtbildstelle

There was also an airmail card in 1936 with a 20Gr double-headed eagle in blue on a light blue card with an imprinted frame for additional adhesives. It is shown below as used for the inaugural Vienna to Salzburg flight 20-4-1936.



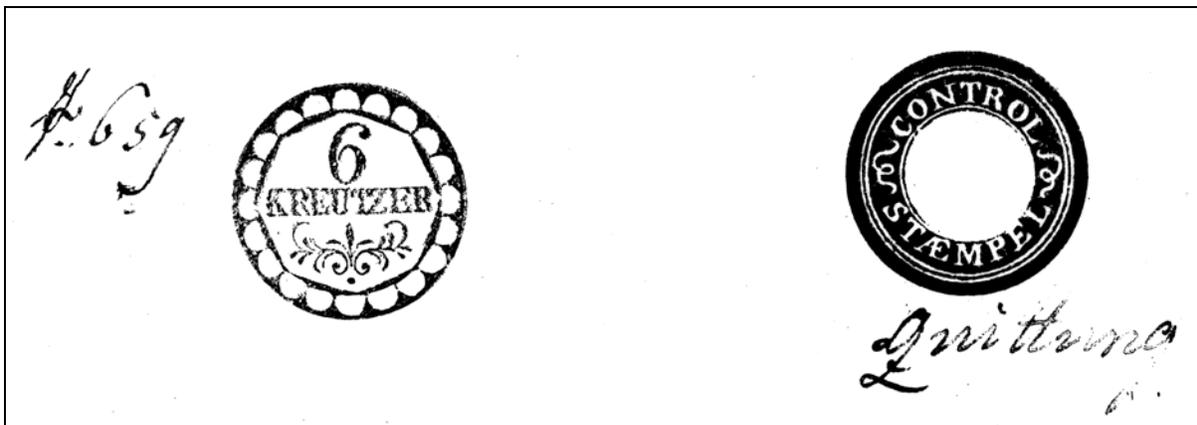
This completes the PSC review to 1938. Salvatore Rizza has described the pictorial sets from the Anschluß period in 'Austria' 136. The post-war period will be covered in a later chapter once the author and the editor have found a convenient way to cover the multitude of issues, minor changes of layout, and the resurgent inflation which followed WWII. This article has also deliberately omitted the pneumatic mail postal stationery which has been covered by A H Godden in 'Austria' 14 and 58. [And for which a major new article is scheduled for late 2002. Ed]

## Cantfest 2001 - Displays

### *John L. Whiteside - Revenue Stamped Paper. 1802-1817*

A new and much extended series of 14 values of Stamped Paper was initiated by the Patent of Oct. 1802. At first, the Paper used was overwhelmingly Vorrats Papier, or paper supplied from stock from Vienna. The six lowest values were re-engraved in 1807; the display showed the 6 kreuzer value as representative.

In 1809, Austria and France went to war and the French occupied several provinces. In Niederösterreich, capital Vienna, Stamped Paper was issued and used under French Occupation between 1 Sept and 20 Oct. The occupation paper was used with a distinctive control mark. The item shown below is the top of a receipt for 35 gulden 50 kreuzer, taxed at 6 kreuzer for the receipt tax from 25-100 gulden. It is signed at Vienna and dated 28 7bris 1809. [7bris is September and the last 4 months of the year were often written 7bris, 8bris, 9bris and 10bris.] It is thus within the French Occupation period of 7 weeks.

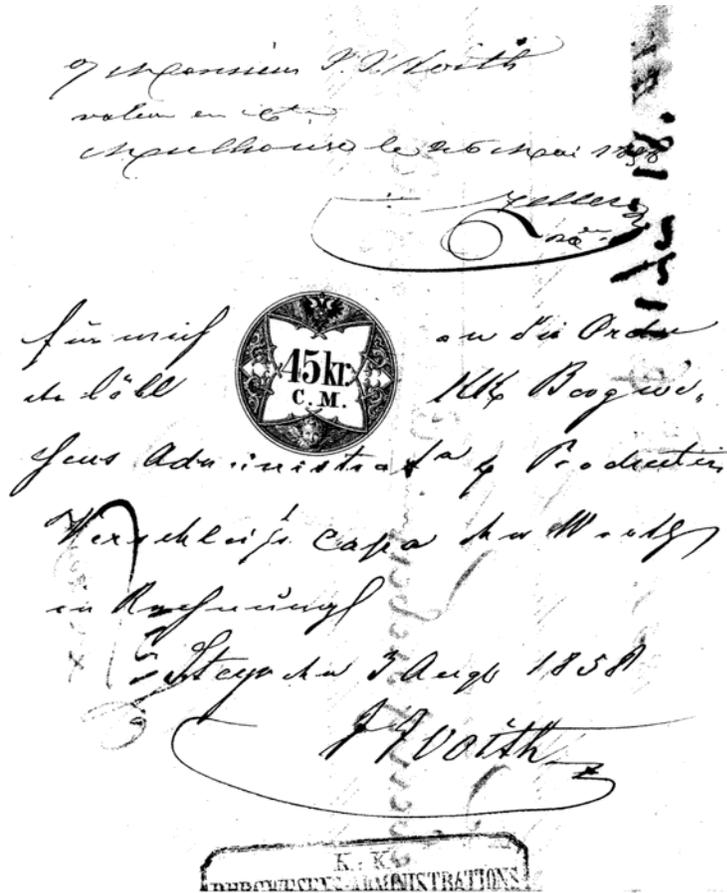


As a result of the Treaty of Vienna, the Kingdom of Illyria was set up and Occupation Paper with a special control mark was used there for about 18 months. Part of the province of Upper Austria was occupied by the Bavarians, as allies of France, and Bavarian Paper was used there until 1816.

After the French Occupation, from 1810, a control mark was applied to Stamped Paper and the Vorrats Papier dropped almost entirely out of use and was replaced by Paper stamped on demand at the Provincial Tax Offices. At the Galician office of Lemberg, there was an additional phenomenon, as a different Control Stamp was employed. The display illustrated the above topics briefly in 18 sheets. (Note - an item was shown in this display with the month shown as "Hornung". This is an old name for February, which seems to have fallen out of use circa 1820.)

## *John L. Whiteside - Bills of Exchange, 1854 to 1918*

Following the issue of adhesive Revenue stamps in 1854, these were used on Bills of Exchange according to a special scale laid down for this purpose. Most of the bills shown were foreign bills from France or Canton Basel payable in Austria and so having two taxes, a foreign and an Austrian one. The rather resplendent form illustrated opposite is the front of a Bill of Exchange written at Basel on 4 May 1858 for payment in Vienna in 3 months on 4 Aug for 1177



gulden 18 kreuzer B.V. (= C.M. currency). This can be shown to be equivalent to 3059.41 Swiss francs. For Canton Basel, the duty for sums of 2001-4000 fr was 80 rappen (or centimes) as is shown by the handstamp. In Austria, the Bill duty for 1001-1500 gulden was 45 kreuzer C.M. and an adhesive for this sum has been applied on the other side, shown here.

After the currency was altered in Nov 1858, an interim scale was in use for a few months and one example of this was shown. In the latter part of 1859, a new scale was introduced, such that 3 kr. C.M. was equal to

6.25 kr. Ö.W. This lasted until around 1865 and, from around 1860, bill forms with a tax impression were put into use, though of course adhesive stamps could still be used.

Around 1865, a new scale of Bill taxes was introduced, which greatly simplified the charges. The basis was 10 kr. per 120 gulden. Bill forms in the new values were employed, and around 1871 these were replaced by a completely new design. About 1875 the scale was changed so that the basis now became 10 kr. per 150 gulden. A new issue of Bill forms was produced around 1878 in the same design as that of 1871, but the tax details were now printed at the left of the impression. Two further issues of Bills in entirely new designs were used from about 1880 and 1889 respectively.



### ***Henry White - a postcard from Bosnia and Herzegovina***

As a continuation of his collection from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Henry White extended his study of postal rates to the reverse of the picture postcards to provide "a postcard from Bosnia and Herzegovina" by comparing the scenes with the postmarks where the cards had originated. The selection had been made as broad as possible to include scenes, not just from Sarajevo and Mostar, but also from lesser places such as Srebrenica which had figured recently and so tragically in recent fighting. The earliest examples came from the late 1890s when postage was paid by the 2Kr yellow Type 2 arms issue, and went on to the 10H 1912 Franz Josef issue. He noted that as WWI had developed and PPCs diminished, examples with the 10H Emperor Charles were not at all common.

### ***Henry White - Anschluß assortment***

For his second display, Henry White showed an assortment of items from the German occupation of Austria 1938-45, such as the propaganda material put out by Kurt von Schuschnigg for the independence of Austria and Hitler for its annexation. Other areas showed the Germanification of Austrian postal material, and the introduction in 1944 of the Greater Germany Post Code system (in which East Austria was 12a and West Austria 12b). Two unusual items were covers posted in mobile post offices "Fahrendes Postamt" and a cover from the Kommandatur of the Waffen SS Feldpost post at the Mauthausen concentration camp.

### ***Joyce Boyer - Innsbruck Olympics; Trans-Tirol-TPOs***

The first will appear as a Thematic article in a later issue; the second is elsewhere in this issue.

### ***Geoff Frost - Italian Occupation of Austria***

The Italian troops occupied Venezia Giulia and they arrived in Trieste in the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1918. During the first days of occupation some correspondence went through the military FP0. On 11<sup>th</sup> November the Italians ordered the overprinting of stamps of the Austrian Empire and these were used until December 12<sup>th</sup> of that year when the two most widely used Italian stamps were overprinted with values in heller. As there were no postage dues available and any Austrian stamp coming into the occupied areas was taxed, a number of locally produced overprints were used. There were also local issues of overprints on Austrian stamps for Bozen, Duf Rentsch and Bozen Gries on Austrian stamps but these are of doubtful validity. There were also stamps

printed by the Merano Chamber of Commerce on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1918, for local use and these are usually used in conjunction with the current Italian stamps. In 1919 the Italian introduced their standard series overprinted Venezia Giulia and Venezia Tridentina, first in Austrian currency and then in Italian currency at the rate of 40 cent to 1 Austrian kroner. These stamps were in use until the end of 1922 when normal un-overprinted Italian stamps came into general use.

### ***James Hooper - Kinderdorf Weihnachtsballonpost***

The History of the Kinderdorf Balloon Post can be found in 'Austria' Number 134 pp10-61. The 23 page display is of the complete [*at date of display! Ed*] Weihnachtsballonpost (ie Christmas Balloon Post). The first flight of this series was on 9<sup>th</sup> December 1961, and there has been a flight every year since then. The latest was flight 40 and took place on 3rd December 2000. All these covers carry the special Christmas balloon post label, a balloon boarding cachet and the special Christmas cancel for Christkindl. Most of the flights took off from Christkindl. From the third flight on, all the covers had the addition of a cachet at bottom left giving details of the flight. These were location of take-off, date and time of take off, time of landing and place, max height reached by balloon, name of balloon and pilot, and distance flown. Flight 31 was the first to be cancelled by bad weather, and 36, 38, and 39 were the only others to be thus cancelled. Flight 4 was the shortest flight of only 800 metres. Flight 17 was the longest of 91 Km.

### ***James Hooper - The Austrian Inflation Issues***

This is an ongoing collection of the inflation issues of some 120 sheets at present with several more still to be written up. This is a collection showing how the stamp issues have evolved with the increasing postal rates. This includes the postage stamp issues throughout the period, the postal rates as in Michel (JH believes some of these to be incorrect). Postcards, letters, express mail, registered items, printed matter material all from home or abroad, and some local mail items were featured.

During the inflation period, the postcard rate went from 10h to 8g, an increase of 800%; foreign postcard rate 10h to 24g, an increase of 2400%; letter rate 20h to 15g, an increase of 650%; foreign letter rate 25h to 40g, an increase of 1600%; registered fee 25h to 30g, an increase of 1200%; foreign registered fee 25g to 60g, an increase of 2400%; express fee 60h to 20g, a increase of 333%; and foreign express fee 120h to 80g, an increase of 667%!

## *Lindy Bosworth - WWI Military Matters*

Lindy's shorter display was of WWI military cards, covering patriotic cards; siege of Przemysl; airship station cachets; "Gott Strafe England"; regimental cachets; civilian reply cards to soldiers; undeliverable mail; "I am well" cards; sterilised, epidemic and disinfected mail.

Her longer display was on **The Austro-Hungarian Navy** - your Editor hopes to persuade her to convert her write-up into an illustrated article...

## *Geoff Richardson - Tag der Briefmarke*

Geoff observed that The Day of the Postage Stamp is meant to be more than a festive event for philatelists. It was Edwin Müller who suggested, in the spring of 1935, that the Birthday of Dr. Heinrich von Stephen on 7th Jan 1831 should be commemorated in 1936 by a special stamp day. Austria itself did not issue such special stamps during the period of the First Republic, and it was really during the Anschluss period, of 1938 to 1945, that Austria first participated in the "Day of the Postage Stamp" as Nazi Germany had eagerly accepted the concept of "Der Tag der Briefmarke".



However at first, Germany simply used special cancellations, then progressed to the production of semi-official postcards for use with these special cancellations

and then finally issued four special "Stamp Day" values before Austria regained its independence. Austria restarted its postage services in the difficult days of 1945 and it was not until 13/14<sup>th</sup> December 1947 that a special commemorative cancellation, for "Tag der Briefmarke Wien 1" appeared. No such strike was used in 1948 but on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1949 the first Austrian "Stamp Day" emission appeared.

Since that date, with only a few exceptions, there has been issued each year a beautifully designed and well-executed surcharged stamp for the "Tag der Briefmarke". This series of special stamps may be considered particularly as a continuing essay upon Austrian postal history and upon the production and collection of Austrian stamps. The themes chosen for Stamp Day issues fall into three main categories: Philately; Postal History; and Post Offices.

### ***John Cottrell - 'The Theatre in Austria' and 'Balloons & Airmail Prior to 1914'***

These appear elsewhere in this issue as separate articles.

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Frohe Weihnachten und ein  
glückliches neues Jahr!

 **Post.at**

# Trans Tirol TPOs

By Joyce Boyer

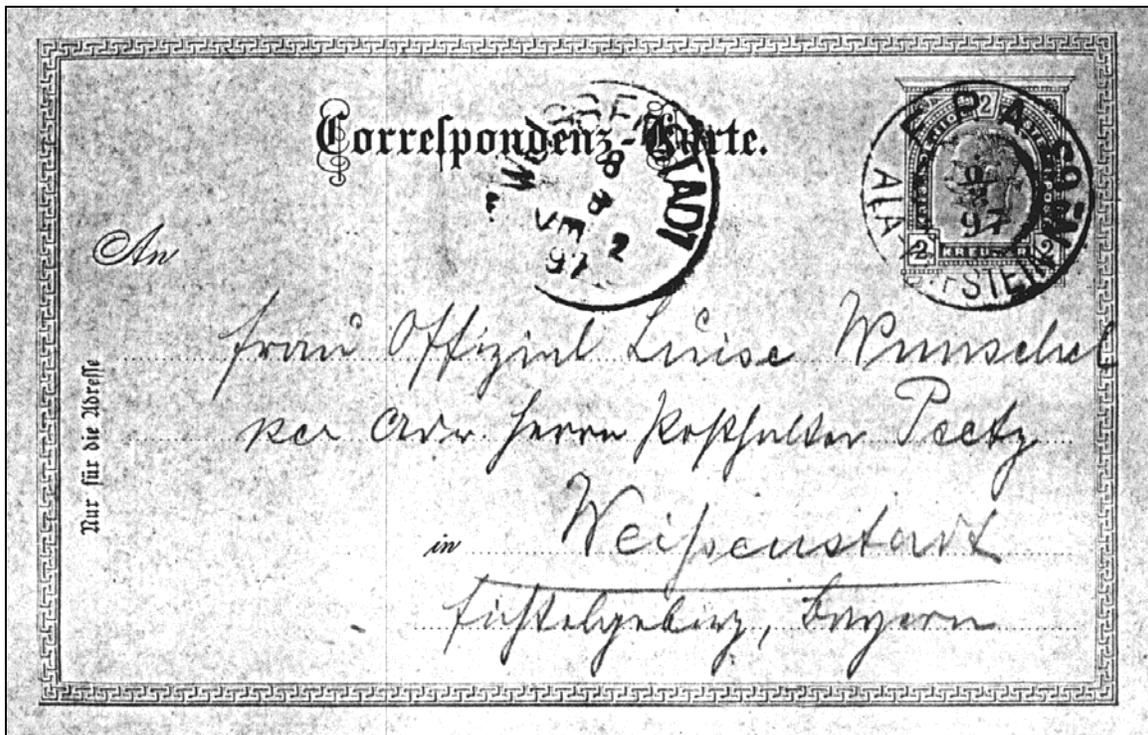
The railway lines from Kufstein (on the German Border) to Innsbruck and Bozen to Ala (on the Italian border) were opened in 1858. The line over the Brenner Pass linking the two lines was not completed until 1867. A Travelling Post Office has been used on this line and this article (based on my 4-sheet display at Canterbury) shows examples of the cancellations used.



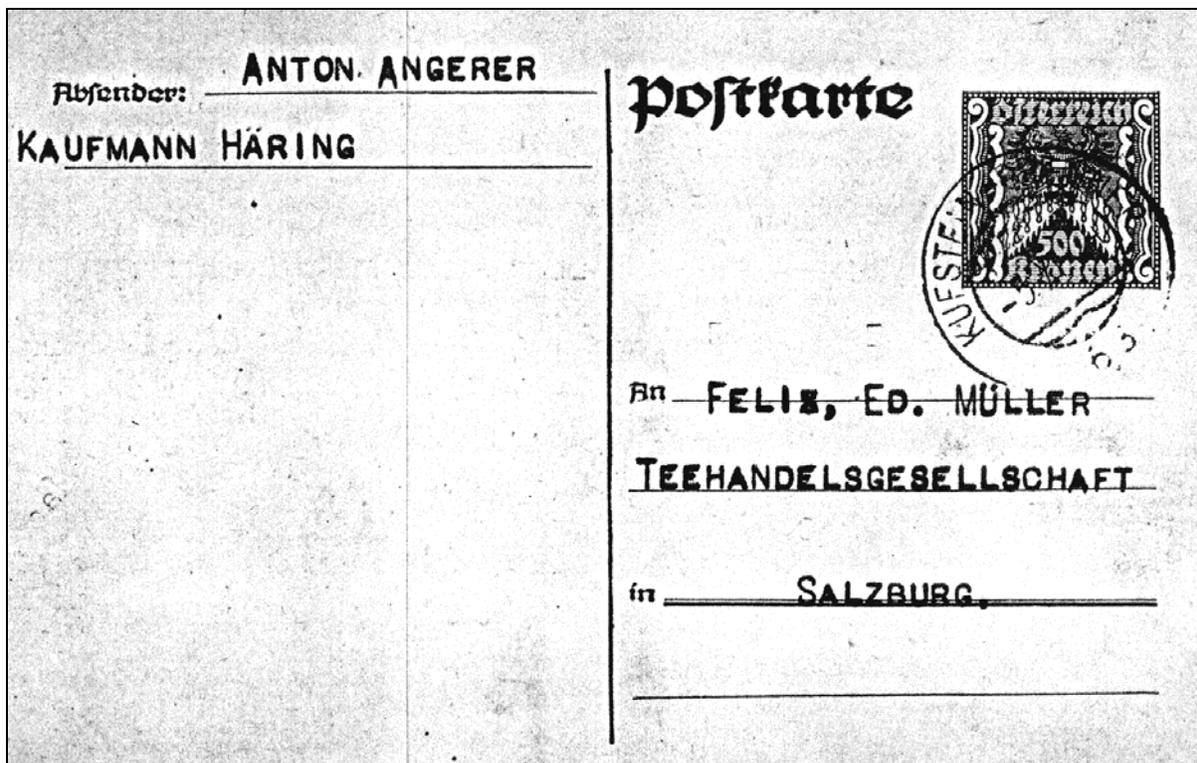
The cancellation K.K.Post Ambulance No. 15 indicates that the above card was carried on the Ala to Kufstein train on 23 April 1876. By 1888 the cancellation for the same route had changed to F.P.A.No.61 as shown below.



Later the cancellation was changed to give details of the route, Ala - Kufstein, in addition to the train number, 63, as shown on this card.



The Peace Treaty in 1919 transferred South Tirol to Italy, so the southern terminus became Brenner. The revised cancellation is on this 1924 card.

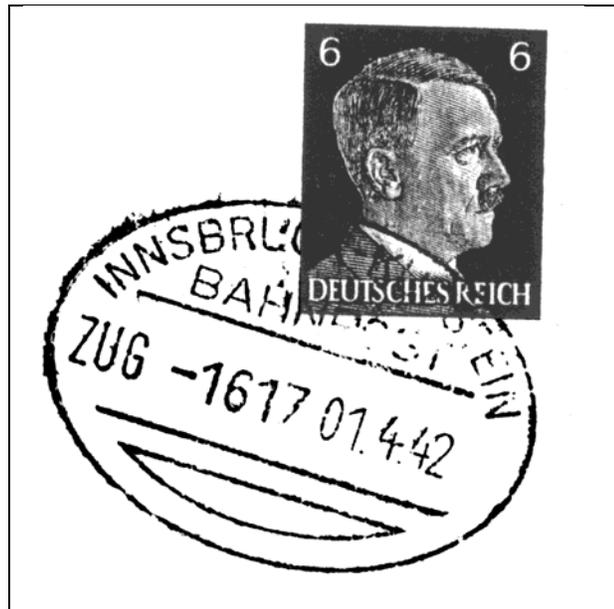


The route passes through Innsbruck where many mail trains terminate. Shown below are examples of the cancellation that was used on each section of line,

Gries am Brenner - Innsbruck (no number but a post-horn in the cancellation) and Innsbruck - Kufstein No.281 both dated 1931.



The Travelling Post Office continued to be used between Innsbruck and Kufstein during the Anschluss Period. Shown below are examples of the Austrian cancellation used in April 1941 on train number 63, and the German cancellation for train 1617 a year later.



An example of the post war Austrian cancellation Innsbruck - Kufstein 310, dated August 1959 is shown here.

spacer page

## The Theatre in Austria

By John Cottrell <sup>1</sup>

The theatre blossomed in Vienna when Empress Maria Theresa granted the use of an unused ballroom on the Michaelerplatz, part of the Hofburg, for the "Theater nächst der Burg" in 1741. Her son Joseph II promoted it to the "Deutsches Nationaltheater"; it opened on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1776. A new Burgtheater was built on the Ring in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to an elaborate late Renaissance design by Hasenauer and Semper. It was formally opened on October 14<sup>th</sup> 1888 with a performance of Esther by the Austrian classic playwright Grillparzer. The bicentenary of its founding was marked by the issue of a miniature sheet on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1976. This view of the theatre is from the cover of the Ersttagblatt.



Five sheets were printed as a counter-sheet, depicting a theatrical mask between the two stamps (ANK 1525-6) which show the exterior and the interior of the theatre.

<sup>1</sup> (Adapted by the Editor from JC's "four sheets on T" display at Cantfest)



Unfortunately, the building was destroyed by fire-bombs in March 1945, but was restored and reopened in 1955. The left-hand stamp below (ANK 1029) was issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1955 to mark the occasion.



The second great theatre of the performing arts in Vienna was the Staatsoper, the State Opera House. Built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it opened on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1869 with a performance of Don Giovanni by Mozart. Its slightly squat appearance is due to the street level of the Ring having been raised during the original construction. Like the Burgtheater, it was almost destroyed on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1945. It was subsequently restored and reopened in 1955, continuing with its repertoire of operas by classical composers with a special emphasis on works by Verdi and Mozart. The reopening on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1955 was marked by a performance of Fidelio, conducted by Dr Karl Böhm, and by the issue of the right-hand stamp above (ANK 1030), depicting the building after its restoration.

In 1969 the Opera House celebrated its centenary, which was marked by the issue of a miniature sheet (ANK 1324-31). The central vignette shows the building in Vienna. The surrounding designs by O Stefferl are from eight different operas and ballets; clockwise from top left Don Giovanni by Mozart; the Magic Flute by Mozart; Fidelio by Beethoven; Don Carlos by Verdi; Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky; Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Strauss; Carmen by Bizet; and Lohengrin by Wagner.



The Opera House centenary occasioned the issue of eight different covers, each one for a work depicted on the miniature sheet. There was also a Jubilee Exhibition in the Hofburg, which lasted for the whole season; the Jubilee Exhibition tickets were accompanied by a souvenir sheet with reprints of three values from the 1922 Austrian composers and musicians issue.



On December 14th 1898 the Volksoper was opened under its first name "Kaiser-Jubiläums-Stadttheater". The director was Adam Müller-Güttenbrunn; the opening performance was the play "Hermannschlacht" by Heinrich von Kleist. After a changeable past, sometimes

not without conflicts, the Volksoper has become an opera house well-recommended for opera, operetta and musicals. The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its establishment was marked with a stamp (ANK 2296) issued on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1998; it also marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Franz Lehar. Vienna has many other long-established theatres, including the Theater an der Wien (see below for its Royal Visit).

Opera is also performed in the Schlosstheater at Schönbrunn and in the Redoutensaal of the Hofburg, while Classical music finds its place in the Musikvereingebäude.



The **Musikvereingebäude**, headquarters of the Musikverein (Music Society) is the best-known theatre for concerts in Vienna. It was built in 1870 near the Ring by Theophil v. Hansen, and is now the home of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (commemorated on many stamps, eg ANK 1266 issued on 28<sup>th</sup> March

1967: on the left above). Performances take place regularly including the New Year's Day concerts, which are broadcast throughout the world.

The centenary of this famous theatre was celebrated in 1970 and marked by the issue of a commemorative stamp (ANK 1357; on the right above) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June depicting the great organ above the stage.

Works by many composers are performed here, with particular emphasis on the great Austrian composers Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brückner, Strauss, and Wolf; they were honoured on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1922 by a commemorative issue (ANK 418-424) of somewhat brief validity (till 22 May!).



[Neither Mozart nor Beethoven were actually born Austrians! Shhh!]



But there are also important theatres in other cities of Austria. In 1953, Linz celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Linzer Landestheater, for which a commemorative stamp (ANK 997) was issued on 17 October. In 1975 the Bicentenary of the Salzburg Landestheater was marked by a commemorative issue (ANK 1517) on the 15<sup>th</sup> November.



In 1970, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bregenz festival (with its renowned "stage on the lake"), and the 50<sup>th</sup> of the Salzburg (specialising in Mozart operas, though many other works are also performed), were also marked by stamps (Bregenz ANK 1364 issued 23 July; Salzburg ANK 1365 issued 27 July).



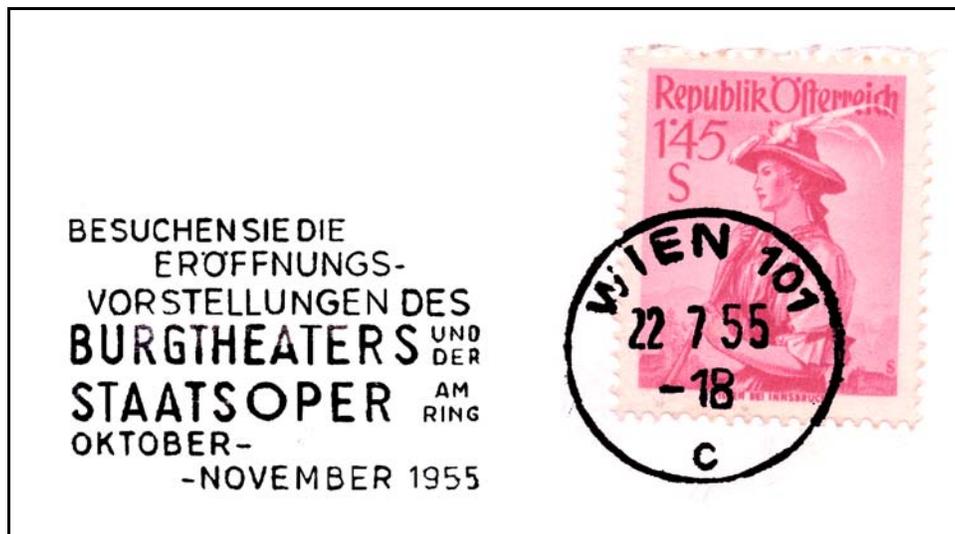
However, theatre is as much about the artists and musicians as it is about buildings, and these too have been marked by various stamp issues, such as this 2-part series (ANK 1361-3 of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1970 & ANK 1368-70 of 11<sup>th</sup> September 1970) showing performers in several different operettas.



Miniature Sheet (ANK2052-3) issued for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's death, showing his portrait on the left and the "Magic Flute" fountain on the right. In the centre is a label, not a stamp, showing Mozart's birthplace in Getreidegasse in Salzburg.



Slogan cancel for the Opera & Burgtheatre reopening.



Clearly the Austrian Postal Authorities are very conscious of the great musical heritage of the country, and take every opportunity to do it honour through its stamps.

## NOTES from publications en route to the Library.

by Andy Taylor

### *Die Briefmarke:*

**Issue 11/2001:** "PREMIUM" express stamps; Austria's 2002 stamp programme [one-of-each will cost about £24]; future Austrian commemoratives to have print run of only 500,000 [there are 100,000 subscription-holders]; many old design-series ended and new ones begun; The Post in Liechtenstein; Postal history of Langenlois continued; forged buildings-series booklets; designs of the Austrian Euro-cent coins; new Post Office codes for stamp-types on subscriptions; etc

**Issue 12/2001:** "The (*Austrian*) Post as Grave-robber?" [re its pricing policy for special Post Offices]; Xmas forwardings by bus, train, balloon; Trains on Austrian Stamps; dates in 2002 which are also valid postcodes; Steeg am Hallstättersee; Stamp machines (both ex-roll and "10 Schilling wallet-dispenser") to be withdrawn(\*\*) on 31.12.2001; the Christ-Child on stamps etc (\*\*By 7<sup>th</sup> December, all known machines in Vienna had been removed. Ed)

**Issue 1/2002:** "Introduction of the Euro" stamp the Second Republic's second-highest value; Xmas Bonusbrief chaos; Postage Dues formally withdrawn; better news on Special Post Offices; Registration Labels in the Riposte system (8pp); interview with boss of Hungarian Post Philatelic Dept; philatelic software; Priority labels; various new Michel catalogues; "worlds most beautiful non-Austrian stamp 2001" ('Maria Theresia's Postal Decree' from Slovakia).

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Militaria Austriaca Philatelia*

**Issue 197:** "where FPOs were when WWI ended" continued [FPA451 - FPA584]; etc.

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-18*

Issue 67: trip to Gallipoli being organised; curious cancels (eg Ortsgruppenkommando; Bauleitung 'P'; KuK Austung Telegrafendetachment Sofia; and the somewhat grim-sounding Schlachtfelder-Aufräumings-Kommando); info on the SW-Bataillonen; cancels from Miechow, Wolbrom & Olkusz from Sep 1914; Siberia 1918-1920; POW mail from camps in England; military pigeon mail and photography; new book on 1914-18 Paketpost; etc.

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e. V.*

Issue 56: More Levantine items; book reviews; forged 1962 booklets (ANK 5 & 6); Austria-Bavaria postal treaty of 1808.

## ***Wiener Ganzsachen F u P-Verein.***

**Issue 2/2000:** (Thanks, HP) Air mail to Australia 1946-48; corrections to "Air mail to Argentina 1946-48" (issue 4/1999)

**Issue 4/2002:** Telegramme forms; Euronews

## ***Czechout***

**Issue 4/2001:** Essays from 1919; Interesting 1919 cover from Ciezín; Qns & Ans and a list of those Questions still unanswered!; etc

## ***Südost-Philatelie***

**Issue 74-5/2001:** now on-line at [www.suedost-philatelie.de](http://www.suedost-philatelie.de); 1866 Serbian newspaper stamps; post in Northern Slovenia 1918-20; and much about later and modern post in the area.

## ***Cinderella Philatelist***

**Issue 42/1:** "Stadt Passau" labels.

## ***Austrian Post Offices 1938-1945***

This is an article by Dr C Kainz in Dr R Wurth's Postal History Annual for 1994 (APS Library item 232 volume 17). We have now obtained a copy of the 50-ish page unpublished Table of Offices that could have been appended to the article - it will grace our library shelves as item 232/17A.

## ***Die Paketpost 1914-1918***

By Norbert Rainer; 144pp A4. This book explores in detail the parcel post arrangements and tariffs between 1914 and 11 Nov 1918. There are three rate periods: 16.1.1907-30.9.1916; 1.10.1916-31.8.1918; and 1.9.1918-11.11.1918 (although the tariffs remained unchanged until 15.1.1920). The various components of the rates are explained (distance, weight, value, size...). COD parcels, arrival confirmations, have-you-seen-this?, Feldpost, ancillary forms, and of course The Parcel Card - all are covered and illustrated.

## ***Austrian Philatelic Society (US) - Journal***

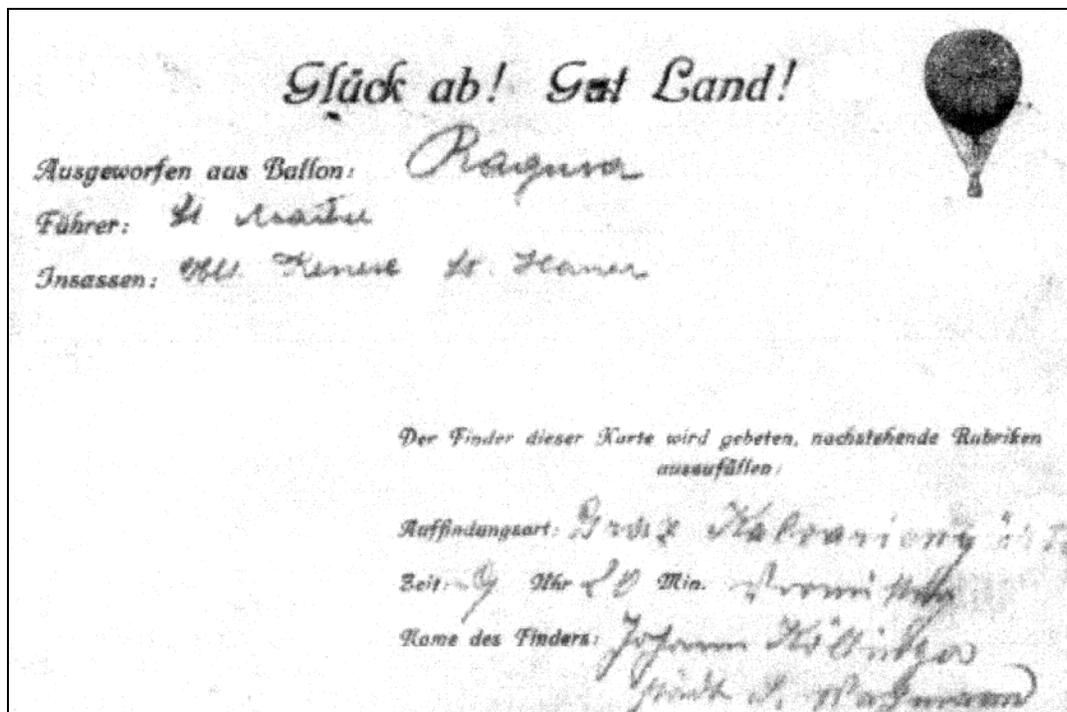
**Vol 2 No 1:** Q&A; Müller's History of the 1<sup>st</sup> issues (trans, 7pp); Austrian Post in China 1901-17; forwarding of Telegrams by post (trans. Ferch2K pp863-9); Auction list (colour pics!)

## Balloons & Airmail Prior to 1914

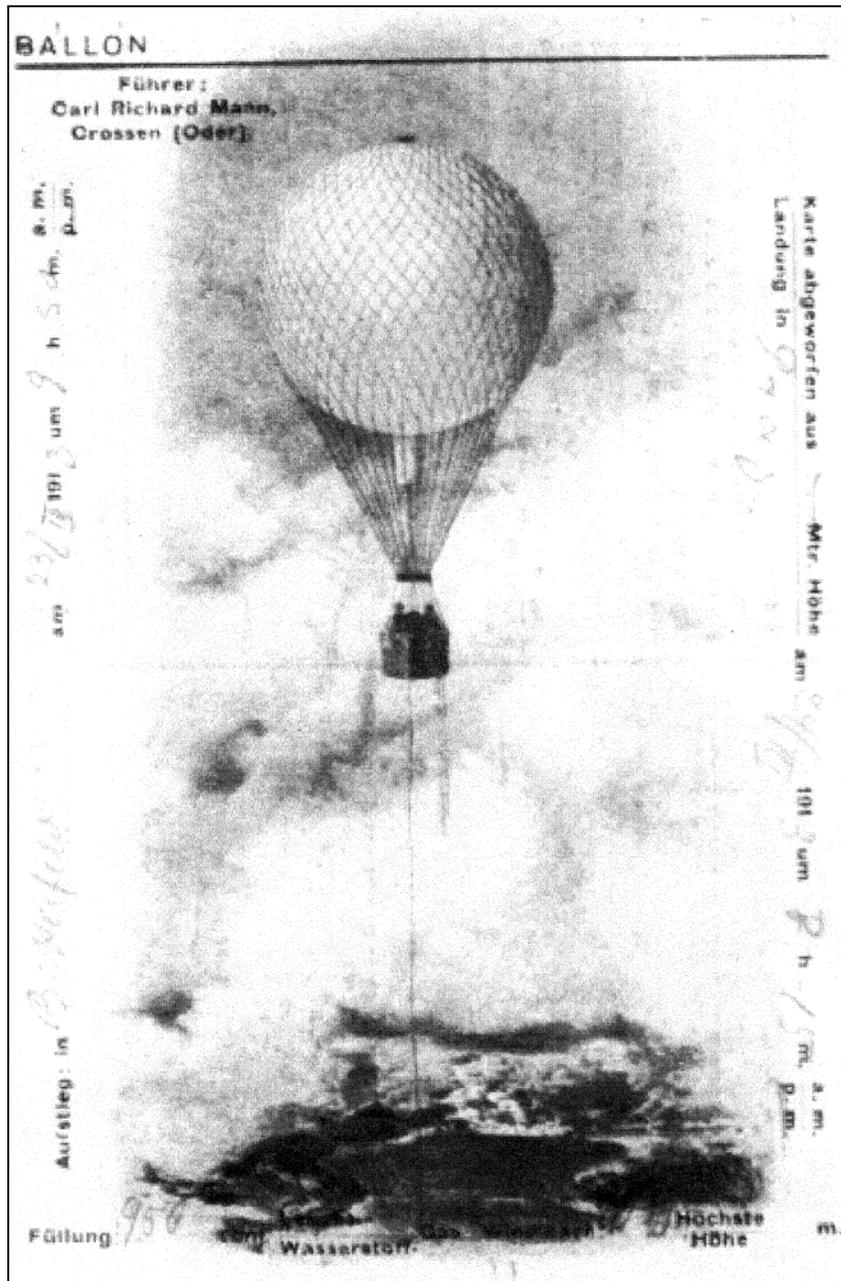
By John Cottrell

Referring to Mercury, the Winged Messenger of the Gods in Ancient Greece who first appeared on Austrian Stamps in 1851, Mr Cottrell suggested that its use indicated early recognition by the Viennese Authorities that flight could speed deliveries. He particularly drew attention to its use on Newspaper Express stamps, and displayed a sheet of many different issues on which Mercury had figured in the design. Also that, unusually for a small country, Austrian Pioneers had made a significant contribution to the development of sustained flight. They included William Kress, who built several monoplanes between 1877 and 1901, and whose work was commemorated on the high values of the 1922 airmail issue; the Renner brothers who built airships; Jacob Lohner with a monoplane and a biplane; and most successful of all Etrich, with his monoplane the Taube (dove). Etrich and Lohner subsequently teamed up and produced designs which were the basis of many Austrian and German warplanes used during WWI.

The Austrians also became very interested in Balloons, both for military and civil use. Between 1890 and 1914, there are 143 recorded balloon flights, which carried mail, listed in Kohl In most cases the "mail" was Abwurfkarten (Throw-out Cards), usually dropped over, or in the vicinity of large towns. These cards carried the flight information including names of the Pilot and the Passengers. Finders were asked to fill in their name, details of place found, the date and time and then to post it in the nearest letterbox A typical example is shown below:



This card was carried by the Balloon "Ragusa" on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1912, found in Graz at 0920 am and posted the same day. Mail was also dropped over Köflach, 25 Km west of Graz on the same day.



A second example is this card which has a heading on the reverse, coupled with a request in English:

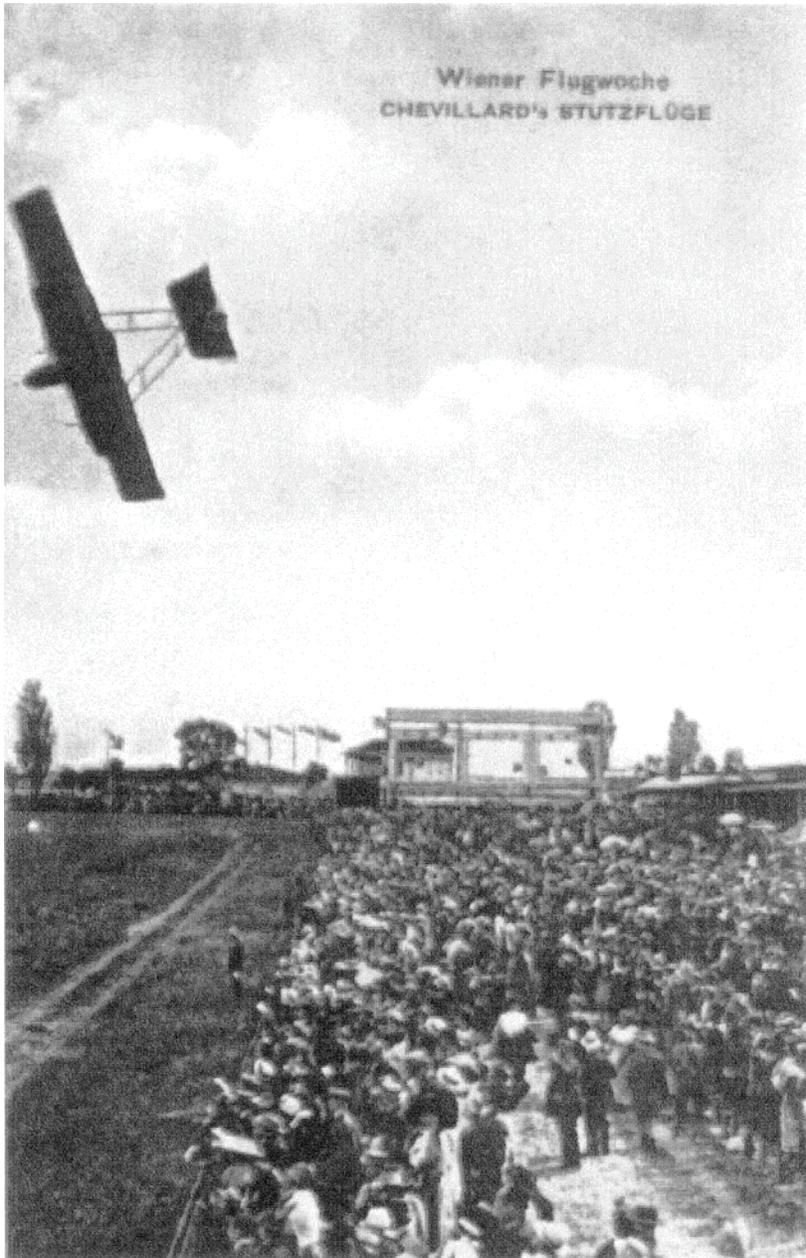
Attention: Post of the Air Balloon. Whoever finds this card, is asked to fill it up, and throw it into the next letterbox.

The hydrogen-filled un-named balloon ascended at 09:50 from Bittenfeld, 50 Km north of Leipzig in Germany, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1913. Before landing the next morning, this card was dropped over Prague at 03:15 am from whence it was posted to Berlin. Evidently the balloon intended to land in Austria, because the card bears an Austrian 5 heller stamp, which

was cancelled by a Prague CDS dated 24.3.1913. However, balloons then, as now, often got blown off the intended course!

The Military Authorities were also very interested in the use of balloons and as early as 1900, and perhaps earlier, had established a K.u.K Militar-Aeronautische Anstalt, which seems to have been a Training Institution for Balloon pilots.

Mr Cottrell displayed a series of sheets showing flight cards and other souvenir items from pre-1914 air-shows. These included the three International Meetings held at Aspen in 1912, 1913 and 1914. The third illustration is of a card, posted Wien, from the 1914 meeting which carries the inscription "Greetings from Wiener Flugwoche".



He also drew attention to Zeppelin flights into Austria. These included the SCHWARBEN which landed in Bregenz on 19.7.1911 with mail from Germany and took Austrian franked mail back to Friedrichshafen. Also the SACHSEN which made three landings during 1913 in Haida, Bohemia, which had been part of the Austrian Hungarian Empire since 1526. Austrian mail was carried, special cards having been printed which received a CDS

"ZEPPELIN SCHIFF-  
SACHSEN  
FLUGPLATZ HAIDA,  
BÖHMEN".

Altogether, Mr. Cottrell showed 17 subjects of cards and covers illustrating the high level of aeronautical activity in Austria prior to 1914. In his opinion it was this pioneering work which led to the building of a very large Austrian airforce during WWI.

## Questions, Answers, Letters...

### *Dear Editor,*

As we enter the year 2002 - the year when I shall be 77 years old - I wish to take the opportunity of writing this letter which I trust you will find space to publish in 'Austria'. I am really writing to congratulate you upon the vast improvement you have brought into the production of our journal, both in contents and in appearance.

During the two decades when I acted as editor, with the very considerable assistance afforded by Arthur Godden, I attempted to provide either original contributions or translations of learned articles which concentrated upon all technical aspects of Austrian philately, with particular attention to the pre-stamp and classical periods. I am glad that we did so, to lay the foundations upon which others may perhaps build. However many thought that this was too elite an approach, and I am now certain that your present approach will be much more popular and that many more of the membership will appreciate it, and 'Austria', to a greater extent. For this my personal thanks.

Upon a personal note, I joined the ASCGB in May 1948 within a month of its foundation, and have maintained my membership (No 44) continuously ever since. Although one member, now deceased, did claim an older number much later he could provide no actual proof although he had allowed his membership to lapse for many years. Now that the active committee has been completely replaced over the last few years with younger members, I should also like to thank these elder statesman for all the previous work and to thank the present committee for assuming their previous responsibilities. One certainly gets the feeling that the society is moving into an exciting, if exacting, future but the magazine is certainly the key to this as it is 'Austria' that binds as all together.

***John F. Giblin FRPSL, President.***

### ***Two Odd Postcards: the saga continues***

The "competition entry postcards with Austrian TPO postmarks" story is getting more complex (some would say out of hand). A survey of an admittedly small sample (13 out of over 2000 cards) shows a disproportionately large number which have genuine TPO cancels but where it is not believable that the card took that route. For example, TPO238 from Lambach to Gmunden, on a card sent from Wilhelmsberg to Wien 8. The suspicion continues to grow that these cards weren't cancelled during their competition use, and were disposed of in bulk by the newspaper to the stamp trade. Someone then added the TPO

cancellations for a reason we can only guess at. **Further contributions to the debate welcomed!**

### *Starostwo markings*

Mr C Karsten writes to ask, what is/are "Starostwo", and what was the civil organisation - who was it that was doing the censoring? He adds that, as the letters would be in Polish but the senior officials would be German-Austrian, it couldn't have been them. Mr Grecu replies "I think the Starostwo markings were similar to Police markings but I don't know much details upon this subject. As we all know, the Austrian (unlike the Hungarians) gave a lot of linguistic autonomy to the peoples of their part of Empire, so the use of Polish has nothing special." **Does anyone else have knowledge of this topic?**

### *What the L?*

Mrs Lindy Bosworth asks, what does the circled L on this card mean?



[There is a reference to "L-in-a-circle" in the *Phil. Graz Research Papers* p131 where it is described as "an old Austrian cancel brought back into service in Laibach in 1945" - could this card have passed through Laibach in 1915? Ed]

## ***Whither philately?***

A member writes that she has a correspondent in New Zealand who says that it is cheaper for them to send 'post packets' to overseas addresses franked with self-adhesive labels, as the price includes their equivalent of our VAT. If stamps are used they have to pay additional tax at 12½%, so it is only worth paying this if it is known that the recipient is a stamp collector! What future for philately?

## ***A Rothful Reader...***

A meticulous and erudite correspondent points out that Joseph Roth's drink-induced demise was somewhat quicker than I said on page 17 of 'Austria' 136, as he died on 27 May **1939** in the Necker hospital in Paris, and was buried on 30 May 1939 in Thiais Cemetery to the SE of Paris. Not 1979. His novel "Radetzkymarsch" was not posthumous, being published in 1932 by Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag. And the title of his collected letters was "Brief 1911-39". His novel "Hiob" usually has the English title "Job: the story of a simple man". Readers seeking more details of Roth and his works should write to the Editor.

## ***Bonus Briefs and Premium Briefs***

Four specially labelled letters were posted at Christkindl on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2001, writes Nick Harty, all addressed to the Hotel Wandl in central Vienna. JB's Bonusbrief was cancelled with Die 4 while CT's received Die 2; both reached the hotel on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and were forwarded by them (Danke!), reaching Huddersfield the next day. NH applied additional Premium labels to a Bonusbrief and a postal stationery envelope; they were both cancelled with Die 4 and arrived at the hotel a week later on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, and Whitby on Monday 17<sup>th</sup>. So the bells-and-whistles 20-Schilling-extra Premium service actually takes 2 days longer... Odd; especially when a Premiumbrief posted in Vienna at 15:30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> arrived at 08:30 the following morning.

## ***The Austro-Hungarian Army 1914-18***

### ***Dear Editor,***

Having read the chapters up to Six before Xmas, I had the opportunity to work through using the examples on my own collection over the holiday period. Due to the mass of information I found that the more you use it the easier you find it. That does not mean it is too long: on the contrary, it is a great work and must have taken a great deal of time to compile. John Dixon-Nuttall should be congratulated on a great contribution to Philately. The amount of detail that has been amassed is what makes it hard in the beginning to use, but that is part of



## Books: reviews and additions.

by Andy Taylor

### *Additions to the A.P.S. Library*

- 336 "Show me the way to go Home, The Story of Medloc 1945-55" By Maggie Hurst and Chris Elliott. 103 pages, Published 1995, Text in English, Guide: non-philatelic. See review below; also 'Austria' 105/8, 114/45 & 115/27.
- 337 "Salzburg 600 Jahre Boten und Posten". By Dr. R. Wurth. 81 pages, Published 2000, Text in German, Guide: All periods, cancellations. See 'Austria' 133/6
- 338 "1200 Jahre Zirl, Alte Briefe und die Post in Zirl" by U. Nagiller. 67 pages, Published in 1999, Text in German, Guide: All periods, cancellations. See 'Austria' 136/98
- 339 "Anton Haus, Österreich-Ungarns Grossadmiral" by P. G. Halpern. 360 pages. Published in 1998, Text in German, Guide: non-philatelic. Will interest collectors of marine mail who can read German.
- 340 "Registered Mail Labels of Austria 1945-65" by Richard A. Krueger. 55 pages, Published in 2001, Text in English (American), Guide: Second Republic; postal markings.
- 341 "Österreich 1945 - Drittes Reich, Kriegsende, Second Republic part 1" by Fritz H Sturzeis. Written in German, 512 pages A4, published 2001. Guide: non-philatelic (although it illustrates numerous philatelic items and documents, and would be best regarded as Social History). Period Second Republic. We understand that Section 8 in Part 2 will deal with the postal system. [See also review, below.]

### ***Review: "Show Me The Way To Go Home: The Story of Medloc 1945-1955".***

By Tony Boyer

This slim volume of 103 A5 size pages is being added to the APS library, and I have been asked to provide a short review as essentially it is not on a philatelic subject, but instead is a brief history of rail travel in Europe during the aftermath of World War II. I understand that the reason for its acceptance is that one of the joint authors is a member of the Society.

The body of the book deals with the travel arrangements and conditions of servicemen and women travelling between Central Europe or the Mediterranean and England after the cessation of hostilities, whether for demobilisation, home posting, or for leave, or to return to their units after such leave and so on. Indeed "Medloc" stands for "Mediterranean Lines of Communication" - a typical military acronym. There were three main Medloc routes (A, B and C) and these were operated as through trains after an initial period of lorry convoys. Route A ran from Toulon on the Mediterranean coast of France to Dieppe, whilst route B ran from Milan in northern Italy to Calais (although there were many feeder routes under the Medloc umbrella into Milan). Route C ran from Villach initially to Calais, but for most of its life to the Hook of Holland. It appears from the comments of the authors that the records of the three routes are somewhat sparse - route B only functioned for approximately one year from July 1945 before it was switched to route C. However route C only closed when the peace treaty with the Second Republic was signed in 1955 and Austria became once again self-governing.

The authors commence the book by explaining the background to these services, and then let the stories of the individual trains be told in the words of a number of different ranks who used these services - officers, sergeants, new recruits, etc. The individuals give to the best of their recollections details of the routes covered by the various services, the meal etc stops and so on. This method brings the story of any one specific train to life in the way that no erudite editor could accomplish, and provides a very interesting commentary on the hardships and privations that were endured by the returning servicemen. As an aside, those returning for demobilisation would have happily endured this hardship, but the new recruits travelling out as their replacements might have held a different view. The book concludes with reproductions of contemporary newspaper and magazine articles, and is well endowed with relevant illustrations

As a commentary on the little known methods of transporting British troops to and from Central and Southern Europe during the post-war years this small book is an interesting read, and I for one would be happy to see a copy on my own bookshelves. However, for students of Austrian philatelic matters, there is nothing specifically to interest them apart from an insight into life in Austria in the immediate post-war period.

### ***Book Review: Registered Mail Labels of Austria 1945 - 65***

By Joyce Boyer

The book opens with details of the background of the situation in Austria in 1945 resulting from the Anschluss of 1938 and arrival of the Four Powers in 1945. It then continues with the restoration of the Austrian Postal service before going on to the subject of Registration labels. Having explained the purpose of these labels the author moves on to describing the various labels used from the ex-German type of 1945 to the end of 1965, before the introduction of postcodes. Each type has been given a reference number with variations given sub-numbers.

The labels are fully described and illustrated with some being shown on cover. At the end of the book there is a summary showing the periods of use of the various types, the occupation zone in which various labels were used and the scarcity and points value for each example.

A postscript, before the summaries, gives brief details of the registration labels in use from 1966 and finally the latest Optical Bar Code type although these are not studied in detail. To anyone interested in Registered labels this work, which has required the detailed examination of many hundreds of examples and taken fifty years to compile, would be a good investment. It considerably expands on the excellent article by Andy Taylor in 'Austria' 132.

***Book review: "Österreich 1945 - Drittes Reich, Kriegsende, Second Republic part 1" by Fritz H Sturzeis.***

By C Tobitt

The Author has carried out this research over many decades. This book describes the hard years and facets of life - humanity and cruelty, love and hate with the addition of many moving photographs which describe the living and suffering of the people during this period. Chapter 1 is devoted to the child: Hitler Youth, evacuation, camps and propaganda. Chapter 2 concerns the woman and the military works she was expected to undertake. Chapter 3 discusses the undertakings of the man, his involvement in the Ostmark, Hospitalization and the disabled, ending with capitulation and demobilization. Chapter 4 deals with the animals, their use during the war, the Military Veterinary units, the Schönbrunn Zoo after it was bombed.

A knowledge of the German language will help but the photographs in this book alone can tell the history without the text. Plenty of philatelic items and documents are shown.

I look forward with much relish to Books 2 & 3.

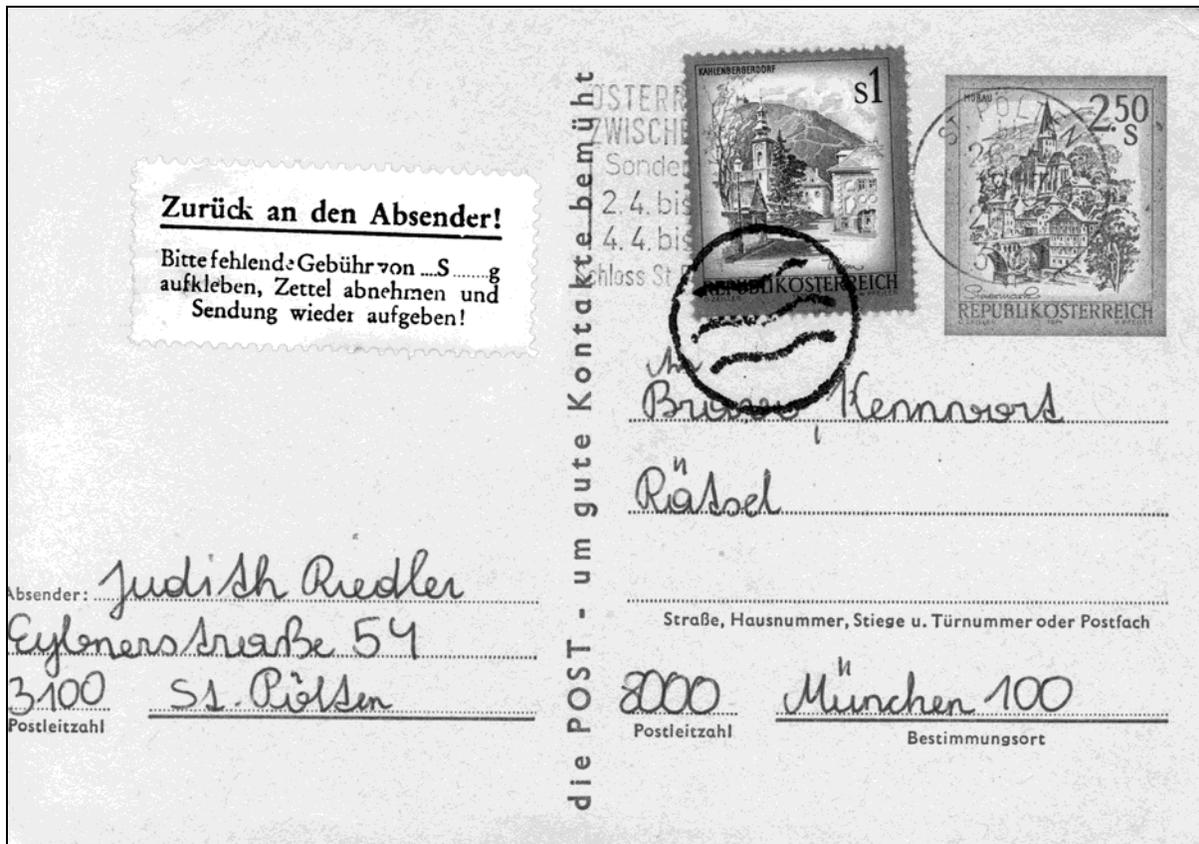
# Possible Midland Group - First Meeting

From Joyce Boyer

An initial meeting for those members interested in a Local Midland Group has been arranged for Saturday 23 February 2002. The meeting is to be held at the offices of Cavendish Auction, Cavendish House, 153 - 157 London Road, Derby. The doors will be open at 2.00pm for the meeting to start at 2.15 and end at 4.45pm. All members are welcome and anyone requiring more details should contact the organiser, Clive Murray, 53. Wrens Avenue, Tipton, West Midlands, DY7 8AF phone 0121 557 8946, or failing that Joyce Boyer, membership secretary. We hope to see a large number of you there.

Joyce Boyer, Membership Secretary

????????????????????????????????????  
*Puzzle picture - what's going on here?*



An answer should be in the next issue...