

# AUSTRIA

## Edited by Andy Taylor

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The **Austrian Railway Group** [ARG] was formed ten years ago for those interested in Austrian railways. The membership [standing at just over 200 at this time] is drawn from all walks of life and from all over the world. They have members in America, Canada, Australia, Greece, and of course Austria.

The ARG Journal is published four times a year and covers travel in Austria, technical articles, current affairs - all railway-related, and both ÖBB and private railways and tramways. Modelling is also covered. The Group holds its AGM at Derby every year to coincide with the Derby Model Railway Exhibition and is also represented at various exhibitions throughout the UK.

For Membership details contact the ARG Membership Secretary at 14 Wheatfield Way, Skegby, Sutton in Ashfield, Notts, NG17 3EU

More details on the ARG website <http://www.austrian-railways.org>

## Editorial 138

By Andy Taylor

The 0.73€ Winter Olympics stamp was issued on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February: I was surprised to receive the accompanying special cancellation applied to an old stamp being used up by one of our journal-exchange partners. The stamp itself is not a surprise: colourful envelopes resplendent with special cancellations, the occasional miniature sheet, and incomplete sets of long-forgotten commemoratives cascade daily



through my letterbox! My postperson ought to be impressed. In July all this will change; meanwhile dual franking is allowed under the Rules... actually, there is a certain cleanness of line about the Euro definitives when seen in such close contrast with some of their more ornate predecessors.

While I'm thinking of stamps, here's something to ponder: every

Austrian stamp issued after this one [ANK530] was produced during the lifetime of the unsung hero who packs and posts each copy of this Journal, juggling with weight steps, plastic envelopes, and halfpennies to reduce the cost. Happy 70<sup>th</sup>, Brian!



Officially, the use of Postage Due stamps in Austria was to end on 31.12.2001 with the change of currency. A note in Die Briefmarke 4/2002 (p36) says that an internal memo has leaked out directing that their use should cease after 7 December 2001, and a T-stamp used, failing which a handwritten T. However, seven covers are known with postage dues, cancelled 31.12.2001 at Post Office 2261 Angern. A modern rarity? Perhaps someone doesn't know their metatarsal from their metaelbow... Reports of Postage Dues "in the wild" from 1.1.2000 onwards, please!

The Editor thanks Frau Maria Schulz and Messrs Green, Rizza, Kuzych, & Grecu for their contributions, which he hopes to find space for in the next issue. It will also, he intends, include an article on Dumb Cancels. Also, he hopes that those who saw "Library Additions: page 43" on the last issue's contents list found them on page 65, to which he'd moved them...

## **Obituary: Gordon Rogers**

Your Editor was saddened to hear of Gordon Roger's death, following the slow worsening of a rare illness which particularly affected his brain. He reminded us that philately is more than the minutiae of paper and ink, but reflects the country, its peoples, and their culture as portrayed on successive stamp issues. I recall his delight in surprising me when I walked into the hotel in Mayerhofen where he (and Chris) were staying, and his nightly tales of mountains ascended and birds & flowers discovered. His links with Austria began as a business relationship, but had developed into friendships which gave pleasure to both sides.

Hans Smith attended Gordon's funeral on Friday 22 February, and writes: "Around 40 persons were present, mostly family and friends, but including 6 members of the Bedford Philatelic Society. The friends that the Rogers family stayed with in Austria also came over for the occasion. I was the only APS member present. The service in the surprisingly bright and (almost) cheerful crematorium in Bedford followed CofE lines. The officiating priest, who I do not think knew the family, spoke at some length from a prepared text and emphasised the 'many hours of pleasure' Gordon obtained from 'his stamps' and from his philatelic and walking visits to Austria. Chris came over to me specially after the service and again mentioned how much membership of the AAPS and ASC had meant to Gordon and how pleased she was that the APS was represented at the funeral."

Joyce Boyer adds: "I have received a card from Chris Rogers thanking us for the donation in Gordon's memory, which was added to other donations and sent to the charity of his choice. Chris also asks me to pass on to the committee and members "my sincere thanks for the very kind letters and cards received from many of them."

# Austrian Pre-Franked (Postal Stationery) Postcards

## Chapter 3 - 1945 to 2001

By Henry White

In 1945, at the end of the second world war, Austria found itself in a far worse condition than in 1919 - no currency or postage stamps of its own, and occupied by Russian forces in its East and American, British and French forces in its West. In May 1945, such German stamps as remained, bearing Hitler's head, were overprinted "Österreich" in Vienna, Graz, and a few other towns such as Leibniz and Scheibbs; the denomination was still pfennig. In June 1945, the Russians produced a long set with the Austrian eagle and shield, still in pfennig, and the Western Allies the "AMGOT" Posthorn issue priced in Schilling and Groschen. There was no foreign mail during 1945 except for a limited service to Czechoslovakia between 5 Oct & 16 Nov.

During this somewhat chaotic period there were hardly any PSCs in use. A few German cards were overprinted as for the Hitler heads, and the Russians produced two cards with their version of the Arms issue, at 5 & 6 pfennig, for use in the Vienna region. The 5pf did get fairly wide use for "Ortsverkehr" local mail [see definitions at end], but the 6pf which was intended for "Fernverkehr" distant mail does not appear very often (see 'Austria' 132 pp 37-41). Both cards were made in single and double (ie reply-paid) versions, and survived in use till 10<sup>th</sup> December 1947.

An issue of definitive stamps for the whole of Austria, priced in Schilling and Groschen and depicting Austrian scenery, was made in November 1945 and remained valid until the 1947 devaluation. For the unified Austria, an 8gr PSC reply card was authorised in 1946 with an 8gr olive-green landscape imprint; however because materials were so scarce it was not printed for over a year. Meanwhile the Inland rate rose from 8gr to 20gr on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1947 and the currency was revalued on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1947. So, when in 1948 these cards reached Post Offices, the now-invalid imprint had to be overstocked with a new 20gr adhesive. The only used specimens found are those with augmentation by adhesives to meet the much higher postage rates.

The continued fluctuations in currency and postage rates culminated in a 3:1 devaluation of the Schilling on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1947. The brightly coloured landscape definitives of 1945 were reprinted in orange for all the groschen values and dull violet for the schilling values. This upheaval delayed still further the production of PSCs and it was not until the Costumes series of definitives was launched in June 1948 that the use of this design could begin for a series of PSCs. Thus the post-WWI sequence of definitives and PSCs was repeated after

WWII: namely landscape definitives of 1929 repeated in 1945, and costumes definitives of 1934 repeated in 1948. A similar evolution of PSCs occurred after 1948.

### *New PSCs and innovations*

Initially therefore the first four PSC series were issued bearing imprints of the appropriate current definitives, the Costumes series from 1948 to 1982, the Buildings series from 1958 to 1974, the Scenic Austria series from 1976 to 1984, and the Stift series from 1984 to 1986.



Then there was completely new thinking, and two concurrent series began, using as the imprinted stamps new designs of Austria flora and fauna for Inland use and Austrian castles and palaces for Ausland. None of these new designs appeared as adhesive stamps, but cut-outs of unused PSC imprints were permitted to be used as adhesives.

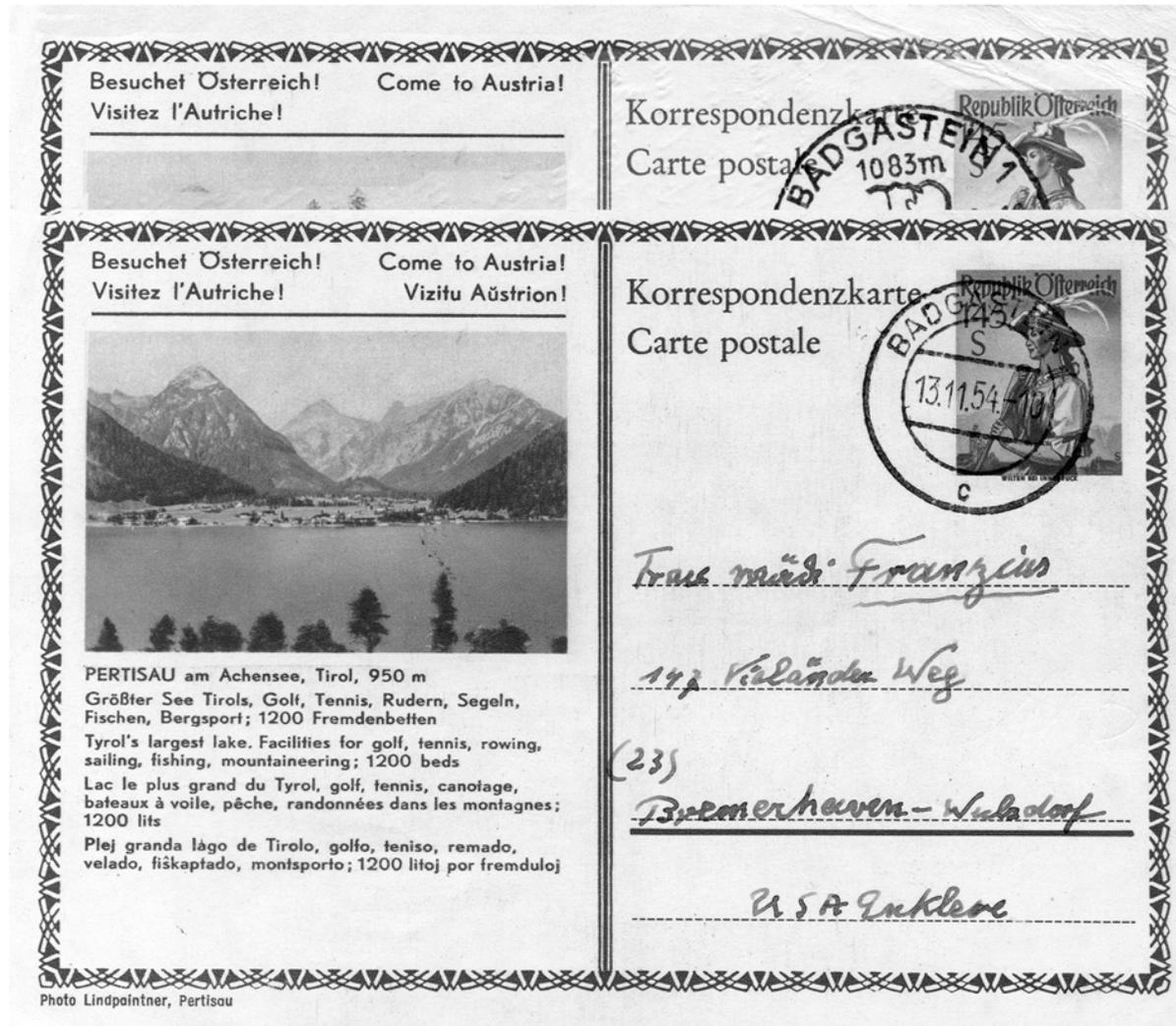
During the period 1948 to 1986, several basic changes were made in the design and use of the PSCs. The concept of plain and picture-bearing cards remained throughout. The plain cards had a single line as the central vertical division for all the Costume series cards and all bar the last 1s50 for the Buildings series. Gradually thereafter, a central slogan was introduced in the Scenic Austria series - for example:

**ATB** AKTUELL **ATB** WERBETRÄGER **ATB**

die POST - um gute Kontakte bemüht

**Österreich — Ihr Urlaubsziel**

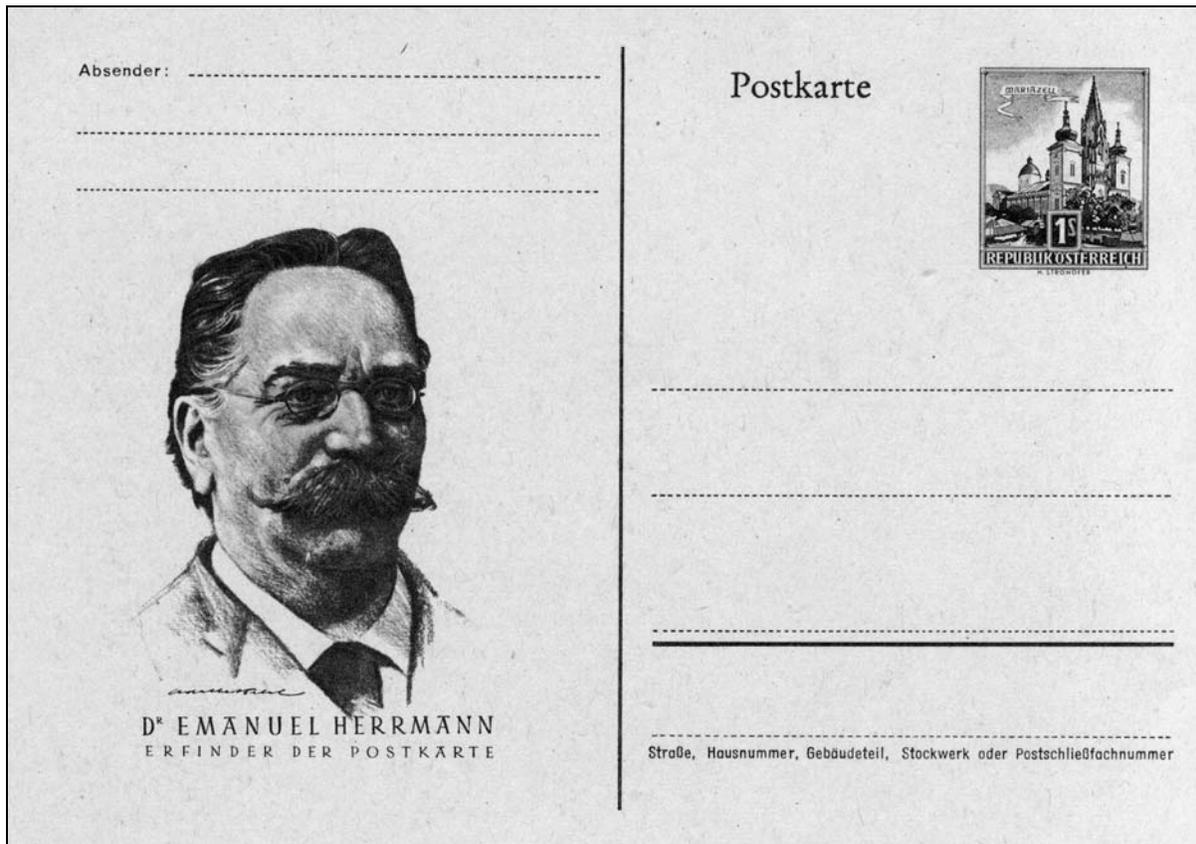
[These will be referred to later as ATB, Die Post, and Öst ist respectively]



The pictorial cards broke with the pre-war format by devoting the whole of the left half of the card to a picture with an exhortation to get to know or visit Austria above it and language captions below. [These 'LERNT ÖSTERREICH KENNEN' cards will be referred to later as **LÖK**.] These followed the German pattern with ornamental framing, as illustrated by Sal Rizza in 'Austria' 136 but changing to Roman type from the Gothic script. Early examples in the Costumes series were intended for Ausland mail, with the text in German only.

However in 1953 the exhortation and text came in four languages including Esperanto until 1955; three thereafter.

The use of framing was dropped in 1969 with the 1s Hermann centenary card



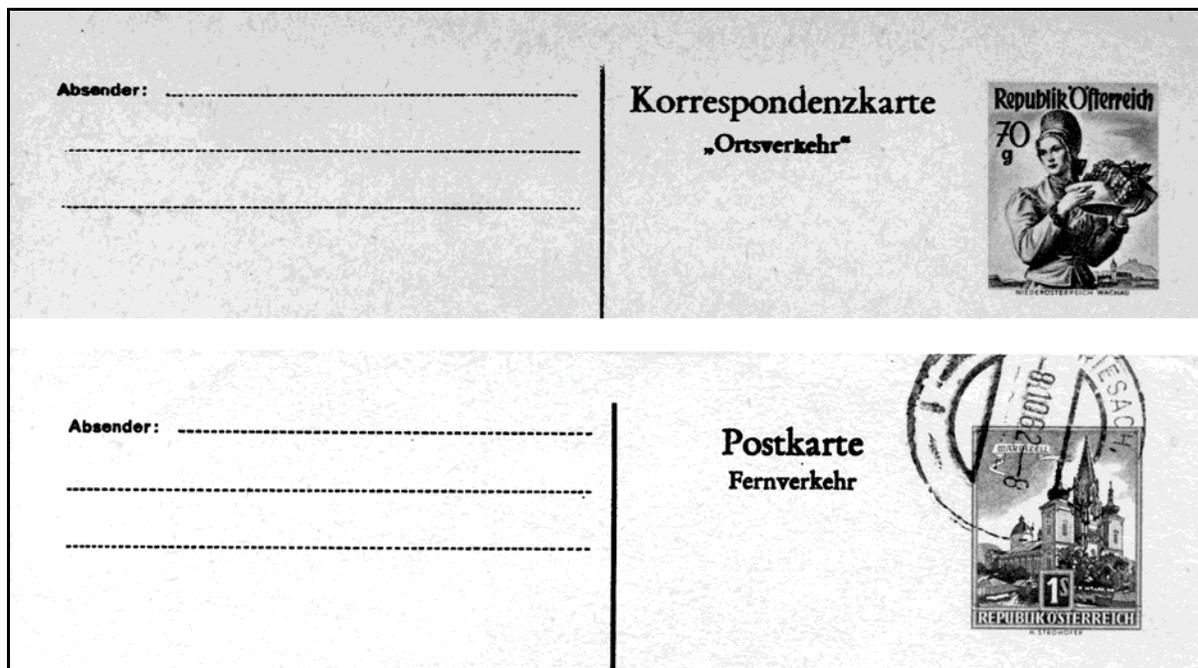
and a 2s view card; and the exhortation to Visit Austria [referred to later as **BO**] now rearranged and rotated as the vertical dividing line between the two halves.

**Besuchet Österreich! Come to Austria! Visitez l'Autriche!**

The production of double or reply cards was confined to the plain card issues, and ceased completely with the 2s Christkindl Buildings series card (Sch [= Schneiderbauer, APS Library item 56] number 460).

The pictorial cards were produced in sets of 10 to 40 with differing views. Most of the later sets have a small note quoting the Auflage (issue) & view number; this assists identification of a particular issue of the main card. The issue number carried on for Inland and Ausland cards respectively, regardless of rate increases in the stamp or even a switch from series to series. This means that over 180 issues of Inland and 80 of Ausland were made. Taking into account all variables, there are some 6,000 different cards available! Mint specimens are often sold as complete sets of 10-40 per issue. Schneiderbauer lists these cards with location but does not give the advertising text.

Whereas during the 1930s considerable emphasis had been placed on producing cards with specific denominations for the 'local' and 'full' Ausland rates, the post-war issues catered only for the full Ausland rates and the cards were produced accordingly. These cards included the term "Carte Postale" in their heading for as long as that value was the Ausland rate; specific UPU cards were never issued. Lower rates for neighbouring countries or cross-border mail to Switzerland did exist, but no cards were made for them. However, differentiation in rates was introduced for Internal Mail from 1.9.1951 to 31.12.1963, 70 Groschen for local or Ortsverkehr and 1 Schilling for distant or Fernverkehr. To emphasise this difference in both the Costumes and Buildings series, the extra headings Ortsverkehr and Fernverkehr were added on the 70gr and 1S cards (respectively) issued during this period. Inexplicably, on apparently identical cards these subheadings come with and without inverted commas.



A problem of terminology in PSCs was resolved during the life of the Costumes series. The first PS card had the heading "Correspondenz-Karte" which persisted with two minor orthographic changes ('s' changed to resemble 'f' [cf *'Austria'* 134 p68]; 'C' becoming 'K') right through the Monarchy. After WWI, and on the German cards during the occupation, "Postkarte" was always used. After WWII - perhaps as part of the attempts to extirpate the German "Kultur"-PSCs reverted to "Korrespondenzkarte" with or without the Ortsverkehr, Fernverkehr and Carte Postale subheadings. Then in 1955 it was abruptly changed to "Postkarte" again, with or without subheadings. [A study of why these changes came about during the 100 years could be mounted as an interesting exercise in semantics or political correctness!]

## ***Material, colour and typography***

Over such a long period (40 years), improvements in the quality of the card and the colour rendering were made. The early plain PSCs were buff and a little rough, but for the pictorial ones a smoother deep cream card was used from the start. This persisted through both the Costumes and Buildings series, but in 1983 in the middle of the Scenic series multicoloured picture PSCs were introduced, and for these a switch to white card was made. Paradoxically, monochrome picture PSCs continued to appear, and on some of these the card actually deteriorated to the quality of the plain PSCs.

The colours of the imprinted stamps, and when present the monochrome picture, closely followed that of the corresponding definitive stamps, although the shading colours in the Scenic series definitives were omitted so that the imprinted stamps were still monochrome. Only the three Stift series were bi-coloured, the frames differing from the vignette, though here a third shading colour used on the definitive stamp was dropped from the imprint. Otherwise, the whole print - stamp and text - was in just one colour.

**Postkarte**  
**Postkarte**

As noted above, "Correspondenz-Karte" gave way to "Postkarte", at first in rather thin Roman lettering, but around 1962 switched for no obvious reason to Sanserif, though not exclusively: some of the Ausland cards continued to have Roman lettering for several more years.

## ***Rate changes and minor modifications***

Mild inflation persisted throughout the post-war period and the rate changes are reflected in the following seven tables. Whereas 1919-24 saw rapid, even hectic, rate increases, after WWII changes were relatively leisurely. Even so, in 1981, 1984, and 1986 it was necessary to augment stocks of the 2s50 and 3s Scenic and 3s50 Stift series by adding a 50gr imprint from the Buildings series to them. This need to update the franking continued in the Flora and Fauna series and the Castles series; cf Table 7. The introduction of Priority Mail on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1997 required a 7s Ausland card; the Landek and Hellbrunn cards had a 1s Mariazell added (table 7 items 42 & 43) but these were not issued until the 11<sup>th</sup> July. A 6s50 Inland card was also required, and again not issued until the 11<sup>th</sup>; so 6s cards had to be "officially uprated" by the counter clerk adding a 50g adhesive!



**LERNT ÖSTERREICH KENNEN!**  
**3430 TULLN, NÖ.**  
 Der Tullner Römerturm. 1700 Jahre alter ehemaliger Flankenturm d. Tullner Römerlagers Comagena (Comagenis). Fungierte als Magazin, Pulverturm u. Zeughaus d. Stadt, im 19. Jh. auch als „Salzturm“. 1984 von Stadtgemeinde u. Bundesdenkmalamt restauriert. Ist eines der wenigen vollständig erhaltenen Römerbauwerke nördl. d. Alpen.  
 Foto: Stadtarchiv 193. Auflage/13

---

**Absender:** .....

---

**Postleitzahl** .....

**Postkarte**




.....

.....

.....

**Straße, Hausnummer, Stiege und Türnummer oder Postfachnummer**

.....

**Postleitzahl** ..... **Bestimmungsort**

The preceding major changes of imprint, headings and overall layout make the formation of a *basic* collection fairly simple. Unfortunately running through all four series there were also small changes going on, particularly in the number of dotted lines and instructions (house number, street etc; and after 1966 postcode) for both the addressee and sender spaces. These changes greatly add to the number of varieties when attempting a "complete" collection, or even tabulating what exists. Nevertheless, such a tabulation has been attempted in the following tables, using the keys of table 0 to list the variations in heading, lines for address and sender, and so on.

**Table 0: Key to abbreviations used in tables 1 - 6**

<b>Date</b>	Precise dates of issue are not quoted by Schneiderbauer, and he frequently gives a blanket date (eg 1959/62) for a group of issues; in such cases the first date has been used
<b>Heading</b>	Kk for Korrespondenz-Karte Pkr for Postkarte in Roman type Pks for Postkarte in Sanserif Cp for Carte Postale Ov for Ortsverkehr Fv for Fernverkehr # where inverted commas have been used indiscriminately
<b>Addressee</b>	Number of dotted lines for the address; including in brackets '1t' '2t' etc for 1, 2 lines of instructional text; '1s' '2s' for 1, 2 solid lines; and 'z' for a space or instruction for the Postcode (Postleitzahl) 'I' means one signature line at the base; 'II' means two. # (in Table 6) means that the last line of the sender's address is below or level with that of the addressee: see illustration on next page.
<b>Centre</b>	Usually a vertical line; sometimes 'ATS', 'Die Post' or 'Öst ist' as noted above. On later Ausland cards the full polylingual "Besuchet Österreich" has been used, vertically.
<b>Sender</b>	Number of dotted lines on LH half, plus one or more solid lines, the second being above the whole address
<b>Publicity</b>	The exhortation heading & descriptive text below pictures; this comes in German (G) English (E) French (F) and Esperanto (S)
<b>Alignment</b>	¥ means that Postkarte or Carte Postale has been moved level with the base of the imprinted stamp instead of level with its top. See illustrations on next page.
<b>Number</b>	These are Schneiderbauer references ( <i>APS Library item 56</i> ), taken from his original work and the 1981 addendum, which have been used extensively in the compilation of this article and are highly recommended to anyone contemplating a serious collection. The appearance of two numbers, eg 369/370, indicates the existence of Single & also Double cards.



**Table 1: Costumes Series - plain cards**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Heading</b>	<b>Addressee</b>	<b>Sender</b>	<b>Number</b>
<i>20 Groschen green</i>				
1948	Kk	4 (1t 1s)	3	369/370
<i>30 groschen carmine</i>				
1949	Kk	4 (1t 1s)	3	371/372
<i>30 groschen violet</i>				
1950	Kk	4 (1t 1s)	3	377/378
<i>45 groschen blue</i>				
1948	Kk	4 (1t 1s)	3	373/374
<i>60 groschen orange-red</i>				
1949	Kk Cp	4 (1t 1s)	3	375/376**
1958	Pk Cp	5½ (1t 1s)*	3	404
<i>70 groschen emerald-green</i>				
1951	Kk	4 (1t 1s)	3	380/381
1951	Kk Ov	4 (1t 1s)	3	384/385
1955	Pkr Ov	4 (1t 1s)	3	395/396
1961	Pks Ov	4½ (2t 1s)	3	408/409
1962	Pkr	4½ (1t 1s) *	3	411
<i>1 schilling olive-green</i>				
1951	Kk Fv	4 (1t 1s)	3	386/387
1955	Pk Fv	4 (1t 1s)	3	397/398
<i>1.45 schilling carmine</i>				
1951	Kk Cp	4 (1t 1s)	3	382/383
1958	Pk	4 (1t 1s)	3	399
1958	Pkr Cp	5½ (1t 1s)	3	405/406

\* The text at the foot of the address on these 60gr & 70gr cards, which were intended for use in the Kleinwalsertal, reads "Bestimmungsland"

\*\* Double card 376 has its heading moved to the left to leave space for an extra adhesive

**Table 2: Costumes Series - picture cards**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Heading</b>	<b>Addressee §</b>	<b>Publicity</b>	<b>Number</b>
<i>30 groschen violet</i>				
1950	Kk	4 (1s)	LÖK (G)	379
<i>70 Groschen emerald-green</i>				
1955	Pkr	4	LÖK (G)	401
1961	Pks Ov	5½ (2t 1s)	LÖK (G)	410
<i>1 schilling olive-green</i>				
1951	Kk	4 (1s)	LÖK (G)	388
1952	Kk	4 (1s)	Dr E Herrmann	390
1955	Pkr	4 (1s)	LÖK (G)	402
<i>1.45 schilling carmine</i>				
1951	Kk Cp	4 (1s)	LÖK (G)	389
1953	Kk Cp	4 (1s)	BO (GEFS)	391
1955	Kk Cp	4 (1s)	BO (GEF-)*	392
1955	Pkr Cp	4 (1s)	BO (GEF)**	403
1956	Pkr	5½ (1t 1s)	BO (GEF)	407

§ Throughout this series of picture PSCs, no lines were provided for the sender's address.

\* In this card, the Esperanto was simply omitted (as in the example on page 6), while:

\*\* in this one the French text was centred below the G & E.

**Table 3: Buildings series - plain cards**

Date	Heading	Addressee	Centre	Sender	Number
<i>70 groschen slate-blue Salzburg</i>					
1962	Pks Ov	5½ (2t 1s)	line	3	428/429
<i>1 schilling brown Mariazell</i>					
1958	Pkr Fv	4 (1t 1s) I	line	3	412/413
1959	Pkr Fv	4 (1t 1s) II	line	3	415/416
1962	Pks Fv	4½ (2t 1s)	line	3	430/431
1963	Pks	4½ (2t 1s) *	line	3	433
1964	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 + z	439/440
1965	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 + z	447/448
1966	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (1s + z)	452
<i>1.50 schilling red Vienna</i>					
1967	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (1s + z)	456/457
1971	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	ATB	3 (1s + z)**	473
1971	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (1s + z)**	475/476
1973	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (1s + z)**	481
1974	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	Die Post	3 (1s + z)**	483
<i>1.80 schilling ultramarine Hall in Tirol</i>					
1960	Pkr Cp	5½ (1t 1s)*	line	3	419/420
1962	Pkr Cp	5½ (1t 1s)*	line	3	423
1962	Pks Cp	5½ (1t 1s)*	line	3	426/427
1964	Pks Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s)*	line	3	437/438
1965	Pks Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s)*	line	3 + z	449/450
<i>2 schilling slate-blue Christkindl</i>					
1967	Pks Cp ¥	5½ (2t 1s z)	line	3 + z	459/460
<i>2 schilling slate-blue Klagenfurt</i>					
1968	Pks Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s z)*	line	3 + z	465
<i>2.50 schilling violet Linz</i>					
1971	Pks Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s z)*	line	3 + z	477

\* text is "Bestimmungsland"

\*\* sender's address is at bottom left

¥ means 'level with bottom of imprinted stamp'

**Table 4: Buildings series - picture cards**

Date	Heading	Addressee	Publicity	Number
<i>1 schilling dark-brown Mariazell</i>				
1958	Pkr	4 (1s) I	LÖK top	414
1959	Pkr	4 (1s) II	LÖK top	417
1959	Pkr	4 (1t 1s)	Dr Herrmann	418
1962	Pkr Fv	4 (1s)	LÖK top	422
1962	Pks Fv	4½ (2t 1s)	LÖK top	432
1964	Pks	4½ (2t 1s)	LÖK top	441
1965	Pkr	4½ (2t 1s)	LÖK vert Abs 2 **	442
1965	Pkr Cp	4½ (2t 1s)	LÖK vert WIPA 1965 Abs 2	444
1965	Pks	4½ (2t 1s)	LÖK vert Abs 3 (1s + z)	451
1966	Pks	5 (2t 1s)	LÖK vert Abs 3 (2s + z)	454
<i>1.50 schilling red Vienna</i>				
1967	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	LÖK vert Abs 3 (2s + z)	458
1969	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	LÖK / line no frame Abs 3 (2s + z)	468
1969	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	1 <sup>st</sup> PSC no frame Abs 3 (2s + z)	479a-c
1972	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	LÖK / line Abs 3 (2s + z)	479
<i>1.80 schilling ultramarine Hall in Tirol</i>				
1960	Pks	4½ (1t 1s)		421
1962	Pks	5½ (1t 1s)	BO top (GEF)	425
1965	Pks	5 (1t 1s)	BO vert (GEF)	443
1966	Pks ¥	5 (2t 1s z)	BO vert (GEF)	453
<i>2 schilling slate-blue Christkindl</i>				
1967	Pk Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s z)	BO vert (GEF)	461
<i>2 schilling slate-blue Klagenfurt</i>				
1968	Pkr Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s z)	BO vert (GEF) Abs 3 (z)	467
1969	Pkr Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s z)	BO vert (GEF) no frame Abs 3 (1t z)	469
1970	Pkr Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s z)	Last RH & LH texts level	472
<i>2.50 schilling Linz</i>				
1971	Pkr Cp ¥	5 (2t 1s z)	BO vert (GEF) on yellow	478x
			BO vert (GEF) on buff	478y

\*\* 'Abs 2 or 3' is the number of lines provided for the sender's address.

¥ means 'level with bottom of imprinted stamp'

**Table 5: Scenic and monastery series - plain cards**

Date	Heading	Addressee	Centre	Sender	Number
<i>1.50 schilling brown Bludenz</i>					
1974	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	Die Post	3 (1s z)	484
<i>2.50 schilling violet Murau</i>					
1974	Pks Cp	5 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (z)	486
1976	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	Die Post	3 (1s z)	491
1977	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	Öst ist	3 (1s z)	495
1978	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (1s z)	498
<i>2.50 schilling violet Murau with 50gr Buildings</i>					
1981	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (1s z)	508
<i>3 schilling ultramarine Salzburg</i>					
1981	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (2s z)	509A
1981	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (1s z)	509B
<i>3 schilling ultramarine Salzburg with 50gr Buildings</i>					
1984	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (1s z)	515A
1984	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (2s z)	515B
<i>4 schilling magenta Almsee</i>					
1976	Pks Cp	5 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (z)	493
1977	Pks Cp	4½ (2t 1s z)	Öst ist	3 (z)	496
<i>5 schilling dull lilac brown Aggstein</i>					
1982	Pks Cp	4½ (2t 1s z)	Öst ist	3 (z)	512
<b><i>Monastery Series</i></b>					
<i>3.50 schilling sepia and red-brown Geras Abbey</i>					
1984	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (2s z)	516
<i>4 schilling sepia and scarlet Stams Abbey</i>					
1985	Pks Cp	4½ (2t 1s z)	Öst ist	3 (z)	519
<i>3.50 schilling sepia and red-brown Geras Abbey with 50gr buildings</i>					
1986	Pks	4 (2t 1s z)	line	3 (2s z)	520

**Table 6: Scenic and monastery series - picture cards**

Date	Heading	Addressee	Centre	Publicity	Number
<i>1.50 schilling brown Bludenz</i>					
1974	Pks	4½ (2t 1s)	line		485
1975	Pks	4 (2t 1s) #	line	LÖK horiz	488
1975	Pks	4 (2t 1s) #	VOPV	WIPA 1975	489
1975	Pks	4 (2t 1s)	line	12 <sup>th</sup> Olympics (17 views)	490
<i>2.50 schilling violet Murau</i>					
1974	Pks	4½ (2t)	BO (GEF)	Yellow card	487
1976	Pks	4 (2t 1s) #	Line	LÖK yellow card	492ax
		4 (2t 1s) #		LÖK buff card	492ay
		4 (2t 1s)		LÖK greyish card	492by
1978	Pks	4 (2t 1s) #	Phil Graz	Old Graz	497
1978	Pks	4 (2t 1s)	line	Pcow*	499
1978	Pks	4 (2t 1s)	BO (GEF)	WIPA 8 views monochrome	504
				WIPA 4 views polychrome	505
<i>3 schilling ultramarine Bischofsmütze</i>					
1981	Pks	4 (2t 1s)	line	LÖK monochrome on buff	510
				LÖK Pcow*	511
1983	Pks	4 (2t 1s)	line	Pope John Paul on white	514
<i>4 schilling purple Almsee</i>					
1978	Pks Cp	5 (2t 1s)	BO (GEF)	Monochrome on yellow	494x
				Monochrome on grey	494y
1978	Pks Cp	5 (2t 1s)	BO (GEF)	Pcow*	502
1978	Pks Cp	5 (2t 1s)	BO (GEF)	Monochrome WIPA(3) on buff	506
				Monochrome WIPA(3) on white	507
<i>3.50 schilling sepia and red-brown Geras Abbey</i>					
1984	Pks	4 (2t 1s)	line	Pcow*	577
1985	Pks	4 (2t 1s)	line	Pcow* 40yr UNO	578

\* 'Pcow' means 'Polychrome on white'.

# means last line of sender's address is below last line of destination address.

## ***1986 - a new concept***

In 1986 a completely new concept emerged, to have just two series of cards, Inland with Austrian flora & fauna as the imprinted stamp, and Ausland with Austrian castles and palaces. Most of the multitude of earlier variations were swept away, and compared with the diversity of the preceding listings the only changes to be noted are:

- ❖ Subject of imprinted stamp
- ❖ Latest postage rate (though five cards had to have a surcharge consisting of an additional 50gr or 1s buildings series imprint, probably because when a rate increase was imminent, excessive stocks of old-rate cards remained)
- ❖ Initially, white card continued to be used, all cards being polychrome, but around 1992 this switched to pale cream
- ❖ The central dividing line started as a plain line but then switched (usually) to "Schützt gefährdete Pflanzen und Tiere" plus a thick line on Inland cards; and "Österreich ist schön. Komm, bleib", later "Österreich Ihr Urlaubziel" on Ausland cards. Exceptions are ANK 31, 33, 35, 37, 49.

### **These cards come in three formats:**

- a) Inland and Ausland cards with plain left-hand sides with only the lines for the sender's address at the bottom (nos 1-17) or top (nos 18 onwards).
- b) Both series with a relevant "picture" on the left side; these are listed by ANK (Öst. SpezialKat 2001/2 pp355-9) as "Postkarten der ÖPT mit Wertstempeleindruck" numbers 1-53 as given in the table below. Note: the ANK numbers are not in strict issue-date sequence!
- c) Inland and Ausland cards with the LERNT ÖSTERREICH KENNEN" and a view plus text on the left; these LÖK cards are not listed by ANK.

**Table 7: Flora, Fauna and Castles issues**

<i>Inland postage</i>				<i>Ausland postage</i>			
ANK	Date	Value	Imprint	ANK	Date	Value	Imprint
1	1/86	4	Lily	2	1/86	5	Groppenstein
3	10/86	4	Butterfly	5	5/87	5	Schlaining
4	4/87	4	Sundew	8	5/88	6	Europa CEPT
6	9/87	4	Ibex	9	6/88	5	Grein
7	5/88	4	Violet	12	6/89	5	Spielfeld
10	10/88	4	Trout	16	5/90	5	Rosenburg
11	4/89	4	Stork	20	6/91	5	Hohenwerfen
13	9/89	4	Mushroom	22	2/92	6	Schwarzenau
14	1/90	4+½	Mushroom	26	4/93	6	Rosenau
15	4/90	4½	Adonis	31	5/94	6	Schlossberg
17	8/90	4½	Tree frog	34	5/95	6	Ort
18	4/91	4½	Grasshopper	36	10/95	6	Krems- Gozzoburg
19	5/91	4½	Arnica	38	5/96	6	Landek
21	1/92	4½+½	Arnica	40	5/97	6	Hellbrunn
23	3/92	5	Globe flower	42	7/97	6+1	Landek
24	6/92	5	Blue throat tit	43	7/97	6+1	Hellbrunn
25	3/93	5	Fritillary	46	5/98	7	Franzenberg
27	6/93	5	Green lizard				
28	1/94	5+½	Green lizard				
29	3/95	5½	Edelweiss				
30	5/95	5½	125yrs PSC				
32	8/94	5½	Weasel				
33	5/95	5½	Brown butterfly				
35	9/95	5½	Saxifrage				
37	5/96	5½	Lapwing				
39	9/96	5½	Silver thistle				
41	7/97	6½	Hedgehog				
44	10/97	6½	Lungwort				
45	5/98	6½	Lynx				
47	9/98	6½	Clematis				
48	6/99	6½	Ball orchid				
49	10/99	6½	Cat & dog				
49a	10/99	6½	Cat & dog				
50	6/00	6½	Bat & WIPA				
51	1/01	6½+½	Bat & WIPA				
52	2/01	7	Burning Bush				
53	7/01	7	Owl				

## Notes:

Those shown with two values (eg '6+1') have an Heiligenstadt (½) or Mariazell (1) Buildings series augmentation imprint for use with increased postal rates.

49 has the dividing text "100 Jahre Österreichischer Tierschutzverein" while 49a has the text blocked out.

## ***Other PSCs 1945 - 2001***

The preceding tables list the PSCs with current definitive or special designs for the Flora, Fauna and Castles series. Many privately commissioned cards were issued during the late 40s and early 50s. These include the Kinderdorf balloon post issues (see 'Austria' 113 pp 34-34 and 134 pp10-61) and a few others using imprinted stamps such as the 1947 12gr Schubert (ANK819), the 1948 1s+50gr Olympics (ANK863) or the 1950 60gr bird airmail (ANK967).

But in addition, from 1964 to 1982 extra official cards were issued in connection with special events using the designs from the corresponding adhesive stamps. Briefly, these issues are:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Schn</b>	<b>ANK</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1964	434	1168+	Olympics
1964	435	1188	UPU Congress
1964	436	1202	Trade unions
1965	446	1208	Rebuilding
1966	455		
1968	462	1292	IFA Exhibition

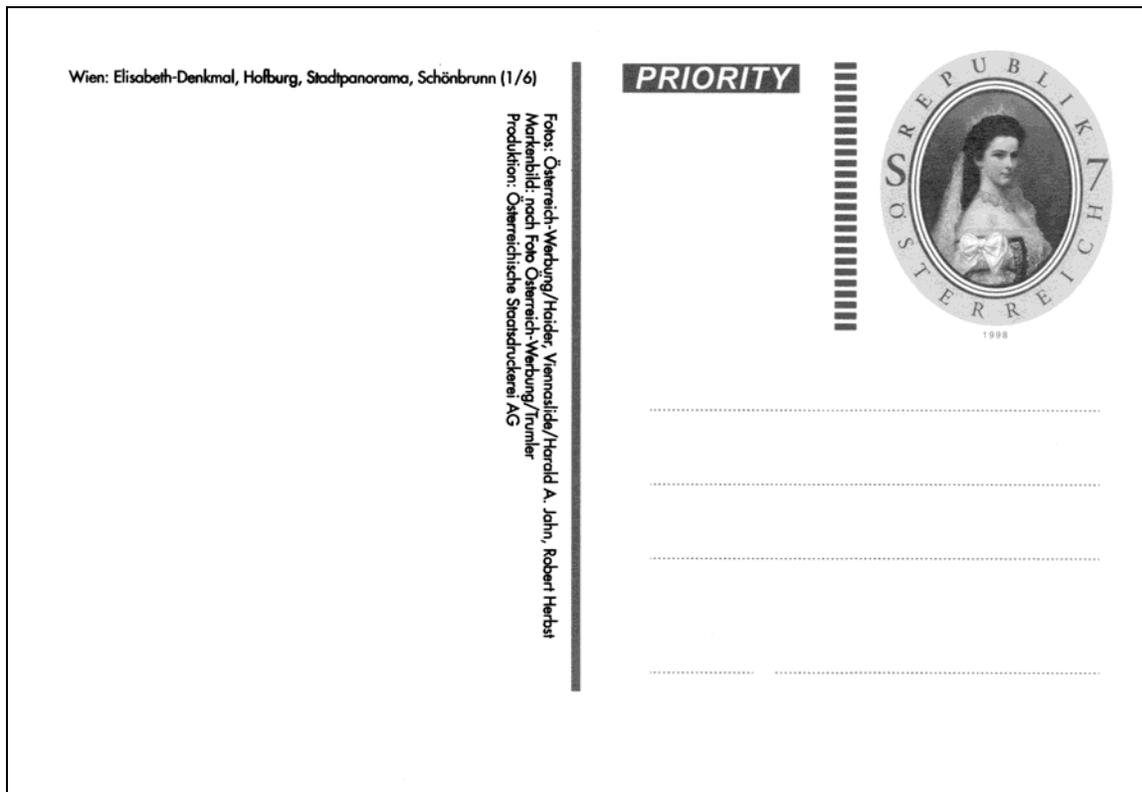
<b>Date</b>	<b>Schn</b>	<b>ANK</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1968	464	1306	Silent Night
1969	470	1333+	Kinderdorf
1971	474	1403	Open cast mine
1973	480	1446+	CEPT
1980	503	1676	1000 yrs Steyr
1982	513	1730	St Severin

[Schn = Schneiderbauer's number for the card, ANK = ANK/Netto number for the corresponding stamp]

+ card is in monochrome or restricted to the base colour of the stamp

This practice seems to have been discontinued with the start of the Flora, Fauna and Castles series except for three versions of Schneiderbauer 535: a special 6s card commemorating the visit of Pope John Paul II to Austria in 1988; and ANK8 for Europa 1988 and ANK30 for 125 Years of the first PSC, both as listed in table 7.

There are also cards issued by Postal Directorates: the "Sissi" cards are the best known but Salzburg recently issued a set. These seem "not to count" and are not listed in the ANK catalogue, although they are postally valid.



### *Austrian Postcard Postage Rates*

-from Schneiderbauer & Michel. All rates in Groschen unless otherwise noted!

Starting date	INLAND		AUSLAND		
	'Orts' (Local)	'Fern' (Distant)	CSR/Ung	Swiss Border	Rest of world
2/5/1945	5Rpf				
16/5/1945	5Rpf	6Rpf	15Rpf §		
5/10/1945	5Rpf	6Rpf			
1/2/1946	5Rpf	6Rpf			30
26/6/1946	5	6			35
25/7/1946	5	6			30
1/1/1947		8	25		35
1/9/1947		20	45		60
1/6/1949		30	45		60
1/1/1950		30	75		100
1/9/1951	70	100	110	110	145
1/2/1960	70	100		140	180
1/1/1964		100		140	180
1/1/1967		150		150	200
1/7/1971		150		200	250

Starting date	INLAND		AUSLAND		
	'Orts' (Local)	'Fern' (Distant)	CSR/Ung	Swiss Border	Rest of world
1/1/1976		250		300	300
1/3/1981		300		300	400
1/3/1982		300	400 ¶		500
1/2/1984		350	400 ¶		500
1/2/1986		400	500 ¶		600
1/1/1990		450	500 ¶		600
1/1/1992		500	600 ¶		700
1/1/1994		550	600 ¶		700
1/7/1997		650	***		***
1/1/2001		+++			

§ From 5.10.1945 to 16.11.1945 only, and to Czechoslovakia only

¶ For C.E.P.T. countries

\*\*\* Foreign Postcard abolished on introduction of Priority Mail system.

+++ Inland postcard rate abolished

### **Notes:**

"Ortsverkehr" (introduced 1<sup>st</sup> July 1873) rates applied to items posted and delivered by the same post office. For towns or cities such as Salzburg or Vienna, Ortsverkehr rates applied to the whole town. [Vienna is of course complicated, as it often extended its boundaries: in 1850 it comprised today's districts 1-9; in 1860 the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> were split; in 1874 the 10<sup>th</sup> was added; in 1892 the 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>; in 1900 the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> were separated; in 1904 the 21<sup>st</sup> added; after the Anschluß many changes were made, reversed in 1954; and a few minor adjustments since! So for example a card from Steinheilgasse to Favoriten was Fernverkehr until 1874, Orts thereafter. The office renumbering in 1892 didn't affect the rates.]

"Fernverkehr" was items for "the rest of Austria", which included ships in Austrian territorial waters and Austrian ships on the Bodensee; embassies and Austrian diplomatic missions; and probably also Austrian troops serving abroad. The term "Inland" will be used to cover both of these, and "Ausland" for the rest of the world (unlike letters, there was no higher postcard rate for remoter countries).

# AUSTRIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

## *Constituent Meeting*

held in the Regency Room, Chaucer Hotel, Canterbury, Kent at 10.45am on 21 October 2001; the Chairman, Martin Brumby, in the Chair.

1. The meeting noted and approved the formation of a Society to be known as the "Austrian Philatelic Society" in accordance with the Rules adopted by the proposed Society at its meeting on 15 October 2000.
2. The meeting noted and approved the actions taken since 15 October 2000 by the persons acting in the capacities of President, Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Librarian, Hon. Auctioneer and Hon. Packet Superintendent.

## *Annual General Meeting*

held in the Regency Room, Chaucer Hotel, Canterbury, Kent at 11.00am on 21 October 2001; the Chairman, Martin Brumby, in the Chair.

### **1. Opening by the Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed the members present to the first meeting of the recently constituted Austrian Philatelic Society. 21 persons signed the attendance list.

### **2. Hon. President's Report**

The Chairman reported briefly on the past year of the remodelled society during its transitional stage. It had continued to work effectively to support the membership and place Austrian philately in the public eye.

The Chairman's Report was unanimously approved on a proposal by G. Richardson, and seconded by H. White.

### **3. Hon. Secretary's Report**

The Hon. Secretary reported briefly on his activities since his provisional taking over the office of Hon. Secretary from Gordon Rogers who fell ill in the early summer. The Society's Committee while not meeting physically during the year, was engaged in a constant exchange of e-mails to ensure the Society's business was properly conducted. He also paid tribute to the work done by the Membership, especially those who had given displays locally, nationally, and internationally, thus adding their support to the hobby. Two local groups were active, one in London and one in Manchester. Steps had been taken to form a third group in the south-west but, to date, insufficient support had been obtained. Each of the two local groups reported to the meeting, the London Group in writing and the Manchester group orally, on their activities during the year.

Adoption of the Hon. Secretary's report was moved by J. Cottrell, seconded by A. Berrisford and it was adopted unanimously.

### **4. Hon. Treasurer's and Membership Secretary's Report and Financial Statement**

The Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary submitted her report and financial statement. She reported that membership had increased on balance and that the Society had accrued a deficit for the year of £356.21.

After some discussion, including the point whether the Society's Assets should be shown materially on the accounts, it was decided that no change was required to the present method of accounting and the Accounts and Membership Report were unanimously approved on a proposal by the Chairman, seconded by C. Tobitt.

**5. Hon. Editor's Report**

The Hon. Editor reported that four issues of "Austria" had appeared during the year, ranging in size from 52 to 68 pages but adapted to the needs of postage. Although there was a satisfactory backlog of material, further material was always welcome. A website had also been opened.

Several members congratulated the Hon. Editor on the high standard achieved with the Journal.

The Hon. Editor's Report was approved on a proposal by J.L. Whiteside, seconded by J. Cottrell.

**6. Hon. Librarian's Report**

The Hon. Librarian reported on the Society's Library and literature. The stock had been divided into books on the one hand and other paper ("not- books") on the other and the Society was in the process of whittling down excess material. No problems had been encountered to date. The Hon. Librarian was considering the feasibility of the Society bearing the cost of outgoing post to encourage borrowing.

It was suggested that the Librarian might report each year with a list of books borrowed. This might increase future borrowing activity by example.

Adoption of the Hon. Librarian's Report was moved by C. Tobitt, seconded by A. Taylor and unanimously approved.

**7. Hon. Auctioneer's Report and Financial Statement**

The Auctioneer reported that interest in the Auction had been lively, an average of 36 members bidding each auction. More, and more varied, material was still required for the auctions, while members should be encouraged to obey the bidding rules. He thanked vendors and bidders for their efforts. Members had uncomplainingly accepted a lotting charge of 10p; the net contribution from commissions to the Society during the year was £1,121.04.

Approval of the Hon. Auctioneer's report was moved by E. Oberthaler, seconded by G. Richardson, and approved unanimously.

**9. Hon. Packet Superintendent's Report and Financial Statement**

The Hon. Packet Superintendent reported briefly on packets circulated during the year. 41 packets had been in circulation, with values up by 20% on average (total £20,000), although sales fell. He mentioned that on consulting his notes he found that in the past 10 years, £1,240,000 worth of material had been circulated.

The Meeting expressed its thanks to Mr H. White who was now retiring from the position which he had filled for many years. The Chairman stressed the importance of the Packet to the Society.

The Hon. Packet Superintendent's Report was approved on a motion by C. Tobitt, seconded by the Chairman.

**10. Election of officers**

The Hon. Secretary reported that no nominations for election had been received by the deadline, 15 September 2001. However, the President had announced his intention to retire, which would be effective at the end of the coming year.

The following Hon. Officers were therefore re-elected on en-bloc on a proposal by J. Hooper, seconded by G. Richardson, adopted unanimously.

Hon. President	J. Giblin
Hon. Chairman	M. Brumby
Hon. Secretary	H.A. Smith
Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Mrs. J. Boyer
Hon. Editor	A. Taylor

Hon. Librarian  
 Hon. Auctioneer  
 Hon. Packet Superintendent

Mrs J. Boyer  
 C. Tobitt  
 M. Brumby

**11. Appointment of an Hon. Auditor**

S. Barret was proposed by Mrs J. Boyer as Hon. Auditor, seconded by H. White, and duly elected unanimously.

**12. Amendments to the Rules of the Society**

The following amendments to the Rules of the Society were moved by R. Randall, and seconded by J. Cottrell:

12.1 Motion: That Rule 11 be amended by inserting after "up to two co-opted members" the words "and a representative elected by and from each local group, who shall not also be an Officer of the Society"

12.2 Motion: That Rule 11 be amended by replacing the second and third sentences by "The quorum shall be 4. The Executive Committee shall be chaired by the Chairman, whom failing by another Officer of the Society chosen by those present, and shall as far as practicable follow the general policies set by the AGM".

12.3 Motion: That the following shall be added at the end of Rule 16: "Each Local Group may appoint one of its member (not already a member of the Executive Committee) as its representative to serve on the Executive Committee in accordance with Rule 11. Any such appointee shall be subject to re-election at its AGM."

All three amendments were carried Nem Con.

**13. Honorary Members**

On a proposal by Mrs J. Boyer, seconded by J.L. Whiteside, the Meeting approved by acclamation the election as honorary members of the Society of **D. P. Brooker** and **W. H. Green**, formerly Honorary members of the Association of the now defunct Association of Austrian Philatelists of London.

**14. Provisional Date and Venue of the Fest for 2002**

It was agreed that the Fest for 2002 should be held on 11 to 13 October, at Canterbury. The Meeting welcomed John Cottrell's agreement to organise the event.

B. Presland volunteered to organise a Fest in Winchester in 2003. His generous offer was welcomed by all present.

**15. Any Other Business**

B. Presland suggested that study groups be formed on specific subjects, especially those where further information would be welcome. The Hon. Editor said he would be willing to publish reports on suitable subjects. Mr Presland agreed to submit suggestions before the next Annual Meeting.

R. Avery commented on the breadth and high standard achieved with displays and presentations at the Fest just held and suggested that particular publicity should be given to this event, especially so as to encourage members from other countries such as Ireland, the Netherlands or America to attend the function, which they would find well worthwhile. The Meeting endorsed Mr Avery's views.

The Hon. Auctioneer mentioned that a member had requested a copy of the auction bidder lists. The Chairman felt that this would contravene the Data Protection Act. Members present agreed but asked the Committee to obtain confirmation.

It was agreed in principle, on a suggestion by C. Tobitt, that the Society should appoint a Press Secretary to maintain contacts with the philatelic press and provide information. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Committee.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.45pm.

**H.A. Smith, Hon. Secretary**

## *Honorary Secretary's Report, January 2002*

This Report forms only an addendum to the previous report ('Austria' 137 pp 6-7). The one item of particular note was the visit to Vienna for the traditional Christkindl markets on the weekend of 8 December. Eight members, with or without partners, joined a visit organised by Habsburg Heritage timed to coincide with the NUMIPHIL 2001 Stamp Fair at the Vienna Stock Exchange on 8 December. Several other members made their own arrangements to attend the fair. For the visitors, prices were generally favourable, with the pound standing high against the Austrian schilling, which was of course itself in its last days.

Over twenty dealers attended the fair from all parts of Austria and Germany and, once again, everyone, whatever he collected, had a wealth of opportunities. It is no exaggeration to say that you could come away from one dealer with as much suitable material as you might expect to find after a whole day at Stampex.... My own favourite was a card, pulled out of a dealer's "junk box", with a boxed cancel of Metkovich (Dalmatia) dated 26 June 1899, of a type I have never seen before. See illustration – Is it a railway station marking, or what?. (*I have moved this to "Questions & Answers. Ed.*)

A highlight of the visit was a Society dinner at a local restaurant when we had the opportunity of meeting three of our distinguished local members: Hannes Margreiter, the stamp designer, Prof. Richard Zimmerl, Editor of Die Briefmarke, and Dr. Christine Kainz, the well-known postal historian. We were saddened to learn that the Austrian Post Office intends to cease designing its stamps in-house and will in future farm out the work to the cheapest bidder (reportedly the Czech Republic!).

The occasion also gave members a chance to pick up the new reprint of the "Klein" catalogue. Packed with useful information and the original long out of print, the reprint will surely prove useful to postmark collectors; but in terms of printing and paper quality it is not a patch on the original which will clearly remain a collector's item.

Which brings me to a point raised recently by one of our members. We all are or started out as stamp collectors, although many of us have since moved into collecting postmarks, stamps-on-cover and postal history in the strict sense. Yet I suspect that the majority of our members are still stamp collectors pure and simple and they want greater outlets for exchange and purchase. The average of "pure stamps" now appearing in our auction is less than 11% while relatively few "pure stamp" booklets circulate in the Packet. With such a big potential market out there, this is surely a challenge for all our members to spend a few of the remaining long evenings of this part of the year sorting out the perfs and shades amongst their duplicates and sending them to the auctioneer or packet secretary ....

## Stamp issues for 2000 (part 1)

by Andy Taylor

### *Introduction*

These notes are taken from the Austrian Post Office Press Release for the technical details & dates, and from their website, supplemented by Die Briefmarke, for the notes on the design and its background. Several of the stamps have been mentioned before as part of the build-up to and descriptions of WIPA2000, but are covered again here for the sake of completeness and uniformity of treatment. The order of the ANK (Netto) catalogue is followed.

### *Tales and Legends of Austria: House of the Basilisk in Vienna*

**Issued 21.1.2000. ANK 2333: 10Sch**



Colours: Photogravure light-grey & red; Intaglio chamois; Perf 13¾x14; Issue unlimited; Design Adolf Tuma; Engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler; Printing ÖSD. [Also used on the miniature sheet sold along with the WIPA entrance ticket: see 'Austria' 131 p4.] The legendary House of the Basilisk situated in Vienna's first district can be found on Schönlaterngasse 7, unmistakably labelled by the sign that reads "Zum Basilisken". The cellar walls of this house date back partly to the 13th century. As one strolls through this idyllic street in the old part of the city, one inevitably pauses in

front of House No. 7 where a somewhat peculiar bird in stone can be seen in a niche in the wall between the windows of the second floor. It is actually a sandstone carving of a rooster wearing a little golden crown and with a cast-iron beak and tail. According to legend, this peculiar creature, whose image appears on the house's façade, lived in a deep well in the courtyard. An old rooster laid an egg, a toad incubated it to maturity, and a basilisk was hatched. This terrifying legendary reptile had the body and legs of a giant toad, misshapen claw-like talons covered with warts, its tail was long and scaly, and the gaze from its eyes killed all on whom it fell. The basilisk is said to have been discovered on the morning of June 12, 1212. It was killed by a brave apprentice who showed it its reflection in a mirror: thereby winning the hand of his master's daughter. The well was sealed with large boulders, thereby ridding the entire city of this terrible apparition.

## ***National Customs and Folklore Treasures: Kirchleintragen in Carinthia***

**Issued 21.1.2000. ANK 2334: 7Sch**

Colours: Photogravure grey-black, purple-red-lilac, ultramarine, yellow; Intaglio black; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 4,000,000; Design Auguste Böckör Engraving Maria Laurent; Printing ÖSD.



The "Kirchleintragen" is the carrying of miniature churches in Eisenkappel, Austria's southernmost health resort. During the days leading up to February 1<sup>st</sup>, the children of Bad Eisenkappel's elementary school fashion miniature churches out of white and coloured paper. On the eve of the Virgin Mary's Candle Mass (February 2), the little paper churches are fastened to poles and carried to the bridge near Hagenegg Castle. Once at the bridge, the children carefully set their little churches in the flowing currents of the sometimes snow-covered and icy waters of the Vellach River. The illuminated churches dance nimbly on the river's waves until they slowly turn over and eventually lose their light. This tradition may date back to a vow made in response to flooding in the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the Town Square, houses, and parish church were completely submerged in the raging waters of the Vellach, and only the pilgrimage church of Maria Dorn withstood the flooding. The citizens of Eisenkappel who had sought refuge in the church made a vow of gratitude for their rescue.

## ***Vienna Welcomes the World to WIPA 2000***

**Issued 21.1.2000. ANK 2335: 40 (27+13) Sch; ANK 2336: 45 (32+13) Sch; ANK 2337: 48 (32+16) Sch plus WIPA logo all in a block.**

Colours: Photogravure grey-black, ultramarine, brown-ochre, yellow, pink-crimson, violet-blue, black-brown, orange; Intaglio black, dark-green; Letterpress light-cobalt-blue; Perf 14x13¾; Issue 850,000 blocks; Design Adolf Tuma, Hannes Margreiter; Engraving Prof Wolfgang Seidel; Printing ÖSD.



WIPA 2000 was dedicated to the issue of Austria's first postage stamp 150 years ago on June 1, 1850. The exposition took place from May 30 to June 4, 2000 in Vienna's Austria Center. The special issue block entitled "Vienna Welcomes the World to WIPA 2000" comprises three surcharged stamps from the years 1997, 1998, and 1999 brought together in a decorative framework; the 4th field is occupied by the WIPA logo. The block's stamps, however, all bear the year 2000 (in very small print at the bottom) instead of the previous years 1997, 1998, and 1999. Thus, identical stamps but of different years are available for the first time in Austria. The decorative border around the block shows the WIPA 2000 logo (St. Stephen's Cathedral and Vienna's famous Ferris Wheel) and the text refers to the anniversary of the stamps.

### *National Customs and Folklore Treasures: Schleicherlaufen in Telfs*

**Issued 11.2.2000. ANK 2338: 6½Sch**

Colour: Photogravure grey-black, ultramarine, yellow, purple-red-lilac, ultramarine-grey; Intaglio black; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 2,500,000; Design Auguste Böcskör Engraving Maria Laurent; Printing ÖSD.

On the one hand, the market municipality of Telfs in Tyrol, nestled at the foot of the 2,661 meter-high Hohe Munde, is modern and forward-looking. On the other hand, it maintains strong ties to its eventful history and customs. Lively festivities of similar type and size, involving between 400 and 500 men and



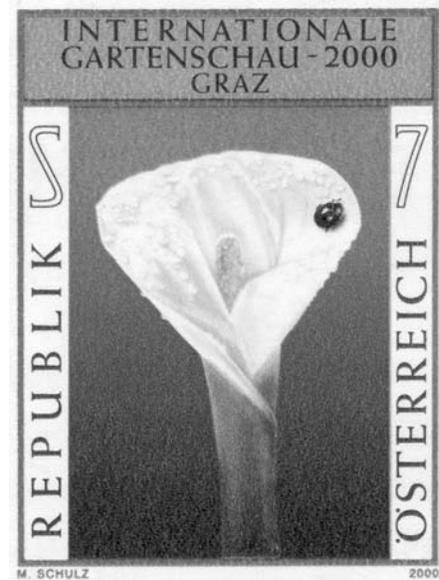
even larger numbers of industrious helpers active in the background, are few and far between nowadays. The difference between the "Telfer" and other large Tirol carnivals lies mostly in the "Schleicher" (swindlers) and "Wilden" (savages), two groups which form the core of this regional custom. The former gave the spectacular ritual its name. There are conflicting speculations as to the origin of the "Telfer Schleicherlaufen", which is held every five years. Perhaps festivities such as these are rooted in ancient

pre-Christian fertility rituals, springtime cult rituals intended to drive away winter, or in rituals to exorcise spirits of the dead. It is also thought that these festivities tend more towards the myth of a mask as a way of bridging social and moral barriers. Rural dwellers trying to imitate and parody courtly festivals would place the origin of the carnival tradition in the Late Middle Ages

## *International Gardening Exhibition*

**Issued 3.3.2000. ANK 2339: 7Sch**

The design shows a *Zantedeschia aethiopica*! Colour: Photogravure olive-green, yellow, crimson, cornflower-blue, blue-black, dark-blue-grey; Perf 13¾x13¾; issue 3,100,000 in minisheets of 8; Design Maria Schulz; Printing ÖSD. The International Gardening Exhibition was held in the grounds of the Schwarzl Recreation Center south of Graz from April 13 to October 15, 2000. The beauty, diversity, and artistry of landscaping were displayed under the motto "the magic of gardens". The exhibition presented four outstanding gardening models: agricultural, alpine, flower, and peasant. Preparations began in October 1997. It was especially important to the organisers to leave behind an attractive landscape for visitors to enjoy. The fascination and magic of arranged landscapes formed one aspect of the gardening exhibition, while enhancing the awareness for nature and environmental conservation and



presenting farming-related products and services was the other.

## *Hunting and the Environment: Reintroducing the Ibex*

Issued 3.3.2000 ANK 2340: 7Sch

Colour: Photogravure turquoise-blue, straw-yellow, pale-purple-red, black; Perf 14x14; issue 2,900,000; Design Mag Valentin Wurnitsch; Printing ÖSD.



Originally, the ibex was native to Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy, and Austria. However, as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this species no longer occurred in many of its former habitats, and at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the ibex was totally extinct from the Austrian Alps. The animals survived a little longer in France and Switzerland; however the ibex disappeared entirely from alpine regions at the beginning of

the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Only between 50 and 100 animals survived under strict protection in a region of the Gran Paradiso Massif in northwestern Italy. The cause of eradication can be attributed to folklore and superstition, since almost every part of the ibex was thought to possess special powers. Between 24,000 and 28,000 ibexes inhabit the Alps today. Austria made early first attempts at repopulation: Salzburg made its first successful attempt in Blühnbachtal in 1924. After WWII, other successes followed in Tirol, Carinthia, and Vorarlberg. Today, Austria has a population of at least 3,000 of these animals.

## *Austrian Soccer Champions: FC Tirol*

Issued 3.3.2000. ANK 2341: 7Sch



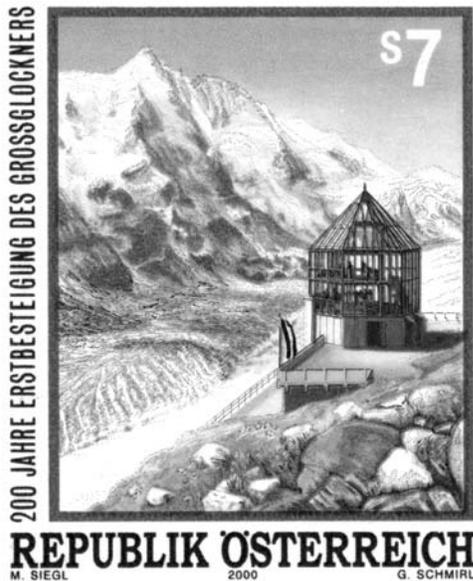
Colour: Photogravure turquoise-blue, yellow, purple-red-lilac, black, crimson, dark-blue-green; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; issue 2,800,000; Design Hannes Margreiter; Printing ÖSD.

In 1913 around 15 enthusiastic and active sportsmen founded the Wacker Soccer Club, which won its first championship game on October 9, 1920. The Wacker Club participated unsuccessfully in Tirol's championship games in 1938. The post-war devastation after 1945 was so widespread throughout the provincial capital that practically all clubs had to restart from the beginning. The undying Wacker spirit was put to the test of

making possible the seemingly impossible. This was very successful and was proven by their sensational rise from the lowest to the highest division in the years that followed. In addition to international cup championships, "FC Tirol Milch Innsbruck" (as it's now known) boast seven titles as Austrian champions and the same as Austrian cup winners.

## *200th Anniversary of the First Ascent of the Grossglockner*

Issued 28.4.2000 ANK2342: 7Sch



Colour: Photo: ultramarine, yellow, purple-red-lilac, orange-brown, dark blue-grey, crimson, gold; Intaglio: black. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Issue 2,800,800. Design Marianne Siegl, engraved Gerhart Schmirl. Printing ÖSD.

Scientist Hacquet de la Motte first prompted interest in conquering the Grossglockner in 1779. He scouted the entire region of the Eastern Alps and his publications on this theme sparked heightened interest in this mountain range. De la Motte travelled to Heiligenblut, where his plan to reach the summit from the south in two stages via the

Leitertal Valley was hindered by bad weather. He was also a member of a group of scientists and artists under Prince-Bishop Salm, who together with his highly-skilled colleagues pressed on with the exploration of Carinthia. This involved maintaining precise maps, geological field studies, and drawings of the botanical features. Vicar-General Sigmund Graf Hohenwart belonged to this circle, and in August 1799 he and his mountain-climbing comrades reached the summit of the Kleinglockner, which appears higher than the main peak when observed from the valley. They were deterred by icy cliffs before reaching the dizzying wind-gap. Even though the whole world celebrated this undertaking, Salm was not satisfied. He began his successful Grossglockner expedition to the Salm Hut in the Leitertal Valley on July 27, 1800. The mad race to the top followed the next day, when four carpenters and Pastor Horasch from Döllach reached the summit

## *Tales and Legends of Austria: The Witch's Ride*

**Issued 28.4.2000. ANK 2343: 22Sch**



Colour: Photo: chamois, blue; Intaglio: black. Perf 13¾x14. Issue unlimited. Design Adolf Tuma, engraved Prof Werner Pfeiler. Printing ÖSD.

Built in the early 18th century, the mighty Church of Mariatrost rises up above the northern edge of the Styrian provincial capital of Graz. Next to Mariazell it is Styria's most famous shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Above the stairs leading to the chancel appears a portrayal of the Witches' Ride. The painting depicts a witch seated on a large cat which is flying through the air. The witch is throwing a kerchief at a praying man who is holding his shoes sole-upwards towards a small shrine containing a statuette of the Virgin Mary. This votive painting is based on a legend, according to which a soldier came from Hungary in order to ask the Mother of God to free him of an evil curse. A gypsy had once asked the soldier to dance with her, but he declined, using the excuse that he was ashamed of his shoes. Full of rage, she threatened that in future he would never again have shoes, and at the same time stole his kerchief to make the spell take effect. Indeed, from that time forward no shoe lasted him for more than two days. In his desperation, the soldier undertook a pilgrimage to Mariatrost to pray there. The gypsy appeared in the form of a witch riding on a cat and returned the kerchief to him and from then on he was freed from the spell of the constantly worn-out shoes.

## *Europe 2000*

**Issued 9.5.2000. ANK 2344: 7Sch**

Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, yellow, purple-red-lilac, black. Perf 13½x14¼. Issue 2,800,800. Design Jean-Paul Cousin. Printing ÖSD.

Europa stamps in a design conceived by Jean-Paul Cousin of France were issued in all participating European countries. The stamps are intended to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, which formed a crucial element of post-1945 European integration. As French



Foreign Minister from 1948 to 1953, Schuman was particularly involved in promoting French-German relations. In addition to promoting commerce, the goal of this Plan was to encourage European unification. The plan was integrated into a formal agreement implemented in 1952 that brought to life the European Coal and Steel Community (which constituted a first step towards the European Union). The Europa Building appears in the centre of the stamp. The stars symbolise the countries of the European Union, and the column of stars reaches out into a blue sky reminiscent of Europe's flag. Children of different nationalities bring even more stars from different origins in an effort to form a larger Europe.

### *Austria's Natural Beauty: Weißsee in Salzburg*

**Issued 9.5.2000. ANK2345: 7Sch**



Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, yellow, pale-purple-red, grey-violet; Intaglio black. Perf 13¾x13¾. Issue 2,800,000. Design Peter Sinawehl, engraved Gerhart Schmirl. Printing ÖSD.

The stamp shows the Sonnblick Glacier with the Granatspitze (3,086 meters), the Sonnblick in Stubach (3,088 meters), and the Rudolfshütte near Lake Weißsee. Glaciers form the most significant contribution to the alpine landscape of the Hohe Tauern region, the most beautiful parts of which now comprise a national park. In general, alpine glaciers have been gradually diminishing since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1850 the glacier extended as far as Lake Weißsee, whose water levels were even lower than those of today. Since then, Lake Weißsee has been dammed up (in 1953) and its water level artificially raised. The Sonnblick Glacier has been studied for many years. The Rudolfshütte serves not only as a base for research, but is also a world-renowned training facility for alpine sports. In spite of ambitious nature conservation projects, the battle raging in the Stubachtal Valley between protection and consumption was decided in favor of projects to develop hydropower and tourism. Only a part of the Tauern Park founded in 1921, which includes the Wiegenwald Forest, was incorporated into the Hohe Tauern National Park in 1984. The Rudolfshütte and the Weißsee illustrate man's exploitation of this nature reserve. [Note the up-to-date spelling of "WEISSSEE"!]

## *150th Anniversary of the Protection of Historical Monuments in Austria*

**Issued 19.5.2000. ANK2346: 8Sch**



The stamp shows the Madonna of Altenmarkt and the glass roof of the palm house of the Burggarten in Vienna. Colour: Photo: ultramarine, yellow, lilac, green, grey-brown, grey-black, grey, red; Intaglio black. Perf 14x13¾. Issue 2,200,000. Design Marianne Siegl, engraved Gerhart Schmirl. Printing ÖSD.

In 1850 Interior Minister Bruck suggested that Emperor Franz Joseph I should place the preservation of historical monuments in the hands of the state, as several other European countries had done already. On December 31, 1850 the Emperor granted his approval for the establishment of the Royal and Imperial Central Commission for the Study and Preservation of Historical Monuments. In 1856 the Commission issued two periodicals still cited today by the Federal Monuments Agency. They are known as the "Austrian Journal for Art and the Preservation of Monuments" and the "Viennese Yearbook of Art History". The Monument Protection Law was enacted in 1923, whereby custody and preservation became a matter governed by the federal legislature. The law assumed the definition still valid today: monuments are stationary and mobile objects created by people which are of historical, artistic, or other cultural significance, and whose preservation is in the public interest. In addition to deciding whether such an interest exists, Austria's Federal Monuments Agency is also responsible for the designation and care of historical landmarks. In fact, the grounds of Schönbrunn Palace, Salzburg's Old City, the cultural landscapes at Hallstatt - Dachstein - Salzkammergut, and the Semmering Railway have even been included on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

## *75th Anniversary of Klagenfurt Airport*

**Issued 19.5.2000. ANK2347: 7Sch**

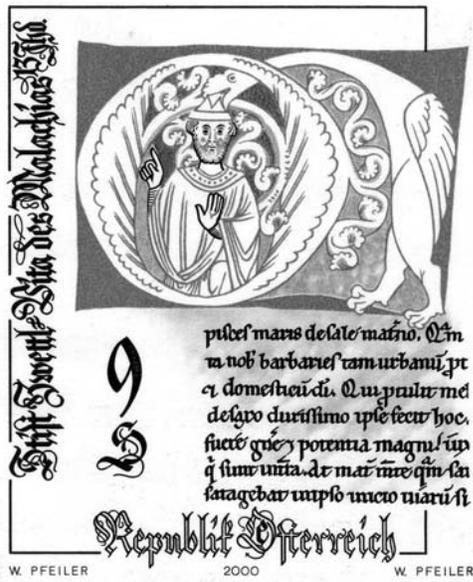
Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, yellow, purple-red-lilac, grey, blue-black, black. Perf 13¾x13¾. Issue 2,700,000. Design Mag. Radostina Blecha. Printing ÖSD.



1958 the airport was gradually expanded into a regional landing strip for medium-haul aircraft. Today it boasts a runway of 2,720 meters which accommodates nearly all types of aircraft currently in use in civil aviation.

### *Antique Handicrafts: The Life of Saint Malachy and Zwettl*

Issued 19.5.2000. ANK2348: 9Sch



Colour: Photo: blue, green-blue, brown, brown-ochre. Intaglio black. Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Issue 2,200,000. Design & engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler. Printing ÖSD.

This stamp was issued on the 800th anniversary of the city of Zwettl, which has kept in close contact with the Cistercian Monastery over many centuries. The famous Cistercian Bernhard von Clairvaux compiled the *Vita Sancti Malachiae Episcopi* (The Life of Bishop Malachy) in Latin around the year 1149. Records containing an illustration of the bishop, chosen as the stamp's motif, can be found in the medieval manuscripts of Zwettl's monastic library. Malachy, born the

son of a lector at the monastic school at Armagh in 1094/1095, was consecrated Bishop of Connor in 1123/1124. He practiced his office in a strictly ascetic manner and with great modesty, simplicity, and compassion. On his way to Rome in 1140 he met Bernhard von Clairvaux, who recognized Malachy's unique and mystical ability. The *Vita* goes on to recount the many miracles which Malachy performed in Ireland. The remains of Bishop Malachy, who died in November 1148 in Clairvaux, rest in the Church of Troyes

## *150th Anniversary of Austrian Postage Stamps*

**Issued 30.5.2000. ANK 2349: 7Sch**



Colour: Photo: red-lilac, light-red, yellow-orange, dark blue-green, blue, violet, grey-black, brown-ochre, silver, gold. Intaglio black. Perf  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$ . Issue 2,900,0800. Design & engraving Prof Werner Pfeiler. Printing ÖSD.

Issued on June 1, 1850, Austria's first stamps consisted of denominations of 1, 2, 3, 6, and 9 Kreuzer, along with stamps in denominations of 5, 10, 15, 30, and 45 Centes for the Austrian-controlled region of Lombardy-Venice. Apart from the value

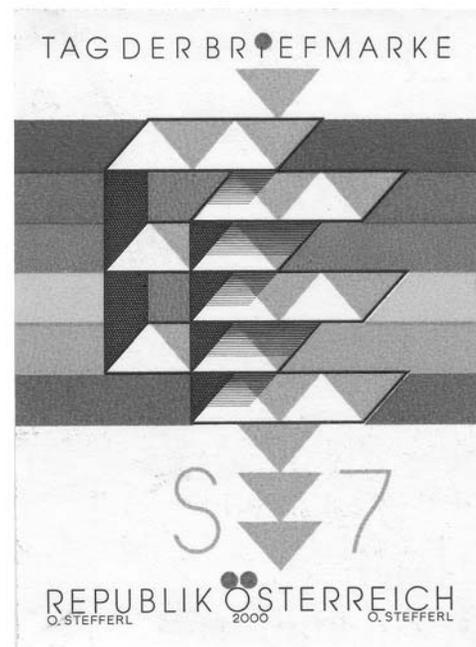
overprint and colour patterns, the stamps were completely uniform. The stamps carried the national symbol of the double-headed eagle in a decorative shield with the imperial crown above. Over this was a twig of laurel and an oak branch with the inscription "K.K. Post-Stempel". The value and currency information was given below. Although "K.K. Post-Stempel" appeared on these stamps, senior postal authorities introduced the little gummed label under the name "Briefmarke" - a brilliantly simple name which later established itself throughout the entire German-speaking region.

## *Day of the Stamp 2000*

**Issued 30.5.2000. ANK 2350: 7Sch**

Colour: Photo: red-lilac, light-red, yellow-orange, blue, dark-green, violet, silver, gold; Intaglio black. Perf  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ . Issue 3,100,000. Design & engraving Prof Otto Stefferl. Printing ÖSD.

The final issue in the ten-part series from 1999 to 2000 created by Professor Otto Stefferl to commemorate the "Day of the Stamp" has an abstract design which offers food for thought on the topic of renewable energy. The entwined letters are not the only subjects of



interpretation, as the artist himself places much more value on the symbolism of the various colours. According to Stefferl's interpretation, the universally understood yet not always clearly defined word "energy" can be commonly defined even without a physics book: an "elemental force", an "accumulated potential", or simply a medium that unleashes power, thereby affecting change. There are neither one-sided ideologies nor commercial interests behind the message this stamp seeks to convey. It is through the stamp that Otto Stefferl emphasizes those aspects of energy supply that will secure a genuinely promising future.

## *Confetti*

**Issued 31.5.2000. ANK 2351: 7Sch**



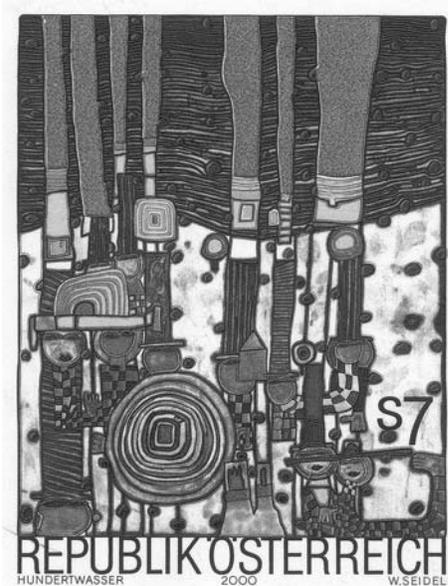
Colour: Photo: yellow-orange, red, dark yellow-green; Intaglio black. Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Issue 2,800,000. Design Elisabeth Pirker. Printing ÖSD.

The puppeteers Britta Hellmann and Stefan Gaugusch created the character "Confetti" and his friend "Rolf Rüdiger" and breathed life into them. Confetti first saw the light of television on the ORF Children's Program in September 1993. He quickly captured the hearts of young viewers in his very own "Confetti-Show" during which prominent figures from all facets of public life were invited to participate. The character of Confetti has been the symbol of ORF's

children's programming since April 1994, and his lively personality even carries over into those children's television shows which don't feature Confetti and Rolf Rüdiger. "Confetti TiVi" is trying to cater to the local and regional needs of children. In doing so, promoting constructive leisure-time behaviour outside of programme-watching continues to remain a priority. One of the most important objectives of "Confetti TiVi" is to promote cultural and leisure-time viewing throughout Austria and to ensure that these meet the real needs of children. The ultimate goal remains: "From monologue to dialog - learning with one another!"

## *Hundertwasser*

**Issued 2.6.2000: ANK 2352-2355: Block of 4 x 7Sch**



The design is Hundertwasser's "Blue Blues" in four colourways. Colour: Photo: turquoise-blue, blue, greenish-yellow, pale-purple-red, black, silver, grey; Intaglio dark-brown-crimson, black-violet. Perf 13¾x13¾. Issue 1,100,000. Design Friedensreich Hundertwasser, engraved Prof Wolfgang Seidel. Printing ÖSD.

The block is illustrated in 'Austria' 131 p3 and 134 p7; all the four stamps have the same design but each has different colourings. There was also a Memorial Sheet with the same design in grey.

Born Friedrich Stowasser on December 15<sup>th</sup> 1928 in Vienna, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, who died on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2000, was condemned by his rivals, scorned above all by professional architects, ridiculed as a "scavenger" by self-proclaimed art critics, and for the most part experienced admiration, rejection, and devotion like almost no other. Untruths, maliciousness, and misconceptions were circulated about him like no other artist, even as extremely successful exhibits were enthusiastically received by thousands of visitors around the world. To be sure, he did not make things easy for many, and yet behind this lay constructive energy, an undying conviction in his purpose and an almost religious devotion to his goals. The question "What was Hundertwasser trying to achieve?" was answered by the artist himself thus: *"I want to set an example, to set an example for all people; to paint a paradise. Paradise exists right here, yet it is we who ruin it - and everything that religion and doctrines and the various political movements promise is all nonsense. So naturally I come into conflict with society, which completely misunderstands this."* Most notable is his work on behalf of the Austrian postage stamp, where he found a congenial lithographer in Professor Wolfgang Seidel. Postage stamps from his handiwork have appeared around the world as brilliant works of art. The commemorative block shows a Hundertwasser composition in four colour variations entitled "Blue Blues".

## A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME..

by Andy Taylor

The coincidence of an article in "Die Briefmarke" and an emailed question from the Winnipeg Philatelic Society set me searching in fluff-infested corners! Were the Austrian stamps issued on 12 December 1937 [=ANK 658 & 659; described in 'Austria' No 24 p46] the world's first Christmas stamps? And is there a secret concealed in the design?

No satisfactory explanation is known of why Austria should suddenly have decided to issue these "Good Wishes" stamps just before Christmas, since no precedent for such stamps existed in Austrian philately. They were to be used on birthday cards and letters.

The stamps were designed by Prof. Wilhelm Dachauer, but his first submission was for a Christ-Child floating in a star of light, with the 12 signs of the Zodiac representing the 12 Apostles. This was rejected (perhaps an overtly religious theme was politically unsuited to that time of gathering thunderclouds) and a "Vase of Roses" took its place. However "100 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke" (Vienna 1950 p38) has an illustration of the original concept (apologies for the moire fringes).



Professor Dachauer's accepted design was a vase of roses, framed by the signs of the Zodiac, for two values: 12 groschen blue-green and 24 groschen carmine. [These were the inland postcard and inland letter rates at that date.] The stamps were recess printed at the State Printing Works in Vienna, comb perforated 13 (the 24gr is also known imperf) and were valid for postage until 31<sup>st</sup> October 1938. The number issued is unknown.



The signs of the Zodiac can be clearly discerned in the two vertical columns to either side of the stamps. They are as follows from top to bottom: left hand side: Scorpio, (the scorpion), Sagittarius (the archer), Capricornus (the goat), Aquarius (the water carrier), Pisces (the fishes) and Aries

(the ram); right hand side: Taurus (the bull), Gemini (the twins), Cancer (the crab), Leo (the lion), Virgo (the Virgin) and Libra (the scales). The roses are based on Hybrid Tea types. Some choose to interpret the design as an allegory of the Virgin Mary surrounded by the 12 Apostles.

### ***Post u Telegraphenverordnungsblatt 65/1937***

The "green Karasek" (see appendix) reproduces the Postal Ordinance 65/1937 which announces these stamps. It states

Introduction of special stamps of 12g and 24g for greetings letters (Greetings stamps). From 12th December 1937 new stamps of 12g and 24g in a special artistic design become valid, which should serve for the franking of greetings letters; they are however valid for the franking of all kinds of posted material in both domestic and foreign service, until further notice without time limit.

The German word consistently used is 'Glückwunsch' which translates as 'greetings'. My dictionaries all suggest that if Glückwunsch is associated with anything specific, it is with the birthday of the recipient, and not with Christmas. The 'Christmas' link seems to be an invention of English-speaking cataloguers!

### ***A secret?***

Herr M. Palmer of Bad Aussee wrote to 'Die Briefmarke' (Feb 2002 issue p25), regarding the often-repeated assertion that the engraver had hidden in the blossoms of the roses the heads of the then decisive politicians.

Enquiries of older persons confirmed to him that this is correct: Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese premier are hidden in the roses. Herr Palmer then wrote to the Japanese state archive in Tokyo, explaining that three politicians are allegedly hidden in the stamp, but not indicating which or where. About two months later the answer arrived: all three politicians were identified by the Japanese state archive which indicated their exact situation.

Herr Palmer's mother told him later that she had known Professor Dachauer personally, and that he had often assured her that he had hidden the three politicians in the roses. Allegedly, she added, he got into trouble over this after the issue of the stamps. If one considers Dachauer's stamp designs, one might conclude that he could have had a certain tendency to the right-wing body of thought. Frau Palmer thought that he could also have been active in some illegal areas. But all that is history.

Now however to the stamp itself [*some imagination may be useful Ed*]. The politicians are easiest to find if one covers the rest of the stamp so that only the indicated roses become visible. The three politicians are hidden in these roses:



Hitler: First rose on the right above (2 o'clock). Look at the stamp upside-down: the head shows on the left. Clear to see are forehead, nose, moustache and chin. A petal forms a kind of hood.

Mussolini: Rose in the center. Again looking upside-down: the head shows on the left with the face, not completely clearly, in silhouette. A petal forms a kind of helmet, which is pushed in the neck.

Japanese premier: Rose on the left below (8 o'clock), looking at the stamp the normal way up. The Japanese state archive confirms, that it deals with a Japanese politician. It is not however completely clear who it is; there are three possibilities. Most likely is Hirota Koki, 32<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister from 9 March 1936. It could however be Hayashi Senjuro, 33<sup>rd</sup> Prime Minister from 2 February 1937; somewhat improbable is the 34<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister Konoe Fumimoro from 4 June 1937.

### ***Post u Telegraphenverordnungsblatt 65/1937***

(transcribed from Karasek "Österreich 1925-1938" p64 [APS Lib item 298].)

My transcription	My translation
Einführung besondere Briefmarken zu 12g und 24g für Glückwunschsreiben (Glückwunschpostmarken)	Introduction of special stamps of 12g and 24g for greetings letters (Greetings stamps)
Am 12. Dezember 1937 werden neue Briefmarken zu 12g und 24g in besondere künstlerischer Ausstattung in Verkehr gesetzt, die der Freimachung von Glückwunschsreiben dienen sollen, im übrigen aber für die Freimachung von Postsendungen aller Art im In- und Auslandsverkehre, bis auf weiteres ohne zeitlich Beschränkung, Gültigkeit haben.	From 12th December 1937 new stamps of 12g and 24g in a special artistic design become valid, which should serve for the franking of greetings letters; they are however valid for the franking of all kinds of posted material in both domestic and foreign service, until further notice without time limit.
Die neuen Glückwunscharmken sind im Anhang beschreiben.	The new greetings stamps are described in [the appended illustration]
Die Glückwunscharmken werden vom 13. Dezember 1937 angefangen ohne zeitliche Beschränkung durch sämtliche Postämter, in allen Orten auch durch die Trafiken sowie die sonstigen befugten Postwertzeichen verschleißer zum einfachen Nennwerte ohne jeden Zuschlag verkauft.	The greetings stamps go on sale from 13 <sup>th</sup> December 1937 without temporal limit through all post offices, in all places also through the tobacconists as well as the other authorized postage stamp retailers at the simple face value without surcharge.
Am 12. Dezember 1937 findet der Verkauf nur beim Sonderpostamte "Tag der Briefmarke", Wien I, Weiskirchnerstraße 3 (Österreiches Museum für Kunst und Industrie) statt.	On the 12 <sup>th</sup> December 1937 the sale takes place only at the Special "day of the stamp" Post Office, Weiskirchnerstrasse 3, Vienna I (Austrian museum for art and industry).

Ein Umtausch der Glückwunchmarken findet nicht statt.	The greetings stamps will not be exchanged [for money]
Der künstlerische Entwurf der Glückwunchmarken stammt von dem akademischen Mahler Professor Wilhelm Dachauer; der Name der künstler ist in der Mitte des unteren weißen Papierrandes angebracht.	The artistic design of the greetings stamps originates from the academic painter Professor Wilhelm Dachauer; the name of the designer is placed in the middle of the lower white margin.
V.M.2 43521 vom 22 November 1937	[a reference?] of 22 November 1937



## From a bygone age...

From Haida in Bohemia to Nottingham in England; dated 1908.



*My dear Ada, We returned home about midnight... I have sent you yesterday a little surprise for Easter and hope, that the box will arrive safely... Please use that box, to send me a bottle of Sloan's Liniment... Kindest regards R.H.*

# THE LAST CRUISE OF SMS KAISERIN ELISABETH: Part I

By Fred Pirotte

## *Postal services on board Austro-Hungarian warships*

### I - 1 Introduction

As in other national War Navies, the sailors of the "K.u.K Kriegsmarine" (Imperial and Royal War Navy) had postal services at their disposal on board their ships. These services were in accordance with several official publications which described how mail had to be handled, especially when the warship left the territorial waters for a long cruise and called at foreign ports.

### I - 2 The postal service on board Austro-Hungarian warships in territorial waters

The postal officer (Zahlmeister) of the warship left mail from the officers and the crew at the post offices of ports of call, franked but not cancelled. As a result, letters and postcards sent by the sailors can only be identified when having a handwritten note.

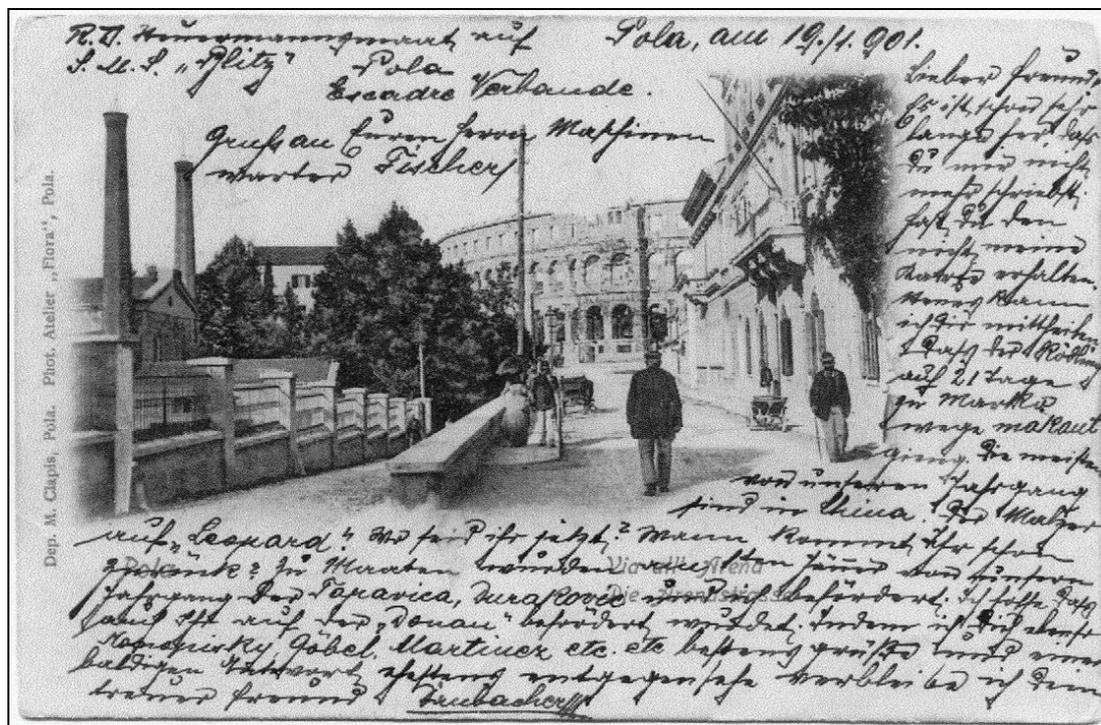


Fig. I - 1 - Postcard sent by SMS Blitz from Pola

Official mail has a handwritten note "Ex-Offo" or "Portofreie Dienstsache" and a service handstamp; the postal dated handstamp of the ship was never used. Furthermore, this postal dated handstamp was normally delivered to the warship

only when leaving Pola for a cruise outside territorial waters and had to be returned to the Admiralty in Pola on its return home. Letters and postcards, the stamps of which are cancelled with the postal dated handstamp of a warship sailing only in territorial waters, are fancies.

### **I - 3 The postal service on board Austro-Hungarian warships sailing in foreign waters**

#### **I - 3.1 General points**

The postal service in peace time was defined by the official publication: "Instruktion für die Behandlung des Postsendungen der in Fremden Gewässern befindlichen K.u.K Kriegsschiffe - Marine Normalverordnungsblatt XIV 1905" (Official rules with regard to handling of postal items on board the Imperial and Royal warships sailing in foreign waters).

This article is only concerned with mail exchanged between warships and the Austro-Hungarian Empire territories.

#### **I - 3.2 Basic procedures**

Exchange of postal items between Austro-Hungarian warships sailing in foreign waters and the sorting offices located in the Empire (Budapest and Wien) was performed by sending several items together in parcels named "dépêches" (in German "Kartenschluß").

**Mail from warships destined for the Empire:** These dépêches were posted at the civilian general post offices of the ports of call of the warship, then dispatched to the Empire by sea or land, according to the international processes in force.

**Mail from the Empire destined for warships:** When the warship left Pola, each sorting office (Wien and Budapest), where the dépêches are made up, received the detailed dated itinerary of the successive ports of call. Two different postal routes could be used:

By sea. Dépêches were sent to Shanghai, via Pontafel and Brindisi and then by English or German mail liners, or via Pontafel and Naples and then by English mail liner to Port-Saïd and then by French mail liner. The German consular post office in Shanghai was charged to forward the dépêche to the Chinese coastal ports concerned. The mean transportation time was about 20 days.

By land. This method, using the Trans-Siberian railway, was used before the Russian-Japanese war. Starting in 1907, the political problems being solved, the dépêche could be again dispatched thrice a week, via Berlin and Moscow, and then by the Trans-Siberian railway to Vladivostok or Daïren (Dalny). Depending on the final destination, the dépêche was sent to the Japanese

national post office, or to the Shanghai or Peking German consular post offices to reach the Chinese harbours having a German post agency, otherwise the *dépêche* could be sent directly to Chinese harbours or other harbours in the Far East by sea. As the mean time of delivery was 12-13 days, the overland route was favoured up to the outbreak of WWI.

Postal access to these services were limited to mail to or from the officers and crew of the warship. Only ordinary and registered letters, postcards, printed matter and samples were accepted. The same rules applied to the service mail with printed or script note " Ex Offo" or "Portofreie Dienstsache" (see Fig I-2).

The postal items complying with the above mentioned rules, given to the postal officer and sent to addressees residing in Austria or Hungary, had to be franked at the same rate that applied to the inland postal traffic. Service mail, having official status, was handled under the same conditions as within the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Postal items given to the postal officer, the addressees of which are located in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Sandjak of Novi Pazar, or in foreign countries, had to be franked at the same rates and conditions as those which applied to foreign mail in the Empire.

Parcels and cash-on-delivery were not accepted and had to be given, by the sender, to the postal office of the port of call, and had to pay the postal rates for international traffic from the country in question.

### **I - 3.3     Stamping**

Postal items given on board to the postal officer had to be franked with Austrian stamps when the addressee resided in Austria and with Hungarian stamps when the addressee resided in Hungary (see Fig I-3).

Postal items to addressees who resided in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Sanjak of Novi Pazar and foreign countries could be franked with either Austrian or Hungarian stamps, no matter which nationality the sender was.

Franking of any postal item given on board had to be cancelled with the metallic dated postmark of the warship. This postmark had to comprise the following indications: K.u.K Kriegsmarine; the name of the ship; and a removable insert of the date (day, month and year). Official mail, although sent post-free, had to carry an impression of the dated postmark.

For Registered items, a yellow registration label, on which the serial number was already printed, was stuck on each item. Registered items were listed on an inventory document where the serial number was entered. The name of the warship was handwritten or printed with a small service handstamp on the registration label.



Fig. I - 2 - Official envelope of SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I from Tsingtao

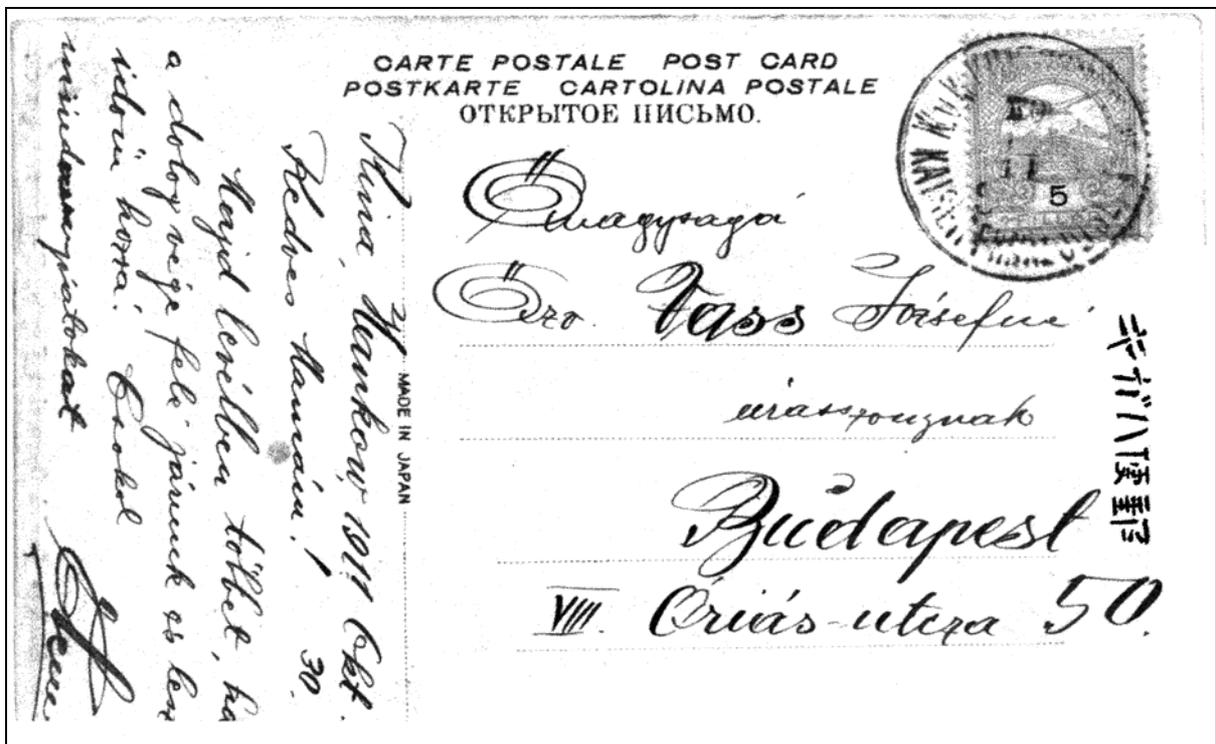


Fig. I - 3 - A postcard to Hungary franked with a Hungarian stamp



Fig. I - 4 - Registered letter of SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I from Shanghai: sent to Austria with Austrian stamps

### I-3.4 Postal rates

The postal rates, from 1905 up to August 1914, are as follows ('gr' = grammes):

Letters: up to 20gr 10 Heller; from 20gr to 250gr 20 Heller; from 250gr to 500gr (only for Hungary) 30 Heller.

Postcard: for Austria 5 Heller; for Hungary 4 Heller.

Registration fee 25 Heller

Printed matter to Austria: up to 50gr 3 Heller; from 50gr to 100gr 5 Heller; from 100gr to 250gr 10 Heller

Printed matter to Hungary: up to 10gr 2 Heller; from 10gr to 50gr 3 Heller; from 50gr to 150gr 5 Heller; from 150gr to 250gr 10 Heller

### **I - 3.5 Postal stock**

When a warship left the harbour of Pola for a cruise to foreign ports, the postal officer was required to have at his disposal the total quantity of Austrian and Hungarian stamps expected to be necessary during the total duration of the cruise. This quantity was proportional to the number of officers and members of the crew on board of the warship; and the number of successive ports of call.

The required quantity of Austrian stamps per man and per port of call was estimated to be: 3 stamps of 10 Heller; 1 stamp of 25 Heller, for stamps of 2, 3, 5, and 30 Heller, 5% of the quantity of stamps of 10 Heller; and for letter-cards, 3% of the total quantity of stamps of 10 Heller.

The quantity of Hungarian stamps was estimated at 10% of the total of Austrian stamps of each face value.. In fact, few Hungarian officers and sailors were engaged in the high seas fleet; most of them served in the Danube flotilla. Many sailors were Dalmatian of Austrian status.

### **I - 3.6 Making of the dépêches**

Separate dépêches were made up for Austria and Hungary and were addressed to the relevant sorting office in the empire. Mail for Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Sandjak of Novi Pazar, and foreign countries was incorporated in the dépêche forwarded to Wien or Budapest according to whether the franking stamps were Austrian or Hungarian.

In the middle of the dépêche, an advice sheet (Briefkarte) (see Fig I-5) was inserted in a coloured envelope. Starting on the 1st of January of each year, the advice sheets were separately numbered for both sorting offices. A registration register carried the same references. The current reference number was handwritten on the left top-corner of the advice sheet followed by the date and place of sending of the preceding dispatch. The advice sheet had to indicate how many registered items, if any, were included inside the Dépêche; If there were registered items, they were listed on a separate sheet. The advice sheet contained the name and a print of the dated postmark of the warship, and the date of delivery of the dépêche to the foreign Post Office which forwarded it to the Empire.

The dépêche was wrapped with resistant paper, like kraft paper, tied up and sealed with wax on the knot. Over the parcel, a pre-printed label was stuck. This label was filled out in pencil with the name of the ship and place of sending; and carries a print of the dated postmark of the warship. Occasionally, the name of the warship is found printed with a small service handstamp. [See Fig I-6] The dépêche was given to the clerk of the foreign Post Office who filled out and signed a pre-printed receipt [Fig I-7] (The same type of receipt had been used since 1890.)



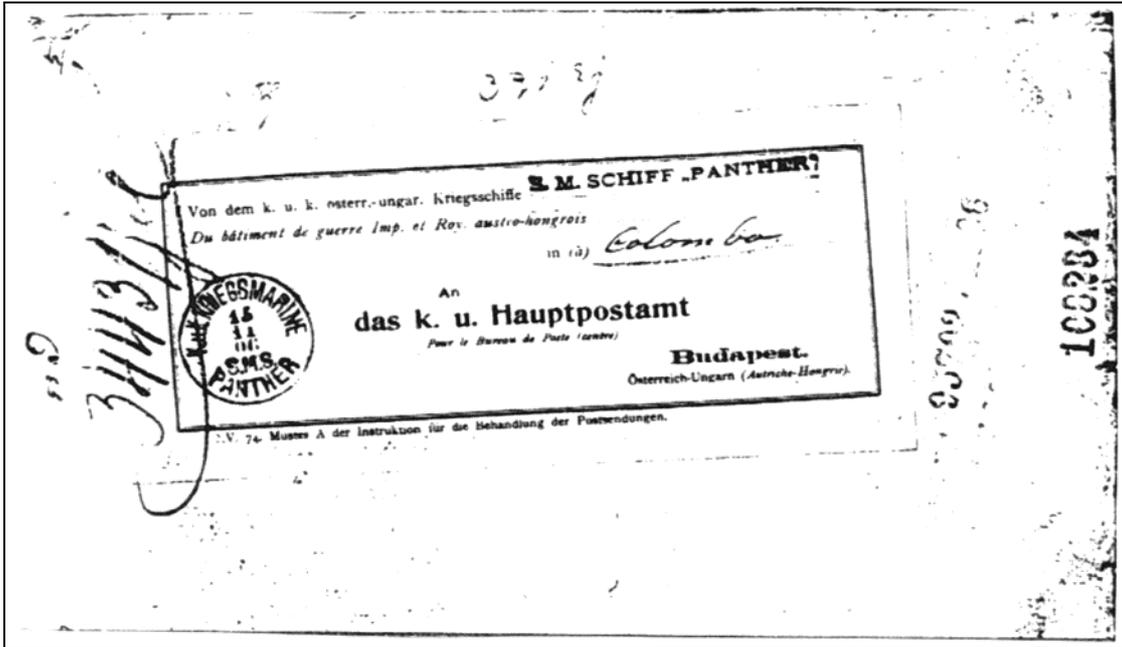


Fig. I - 6 - Wrapper of a dépêche sent by SMS Panther from Colombo

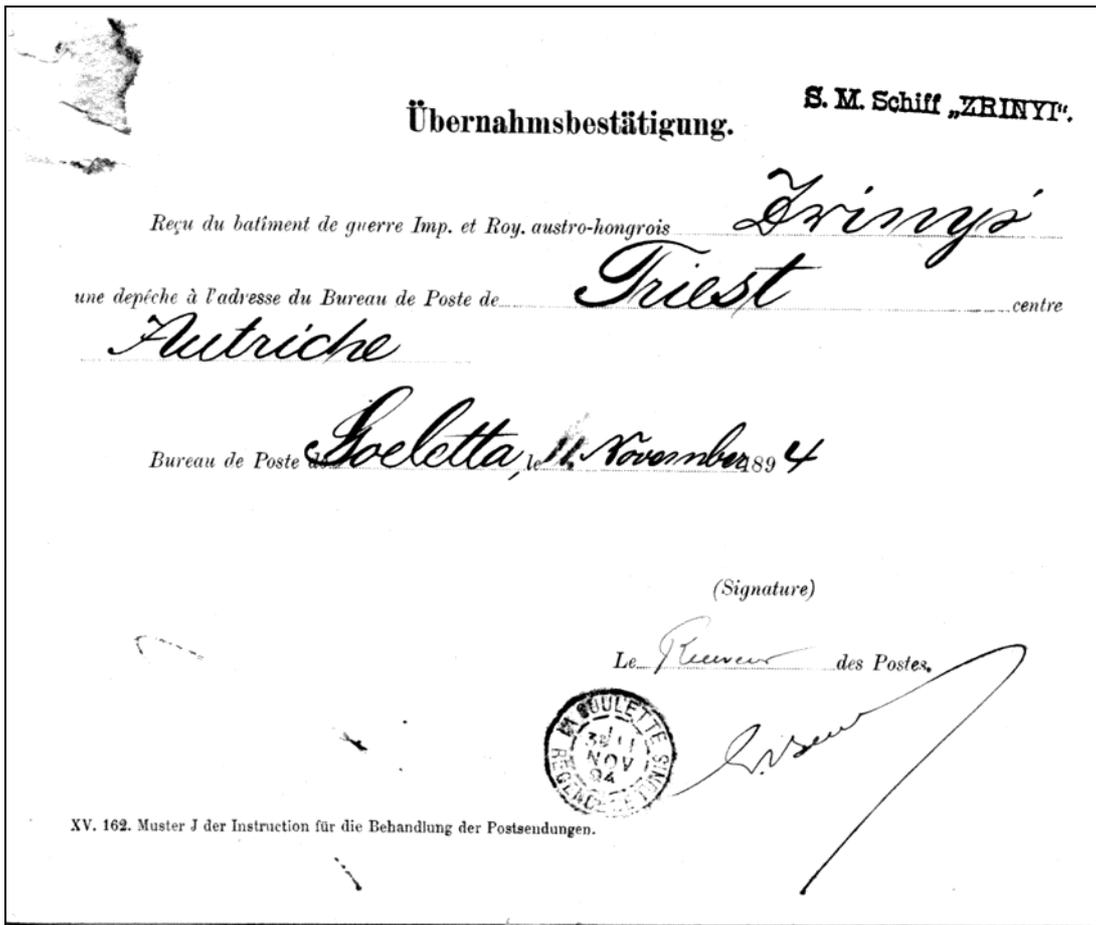


Fig. I - 7 - Receipt for a dépêche of SMS Zrinyi delivered to the Post Office of La Goulette (Tunisia)

The processes of making and sending the dépêches from the sorting offices for forwarding to the warship were identical, but the sorting office had to take note of the dated itinerary they had received before departure of the warship and send the dépêche on time, complying with the delay of transporting (13 or 20 days depending on the route).

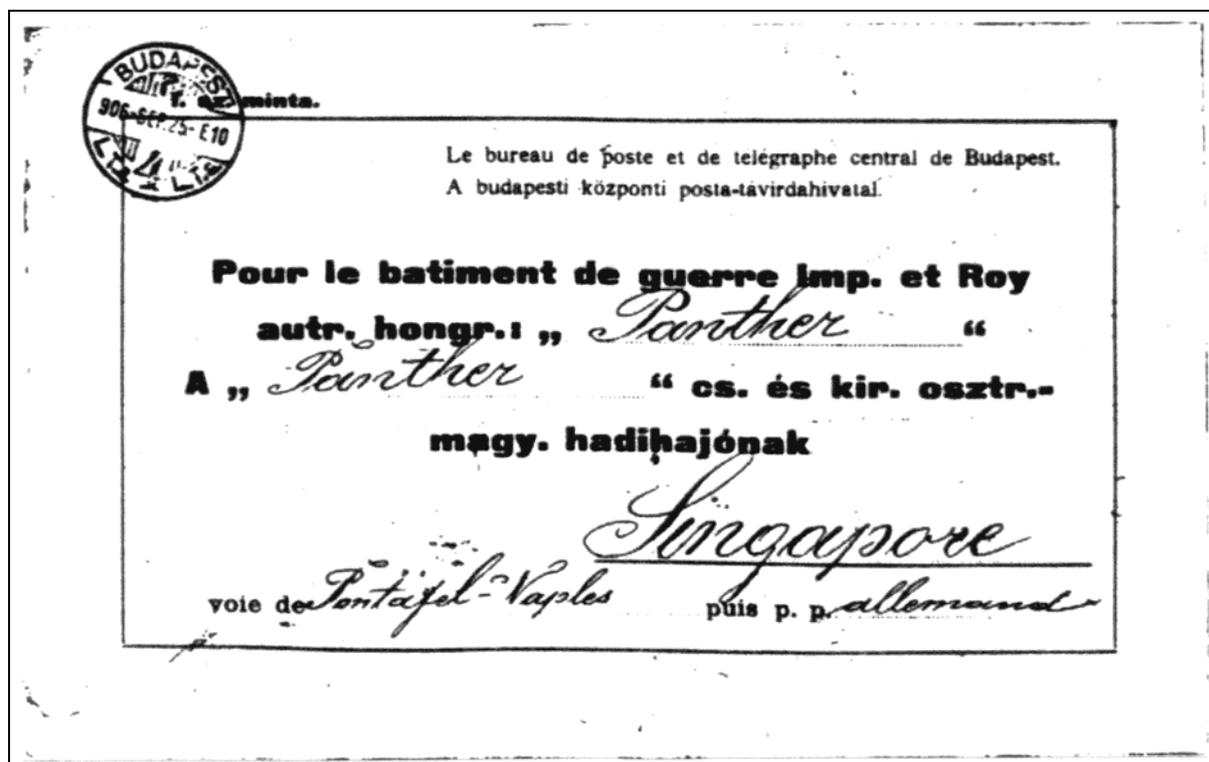


Fig. I - 8 - Wrapper of a dépêche sent by the Post Office of Budapest to SMS Panther at Singapore

### I - 3.5 Remarks

- ❖ At the time considered, officers and members of the crew could send and receive money orders.
- ❖ It was not positively forbidden to combine Austrian and Hungarian stamps (see Fig I-9) , and sometimes bisected stamps were used. For franking value, there is no difference between 1 Heller (Austrian currency) and 1 Filler (Hungarian currency).
- ❖ Currently, we can find on the market postcards sent by officers and men of the crew, dropped in foreign letter-boxes, carrying service handstamps and even the dated postmark of their warship.





Fig. I - 10 - Postcard from SMS Kaiser Karl VI from Hong-Kong

**spacer page**

## RAILWAYS AND STAMPS OF AUSTRIA

By Brian Lees <sup>1</sup>

The history of Austrian railways is usually considered to begin in November 1837 with the opening of the 13 kilometre line between Florisdorf and Deutsch Wagram, east of Vienna. This stretch was the first section of the Kaiser Ferdinands Nordbahn which eventually linked Vienna and Bochnia (now in Poland) and was completed in 1858. It is no doubt the fact that the 13 kilometres were steam worked from the outset that gives this line the honour of being considered Austria's first railway.<sup>2</sup>

The origins of railways in Austria go back much further than this, however, at least to 1808, when Dr. Franz Josef Ritter von Gerstner proposed a railway to link the rivers Danube and Moldau (now the Vltava). This line was eventually built by his son and completed in 1832. It was worked by horse-drawn carriages, and linked Linz, Freistadt and Budweis (now České Budějovice in the Czech Republic). The Austrian Post Office commemorated this railway on a S6 stamp [ANK 1744] issued in 1982, the 150th anniversary of the line's completion.



The 1937 centenary of the opening of the Florisdorf - Deutsch Wagram line was commemorated by a set of three stamps [ANK 646-8] depicting locomotives from the first hundred years of railways in Austria. The inaugural train in 1837 was hauled at a speed of 33 km/h by the locomotive "Austria", a Stephenson "Planet" type 2-2-0. There was also a sister engine named "Moravia". It was the "Austria" that featured on the lowest value (12 groschen) of the centenary issue.

<sup>1</sup> This first appeared as a series of articles in the journal of the Austrian Railway Group, with whom the © copyright remains; it is reproduced here with their kind permission. Although the individual stamps have already been noted in these pages, the railway-oriented details set forth in this article provide a different and thought-provoking way of considering them as a whole. A second article will appear in a later issue. Editor

<sup>2</sup> [The opening of a European railway system from Lemberg to Rotterdam made it possible to transport live cattle from Galicia to London - leading to the 1865 Rinderpest outbreak in Great Britain! But I digress.. Ed]



The 25 groschen stamp depicted a class 214 2-8-4. The smoke deflectors on the locomotive shown on the stamp identify it as one of the 1936 batch (Nos.214-08 to 13). This type of smoke deflector was fitted because the larger "wing" deflectors on the earlier locomotives impaired the driver's vision. All locomotives reverted to the "wing" type after a few years however. With the coming of electrification, some of the class were transferred after 1945 to the Semmering route, where the last in service was 214-10. For more details see the 2½S "140 Jahre" stamp issued in 1977.



The 35 groschen stamp featured a Class 1170.200 Bo-Bo electric locomotive, dating from 1934. The 1170.200 class was considerably longer than the earlier 1170.00 and 1170.100 classes. Saving weight and keeping within the axle loading was an important consideration in the design of the 1170.200. They measured 12.92 metres (over buffers) and had an axle load of 20 tonnes. Maximum speed was 80 km/h and

the maximum tractive effort 20,750kg. Further batches of the class were built under the Deutsche Reichsbahn to work the Salzburg-Innsbruck-Brenner and the Salzburg-Linz routes. Under DR numbering the class became E45.2 and later became class 1245.

Having issued a set of three stamps in November 1937 to commemorate the centenary of the opening of the line from Florisdorf to Deutsch Wagram, the Austrian Post Office chose to commemorate this same event on three other anniversaries.

In 1962 a stamp [ANK 1157] was issued to commemorate the 125th anniversary of Austrian Railways. It was a 3 Schilling stamp carrying the inscription "125 JAHRE ÖSTERREICHISCHE EISENBAHNEN" and depicted both a Class 1010 electric locomotive and the outline of Robert Stephenson's "Austria", a locomotive which appeared on one of the 1937 stamps and which was to appear on two later stamps.



The Class 1010s were the most powerful electric locomotives on the Austrian Federal Railways when the first example went into service in 1955. In all, twenty of the class were built between 1955 and 1958. Their Co-Co wheel arrangement made them the first six-axle ÖBB electric locomotives and they were for use on heavy main-line expresses. Mechanical parts were by Simmering Graz Pauker and electrical parts by Brown Boveri AG (Vienna), Siemens and Elin AG (Weiz). The first two of the class weighed 107 tonnes, the rest 110 tonnes. The locomotives measured 17.86 metres (over buffers) and had 1.3 metre driving wheels. With a maximum tractive effort of 26,000Kg they had a top speed of 130 km/hour.



The next anniversary of the State railway system to be honoured by the Post Office was the 140th in 1977. This time it was a set of three stamps [ANK 1572-4], with values of 1½S, 2½S and 3S. Yet again the locomotive "Austria" appeared on the 1½S stamp, but this time resplendent in green livery with red frames hauling (part of!) a yellow and black coach.

The 2½S stamp depicted ÖBB Class 214 2-8-4 No. 214.10, a 2 cylinder superheated locomotive. Thirteen of these locomotives were built at Florisdorf between 1928 and 1936. They became DRB Class 12.0 and ÖBB Class 12. Their weight in working order was 124 tonnes and with 1.9 metre diameter driving wheels they had a top speed of either 100 km/hour (214.01 to 214.07) or 120 km/hour (214.08 to 214.13) - this was 20% above the maximum permitted. The Class actually attained 156 km/hour, the highest speed recorded by any Austrian steam locomotive.



The origin of these locomotives goes back to the end of the First World War. Following the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire the situation in the Republic of Austria was precarious in the extreme. Certainly, the financial position of the railways throughout the 1920s was fraught with difficulty. Prior to the First World War, the main directions

of flow of traffic into Vienna had been from the North and the East. Post-1918 the main flow was to and from the West, between Vienna and Passau, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Switzerland. Accordingly the decision was taken to electrify the main line from the Swiss frontier over the Arlberg to Innsbruck and then on to Salzburg. This electrification proceeded well but there was increasing concern over the escalating cost in a country with severe financial problems, and electrification only reached Salzburg in 1929.

Meanwhile, work was put in hand to improve the main line east of Salzburg and between Wels and Passau by underline strengthening and relaying. Although electrification of the line east of Salzburg to Vienna had originally been considered, by the end of the 1920s the financial position made this an impossible proposition. Trains on the Westbahn increased to 500 or 550 tonnes with loads of 700 tonnes on some international trains. Furthermore, the maximum axle loading was increased from 15 to 18 tonnes. With the steam locomotives available to work trains west of Vienna double heading became increasingly necessary and so the ÖBB sought more powerful locomotives to work the line. There was considerable debate as to whether six-coupled or eight-coupled locomotives were preferable. Eventually it was decided that both a 3-cylinder and a 2-cylinder 2-8-4 locomotive should be built - the 3-cylinder version (which became class 114) being built at Wiener Neustadt and the 2-cylinder version (which became Class 214) being built at Floridsdorf. The longer trailing bogie of the 2-8-4 wheel arrangement gave space for the large grate needed to burn the local soft brown coal. The leading axle was combined with the first coupled axle in a Krauss-Helmholtz truck, thus reducing the rigid wheelbase. The need was to haul a train of at least 530 tonne single-handed up the ruling grades without dropping below 60 km/hour and of travelling at speeds of up to the permitted maximum of 100 km/hour on the more favourable stretches. The most demanding stretches were from Vienna Westbahnhof up to Rekawinkel, in the Wienerwald, and eastbound from Salzburg through the northern edge of the Salzkammergut to Ederbauer.

The prototype Class 214 was ready for road testing in November 1928 and official delivery took place in December of the same year. They were put into service between Vienna and Passau and at once distinguished themselves by their performance. While working the Arlberg Orient Express on 19th February 1929 No. 214.01 was in collision with the Orient Express at Tullnerbach-Pressbaum and suffered front-end damage. A Kyäla blastpipe was fitted on the suggestion of Dr Giesl-Gieslingen while it was being repaired. This became standard for future locomotives in the class. Six further examples of the class were delivered in 1931 and another six in 1936. The locomotive on the 1977 stamp has smoke deflectors. The prototypes did not have these but during the first two months of the trials they were found to be necessary.



The 3S stamp depicts a Class 1044 electric locomotive; these were built from 1974 onwards and were an Austrian development of the Swedish-built Class 1043. Mechanical parts are by Simmering Graz Pauker and electrical parts by Brown Boveri AG (Vienna), Siemens and Elm AG (Weiz). They weight 83 tonnes and measure 16 metres (over

buffers). The original members of the Class had a maximum speed of 160 km/hour with Class 1044.5 being capable of 200 km/hour. They have been the mainstay of both passenger and freight traffic on the OBB during the latter part of the twentieth century.

The last anniversary of the first railway in Austria commemorated by the issue of a stamp was in 1987, to commemorate the 150th anniversary. This was a 6S stamp [ANK 1917] inscribed 150 JAHRE EISENBAHN IN ÖSTERREICH. It showed the 150th Anniversary of Austrian Railways emblem - an emblem also carried by locomotives at that time. The stamp was produced in a souvenir sheet. In the border of the sheet were the dates 1837 and 1987 with side views (above) of "Austria" with coaches and (below) of a Class 1044 locomotive with the first coach of a passenger train.



As well as issuing stamps to commemorate various anniversaries of the first steam-hauled railway in Austria, the Austrian Post Office has also issued a number of stamps to mark the centenary of certain private lines or stretches of line, both standard and narrow gauge. The issues up to the mid-eighties relating to standard gauge lines are dealt with next.

The former Südbahn line over the Brenner Pass was the first such line to have its centenary marked by a stamp issue, in 1967. The idea of a line over the Brenner Pass was first suggested in 1835 but at that time a railway over such terrain was considered impossible. Preliminary work for the line began in 1861 but work on actual construction of the Brennerbahn began only in 1864, with the line being opened in August 1867 following considerable difficulties during construction. The line linked Innsbruck with SüdTirol (an area which was to become part of Italy following the break up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War One) and the southern part of the route came under Italian control from 1918. From Innsbruck, at 582 metres above sea level, the line rises 789 metres to the Brenner Pass, 1371 metres above sea level. The steepest gradient is 1 in 40 and the summit is crossed without a tunnel. The earliest locomotives to work the line were Südbahn Class 29 0-6-0, designed by John

Haswell and built in the Österreichisch-Ungarische Staatseisenbahngesellschaft works in Vienna. Some two hundred of the class were built between 1860 and 1872. Weighing 36 tons and with 1.285 metre driving wheels, they hauled 70-ton trains over the Brenner Pass. Those members of the Class which passed into BBÖ ownership became BBÖ Class 49.



The S3.50 stamp issued in 1967 [ANK 1275] was inscribed 100 Jahre Brennerbahn 1867-1967 and portrayed Class 29 locomotive carrying 671, its Graz-Köflacherbahn number. This locomotive was built in 1860 with works number 504. It is portrayed in its original cab-less state. It seems that the locomotive never actually worked on the

Brenner route. It worked on the GKB when the Südbahn ran that line between 1878 and 1924 and stayed on the line when it became a private company once again. The locomotive was laid aside in the 1970s but has never been withdrawn. It was restored as a museum loco for excursion trains. Aged one hundred and forty, it was in action in October 2000 hauling trains as part of the GKB 140th anniversary.

A S2 stamp [ANK 1406] issued in 1971 is unusual in that it commemorates "Railway Anniversaries" without it being made clear what anniversaries are being commemorated. It has been suggested that it was to mark the 5th anniversary of high-speed intercity services worked by electric multiple units. The stamp depicts a Class 4010 e.m.u. on the Semmering line, leaving the Kleiner Krausel Tunnel and nearing Breitenstein station heading for Wien, 97 kilometres away. The first Class 4010 e.m.u. trains entered service in 1965 and replaced the 4130 class on the "Transalpin" services from Switzerland through to Wien. Later members of the class also worked



Austrian internal services. The 4010 classification actually applies to the motor unit of the train, a single cab Bo-Bo power car with a baggage compartment. The power cars had a maximum tractive effort of 16,100 kg and a maximum speed of 150 km/hour. A class 6010 driving trailer was at the other end of the train. Three or four intermediate carriages, including a restaurant car, completed the train.



1979 saw the issue of a 2S50 stamp [ANK 1658] to commemorate the Raab-Ödenburg-Ebenfurt Railway's centenary: the international railway in joint Hungarian and Austrian ownership and better known by its Hungarian name, the Győr-Sopron-Ebenfurti Vasút. It was actually the stretch between Ebenfurth and Ödenburg which was opened on October 1879. The first train on the 89km Hungarian section

between Győr and Sopron was in 1876. It is therefore a little surprising that the Hungarian Post office issued a block of four stamps in 1979 to celebrate the centenary of the Győr-Sopron-Ebenfurti Vasút. The Austrian section of the line is approximately 31 kilometres long and is electrified at 25kV 50Hz and is used by dual-frequency OBB trains between Sopron and Wien Südbahnhof. The Austrian stamp of 1979 portrays a front end view of the 2-10-0 Class 52 goods locomotive number 520.050. This was one of the many "Kriegsloks" built by the Deutsche Reichsbahn during World War Two.

In 1984 a pair of stamps [ANK 1820-1] was issued to mark the centenary of the Arlbergbahn and the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Tauernbahn. The spectacular Arlbergbahn was opened between Innsbruck and Landeck in July 1883 and between Landeck and Bludenz in September 1884. The statistics of the 63 kilometres of the Arlbergbahn proper, between Landeck and Bludenz speak for themselves. The line rises from Landeck at 776 metres above sea level to the summit in the Arlberg Tunnel at 1311 metres before dropping down to Bludenz at a height of 561 metres. There are 18 tunnels and aqueducts (totalling over 15km in length) and it has 26 large bridges and viaducts, totalling 1.7 km

in length. The Arlberg Tunnel itself is 10.249 km long; the Trisanna Viaduct<sup>3</sup> is 210.7 metres long and 87.4 metres above the valley below. The line was electrified in 1925. It was appropriate, therefore, that the S3.50 stamp shows a Class 4010 6-car electric multiple unit, headed by car 4010.02, crossing the Schanatobel Bridge.



The 83 kilometre Tauernbahn runs from Schwarzach-St.Veit, on the all-Austria line between Salzburg and Innsbruck, to Spittal-Millstättersee, on the line to Villach. Severe gradients are the order of the day here too, with the line rising from 591 metres above sea level at Schwarzach-St.Veit to 1226 metres in the Tauern Tunnel, then dropping to 544 metres at Spittal-Millstättersee. The line opened from Schwarzach-St.Veit to Badgastein in September 1905 and from Badgastein to Spittal-Millstättersee in July 1909. There are eight tunnels, the longest being the Tauern Tunnel (8550.58 metres). The S4.50 stamp shows another Class 4010 electric multiple unit (apparently headed by car 6010.05, but the number is very difficult to read on the stamp) crossing the 396 metre-long Falkenstein Bridge. Details of the Class 4010 electric multiple units are given above. They have given reliable and very comfortable service for over thirty years and their appearance on three stamps reflects the place they hold in Austrian railway history.

The centenary of the Mühlkreisbahn was commemorated by the issue of a S4 stamp on March 22nd 1988. The Mühlviertel lies north of Linz and had been crossed by the horse-drawn line from Linz to Budweis in 1832. It was on June 6th 1885, however, that work began on the Mühlkreisbahn from Linz-Urfahr to Aigen-Schlägl, a distance of some 58 kilometres. The line was to be worked by five locomotives built, unsurprisingly, by Krauss & Co. in Linz (works numbers 1900, 1901 and 1902, built 1885 and named "Urfahr", "Linz" and "Aigen";

<sup>3</sup> (See 'Austria' 133 page 60 for more information on this bridge)

works numbers 1982 and 1983, built 1888 and named "Neufelden" and "Rohrbach"). The ceremonial first journey took place on October 17th 1888. Two special trains carried passengers from Urfahr station into the Mühlviertel. The stamp portrays 0-6-0T locomotive No.2 "Aigen".



Since its opening the Mühlkreisbahn has been a main lifeline in the economic development of the Mühlviertel. The line starts at Linz Urfahr station, close to the Danube and at 264m above sea level. Originally the line ran alongside the road and speeds were limited to 25km/h. With the upgrading of the road, the line now runs along an embankment with speeds of up to 80km/h permitted (rising to 100km/h on

certain stretches of the line). Once past Ottensheim, 9km from Urfahr, the line leaves the Danube valley and begins to climb. The Mühlkreisbahn contains many curves and a number of tunnels. The line is fiercely graded in places, presenting a huge challenge to locomotives and particularly to the Class 5081 railcars which worked the line for over twenty years in the second half of the 20th century. The highest point on the line is at Rohrbach, 48.7km from Urfahr and 622m above sea level. In Rohrbach there is the Mühlkreisbahn museum, where locomotive No. 2 "Aigen" is plinthed. From Rohrbach the line continues to Aigen-Schlägl, 564m above sea level. There is a regular service of Regionalzüge over the 13km between Urfahr and Rottenegg, with a much less frequent service on the rest of the line.

On June 17th 1994, a S5.50 stamp was issued to mark the centenary of the Gailtalbahn<sup>4</sup>, initially a 30.5km line between Arnoldstein and Hermagor in Kärnten. Arnoldstein lies on the Italian border, 17km south west of Villach, on the main line from Austria to Venice and Trieste.



<sup>4</sup> See 'Austria' 135 for colour pictures of its design process.

Arnoldstein factory owner Felix von Mottony, together with other interested parties, had been stressing the economic necessity of building the line for some time prior to its construction. The Gailtalbahn was opened from Arnoldstein to Hermagor on August 11th 1894. The first train, hauled by locomotive No. 2214, was a mixed train consisting of ten coaches and two goods wagons. On the opening day 310 passengers were carried. The early years of the twentieth century saw plans to extend the line some 30km westwards to Kötschach or Mauthen. From 1906 detailed planning took place until the outbreak of war in 1914, which appeared to put an end to the project.

With the Italian declaration of war on May 23rd 1915, however, the situation changed dramatically. The Gailtalbahn now found itself in the front line. The Ministry of War now wanted the building of the line to be accelerated. The contract was agreed with the builders in early autumn 1915. Work, carried out by prisoners of war, began immediately to extend the line 31km to Kötschach-Mauthen. On December 18th 1915, Class 178 0-8-0T locomotive number 178.102 hauled the first military train as far as Dellach, 24km from Hermagor. Lack of materials delayed the completion to Kötschach-Mauthen. The fact that the final stretch of this extension was clearly visible to the Italian enemy was also a factor in the delay in completing the line! The stretch was completed in 1916. Civilian use of the extension began on February 1st 1918.

The 1994 stamp portrays a steam locomotive standing alongside a diesel railcar. The steam locomotive is a 2-8-2T, which would appear to be a class 93, although no written information is given on the stamp. Production of this class of locomotive began in 1927 and continued until 1931. They were BBÖ Class 378, becoming DRB and ÖBB Class 93. The diesel railcar appears to be a member of Class 5046, a class dating from 1954. The centenary was celebrated on the line on August 11th 1994 and saw 52.4984 hauling a special train. The VIPs had their own special train made up of railcars 5147.009 and 5147.010.

The 150th anniversary of the Wiener-Neustadt to Odenburg line was marked by the issue of a 7½S stamp on June 13<sup>th</sup> 1997. At a time when railways were being built throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire, this 31.9 km line was built to link western Hungary to Wiener-Neustadt. The line from Wien to Wiener-Neustadt had opened in 1841. Planning of the line to Odenburg began in 1838 with construction getting underway in 1844. The line to Odenburg was opened on August 20th 1847 and was the second railway on Hungarian territory. In fact most of the line lies in what is now Burgenland and the border into Hungary is not crossed until Loipersdorf. Only Agendorf (now Agfalva) and Odenburg (now Sopron) are in Hungary. Even though only a single track was laid the route was built for double track. This doubling of the track was never to take place, however.



The 1997 stamp shows 2-4-0ST "Licaon". This locomotive was built for the Kaiser-Ferdinands-Nordbahn in 1851. It belonged to Nordbahn Class VII and carried the number 94. These locomotives were originally tender engines and 54 of them were built between 1849 and 1853. Thirty-four of the class were later rebuilt as tank engines and ten of them were still in service in 1917. "Licaon" was eventually sold to the Stiegl Brewery in Salzburg and carried the number "Stiegl 1". After finishing its working life at the brewery, it was one of three locomotives put

on display in Linz. In the late 1986-7 it was restored to working order for the 150 Years of Austrian Railways celebrations. It was the oldest locomotive to appear in the Cavalcade at Strasshof. In the background on the stamp is the 250-metre viaduct which crosses the Wulka valley near Mattersburg. It is classified as a monument of national historic importance. [See 'Austria' 120 for a discussion on the stamp's design vs reality!]

Most recently, on August 31st 2001, a 7S stamp was issued to mark the upgrading of the Westbahn to four tracks. The line, now commonly known as the "Westbahn", was originally the "Kaiserin-Elisabeth-Bahn" running west from Wien (Westbahnhof) to Linz and Salzburg. The section from Wien to Linz opened on December 15th 1858 with the rest of the line to Salzburg opening on August 1st 1860. The issue of the stamp was to coincide with the opening of the line between St Peter-Seitenstetten and Haag-St Valentin. Forty-three kilometres of new construction between St Pölten and Ybbs are already in operation and a total of 80 kilometres of four-track line is now finished. The locomotive on the stamp is a "Taurus" Class 1016 electric. The first of the class came into ÖBB stock on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2000.

*There is an article in the December 2001 issue of Die Briefmarke "Railways on Austrian Stamps". It illustrates 40 stamps in colour, 16 in b/w, and 9 special cancels. However it does not even begin to approach the above in technical detail. The editor has a few spare copies: free but 44p postage please!*

## NOTES from publications en route to the Library.

by Andy Taylor

### *Die Briefmarke:*

**Issue 2/2002:** The Euro settling down; "Caritas" issue brought forward; complications of the "**Ergänzungsmarke**" [supplementary franking at non-OPAL offices]; special cancels won't have die numbers in future; a 'sweetener' for Öpost subscribers?; formal complaint to UPU on unavailability of commemoratives; the compact post office of the future?; thematic: fire-fighting; Groß St Florian; marginal markings on sheets of Euro-definitives; alternative designs for Euro-definitives ☺ ; politicians faces in 1937 "greetings" stamps; a new approach to colours and shades in the Arms issue of 1945 (**with full-colour illustrations**); Index for 2001; plus all the usual features.

**Issue 3/2002:** The 2002 Tag der Briefmarke minisheet; Spring 'Numiphil' tram-carried mail; 'Philis' series delayed; postal & other history of Lilienfeld (many colour illustrations); 1945 Arms issue colours and shades; Austria's prettiest and nastiest stamps; UPU list of "illegal stamp issues" (none from Austria so far); postage-due posers; UNO-Wien eurostamps issued 1 March; etc etc

**Issue 4/2002:** Postage Dues on mail from Czechoslovakia 1918-38; new design of International Reply Coupon; Philately in Oberwart (Burgenland); thematic: Saint Elisabeth (1207-1231); Germany's Letter Centres listed; etc etc

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Militaria Austriaca Philatelia*

**Issue 198:** Society's library clear-out; Christkindl; "25 years of Fieldpost" stamp with allegedly-official marginal printing; "where FPOs were when WWI ended" continued [FPA585 - FPA1087]; etc.

**Issue 199:** Ongoing resentments on Eurostamp introduction; kuk Mili. Post offices in Serbia; ; "where FPOs were when WWI ended" concluded; etc etc.

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

**Issue 68:** Meetings reports, members birthdays, wants etc; Gruppe L again; FPA212; FPAs 378, 389, 600 in Warsaw; book reviews; etc

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.*

**Issue 57:** More Levantine items (9pp); book reviews; Samos (esp. Austrian post therein); Space flight and Graz.

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

Last time's "Issue 4/2002: Telegramme forms; Euronews" was of course **4/2001**

**Issue 1/2002:** 1946-48 Air Mail rates to Sweden; Schneiderbauer 81 variant.

### ***Czechout***

**Issue 1/2002:** Siberian Legion material "enhanced" (some illustrated in colour!); bisected 20H Karl; oddly marked 1887 card from Olmutz; etc

### ***Südost-Philatelie***

**Issue 76/2001:** The end of "Yugoslavia" - it becomes "Serbia & Montenegro"; postal tariffs 1918-1941; SHS overprints on Hungarian stamps; KuK Seilbahnen (military cable cars!); and much else.

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

**Vol 2 No 2:** Q&A; Austrian Perfins; Forms & stationery for money transfer (trans. Ferch2K pp977-985); Calendar of the 1867 issue.

### ***Stamps of Hungary***

**Issue 148 March 2002:** Postage dues to/from Hungary, 1879-1940; the Hughes Telegraph; Captain Peterdi; and much of Hungarian & Society interest.

### ***Interessengemeinschaft Bosnien-Herzegowina***

**Issue 93:** Postal transport in B&H (7pp); is Fieldpost collectable?; Censor markings (with illustrations).

### ***"Netto" alias ANK - the Austria Netto Catalogue***

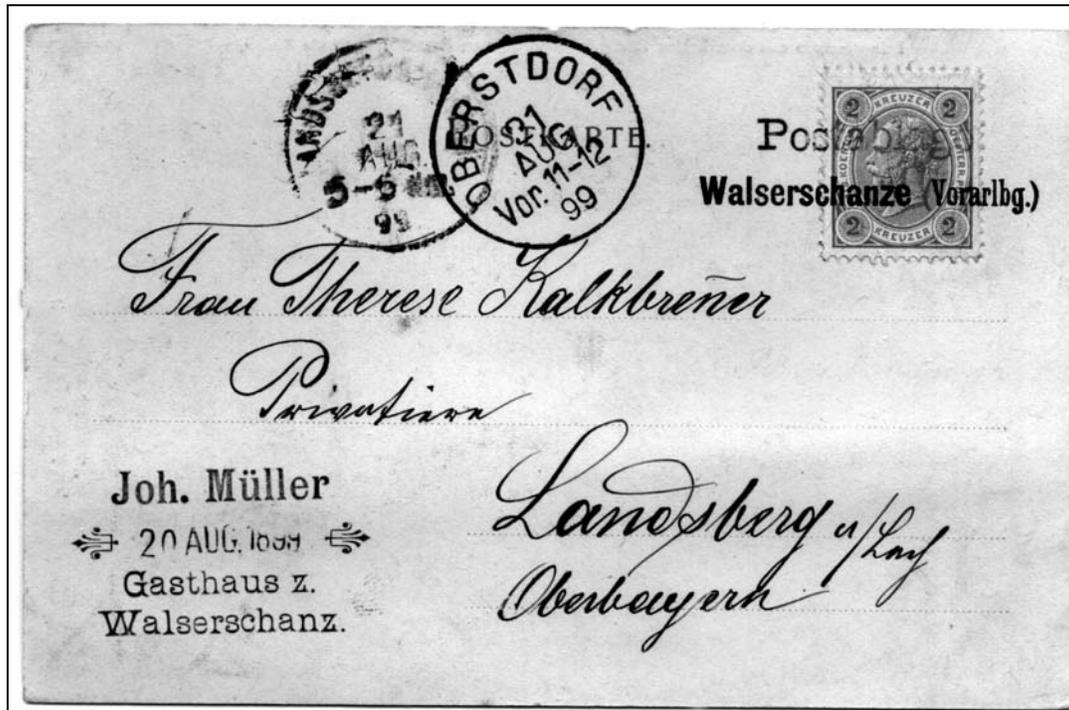
ANK is the preferred catalogue used in this Journal for identifying stamps, so it seemed odd that there was no copy in the Library! There is now.

**WANTED! Will any member who has an Austrian Registered cover posted during JULY 1938 please send the Editor a photocopy of it!**

## Questions, Answers, Letters...

### *Walserschanz revisited*

In 'Austria' vol 131 page 39, I listed the cancellations of Walserschanz in the Kleinwalsertal, none of which spell the name with a final 'e'. Darrel McNally has found a top-quality card which does have a final 'e' [I've emphasised it]



Checking back to my sources, I find in Die Briefmarke 169 an item 2.43 described as "**Postablage WALSERCHANZE (Vorarlberg)** 45 by 11 mm." It is also illustrated; however the text in the illustration is "**Postablage Walserschann## (Vorarlbg.)**" where the ## is of course not 100% readable. It does look very much like two letters, though. I found when writing the article in Austria that this source's text and pictures often differed. It is the only cancel listed with brackets, and the only straight line dateless one with the type-face matching Darrel's picture ('agLo' means seriffed above sanseriffed, no date). The sender of Darrel's card is the same as of the Die Briefmarke illustration, and so is the handwriting! The date fits the known usage period; finally, the cancels are the same size.

My conclusion is that the item listed in 'Austria' 131 as "Postablage Walserschanz (Vorarlbg.)" should be "**Postablage Walserschanze (Vorarlbg.)**"

## *A Numiphil find*

Hans Smith remarked: "My own favourite was a card, pulled out of a dealer's "junk box", with a boxed cancel of Metkovich (Dalmatia) dated 26 June 1899, of a type I have never seen before. Is it a railway station marking, or what?"



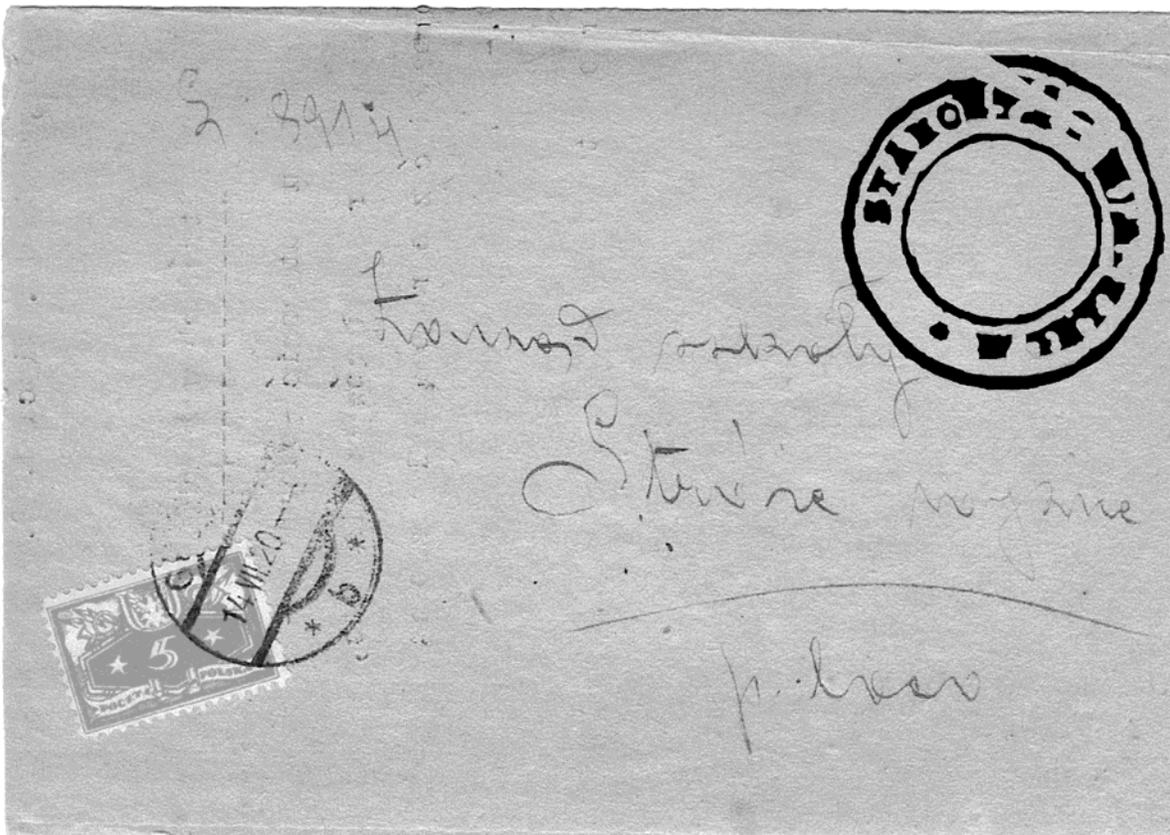
Martin Brumby adds: "It is number 086.701 in 'Dalmatia', and in my opinion, something of a rarity. (I'm fairly sure I don't have a copy myself). I suspect it is that rare bird, a Dalmatian Railway Station Letter Box cancel, although at 1899 it seems early for these. When were they first introduced? (A query for Christine Kainz, perhaps.) Note my comments on p158, however. Actually, this is one section which is fairly urgently in need of rewriting. I've got quite a bit of new info. and a number of extra manuscript markings which I am increasingly more convinced are Railway Station Letter Box Scribbles. There was a railway line (Bosn.Herceg.Staatsbahn) from Mostar to Metkovic which was apparently completed & opened on 14 June 1885. This effectively was to provide a rail connection from the port at Metkovic to Mostar and through Mostar to Sarajevo and eventually to Vienna & Budapest. I'm not aware of any TPO routes to Metkovic but there are quite a few manuscript markings (in my experience easily the least scarce Dalmatian manuscript marks) and now two sightings of this boxed cancel. As the manuscript markings are comparatively unrare one wonders (a) why a purpose-made canceller should have been apparently discontinued and (b) whether I've just been unlucky."

## *Starostwos*

Alan Blunt writes: I have read the latest issue of "Austria" from cover to cover and as usual I have enjoyed every word - well done again! In it I read the query from Mr Karsten (page 62) and can shed some light on the query.

A Starostwo is a Prefecture and is thus the 'nuts and bolts' administrative unit for the locality. The Prefect is a Starosta. I am not certain of the geographical spread of Starostwos in Poland. I have three items of mail from the Starostwo of Grybów (a town of some 6,000 inhabitants in 1921, situated about 15 miles east of Nowy Sącz - Neu Sandec), each item concerning some aspect of the educational system.

Item 1 (not illustrated) is a circular on Educational matters dated 24 December 1919 and is franked with a 5 Hal definitive and has a single circle Starostwo Grybów cachet. Item 2 (Figs 1 and 2) is another Educational matter circular dated 12 July 1920 franked with an Official adhesive and bearing a double circle cachet [*enhanced in the illustration. Ed*].



Item 3 (Fig 3) is an enquiry form from the Schools Inspector, possibly relating to an attendance record. It is dated 28 October 1920 and bears the same cachet as Item 1. From this evidence I draw the conclusion that the Starostwo was **not** a censorship organization in the period immediately following independence in 1918. I have been unable to locate any items of this nature in other periods.

L: 8914/Dr.

Grybów, dnia 12. lipca 1920.

Do Zarządu szkoły

w Stróżach wyżnych!

Podane usterki w szkole należy uskutecznić podczas wakacji - zwłaszcza bielenie klas, naprawy pieców na zimę etc, w sprawie tej należy się porozumieć z okręgową Radą szkolną względnie inspektorem szkół.-

Starosta

*P. 15/4-920  
L. 56/20*

*[Handwritten signature]*

C. k. Starostwo

scowość

### Protokół do doniesienia

sporządzony z powodu sprawdzenia zarazy

w \_\_\_\_\_ w dniu \_\_\_\_\_

odnośnie do doniesienia \_\_\_\_\_ z dnia \_\_\_\_\_ 191

L. \_\_\_\_\_ i polecenia c. k. Starostwa w \_\_\_\_\_ z dnia \_\_\_\_\_ 19

a) Przyczyny powstania i sposób rozszerzania się zarazy:

*[Handwritten notes and stamps on the right side of the document, including a circular postmark and a circular official stamp.]*



## More missent covers

By Andy Taylor

In 'Austria' 136, Henry Pollak wrote an article on missent (miss-sent? missent?) covers, to which I added a note on a card cancelled at Innsbruck 2 on 6 May 1938 and addressed to Argyllshire in S W Scotland but sent to Alexandria in Egypt! I had seen no sign that the card ever arrived in Scotland.

Hans Smith commented "Regarding your query, I can't see much of a mystery. The writer has obviously had problems converting his handwriting from Sueterling to Latin and the Austrian PO obviously if carelessly misread his 'Argyll' as 'Aegypten'. The Egyptian sorting office at Alexandria, where most mail from Europe was initially sorted, promptly (in Egypt, six days was prompt) put the cover into the bag for the UK where it was marked 'Argyll' in pencil in typically British handwriting. Rather silly of the sender not to put 'England' with his address ('England', as we know, is German for 'Scotland')."

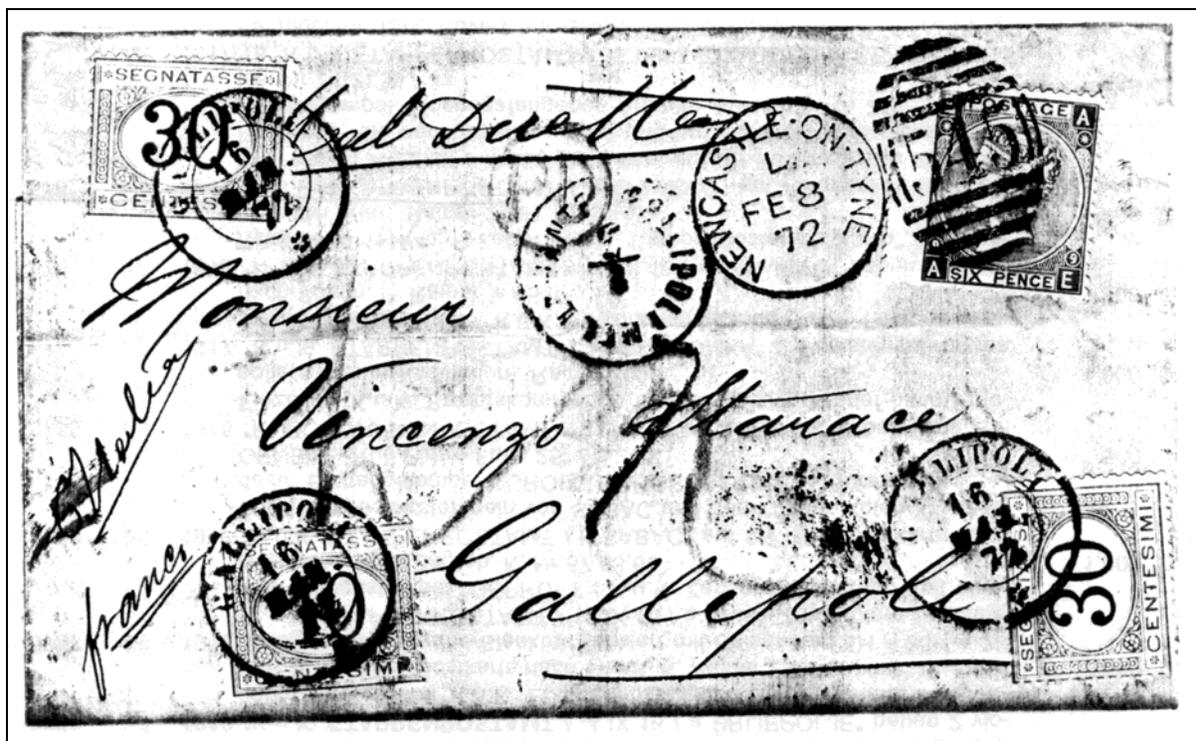
Hrrrump! I move on rather rapidly to Joyce Boyer's letter: "I was interested to see your card addressed to Taynuilt (Austria 136, pages 88/89) and would suggest that this was just missent to Alexandria. Possibly the writing of Argyll was misread as Egypt. Your question as to if it was ever received cannot be checked, as by 1938 the British Post Office had stopped using arrival cancellations. I showed this item to a friend who lived in Taynuilt in the 1960's and he said there was no reason to believe it had not been delivered. In fact Dr. Catherine Brown (she never married and would have been in her 70's) was still living at the same address in Taynuilt when he was there. The card presumably came on to the postcard/philatelic market after her death."

Mag. W Falter, editor of the Wiener Ganzsachen F u P-Verein, has sent a copy of an 1872 card which has been on the Grand Tour! It is addressed from Newcastle-on-Tyne to Gallipoli, and was sent to Vienna. They forwarded it to Gallipoli nel Levante (an Austrian Post Office Abroad in the Levant: now Geliboli on the Marmora Sea in Turkey). There it proved undeliverable, so it next went to Brindisi in Italy and on to Gallipoli, acquiring Italian postage dues.

The cancels are Newcastle (8.2.1872), Wien (11.2), Triest (13.2), Gallipoli nel Levante (4.3 [presumably the slow boat] and 8.3), Brindisi (15.3) and Gallipoli [in Italy] (16.3).

John Whiteside comments that the rate to Gallipoli-in-Italy in 1872 should be 6d single rate, for ½oz. The route should be via Belgium, as, according to his records, the route via France was suspended during the Franco-Prussian War and was not reinstated until the opening of the Mont Cenis tunnel in 1874.

There was a rate of 6d. per ¼oz., via Marseilles packet, but from 1870, this applied to Sicily only. Gallipoli was not on that island, though it was about as far south as one could get, on the heel of Italy, on the Gulf of Taranto.

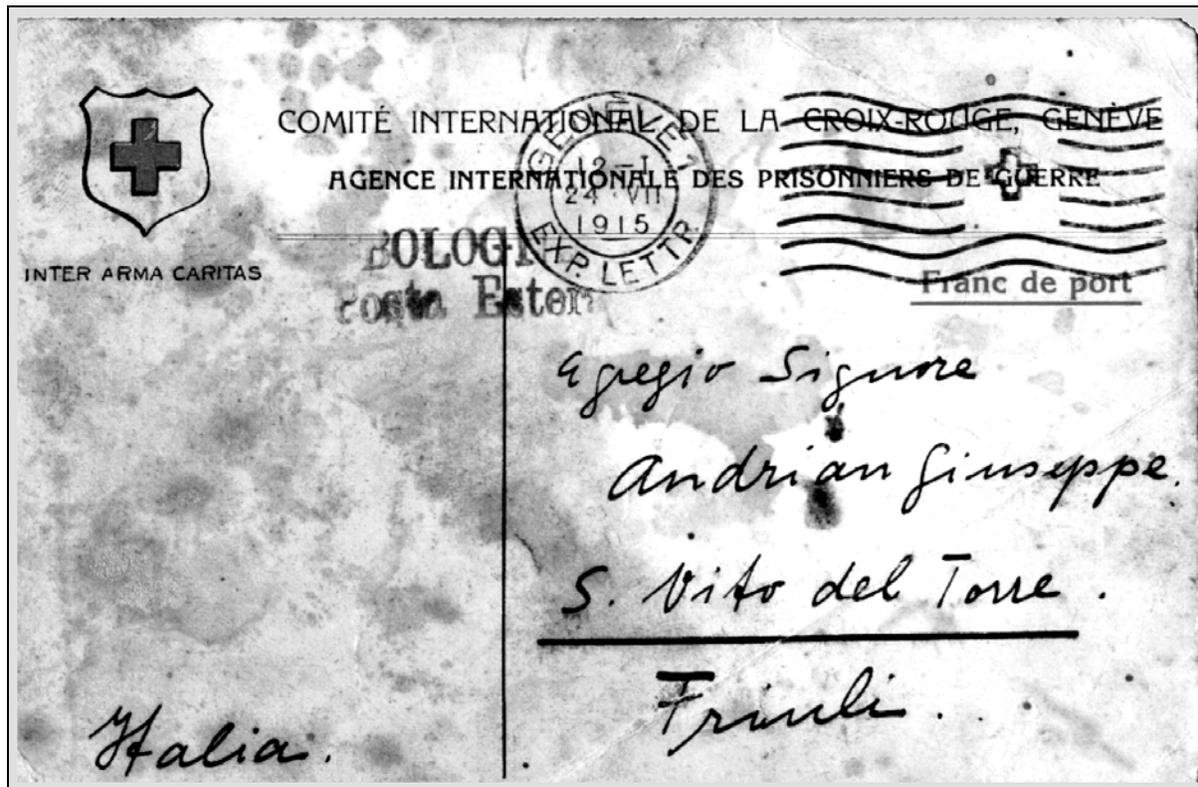


## The Vito Andrian Mystery

By Andy Taylor

**A**N email arrived, saying "I'm a Italian Policeman, and I have a little problem that I hope you can resolve. My great-grandfather Vito Andrian was an Austrian soldier (I think) and in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War he went somewhere that I don't know. It is possible he was a war prisoner. I have four postcards from him that I enclose for you. I hope you may help me!"

The first card is from the Red Cross in Geneva to Guisepe Andrian in San Vito del Torre, Friuli, Italy. It is dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 1915, and informs him that Vito Andrian is in good health and located at K K Etappenarbeit Abteilung 14, Feldpostamt 320, Austria; correspondence should be sent through the Red Cross in Rome. The card has been sent via Posta Estera at Bologna, which was the forwarding office for Red Cross correspondence entering Italy.

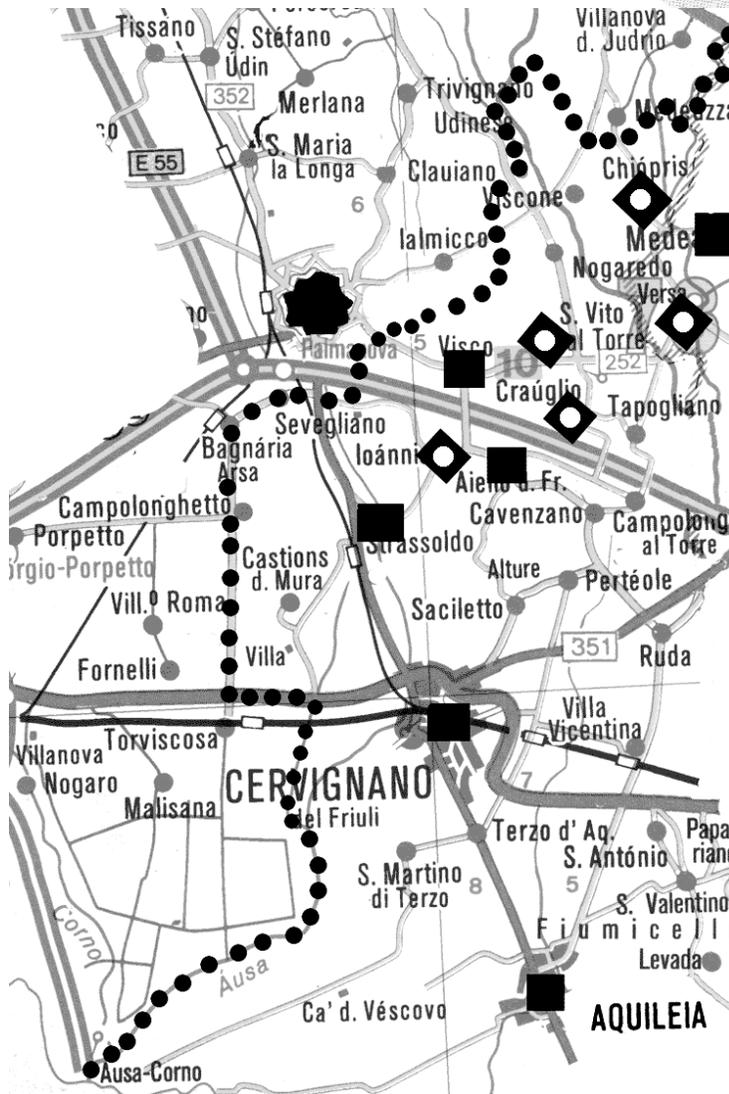
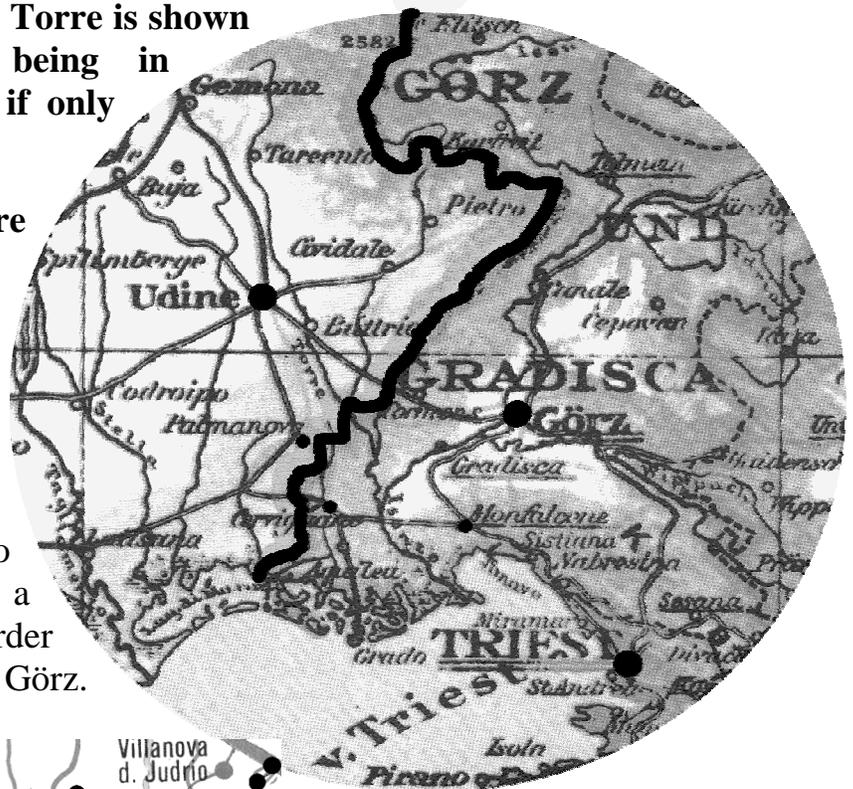


OK, so Vito's in Austrian hands; maybe a Prisoner-of-war as his later cards are standard POW cards. He's with some type of working party, not in the front line but in the military zone behind it. Austria is often stated to have made POWs work to support their war effort (cf the Prislopbahn described in 'Austria' 137; "100 Jahre Gailtalbahn" by P Wegenstein in the August 1994 issue of "Schienenverkehr Aktuell"; and the frequently-found WWI "Kriegs Gefangnis Arbeits Kommando" cachets) despite this being prohibited by the Geneva Convention. All quite normal for these times. **But...**

But... San Vito al (not 'del') Torre is shown in pre-WWI maps as being in AUSTRIA, not Italy, even if only by a couple of kilometres.

What's going on? Where are we?

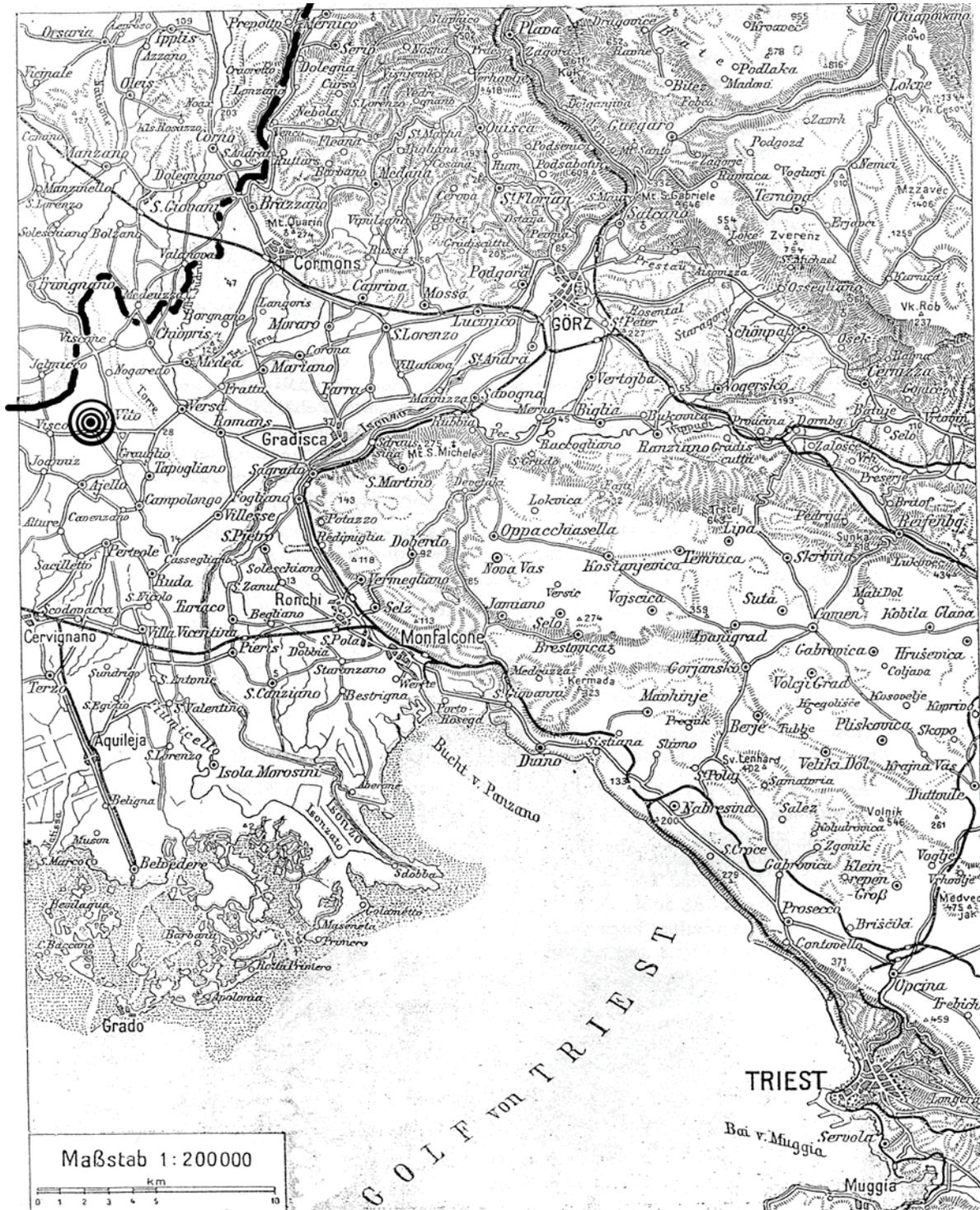
Friuli was part of the Austrian Veneto, which became part of Italy in 1868. The border ran very close to San Vito, which however was in Küstenland - by two kilometres! This extract from a pre-WWI map shows the border half-way between Udine and Görz.



A more detailed modern map follows; on it I have added the 1914 border as a line of black dots. Note Palmanova in Italy which appears on both maps (the oddly-shaped blob is the town walls and bastions, which still stand). The black squares are places listed in Klein as having an (Austrian) post office; the black hollow diamonds are places listed in Kühnel's Postablage book, where a boxed \*SAN VITO AL TORRE\* is item 5876b in the Küstenland section. The office functioned from 1900 to 1914; the parent Post Office was VISCO as is confirmed by the 1914 Allgemeine Postlexicon.



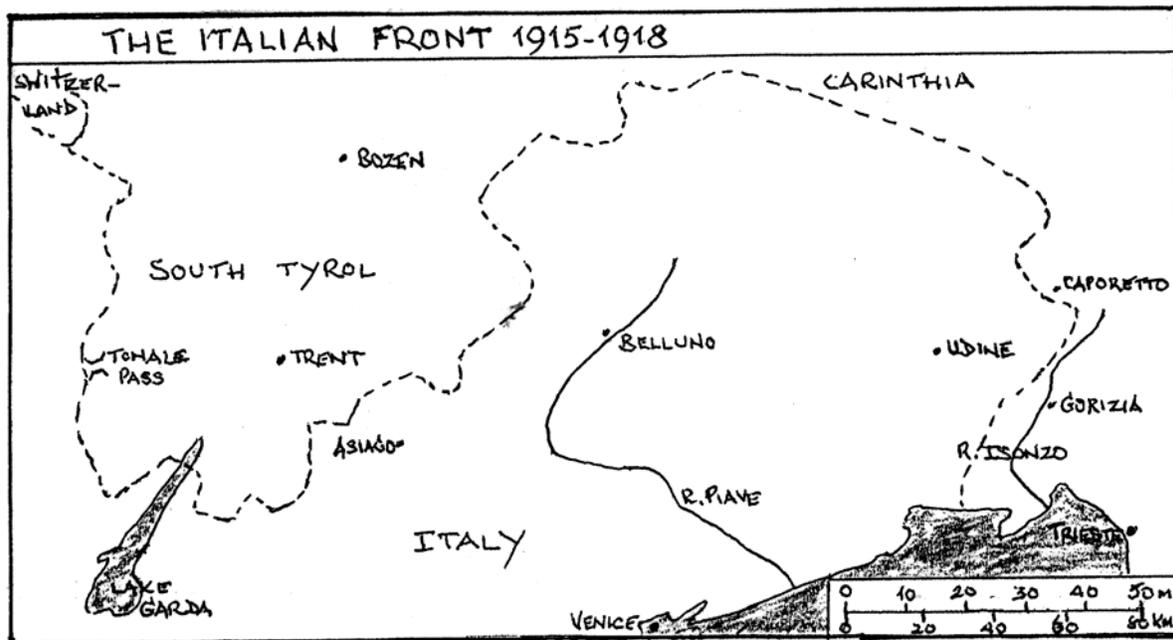
This is from an Italian Postal Map of Lombardy-Venetia dated around 1830. I have added a black circle at the location of San Vito al Torre, which lies close to the road junction to the east (the right) of Palmanova. Note also Görz (Gorizia in Italian), near which FPA320 spent most of the war.



This is an Austrian map from around 1914. San Vito is shown by the "bull's eye", and the border by a broken black line. Note the wiggle in the border above San Vito, absent in the 1830 map - there seem to have been several minor border adjustments in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

## WWI comes to San Vito

Italy signed the Treaty of London with the Allies on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1915. Assuming victory, she was to receive all of Süd-Tirol, the Görz area, etc. News of this leaked out, reaching the Austrian Army on 18<sup>th</sup> May. They strengthened the senior command, and from 22<sup>nd</sup> May began to reorganise and to move reinforcements into place from the Russian and Serbian theatres. XVI Korps moved from the Balkans; it included 58ID, to which FPA320 was attached. In the early morning of 24<sup>th</sup> May, the Italian army crossed the frontier (much to the discomfiture of the Customs Officers!) and headed east, advancing over 10km and incidentally over-running San Vito. By the next day they were within artillery range of the Isonzo. By 7<sup>th</sup> June, 5GbBrig of 58ID were fighting Italians near Görz. The first "formal battle" of the Isonzo began on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. San Vito remained in Italian occupation until their defeat at Caporetto in October 1917, then it was re-occupied by Austria until the final battle of Vittorio Veneto in Nov 1918. [See appendix for a more detailed chronology.]



This sketch (taken from the APS reissue of J Dixon-Nuttall's book) shows the general layout of the Italian Front. According to Dixon-Nuttall, "K u K FELDPPOSTAMT 320" was a military post office, known from Jan 1915 to Mar 1917. It was attached to the Austrian 58th Infantry Division; which was part of XVI Korps; which was part of 5<sup>th</sup> Armee; which spent most of the war fighting the Italian army around the river Isonzo which is in today's N W Italy. 58ID was

composed principally of 4 & 5GbBrig, which were originally mobilised as part of 18ID and drew their manpower from the Mostar area.

Riedel ("Die Isonzo-Front von 1915-1917", APS Lib 305) confirms this assignment of FPA320, adding that in October 1917 it was renumbered FPA420 and served 58ID, 4GbBrig, 5GbBrig. The GbBrigs had previously had their own FPAs; 58ID also contained 58FABrig which doesn't seem to have had a FPA of its own. These units were deployed in the area around and to the south-east of Görz on their arrival; there is some confusion in the sources (or perhaps in your editor) as their arrival is given as 12 June 1915 but they are recorded as in action by the 7<sup>th</sup>. I think the answer is that it was the newly-formed 58ID Headquarters which arrived on 12 June, to take command of 4 & 5GbBrig which were already there, under the command of 18ID.

The Andrian family records reveal that Vito Andrian was born in San Vito al Torre on 30 March 1882; Guiseppe was his father. If as is most likely he was born an Austrian citizen, he would have been liable for Austro-Hungarian military service, and certainly he'd be called up when the war began or soon afterwards. Alternatively but less likely, he could have been Italian, or had dual nationality (father's & birthplace). He was 32 years old in 1914, so would have been a Reservist.

Dixon-Nuttall explains that the obligation on Austrian citizens was to be available for military service between the ages of 19 and 42; one served two years full time followed by 10 years on the reserve, then went on the Landsturm rolls to age 42. During the war the top age for Landsturm service was raised to 50, then to 55; with the proviso that these older men would only be required to perform essential but unarmed military tasks. There were a great number of men who did no full time service. Those that were physically fit took the Oath of Allegiance and were placed on a general list called the Ersatz Reserve. Certain categories of men were placed automatically in this reserve: sole dependants of families, schoolmasters, seminary students and certain classes of forestry and agricultural workers for example. Men on the Ersatz Reserve did ten weeks basic military training and remained liable for full time service in peace and war, being placed on their Landsturm rolls at the age of 33.

### *Vito Andrian's postcards*

Now that we know where the Andrian family lived, and who was fighting whom where, we can look at the second card. It is a standard Feldpostkorrespondenzkarte from Vito Andrian, via the Red Cross in Zurich and their Bologna office, to his wife Maria; it is dated 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1915. The Unit Cachet is K.u.K. ETAPPENARBEITER / ABTEILUNG No 14 / FELDPOST

No 320 in a medium blue. The cancel is K.u.K. FELDPOSTAMT 320 / 17.X.15. It arrived in Zurich on 31<sup>st</sup> October and was sent via Bologna to San Vito. The message sends effusive greetings to his wife, children and relatives but carefully omits any reference to where he is and what he is doing. An Arbeiterabteilung is a forced labour group and Etappen means that it is not in the front lines but in the supporting area behind them. It is perhaps relevant that 58ID, whose post office he is using, was formed by men from Bosnia; while men from his home district would come under the Triest recruiting centre and be sent to serve elsewhere.



Possibilities include (a) although an Austrian, he is being regarded as possibly having Italian sympathies and is being kept out of the way (b) the group is of POWs and he is guarding them (c) he has offended against Austrian Military Discipline and is being punished (d) he is an Austrian civilian, not a soldier [there is no army rank indicated on his cards], and volunteered to go to a labour camp instead of being for some reason interned (e) he was not an Austrian but an Italian soldier and had been captured [several men of his age, also born in San Vito, are known to have served with the Italian Army; until 1915 Italy was neutral] (f) he was an Italian civilian employed by the Austrian army. The San Vito Military Service Archives are silent on this question.

The first of these possibilities seems the most likely. There is no proof (that I have seen) that he was other than an Austrian. He could of course have been using Red Cross and POW cards as the only available means of communicating with his family and parents across the battle lines.

The third card is a standard Austrian POW card, dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 1916, again via Feldpostamt 320 and the Red Cross in Zurich to Maria. It has a faint censor mark, probably FELDKIRCH, and the unit cachet K.u.K. Etappenstationskommando. The cancel is K.u.K. FELDPOSTAMT 320 / 21.VI.16.



The fourth card (overleaf) is another standard Austrian POW card, dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 1916, again via Feldpostamt 320 and the Red Cross in Zurich to Maria. Vito is now with the K.k. Ldst. Arbeiterabteilung No 51 / Ldst 21. The triangular mark shows that the card has been censored in Vienna: two lines are blacked out of the message. There are also two rectangular cachets which are an Italian censor mark and an Italian Red cross mark.

And there the trail goes cold: according to family legend he died "under mysterious circumstances"! If only the postcards could speak!



## Appendix: chronology

### 1915

26 Apr	Treaty of London: Italy will join the Allies and be rewarded with South Tirol etc.
3 May	Italy abrogated the Triple Alliance with Austria & Germany
18 May	News of the Italian intentions reached the Austrian Army command. The Italian front was reinforced from the Russian and Serbian theatres. XVI Korps, including 58ID [to which FPA320 was attached] moved from the Balkans.
24 May	Italy declared war on Austria: their army crossed the frontier and headed east, advancing over 10km and over-running San Vito. By the next day they were within artillery range of the Isonzo
28 May	58ID moved to Wippachtal, a few km south-east of Görz.
7 Jun	5GbBrig of 58ID fighting Italians near Görz
23 Jun	Italians attacked for the first time on the River Isonzo. This was the first of the battles of the Isonzo, and lasted until 7 Jul. Heavy losses

	on both sides.
10 Aug	End of the second Battle of Isonzo.
18 Oct	Third Battle of Isonzo. Ended 4 Nov.
10 Nov	Fourth Battle of Isonzo. Ended 14 Dec.

## ***1916***

11 Mar	Fifth Battle of Isonzo, ended 16 Mar.
14 May	The Austrians, after reinforcing their front in the Süd-Tirol from Galicia, attacked the Italians and attempted to break out of the mountains into the plain of Lombardy. By 2 Jun the Italians had held this attack and eventually recaptured about half of the ground they had lost to it.
4 Aug	Following the Austrian offensive in the Süd-Tirol and their subsequent holding of that, the Italians concentrated their efforts once more on the Isonzo. The sixth Battle of the Isonzo was a more serious affair than its predecessors and lasted from 4-16 Aug. It caused the Austrians to reinforce that front at the expense of the Süd-Tirol and Balkan fronts. The town of Görz on the Isonzo was captured by the Italians on 8 Aug. (Although a German Alpine Division was sent to the Italian front in Jun 15, Italy and Germany were not at war until Aug 16.)
14 Sep	Seventh (14-17 Sep) battle of the Isonzo.
9 Oct	Eighth (9-12 Oct) battle of the Isonzo.
Oct	FPA320 renumbered FPA420; now serving 58ID, 4GbBrig, 5GbBrig in the Görz area (the GbBrigs had previously had their own FPAs).
31 Oct	Ninth (31 Oct - 4 Nov) battle of the Isonzo.

## ***1917***

12 May	Tenth Battle of Isonzo, ended 5 Jun.
18 Aug	The Italians attacked for the last time in the eleventh Battle of the Isonzo, using 52 divisions. The Austrians were pushed back six miles north of Görz, but the Italians did not follow up, and the battle ended 1 Sep with the Austrians badly shaken but the Italians having lost 165,000 men.
24 Oct	Twelfth Battle of the Isonzo, known as Caporetto, when a German Army including two Austrian corps, and the Austrian 1 and 2 Isonzo Armies attacked and within three days broke through the Italian defences and advanced to the R. Piave. The Italians lost some 293,000 men as prisoners, and had some 400,000 desert. They also lost much equipment and had to be reinforced by British and French forces from the Western Front.

## Aide Memoire

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** are due on 1<sup>st</sup> April every year (& overdue on 1<sup>st</sup> October!). GB, Europe and overseas-by-surface £15 or US\$25 or €25. Airmail overseas £20 or US\$30 or €35. Please send subscriptions to the Treasurer. See note below regarding currency. You may pay in advance at the current rate for as many future years as you like. A receipt will be sent with 'Austria' or the Newsletter; if you live in GB and want one sooner please send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

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