

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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Editorial 139

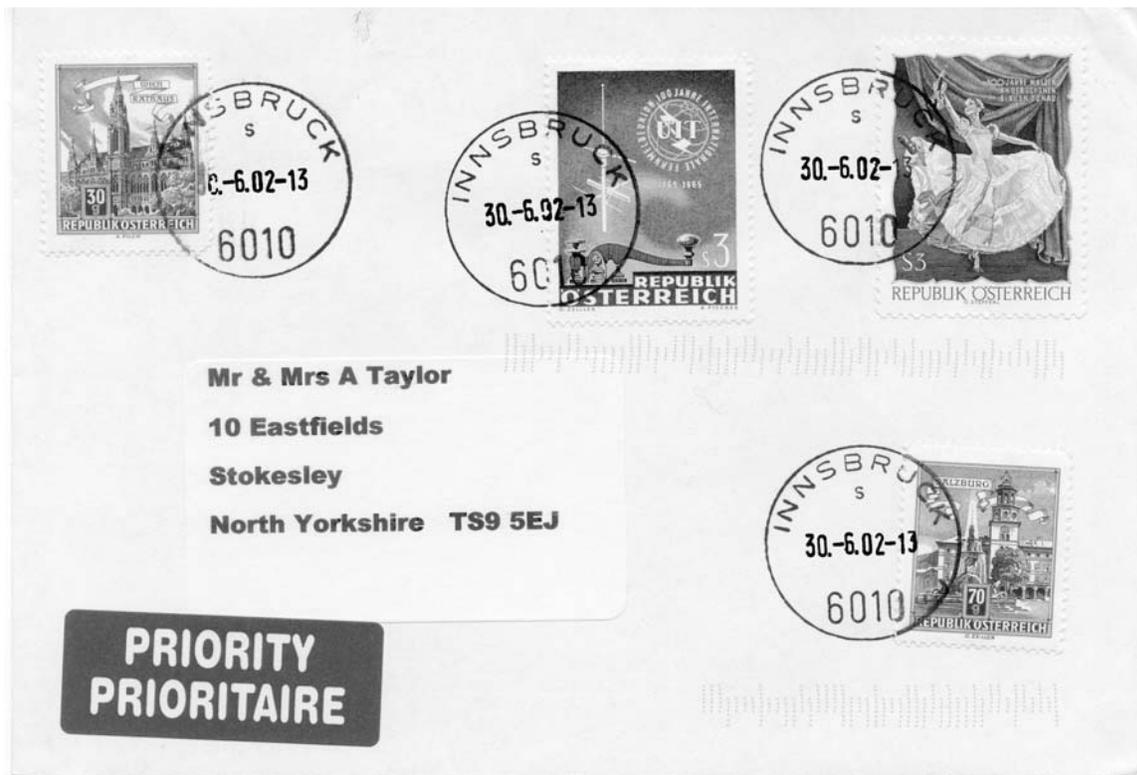
By Andy Taylor

IT seems to have been a quiet summer, philatelically speaking. A steady flow of Post Office closure and Post-Partner Agentur opening notices; the promised Euro stamp issues; occasionally a Special Cancel; and emailed queries which are either easy or impossible to answer! Books and pamphlets continue to reach us, giving new information on old topics or, sometimes, introducing a completely unsuspected byway (such as WWI military cable cars).

Stanley Gibbons have announced the publication of the 6th edition of their "Part 2" (Austria and Hungary); it appeared on 26th July 2002 and costs £24.95. A review will appear in the next issue.

My translation of "Maria Theresia's Treaty" in 'Austria' 137 page 17 paragraph 6, while conjuring up an imaginative scenario of the 18th century poop-scoop, is not actually what the original says! Hans Smith supplies a better version: "And therefore the Imperial Court Councillors on duty and the Officers of the State Chancellery are excused the road toll (provided they travel with their own or with post horses but not for example with other licensed horses, in which latter case the carter travelling for reward will pay the fee).".

1.6.1925...R.I.P...30.6.2002



This is your Editor's trophy from 2001's Numiphil: cancelled at Kitzbühel on 30 December 1849. The price seemed quite reasonable; even more so when he found that it was in DM, not Euro! Roll on 2002's trip...



The last issue's entry for "Südost-Philatelie" (Notes on Publications) refers to a book "**Die Seilbahnen der kuk Eisenbahntrouppen in Montenegro und Albanien, 1916-1918**", and Martin Brumby has procured me a copy. It's amazing! It describes and illustrates the activities of extremely-specialist troops who erected cable cars for the transport of goods and men. The Montenegrin terrain was Alpine, ie huge hills and deep valleys; a typical route is the equivalent of a cable car from Sellafield to the top of Scafell. Albania was flatter, but full of malaria-infested marshes - above one of which a cable car transported in one 20-hour operation an entire battalion of 700 men over a distance of 46Km; the duration of the trip being 2½ hours. The relevant Fieldpost is illustrated, but for any transport fanatic the illustrations of cable-car erection and operation make this 50-page A4 book an excellent buy.

The Annual General Meeting of the Österreichischen Briefmarkenkünstler Schützverein is scheduled for early December in Apollogasse, Wien. Fuller details of this praiseworthy organisation may be obtained from the Editor.

The promised article on Austrian stamp issues for the second half of 2000 will appear in the next issue: blame Consignia's subtle increases in postage for heavier items going abroad.

Don't forget to book for Cantfest!

Transition of the Austrian Post to the Reichspost in 1938

By A Taylor

A question often asked amongst philatelists is, what happened to the Austrian postal system after the Anschluß on 13th March 1938. The recycling of many pre-Anschluß files during the Reich as irrelevant waste paper, the deliberate destruction of much of the wartime records in 1945 as possibly incriminating, and the loss of many files during the bombing of Vienna all conspire to make authoritative answers extremely difficult to obtain.

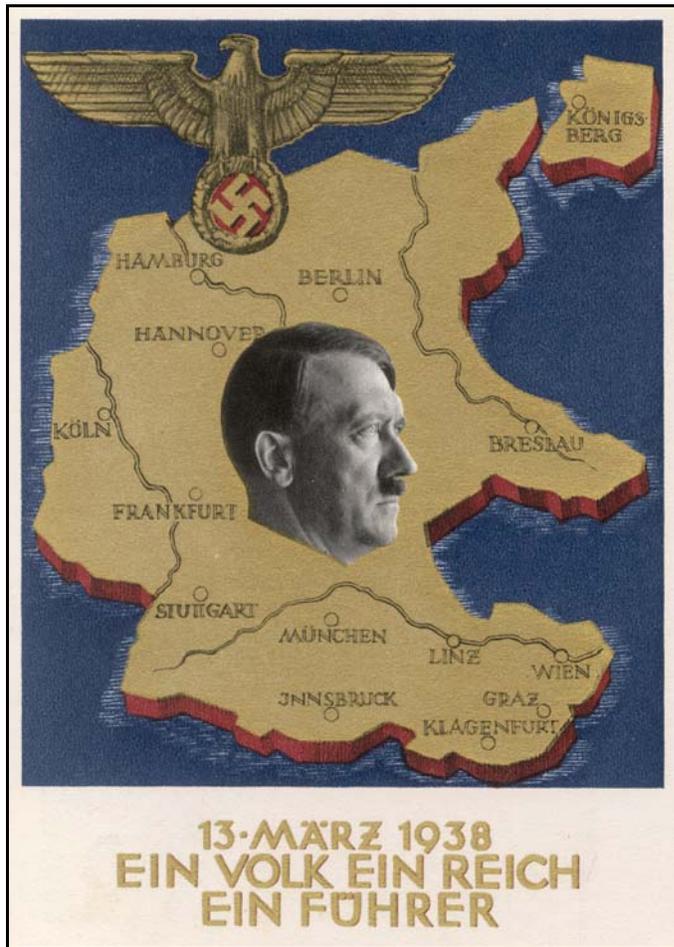
However, some information can be obtained from the available German records; and one must bear in mind that following the Anschluß, Austria was regarded as "having returned to the Motherland" and was officially designated "Land Oesterreich". The former Austrian authorities were quickly downgraded to implementers of Berlin's orders, and there was no need or scope for local initiative: so the loss of the Viennese files is not a catastrophe. The relevant printed documents from 1938, contained in the "Reichsgesetzblatt 1938, Teil 1, Berlin" and the "Bundesgesetzblatt für das Land Österreich 1938, Wien", are:

- ❖ "Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums, Ausgabe A", 1938 (Berlin). This is the Official Gazette of the Berlin Postal Ministry.
- ❖ "Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt": issued by the Generaldirektion for Posts & Telegraphs, part of the Austrian Trade Ministry, up to issue 19 of 23 March 1938. From issue 20 of 24 March, the title had "für das Lande Österreich" added, and the independent ministry vanished.
- ❖ "Nachrichtenblatt der Abwicklungsstelle des Reichspostministeriums für das Lande Österreich".

Reading these volumes shows that there were matters long familiar in the "Altreich" but unknown in Austria; nor could the German postal employees be expected to know the Austrian special provisions. So, everything had to be republished in the 'other place', and philatelic researchers must peruse them both. For the postal details, the appropriate starting place is the Austrian "21st Postgebührenweiser" (ie, table of rates) valid from 1st January 1935; this had had only a few amendments between then and 13th March 1938. The details of the transition from that to the German Reichspost are the subject of this article.

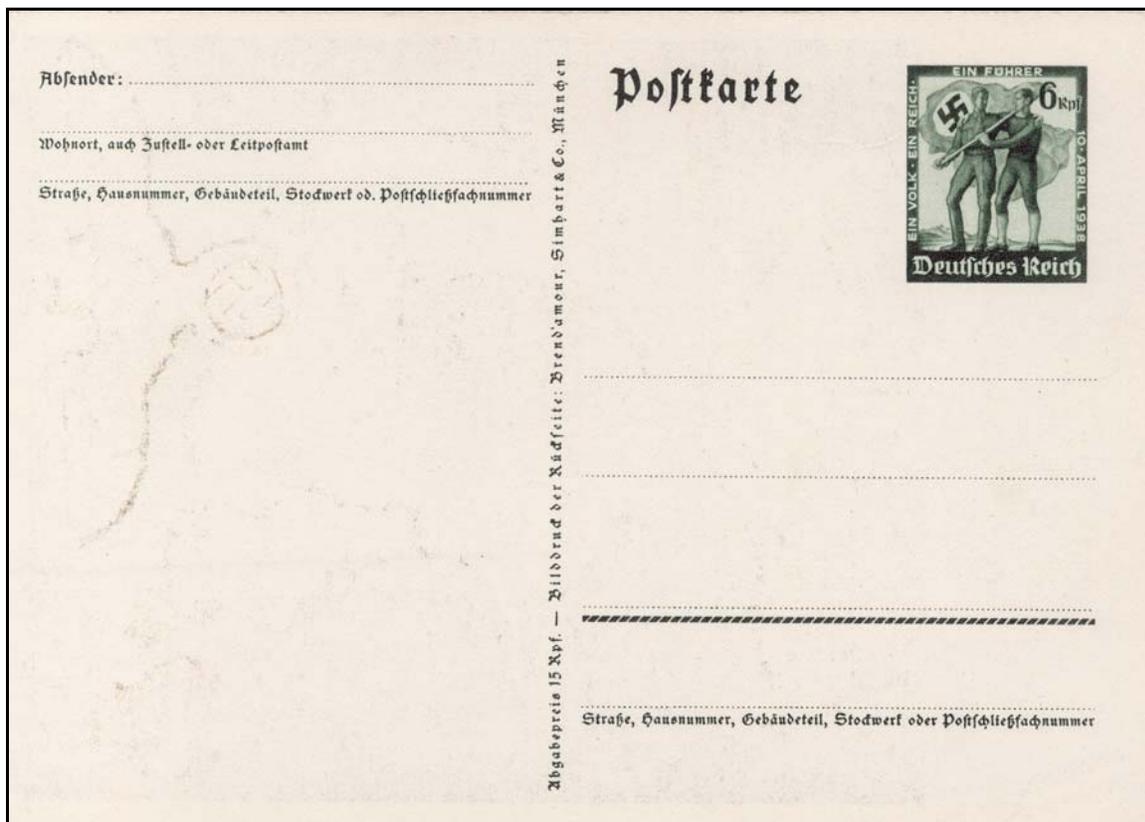
I have used "Land Austria" below to translate "Land Oesterreich", the post-Anschluß name of Austria; and "Germany" to mean "Das Reich", the country ruled by Hitler on 1 March 1938, sometimes referred to in the originals as "Altreich". Pre-Anschluß Austria is called "Austria".

Quotations directly from the official sources are in boldface, like this.



This card was issued to mark Hitler's progress around his expanded State. The places shown are those where he made formal speeches: see below at 3rd & 8th April.

The stamp side of the card is shown below.



As is made clear in the Wiener GFuPVM [*see 'further reading' (b)*], there are THREE postal periods which can (& must!) be separately considered:

The 1st German - Austrian rates period (13th March - 3rd April 1938)

There was a Fieldpost for German soldiers in Austria (lasting up to 20th May); it must be distinguished from the Civil post which remained unchanged.

The 2nd German - Austrian rates period (4th April - 31st July 1938)

The basic rates were now calculated in German currency, while the ancillary charges for express, airmail, registered and pneumatic services remained at the Austrian rate and were calculated in Groschen. For both, either German or Austrian stamps [at a rate of exchange of 1½ Gr = 1 Rpf] could be used.

The 3rd German - Austrian rates period (1st August - 31st October 1938)

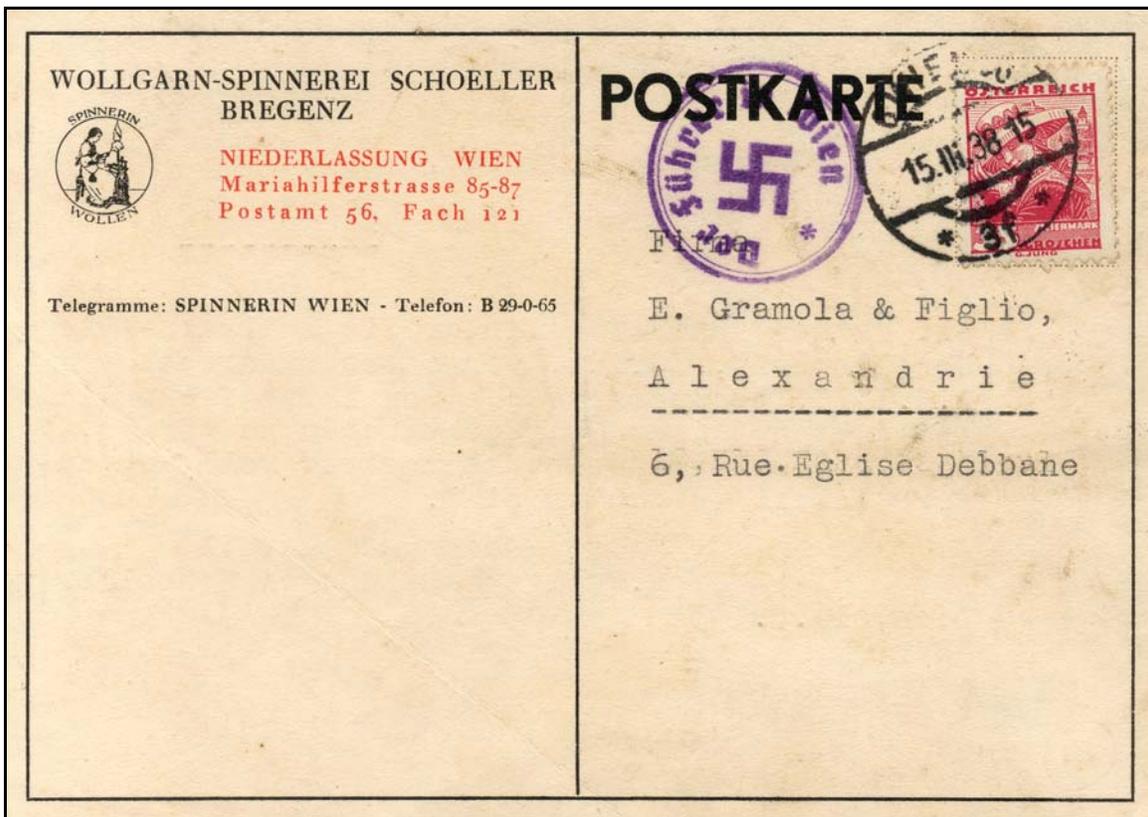
The German tariffs were now in force, not only for the basic rates, but also for all incidental charges; however Austrian postage stamps in private hands could still be used until 31st Oct and be exchanged free of charge up to the 31st Dec.

<i>Key Dates in 1938</i>	
11 March	Federal Chancellor Schuschnigg resigns. Seyss-Inquart installed as NS-Federal Chancellor and forms a transition Cabinet.
12 March	"Military assistance" requested (in Seyss-Inquart's name) from the German Reich. German troops cross the Austrian border. ¹
13 March	German troops occupy all of Austria; FPOs set up for them. Joint declaration of the Seyss-Inquart (Austrian) and the German governments that henceforth Austria was reunited with Germany.
15 March	Hitler enters Vienna. The three Dolfuss stamps withdrawn and invalidated.
17 March	Reichsmark/pfennig introduced alongside Schilling/Groschen
4 April	Some basic postage rates change to German and are expressed in Reichspfennig. Mixed German-Austrian franking possible.
10 April	The Anschluß was approved by a plebiscite in both countries.
25 April	Austrian currency (Schilling/groschen) no longer legal tender
15 May	Austrian currency no longer accepted at Post Offices etc
20 May	German FPOs closed.
1 August	All postage rates change to German, in Reichspfennig.
5 August	Sale of Austrian stamps ceases at Post Office counters.
31 October	Austrian stamps lose their postal validity.

¹ According to "The Second World War" by Sir Winston Churchill, all the heavy artillery and tanks broke down at Linz and had to be taken to Vienna by train for Hitler's parade on the 15th!



"Der Führer in Wien" 15 March: internal postcard.



"Der Führer in Wien" 15 March: foreign postcard to Egypt.

The 1st German - Austrian rates period (13th March - 3rd April 1938)

15 March: The Dollfuss stamps of 24g (both colours: ANK589 & 590) and 10S (ANK588) were withdrawn and lost their validity for franking both inland and foreign mail. See below at 6 April.

17 March: "Legal tender in Land Austria is, as well as the Schilling, the Reichsmark, which has the value 1 Schilling 50 Groschen." See separate article on the Demise of the Schilling.

18 March: The following rules appeared in the Berlin Gazette for the Fieldpost for the German troops in Austria.

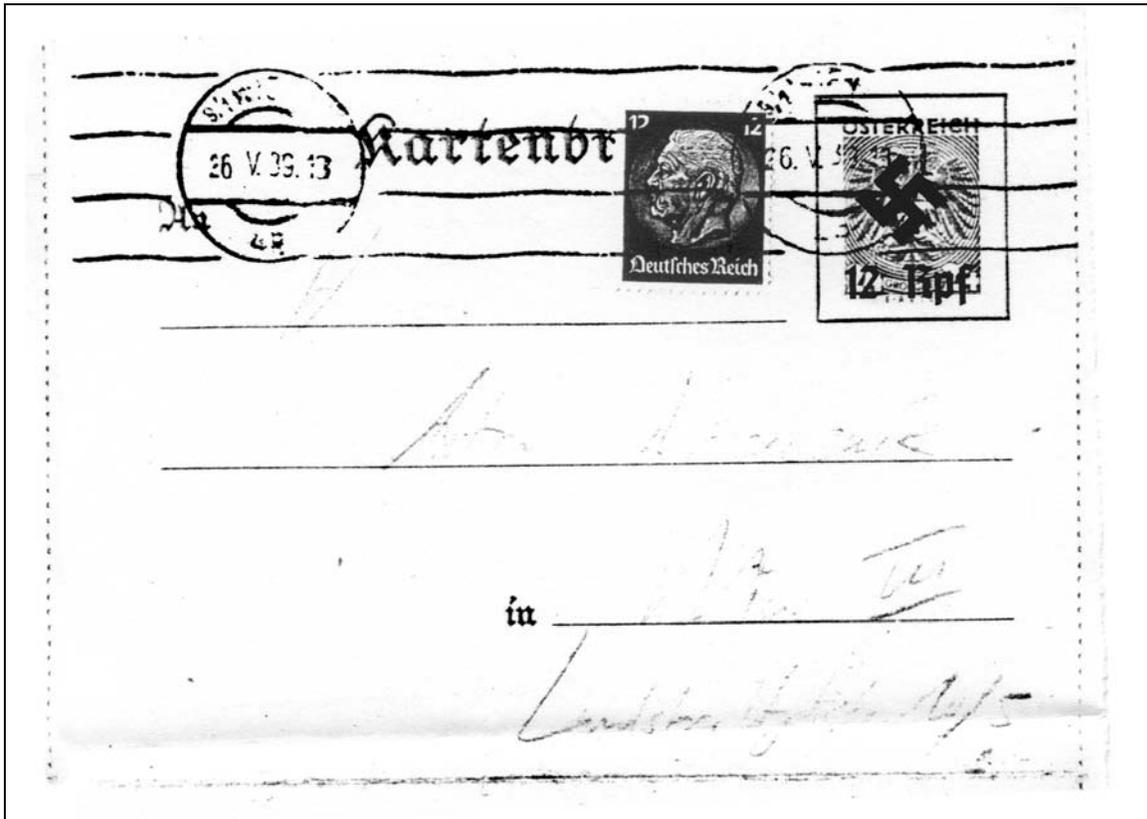
1. The Postal arrangements for the German troops in Austria will be provided during their stay in Austria by the Field Post Offices set up for these troops...

3. Mail to and from the German troops in Austria is subject to the ordinary German domestic fees. However unfranked or insufficiently-franked ordinary letters and postcards sent to the German troops in Austria should until further notice not be surcharged. Likewise ordinary letters and postcards, which are posted by these German troops as unpaid Field-post letters or cards at their Field Post Offices, should be transported without surcharge...

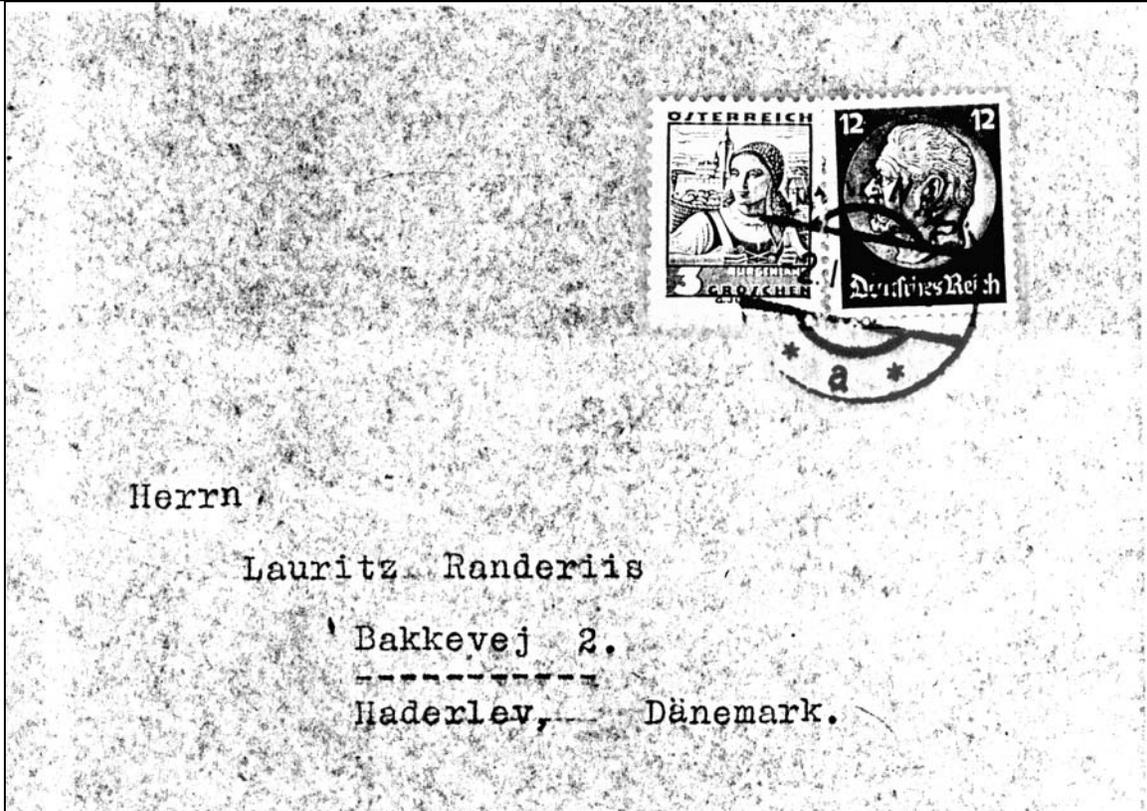
The discretionary clause in reference to the free posting is repeated in order No. 11 of the Army Command 10 (Innsbruck) for the soldiers: "**Field-post letters or cards handed in or posted in mailboxes by the German troops in Austria are free of charge. They must carry the designation 'Feldpost' and the issuing unit, eg Schütze XX Feldpostnummer 123**" [see example cancellation at 8th April below].

For the Civil post, the Generaldirektion in Vienna produced provisional Postal Stationery with swastika overprint and new denominations in Reichspfennig [postcards Schneiderbauer No. 299 I, 300 I and 306 I, letter cards No. 67 I: see top illustration on next page]. However these were not approved by the Reichspostministry. The Austrian rates remained in force for basic and ancillary services (see Appendix I). German postage stamps were not valid [but see bottom illustration on next page!].

26 March: "Ordinance on the introduction of new postage for letters and postcards in Land Austria." The new rates came into force on 4th April 1938; some are given in Appendix I. The cheaper "local rate" was reintroduced; it applied within the delivery area of the office of posting; but if several post offices lay in the same community, they formed a uniform local district.



Letter card: Vienna I to Vienna III, 26/5/1939. Overprinted card, reused.



Commercial postcard from Vienna to Denmark, dated 2 April 1938, with 12Rpf and 3Gr purporting to make up the foreign postcard rate of 15Rpf which was introduced 2 days later!

3 April: The "Führerblock" issued (in Germany) on 5 April 1937 became valid for franking in Land Austria. This is a 2x2 block of 6Rpf+19Rpf stamps, issued for Hitler's 48th birthday, with huge margins with inscriptions. Issued perf 14 (SG635), imperf (SG636) and with rouletted margins (SG637). As explained in the 'commentary' of 15th April, it was sold on Sunday 3rd April but only at a special post office at Graz on the occasion of Hitler's visitation; and on the 4th when he was in Klagenfurt, the 5th in Innsbruck and so forth: general sales began on 13th April. Examples dated 3rd April are RARE!

The 2nd German - Austrian rates period (4th April - 31st July 1938)

4 April: The ordinance of 26 March on the introduction of new postage for letters and postcards in Land Austria took effect. Simultaneously, postage stamps of the German Reichspost became valid for use in Land Austria.

Such cryptic statements had to be explained more carefully to the German postal workers. So the Berlin Gazette published explanatory notes, which I paraphrase as follows:

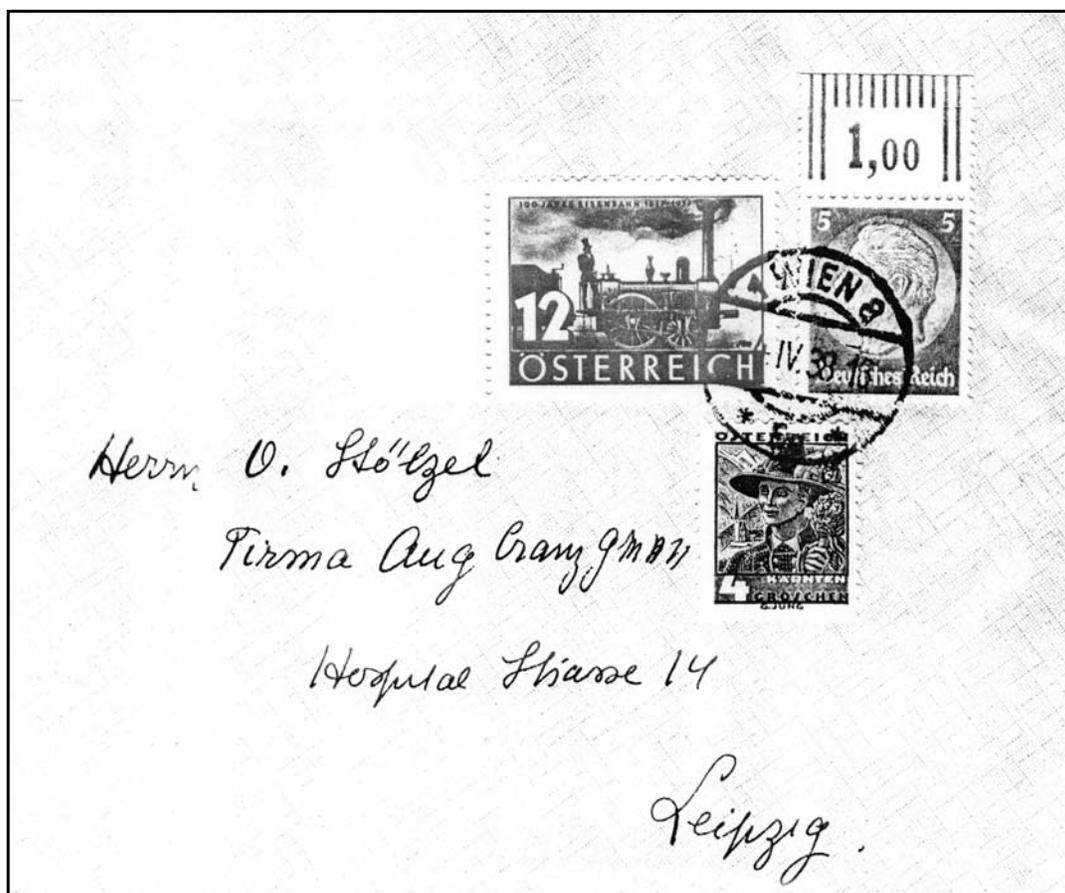
- a) From 4 April 1938 mail in and from Land Austria can be validly franked, not only with Austrian stamps, but also with German stamps with in relief the head of the late lamented ReichsPresident Field Marshal von Hindenburg.
- b) From that day the post offices etc in Land Austria will issue German Hindenburg stamps of 5, 6, 8, 12, 15 and 25 Rpf as well as postcards of 5, 6 and 15 Rpf and reply-paid postcards of 5+5, 6+6 and 15+ 15 Rpf.
- c) Austrian and German stamps can be used side by side on mail posted in Land Austria. The use of Austrian stamps for mail in and from Germany is not permitted.

This forbidding cannot have applied to reply-paid cards with 5Rpf Hindenburg imprints and 1 or 2 groschen supplementary franking, where the reply part came from Germany back to Land Austria. The reply-paid part of such cards franked with the stamps of any arbitrary country had to be treated as validly franked on their return to the country of origin. A summary of the Postal rates to and from Land Austria in 1938 is in Appendix I of this article.

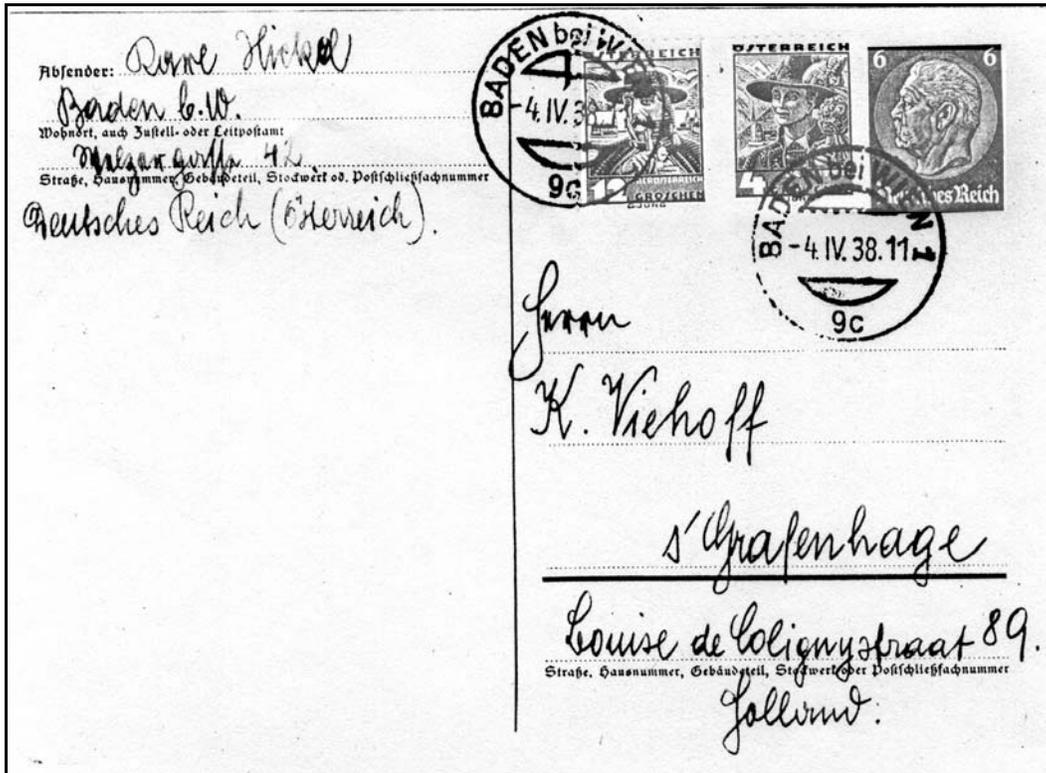
- d) When calculating the value of the stamps a Reichspfennig corresponds to the value of one and a half Austrian Groschen; eg a stamp of 6 Rpf has the value of 9 Groschen, a stamp of 15 Rpf the value of 23 Groschen.
- e) When deciding the value of the franking of mail which is franked completely or partially with Austrian stamps, the Groschen values are to be converted into Rpf according to the rule of 1Rpf = 1½Gr. Fractions of Rpf are to be ignored. Any resulting deficit is to be charged Postage Due at the rate of 1½ times.

Note the post-conversion rounding down (apart from 1Gr = 1Rpf). By mid-June this had changed, $\frac{1}{2}+$ being rounded up. The original notes stated "*die Groschenwerte sind insgesamt umzurechnen*" which should mean that the Groschen values were added and the total then converted. However examples can be found where each Groschen stamp must have been separately converted, to explain the absence of a surcharge. The original document gave two "worked examples", which are in Appendix II.

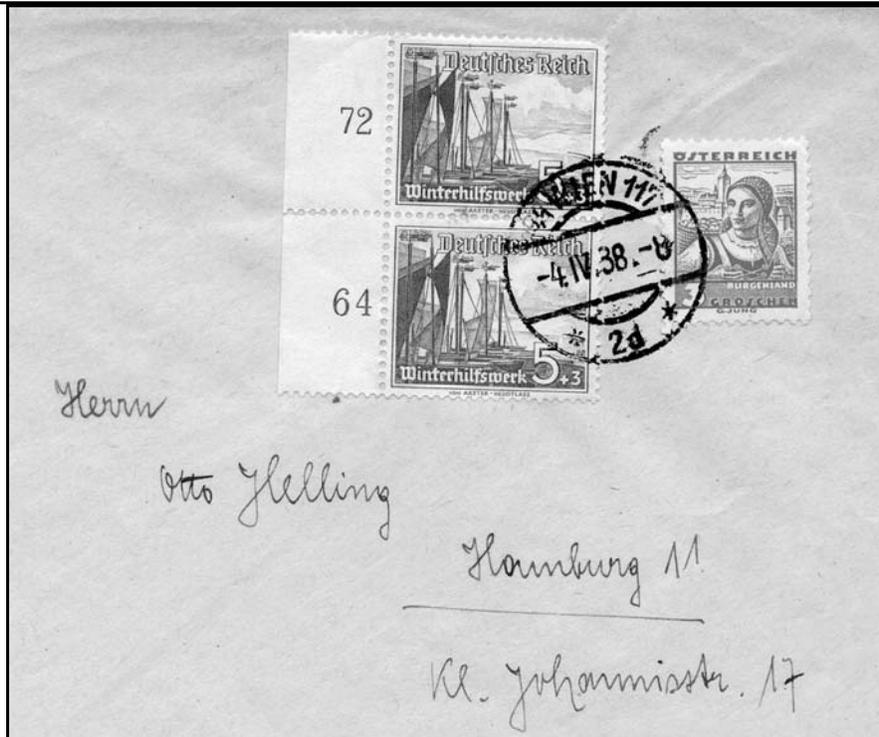
The effect of all this was that the new basic rates were now calculated in Reichpfennig, while the ancillary charges for express, airmail, registered and pneumatic services remained at the Austrian rate and were calculated in Groschen. As the Austrian system was moved over to the German, that which was not explicitly changed remained unaltered. For both, either the specified current German stamps, or those Austrian stamps still valid (at a rate of exchange of $1\frac{1}{2}$ Groschen = 1 Reichpfennig), or a mixture, could be used. A further complication is that the monthly accounts of a Post Office were prescribed as "convert each then add" (eg $3@5\text{Gr}=3@3\text{Rpf}=9\text{Rpf}$) while sales were "add then convert" (eg $3@5\text{Gr}=15\text{Gr}=10\text{Rpf}$): so the Office 'bought' them at 9Rpf, sold them at 10Rpf, and made 1Rpf profit!



Inland letter dated 4 April from Wien to Leipzig. Requires 12Rpf; franked $(12+4)*\frac{2}{3}=10.667$ Rpf (which in April counted as 10 not 11) plus 5Rpf making 15Rpf in total. Original has printed return address: probably not philatelic.



4th April postcard from Baden bei Wien to s'Gravenhage in Nederlands. Foreign rate 15Rpf; franked $(12+4) \times \frac{2}{3} = 10.667$ Rpf + 6 Rpf making 16 Rpf in total.

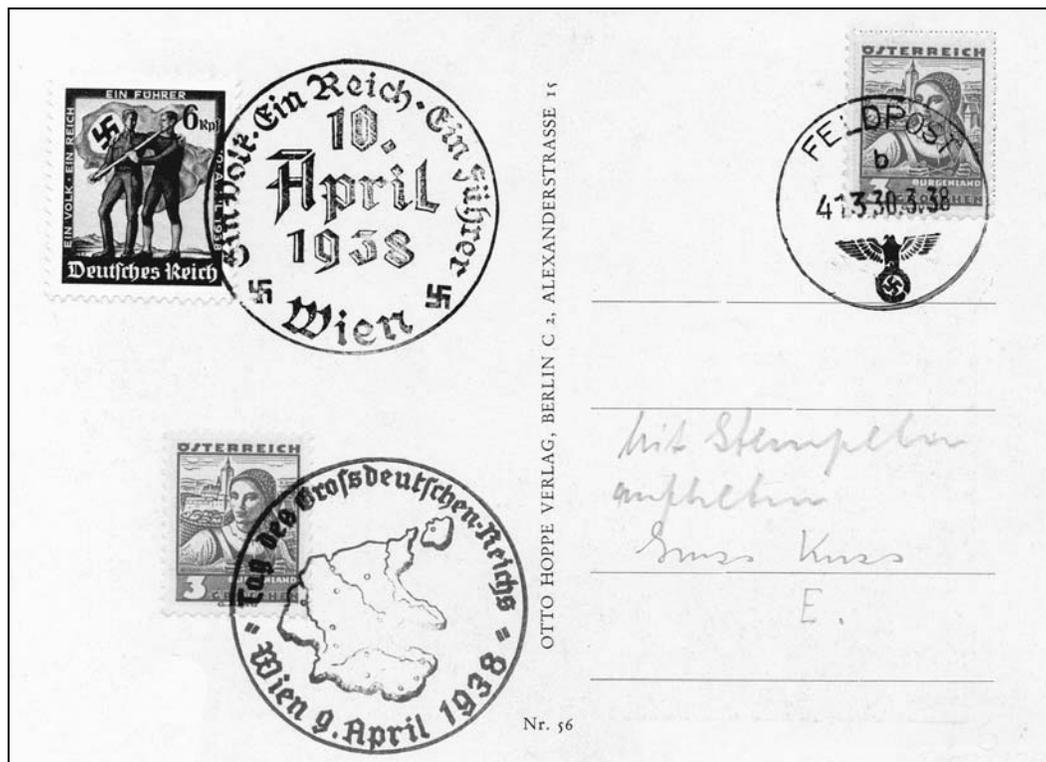


Inland letter from Wien to Hamburg dated 4 April; rate 12 Rpf; franked $3 \times \frac{2}{3} = 2$ Rpf + 5 Rpf + 5 Rpf making 12Rpf in total. The German Winterhilfswerk stamps were not authorised for use in Austria at that date.

6 April: "The Dollfuss stamps of 24 g and 10 S were withdrawn with effect from 15th March 1938 and have lost their validity for franking both inland and foreign mail".

Curiously, this announcement was made retroactively; it is recorded in a Vienna postal decree published on the 13th April as having being decided on the 6th April. Theoretically then, mixed frankings with Dollfuss and Hindenberg stamps are possible, though also very improbable! However the issue of Die Postmarke published on 31st March states that the immediate withdrawal was communicated to all post offices by telegram on 15th March; I suspect that the Vienna 'decision' was recognition of a fait accompli. It adds that the Vienna Collectors Counter was besieged on 12th March by collectors who had postponed buying a 10S Dollfuss: they soon sold out, so that the trade price rose to several times face value. (The 24g stamps had been sold out some time previously.) The 10S could be exchanged at all Post Offices for 'acceptable' stamps, although this was not publicised.

8 April: The special 6 Rpf stamp "Ein Volk - ein Reich - ein Führer" will be issued in Land Austria on the occasion of the referendum of 10th April 1938. [This is ANK 662 (Berlin printing) and 663 (Vienna printing).] Likewise the special referendum postcard, priced at 6Rpf + 9Rpf surcharge, total price 15 Rpf. In theory, the Berlin printing was sold and used in Germany, the Vienna in Land Oesterreich. Philatelic variations are known; this example also has the German-troops-in-Austria fieldpost cancel!



The remarks printed in this grey-background sanserif typeface are based on a contemporary commentary "Der Übergang des österreichischen Postwesens an das Reich", a series of articles in the issues of "Die Postmarke" from April to July 1938 written by persons oleagiously sympathetic to the new order.

Der Uebergang des österreichischen Postwesens an das Reich (The transition of the Austrian postal system to the Reich) Part 1: 15 April 1938

The historic events of the past weeks, the creation of Greater Germany, have of course had a great impact on the postal system as Austria became a Land of the German Reich. The independent postal system disappeared, being absorbed into the Reichspost of Greater Germany. Upheavals of this kind are always accompanied by remarkable and interesting postal history events, and it is the task of a specialist journal to record all the details and to capture them for later times. We shall discharge this duty in the form of a series, in which shall be put down all which has happened in the time after the radical change in Austrian philately, so that our contribution to the history of this great time can be delivered.

On the 13th March 1938 the reunification of Austria with the German Reich was accomplished; a mere six days later on 19 March the integration of the Austrian Post and Telegraph administration with the German Reichspost and their subordination to the Reichspostminister resulted. Legally a clear situation was created; in practice, philatelically at least, nothing changed immediately. The Austrian postage stamps remained in use; they were however now no longer Austrian postage stamps, but should be regarded as German for Land Austria. At 19 March 1938 the following stamps² were valid for franking: the 1934/35 issue with the exception of the 10 schilling [the Dolfuss], the Air Post issues 1925/30 and 1935, the Nibelungen series of 1926, the Railway set of 1937, the Greetings stamps of 1937, the Winter Relief set of 1937, the Doctors set of 1937, the Postage Dues of 1935, as well as all Postal Stationery in Groschen currency. All these postage stamps are to be regarded therefore as the first stamps of the German Postal District of Land Austria.

The postal realization of the Anschluss came about with surprising speed. On 1st April the Land Austrian post switched to rendering its accounts in Reichsmark; the entire financial transaction was carried out in Reichsmark, even though the payment could be made in Schilling notes and coins. On all forms the designation of value were altered to RM and Rpf, for which the post offices had rubber stamps available. Austrian postage stamps were sold unchanged, but the payment could be made in Schilling or in Reichsmark at the official rate of 1 RM = 1½S.

² [These are ANK 567-587 (but not 588!), 468-487 & 598-612, 488-493, 646-648, 658-9, 642-645, 649-657, and ANK 159-174]

It was expected that the next step in the changeover would be to overprint the Austrian stamps with values in Reichsmark, but this did not happen: the Reichspostminister decreed on 26 March a new scale of rates for letters and postcards in Land Austria, to take effect from 4 April. These had been especially high in Austria, and the transition to German rates meant a rate reduction of around 50%. The other postage rates remained, because they were largely lower than the German rates, especially for printed matter. So some of the postal rates were expressed in Schilling currency, others in Reichsmark. The changed rates are the following, where we indicate in brackets beside the Rpf-amount its conversion to Groschen.

	Local	Inland, ³ Lux'bg	Czecho- slovakia	Hungary	Foreign
Letters to 20 gram	8(12)	12(18)	20(30)	20(30)	25(38)
Letters per additional 20g			15(23)	10(15)	15(23)
Letters 20-250 gram	16(24)	24(36)			
Letters 250-500 gram	20(30)	40(60)			
Postcards	5(8)	6(9)	10(15)	10(15)	15(23)

If the only change had been to introduce these new rates, considerable trouble would have resulted, as it would have been difficult to make up these rates with the available stamps. This was solved in a simple and more generous way: on the day at which the new rates took effect, the required German postage stamps (ie Hindenberg 5, 6, 8, 12, 15 & 25 Rpf) were made available at all post offices in Land Austria. Officially, only these German stamps were permitted in Land Austria, but in reality not only the other definitives but also Air Mail, Winter Relief, and Commemoratives were sold: even Official stamps and obsolete commemoratives repeatedly slipped through. Mail from Land Austria could be franked with German only, Austrian only, or a mixture of stamps. The Austrian stamps are converted into Reichsmark, fractions of a Pfennig being ignored. One can assemble therefore the most beautiful mixed frankings, of which possibility the philatelists of course make ample use. For the Land Austrian post office employees this does not make matters easy; the philatelists with their versatile mixed frankings are not very popular with them at present. For underfranked mail, the surcharge is one-&a-half times the missing amount, with a minimum of 5 Rpf. The use of Austrian stamps in the old Germany is not allowed.

The first German postage stamps which arrived in Land Austria at the counters and came into use were not however the projected Hindenburg stamps but the [1937] Führerblock, which went on sale a day earlier, on 3rd April. This happened only at the special Post Office opened on the occasion of

³ [*'Inland' had included Germany and Danzig for many years.*]

the Führer's visit to Graz, which can thus claim the fame of being the place where the first German postage stamps were sold in Land Austria at a post office counter. Further sales of the block were made only at the special Post Offices "Der Führer spricht", which were open only on the day of the Führer's presence (4 April Klagenfurt, 5 April Innsbruck, 6 and 7 April Salzburg, 7 and 8 April Linz, then 9 and 10 April Vienna). From 13 April the block was obtainable at the post offices of the state capitals (Bregenz, Eisenstadt, Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna), as well as at the post office of Braunau am Inn; it could be ordered at all remaining post offices in Land Austria. Stamps from the block were valid in Land Austria from 3rd April; the imperf version was never on sale in Land Austria. The "Der Führer spricht" cancellers were rubber, and struck on the stamps except in Graz which initially used them as cachets.

The next new postage stamp to appear in Land Austria was the Plebiscite stamp which was issued on the 8th April in the whole Reich: a Berlin printing in Germany and a Viennese printing in Land Austria. Originally the stamps were intended to differ; the Viennese printing was to be denominated 12 Groschen (and not 6Rpf) and inscribed Deutsches Reich / Land Oesterreich. However due to the introduction of the new postage rates from 4 April both printings are 6 Rpf; there are many differences such as size, perforation, paper, sheet size, etc. As the first stamp of Greater Germany and the last of Austria, the Plebiscite stamp will take a place of honour in the collection of every German philatelist.

19 April: The special issue stamps of 12+38 Rpf with the picture of Adolf Hitler [this is ANK664, Hitler's 49th Birthday, issued on the 13th] came into circulation. "Each member of the post in Land Austria must consider it as his particular duty, to further the distribution of the stamps by all means possible" (urged the Vienna PTVB). According to the Berlin ABR, distribution of these stamps in Land Austria on their issue date was "not possible for technical reasons".

21 April: Decree: The available 12 Groschen postcards may be used as Foreign postcards if the corresponding supplementary franking be affixed. Attention is drawn to the present fees for postcards to Czechoslovakia & Hungary (10Rpf=15Gr) and to other foreign countries (15Rpf=23Gr).

25 April: Austrian currency declared no longer legal tender (it was still accepted at Post Offices etc till 15 May)

Der Uebergang Part 2: 30 April 1938

On 19th April a further German postage stamp arrived at the counters in Land Austria: the special issue stamp for the birthday of the Führer, which had been issued in Germany on the 13th. The post offices in the capitals of the federal states, as well as that at Braunau am Inn, received the stamps automatically; other post offices had to requisition them, so that they were not commonly

available on the 19th April. For the birthday date of 20th April, four special postmarks were created: for Vienna the Heldendenkmal, for Graz the Schlossberg, for Linz the city hall (where the Anschluss law was promulgated) and for Braunau am Inn the birthplace of the Führer. In Graz, Linz & Braunau only the main post office used the special postmark, while in Vienna the post offices 1, 9, 40, 50, 56, 62, 65, 89, 101 & two mobile post offices were furnished with it. The cancellers have a distinguishing letter (Vienna 1 without, the others 'a' to 'k'). The published instructions restricted the special postmark to the Führerblocks of 1937 & 1938 and the plebiscite stamp; however the post offices also cancelled other stamps. The crowd, especially at the Viennese main post office, was unusually large, so that larger orders had to be left behind and were delivered in the following days.

The manufacture of new cancellers for Land Austria will be done in Vienna, by the same firm as previously, and will naturally follow the guidelines for the Reichspost. The only cancellers to be changed immediately are those with the Austrian Coat of Arms: especially the office seals, which will be replaced by the national emblem of the Reich.



9 April reduced-rate postcard to Czechoslovakia; rate 10 Rpf; franked $6 \frac{2}{3} = 4$ Rpf + 6 Rpf making 10 Rpf in total.

3 May: with immediate effect the "Swiss Border" rates become the Germany-Switzerland Border rates: for letters 12 Rpf or 18 Groschen per 20 grams, for simple postcards 6 Rpf or 9 Groschen, for reply-paid postcards 12 Rpf or 18 Groschen.



9 May: a very mixed franking! $(1+3+4+3+12)=23\text{Gr}^{\frac{2}{3}}=15.33$ ie 15Rpf + 6 + 6 makes 27Rpf, enough for the foreign letter rate of 25Rpf.



Previous page, bottom: 9 May: a very mixed franking! $(1+3+4+3+12)=23\text{Gr} \cdot \frac{2}{3}=15.33$ ie 15Rpf + 6 + 6 makes 27Rpf, enough for the foreign letter rate of 25Rpf.

Previous page, bottom: 4 May: an example (from 'Austria' 134) of the dual calculation system. Franked 108Gr. The foreign letter rate was 25Rpf, which converts to 38Gr, and the airmail surcharge to Southern Rhodesia was still the 'Austrian' rate of 70Gr: total 108Gr.

Another example of dual systems is the "Rückschein" and "half Rückschein" systems. The Rückschein was where the sender paid for his mail (on the usual weight-related scale) plus the return postage for a proof-of-delivery card plus a fee for the service. The schedules for ordinary Rückscheinbriefe were accordingly listed (PuTVBl 30 March), as: Weight (up to, grams) 20/250/500: local rate (Rpf) 18/26/30; inland rate (Rpf) 22/34/50. These rates equate to 8/16/20Rpf for the outgoing local mail, plus 8Rpf for the local return mail, plus 2Rpf fee. The German system was quite different, and was charged differently.

The HALF Rückschein was where the sender was entitled to post unfranked mail, eg as a government department, or a local authority who paid in cash: the HR then covered local-area return postage on the card plus fee, so was 8Rpf + 2Rpf making 10Rpf, the same as the pre-Anschluß rate of 15Gr.

15 May: Austrian currency no longer accepted at Post Offices, banks etc

Der Uebergang Part 3: 16 May 1938

After the surprisingly quick first steps for the take-over of the Austrian postal system, the Reichspost now wants a slower tempo, to avoid difficulties. Nothing essential has changed in the postage rates since the 4th April: the German ones are only for letters and postcards, while for other kinds of mail the old Austrian rates remain in effect; likewise no further German postage stamps have been introduced and the Austrian stamps remain on sale. Post office employees complain about the absence of 1, 3 and 4 Rpf stamps, because at the Land Austria post offices no stamps are obtainable under 5 Rpf. The most beautiful mixed frankings with all permissible and impermissible German and Austrian stamps are still produced, often with the co-operation of post office employees, who willingly cancel them.

Difficulties have emerged following the change in the selling prices of the Austrian stamps to Reichsmark. With the rounding-off, remarkable effects are produced. For example, stamps of 3, 4, 5 & 8 groschen cost 2, 3, 3, 5 Rpf respectively. If then one wants to frank a Foreign Printed Matter item with the necessary 8 groschen, one can use an 8 groschen stamp (cost 5 Rpf) or a 3 and a 5 groschen (cost 2+3=5 Rpf). However two stamps of 4 groschen cost 6 Rpf. A regulation is expected shortly which will eliminate these difficulties.

The Reichsgesetzblatt of 2 May announced the transformation of the headquarters of the Post and Telegraph Administration in Vienna into a sub-office of the Reichspostministry for Land Austria. The leader of this government department is Dipl.-Ing. Fleischmann, who had come several weeks previously to Vienna on behalf of the Reichspostministry, to prepare the takeover of the Austrian post; to him are also subordinate the parcel post and the Post Office Savings Bank, which up to now had been independent state enterprises. The Postdirektion and the Telegraphendirektion in Vienna (covering Vienna, Niederösterreich and Burgenland) have been converted into a Reichspostdirektion; as have the Post- and Telegraphendirektionen in Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt and Linz. This marks a decisive step in organisational standardisation.

The Post- and Telegraph-Verordnungsblatt, in which all decrees were published which affected the Austrian postal system, was called since the Anschluss "Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt für das Land Oesterreich". It has now changed its name to "Nachrichtenblatt der Abwicklungsstelle des Reichspostministeriums für das Land Oesterreich" [= "newsletter of the clearing office of the Reichspostministry for Land Austria"]. On 3rd May, the Austrian rates which applied for letters and postcards for the cross-border traffic to Switzerland were replaced by the corresponding German rates. A postcard consequently costs 6 Rpf, a 20-gram letter 12 Rpf.

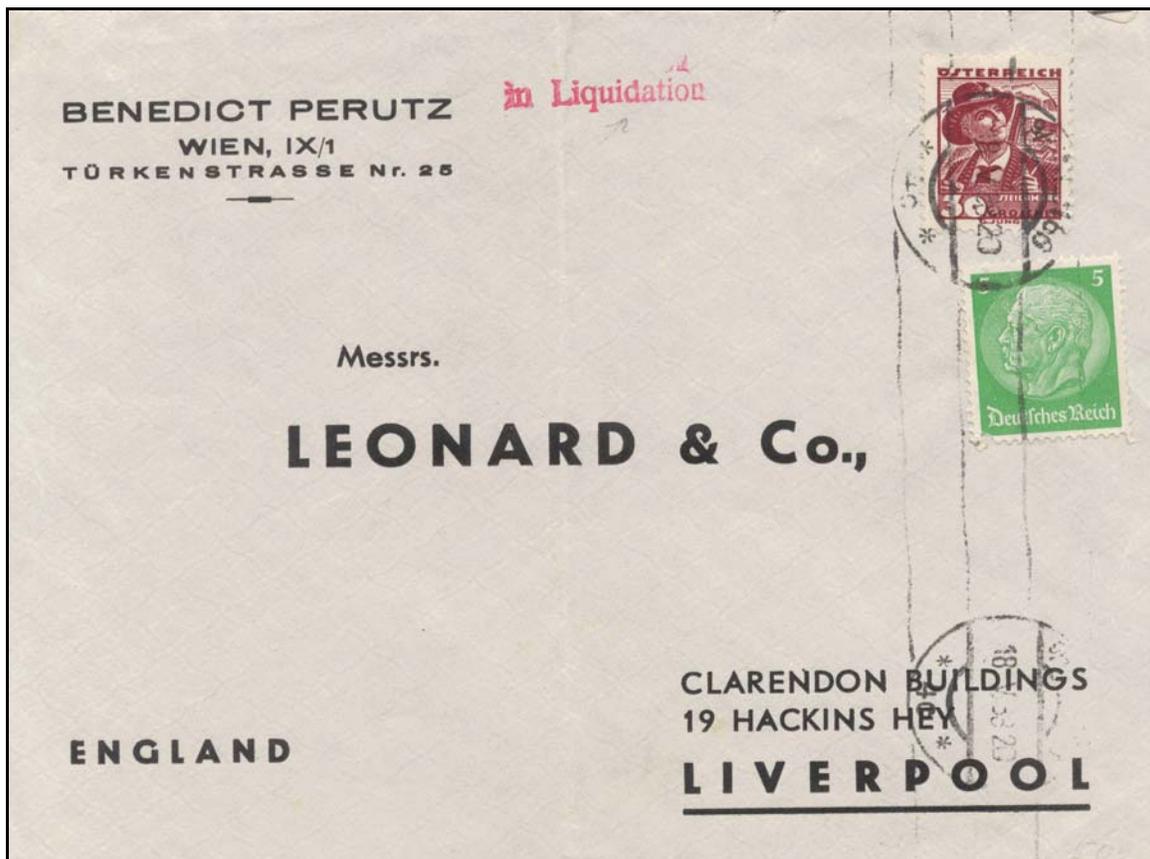
In a decree of 21st April it was ordered that on all postal forms [*eg COD forms, envelopes for money letters, package cards, etc*] the old [*Austrian*] national emblem [*on the form, not on the imprinted stamp*] shall be overprinted with the new national emblem [*ie the eagle bearing a swastika*]. All post offices have received two cancellers for this purpose, and have to amend all previously-delivered stocks. Stationery with the old coat of arms may no longer be sold: nevertheless at the beginning of May individual post offices, even in Vienna, were still selling unaltered items. 'Postal forms' includes items with imprinted stamps [*eg the money order form*], so that one can collect a quantity of temporary arrangements having different positions and colours of the imprints - each post office being unique - presenting a new area for a specialist collection.

On 20th April the special postmarks system used by the Reichspost for some years was introduced in Land Austria, and on that morning one could obtain at the Vienna Collectors Counter the special postmarks of Braunau, Graz and Linz; previously these special postmarks were obtainable only at the relevant special post office. The time and postage previously expended to procure the special postmarks from the places concerned used to cause some annoyance; in future collectors can save themselves this trouble owing to the obligingness [*das Entgegenkommen*] of the Reichspost.

Air mail has become increasingly popular since the Anschluss, especially to and from Germany; the amount of mail on some routes has doubled, tripled

and more. The imminent introduction of the German Air Mail rates, which are up to 25% lower than at present, will unquestionably produce a further increase in traffic.

20 May: The Field-post for German troops was discontinued on 20th May, and the exemption from fees and charges ceased: "**The Amtsblattverfügung Nr.94/1938 is cancelled, since the Fieldpost service has been discontinued for German troops remaining in German-Austria. The designation 'Feldpost' is no longer to be used. With this, all rate reductions cease; letters and postcards are fully chargeable in both directions again.**"



$30\text{Gr}^{\frac{2}{3}} = 20\text{Rpf} + 5$ makes 25Rpf, the foreign letter rate of 25Rpf.

27 May: The "**Abwicklungsstelle des Reichspostministeriums für das Land Österreich**" (the former *Generaldirektion of the Austrian Post Office*) announced that "**the stamps of 8, 12, 25, 45 and 64 Groschen are now not required and are to be withdrawn from counter sale and returned to the central warehouse**".

Der Uebergang Part 4: 31 May 1938

The post offices have recently been sternly reminded about the imprinting of the new national emblem on all forms. In particular no form which displays the old emblem of Austria may be used in traffic with foreign countries. The old coat of arms is to be obliterated by the post offices and the new national emblem put at a suitable place; many post offices simplify the matter, in that they use a canceller to overprint the old coat of arms completely with the new national emblem.

[The "new national emblem" was a single-headed eagle carrying a swastika in its claws: see the Fieldpost example on page 13.]



By the rules: $(1+3)=4\text{Gr} \times \frac{2}{3} = 2.667\text{Rpf} + 12\text{Rpf}$ makes 15Rpf if rounded up, as was the practice by May. The foreign postcard rate was 15Rpf.

17 June: It is announced, that the central warehouse will now send the following Hindenburg Head German stamps to the post offices: 1, 3, 4, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 80 and 100 Rpf. It has also prepared for certain post offices the German Airmail stamps with values of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 40, 50, 60, 80, 100 Rpf and 2 and 3 Reichsmark. These stamps are now valid for franking. The stamps of 8, 12, 24, 25, 30, 35, 45, 60, 64 Groschen and 1 and 2 Schilling are to be returned to the warehouse.

Der Uebergang Part 5: June 22 1938

The difficulties caused by the juxtaposition of two series of postage stamps in different currencies and likewise by having rates in different currencies have made an urgent solution necessary to various problems. Since the Schilling ceased to be legal tender on 15th May ⁴, all postage rates had to be converted into Reichsmark and Reichspfennig at the exchange rate 1RM = 1½S and also the sale price of the postage stamps was established in Reichsmark. At the conversion, fractions up to 0.4 Rpf were rounded down and 0.5 Rpf rounded up. Consequently postage stamps now had the following sale prices:

Gr → Rpf	Gr → Rpf	Gr → Rpf	Gr → Rpf	
1 → 1	8 → 5	24 → 16	45 → 30	1Sch → 67Rpf
3 → 2	10 → 7	25 → 17	50 → 33	2Sch → 1.33RM
4 → 3	12 → 8	30 → 20	60 → 40	3Sch → 2RM
5 → 3	15 → 10	35 → 23	64 → 43	5Sch → 3.33RM
6 → 4	20 → 13	40 → 27	80 → 53	10Sch → 6.67RM

[That is, a 40 groschen stamp would cost 27 Rpf to buy]

Since by this time the postage rates were expressed in Reichsmark, and as all postage stamps were sold at their nominal value in Reichsmark, the Austrian stamps appeared no longer necessary and their printing was discontinued. To replace them, further German stamps were issued to the Land Austrian post office counters at the beginning of June, namely the values 1, 3, 20, 30 and 50 Rpf. [The regulation to cover this is dated 17th June.] With the help of these stamps all unchanged Austrian rates can be made up, and the Austrian stamps have really become superfluous. The withdrawal of all Austrian stamps is unquestionably likely in the foreseeable future, even though no such decision has so far been taken.

An extensive new collecting area has emerged in the area of postmarks. The old Austrian cancellers have remained in use, so that we can now also find them on German stamps. New cancellers will be produced of course after the pattern of the German, but the old ones will remain in use alongside them, probably for a long time. It is however obvious, that the new political relationships will be accommodated, and replacements will be made for those cancellers which are incompatible with them. The disappearance of the current federal states and the new division of Land Austria into Gaue also brings the necessity of some changes. The dissolution and reallocation of two federal states (Burgenland, Vorarlberg) and the changing of the names of two others (Nieder-, Oberdonau instead of Nieder- and Oberösterreich) will lead to

⁴ This is not correct; it ceased to be accepted at Post Offices on 15 May, having ceased to be legal tender on 25 April. See separate article.

changes in the postmarks of the areas concerned; so will the reallocation of individual areas of other districts, eg Osttirol (previously Tirol, now Carinthia), Kreis Aussee (previously Styria, now Oberdonau) etc. A postmark collection which demonstrates the old Austrian and the new German cancellation for all these historic changes will unquestionably have great postal history value; and anyone who forms such a collection, which today would be an easy matter, can if he tackles the matter systematically unquestionably create a worthwhile object, which will also find due regard outside philatelic circles.



1Gr counted as 1Rpf + 11Rpf makes 12Rpf, the inland letter rate on 6 July

8 July: Reissue of page 2 of the "21. Postgebührenweisers": basic rates unchanged but expressed solely in Rpf. A few rates (eg printed matter) were still expressed in Rpf/Gr (and some eg the Postlagernd rate not mentioned). The registration fee remained unaltered at 27Rpf/40Gr: see Appendix I column 'C' and the separate article on registration rates.

9 July: Promulgation by the German Governor in Land Austria, whereby the ordinance on the introduction of new postage rates and the assimilation of the postal services in Land Austria from 9 July 1938 is disclosed. This was actually published on 22 July. The individual paragraphs of this ordinance came into force at various dates.

Der Uebergang Part 6: 18 July 1938

The introduction of the German postage stamps in Land Austria makes further progress. In an ordinance of 17th June the issue of the postage stamps already recorded in the preceding report was announced, but it also informed us that that the values 4, 10, 40, 60, 80 and 100 Rpf had also arrived at the Land Austrian post offices, so that since mid-June all German postage stamps to 100 Rpf were also in use in Land Austria.

The withdrawal of the Austrian postage stamps makes quick progress, particularly as the further manufacture of all values has finally been discontinued, because due to the introduction of all the German stamps no further need for them exists. The remaining stamps especially of 8, 12, 24, 25, 30, 35, 45, 60, 64 groschen and 1 & 2 schilling, are withdrawn: the post offices have to return their stocks to the central warehouse.

Although "Die Postmarke" continued to be published, this series of articles ceased here. The copy in the VoePh library in Vienna (danke, Frau Pollischansky) appears to be complete although in bad condition. It is possible that the author decided to emigrate...



$(12+5)=17\text{Gr}^{\ast 2}/_3=11\text{Rpf} + 6\text{Rpf}$ makes 17Rpf, which is too much for an inland letter on 21 June and not enough for a foreign one! Anyone got an explanation?

The 3rd German - Austrian rates period (1st August - 31st October 1938)

1. August: Parts of the ordinance of 9 July 1938 came into effect; the following consequences were announced:

(a) Letters with advice of delivery have not yet been introduced in Land Austria; they are thus permissible only in Germany.

(b) COD letters between Germany and Land Austria are permissible from 1 November 1938.

(c) Mail circulars from Germany to Land Austria may not yet be accepted until further notice.

(d) Printed matter with receipt cards for disability insurance or printed matter from professional associations or insurance companies are permissible only in Germany

(e) From that day, letters posted in Land Austria attract the same Air Mail surcharges as in Germany.

(f) Due to the withdrawal of Postage Due stamps, the following are to be paid in cash ... postage due and similar fees on letters... late-posting fees are to be paid by affixing stamps. Any Postage Due stamps remaining at post offices are to be returned to the warehouse.

The effect of this was that the German tariffs were now in force, not only for the basic rates, but also for all incidental charges; however Austrian postage stamps in private hands could still be used. The rates table is the same as that issued on 1st November: see Appendix I column 'D'. Places still storing stocks of Postal Stationery and stamps in Groschen and Schilling currency were to return them to the warehouse. The postage stamps were invalidated after 31 October, but could still be exchanged free of charge up to the 31st December.

It was also announced that the Nazi Party stamps could now be used in Land Austria; they had been useable to it since 24 March.

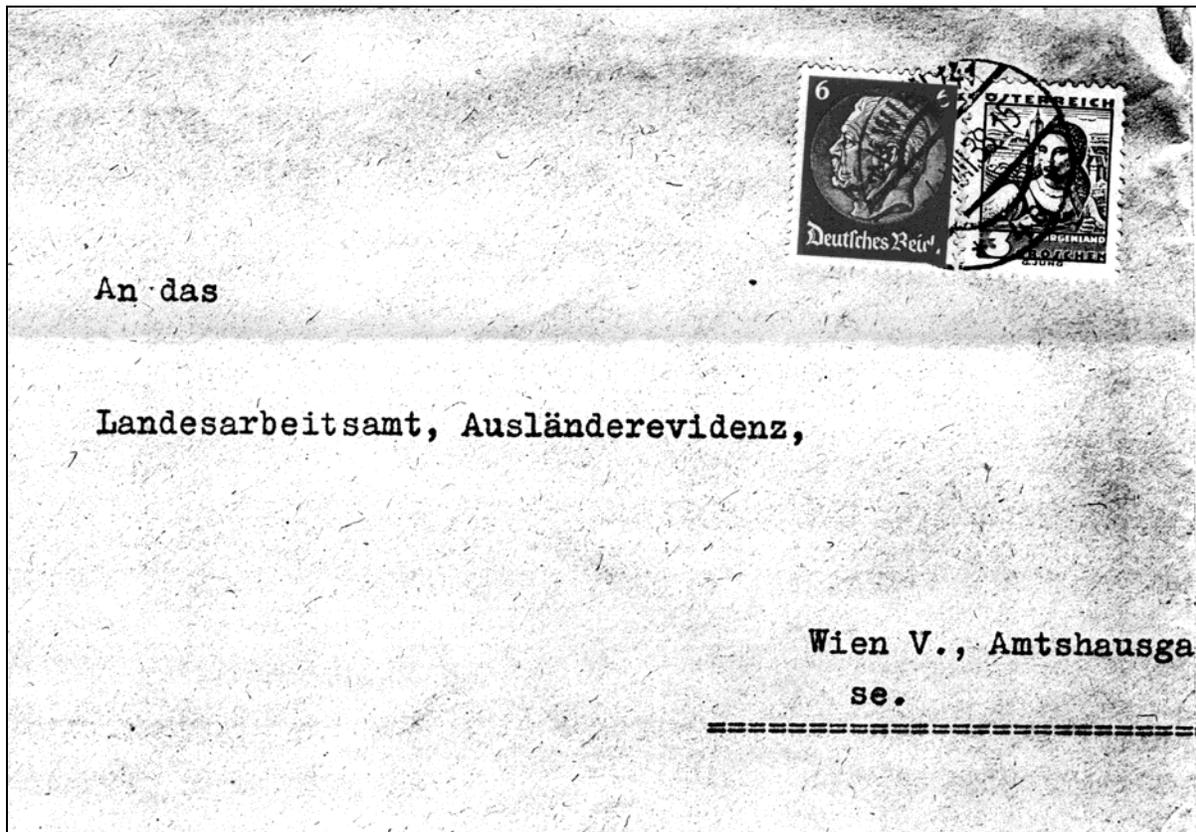


The withdrawal of **Postage Due stamps** had been expected earlier: since they bore "ÖSTERREICH" and "GROSCHEN" as well as a large Austrian eagle they were decidedly politically incorrect! The German system had always been to write the amount on the envelope; they did not use Postage Dues. The simplest solution was to abolish them. See appendix II.

3 August: German Bildpostkarten [as described by Sal Rizza in 'Austria' 136] may be obtained henceforth also through post offices in Land Austria.

5 August: "All stamps in Groschen and Schilling currency are to be withdrawn from sale with immediate effect and returned to the warehouse by 10 August." This decree ended the counter sale of the former Austrian stamps. They remained valid for franking up to 31 October 1938.

18 August: Stamp Retailers were notified that stamps in Groschen and Schilling currency could be exchanged without fee up to 31 August 1938.



Local letter dated 4 August. Rate 8Rpf; franked 6Rpf + 3Gr = 2 Rpf making 8Rpf in total. [The 'overspilling' of the address is standard Austrian practice]

8 September: It is pointed out that Air Mail stamps should not be used for the franking of surface mail.

1 October: It is again pointed out that Air Mail stamps should not be used for the franking of surface mail. Some aspects of the "21. Postgebührenweiser" amended; however letter rates are not affected by this. The German "regulations for Air Mail" come into force in Land Austria.

4 October: The following general instruction was issued with regard to the subsequent cancellation of postage stamps: **"The experimental introduction of subsequent cancellation of postage stamps not cancelled on posting by printing them with the day's date in transit or at place of destination and the identification of subsequent cancellation by the letter 'n' [for 'nachträglich entwertet' = 'subsequently cancelled'] in indelible or blue pencil in German script to be applied next to the cancellation strike has proved its worth at the Post Offices etc that do not use special cancellers for subsequent cancellation and will be permanently retained. No other markings are to be applied."**

<p>Austrian system for uncanceled stamps: Vienna W1 canceller, used 7th April 1938</p>	<p>German system for uncanceled stamps: Wien 1 Nachträglich entwertet (this example used in 1943).</p>

31 October: In the Official Gazette of the Reichspostministerium is found the following decree: **"With effect from the 31st October 1938 all Austrian postage stamps lose their validity for the franking of mail. Unused stamps of this kind can be exchanged at the post offices in Land Austria up to the 31st December 1938 free of charge for valid postage stamps (exchange rate 3:2). Redemption against cash is impossible."**

1 November: From this day the post offices in Land Austria are to use the reissued "22nd Postgebührenweiser" (ie the rates table: see Appendix I col 'D'). Between 26 March and the issue of this, they had had to manually amend their copies of the 21st Postgebührenweiser, issued 1 January 1935.

Thus the 7½ months transition period with its mixed frankings and specifically Austrian practices was brought to an end. One could say that the 1st November 1938 marked for postage stamps and postage rates the "completion of the Anschluß of Austria into the German Reich".

My thanks for advice and examples to many members and friends of our Society including Christine Kainz, Klaus Schöpfer, Hans Moser, Frau Pollischansky, Ian Nutley, Colin Tobitt, Henry White, Gerry Roberts, Walter Green, Hans Smith & Brian Madeley; but most especially to Henry Pollak. But all the errors are mine!

Further reading:

"Postgebühren und Postwertzeichen im Lande Österreich 1938" by Dr C Kainz in Wurth's Annual for 1980.

"Postalisches aus der Anschluß-Zeit ans Deutsche Reich", by Herr H Frech in issue 2/98 of the Wiener Ganzsachen Frei- und Poststempel-sammlerVerein Mitteilungsblatt.

"Der Übergang des österreichischen Postwesens an das Reich", a series of articles in the issues of "Die Postmarke" from April to July 1938: March 31, number 6; April 15, number 7 pages 94 and 95; April 30, number 8 page 110, labelled part II; May 16, number 9 pages 127-128 part III; May 31, Number 10 page 146, part IV; June 22, number 11/12 page 161, part V; July 18, number 13/14 page 177, part VI. The August and subsequent issues of 1938 do not contain any further instalments.

"Der postalische Uebergang der oesterreichischen Post- und Telegraphenverwaltung in die Deutsche Reichspost im Jahre 1938" by F. Heinisch in "Die Briefmarke", Nos 11/1987 - 4/1988.

"Austrian Registered Post Rates" and "The demise of the Schilling in 1938", elsewhere in this issue.

And only for the brave, the collected issues, described at the beginning of this article, of "Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums, Ausgabe A", "Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt [-/für das Lande Österreich]" and "Nachrichtenblatt der Abwicklungsstelle des Reichspostministeriums für das Lande Österreich".

Appendix I - Some Austrian Postage Rates in 1938

- ❖ Column (A) is rates on 1 Jan (in Groschen) according to Michel
- ❖ Column (B) is rates on 4 April (in Reichspfennig/Groschen), according to Wurth's 1980 year-book pages 45 & 105 and the WienerGFuPV
- ❖ Column (C) is the same rates, re-stated on 8 July in Reichspfennig, according to Wurth pages 46-8 & 111
- ❖ Column (D) is rates on 1 August (in Reichspfennig) reprinted on 1 November, according to Wurth page 113

'Inland' included Germany & Danzig. Rates marked 'N/a' did not exist.

<i>Inland</i>	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
Local letter to 20gm		8/12	8	8
20+ - 250gm	N/a	16/24	16	16
250+ - 500gm		20/30	20	20
500+ - 1000gm			67	30
Inland letter to 20gm	24	12/18	12	12
20+ - 250gm	36	24/36	24	24
250+ - 500gm	50	40/60	40	40
500+ - 1000gm	100	67/100	67	60
Local Postcard	N/a	5/8	5	5
Inland postcard	12	6/9	6	6
Registration fee	40	27/40	27	30
Express: local	30	20/30	20	40
Express: inland	30	20/30	20	80
Printed matter of 20gm	5	3/5	3	3
<i>Foreign</i>				
Letter to Hungary: to 20gm	45	20/30	20	20
For each further 20gm	25	10/15	10	10
Letter to Czechoslovakia: to 20gm	45	20/30	20	20
For each further 20gm	35	15/23	15	15
Letter to anywhere else: to 20gm	60	25/38	25	25
For each further 20gm	35	15/23	15	15
Postcard to Czechoslovakia, Hungary	25	10/15	10	10
Postcard to 'full-rate' countries	35	15/23	15	15
Registration fee	70	47/70	47	30

See separate article for the saga of the Registration Fee. The copies of the full rate tables available to me are not of reproducible quality.

Appendix II - Postage Dues

The period 4th April - 31st July 1938.

As the Austrian system was moved over to the German, everything which was not explicitly changed remained unaltered. The basic rates were calculated in German currency, while the ancillary charges for express, airmail, registered and pneumatic services remained at the Austrian rate and were expressed in Groschen. For both, either German or Austrian stamps could be used.

On 4th April, the ordinance of 26 March on the introduction of new postage for letters and postcards in Land Austria took effect. The Berlin Gazette published explanatory notes, including that, when calculating the value of the stamps on an item of mail, $1\text{Rpf}=1\frac{1}{2}\text{Gr}$ and conversely $1\frac{1}{2}\text{Gr}=1\text{Rpf}$, but fractions of Rpf were to be ignored. Any resulting deficit was to be charged Postage Due at the rate of **one-and-a-half-times the deficiency**. According to the PuTVBl there was no minimum charge for inland mail, although the Commentary states 5Rpf.

In practice, the result of this calculation was rounded up, then multiplied by 1.5 to convert it into Groschen, and Austrian Postage Dues affixed for this amount. A separate regulation applied to Foreign mail where there was a minimum charge, of 5Rpf, the rest of the procedure being the same.

A further complication is that from 15th May Austrian currency could not be used. This had no effect on the Postage Due calculations, but a considerable impact on those who had to pay them, as they had to use Reichspfennig. See the article "The demise of the Schilling in 1938".

The original document gave two "worked examples":

Ex 1: A 15-gram letter from Vienna to Berlin is franked with an Austrian 8 Groschen stamp [*from 4.4.1938 correct postage 12Rpf/18Gr; 8Rpf was the correct rate for the newly reintroduced local letter*]; $8\text{Gr}=5\frac{1}{3}\text{Rpf}$, value 5Rpf; deficit $12-5=7\text{Rpf}$; Postage Due $1\frac{1}{2}*7=10.5\text{Rpf}$; charge 11Rpf.

Ex 2: A 30-gram letter (*correct postage 24Rpf/36Gr*) from Innsbruck to Munich is franked with a German stamp of 5 Rpf and two Austrian stamps of 12 and 5 Groschen. Total value of the franking is $5+8+3\frac{1}{3}=16\frac{1}{3}\text{Rpf}$. Deficit $24-16=8\text{Rpf}$. Postage Due $1\frac{1}{2}*8=12\text{Rpf}$.

Notwithstanding these clear instructions, no uniform practice existed in this period. The following variants in charging can be found:

- double the deficit (the old Austrian regulation).
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the deficit (new German regulation for Land Austria).
- the previous Austrian minimum for domestic mail of 12Gr.
- the previous Austrian minimum for foreign mail of 10Gr.
- the new German minimum for foreign mail of $5\text{Rpf}=8\text{Gr}$.

These mistakes are due to the precipitate introduction of German calculations coupled with a lack of information for the post office employees. The numerous contradictory instructions, which were introduced with no logical connection, led to confusion. So for example Section 3 of Regulation 70 (7th April) covered the surcharging of unfranked and insufficiently franked letters, which had been redirected from local to inland. Instead of the "1½ times deficiency" rule, in this situation twice the missing amount was to be charged, with an unspecified minimum. However, Section 2 of the same Regulation covered correctly-franked local mail redirected to inland: it was charged 1 times the difference between the applicable local and the inland rates!

After the Anschluß, an ordinance required the Austrian coat of arms on the various Postal forms to be over stamped or overprinted with the German national emblem. There was no such Order for Austrian Postage Dues; however such over stamping occurs. In "Die Postmarke" for 1938, page 205, is the following note: "Austrian Postage Dues overprinted by a violet hand-cancel with the national emblem of the German Reich are found occasionally in letters from the period. It seems that a Postal official in Vienna I took an erroneous view of the ordinance and also over stamped a few sheets of the 10 Groschen Dues."

Five illustrations follow, showing examples from this period.

Example 1: Local Vienna letter mailed with 8 Rpf Hindenburg on 6 May, marked with a T and a 2 in pencil meaning it was double weight. So it had 8Rpf, but needed another 8Rpf = 12Gr; the surcharge of 24Gr must have been calculated as double the deficiency using the old Austrian rules.

Example 2: Letter from Vienna to Vienna 14 June, correctly franked with 8Rpf. Addressee moved to Pulkau, therefore required postage is 12Rpf, not 8Rpf. Originally franked in full, so no penalty for forwarding. Missing 4Rpf = 6Gr.

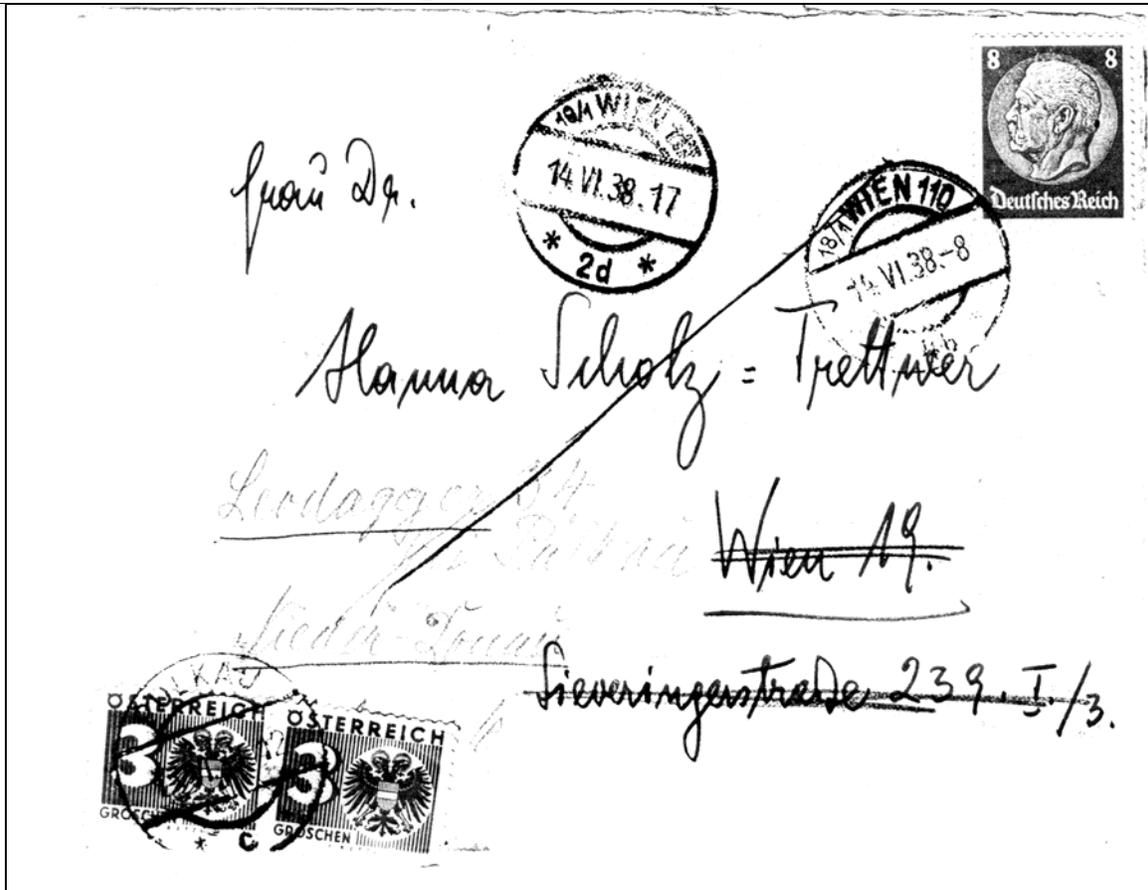
Example 3: PSC card (computer-enhanced) with 6 Rpf imprint sent from Erlangen on 29.6.1938, arriving in Liezen on 1.7.1938 (cancel at bottom left) and collected on 2.7.1938 (cancel over the Due). The Postlagernd fee was still 10 Groschen.

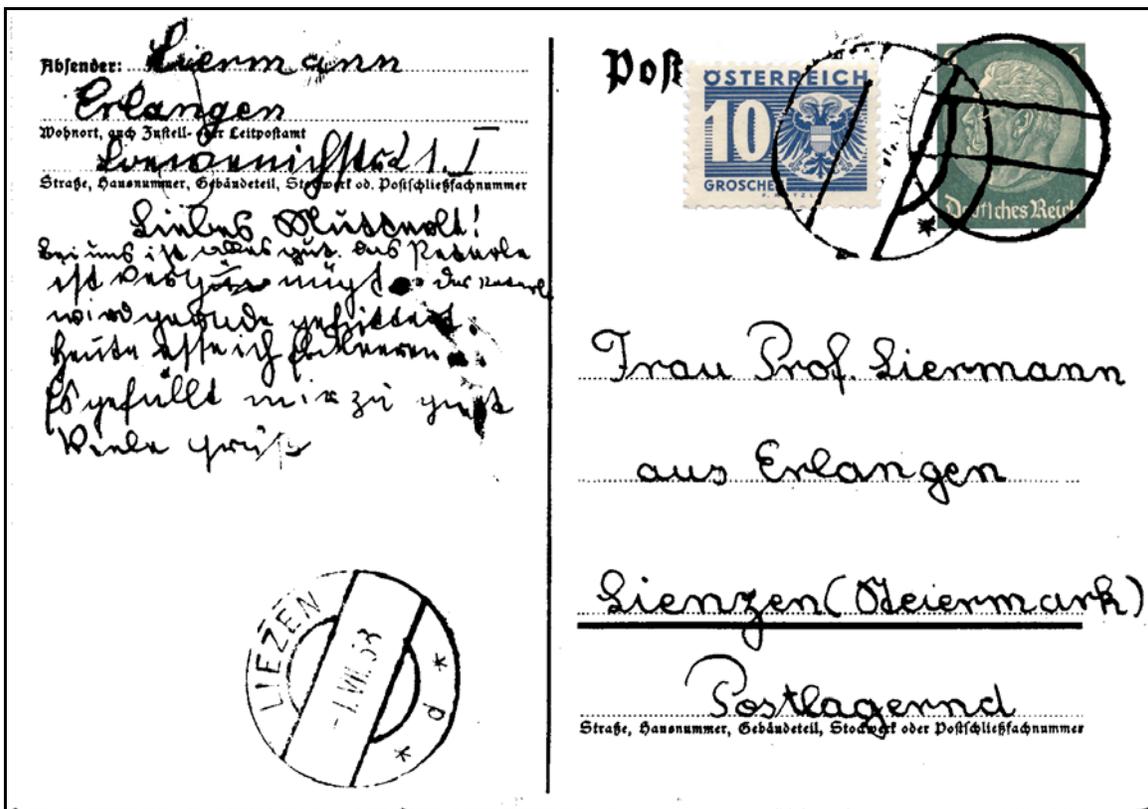
Example 4: Letter cancelled in Berlin on 11 July, sent unfranked by agency, namely German consulate in Milan! Says "Portopfl(ichtige) Dienstsache". This cost 24Rpf (double weight, no penalty as recipient would have to pay?) which is 36Gr. May have come by pouch to Berlin from Milan.

Example 5: A mystery - see details below the illustration.

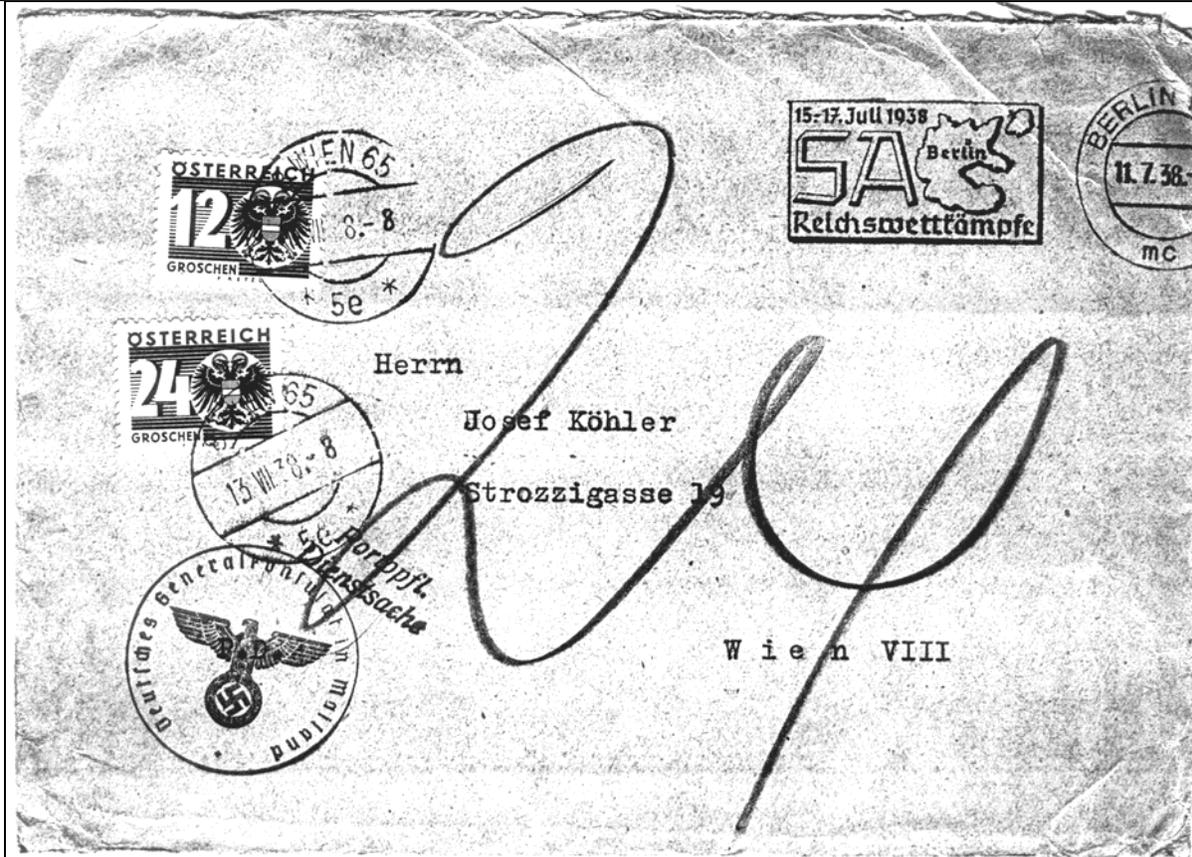


Examples 1 (above) & 2 (below)





Examples 3 (above) & 4 (below)





This fifth example is a mystery! It was sent from Innsbruck to Holland on 2nd May 1938, and is franked with $1+6+12 \times \frac{2}{3} + 12$ ie 27Rpf [the additional 38Rpf on the Hitler stamp was for charity and didn't count for postage]. The rate for a foreign letter was 25Rpf for 20 grams, 15Rpf for each extra 20 grams. It has been marked "T4c" [by whom?] and charged Postage Due of 2½ Dutch Cents.

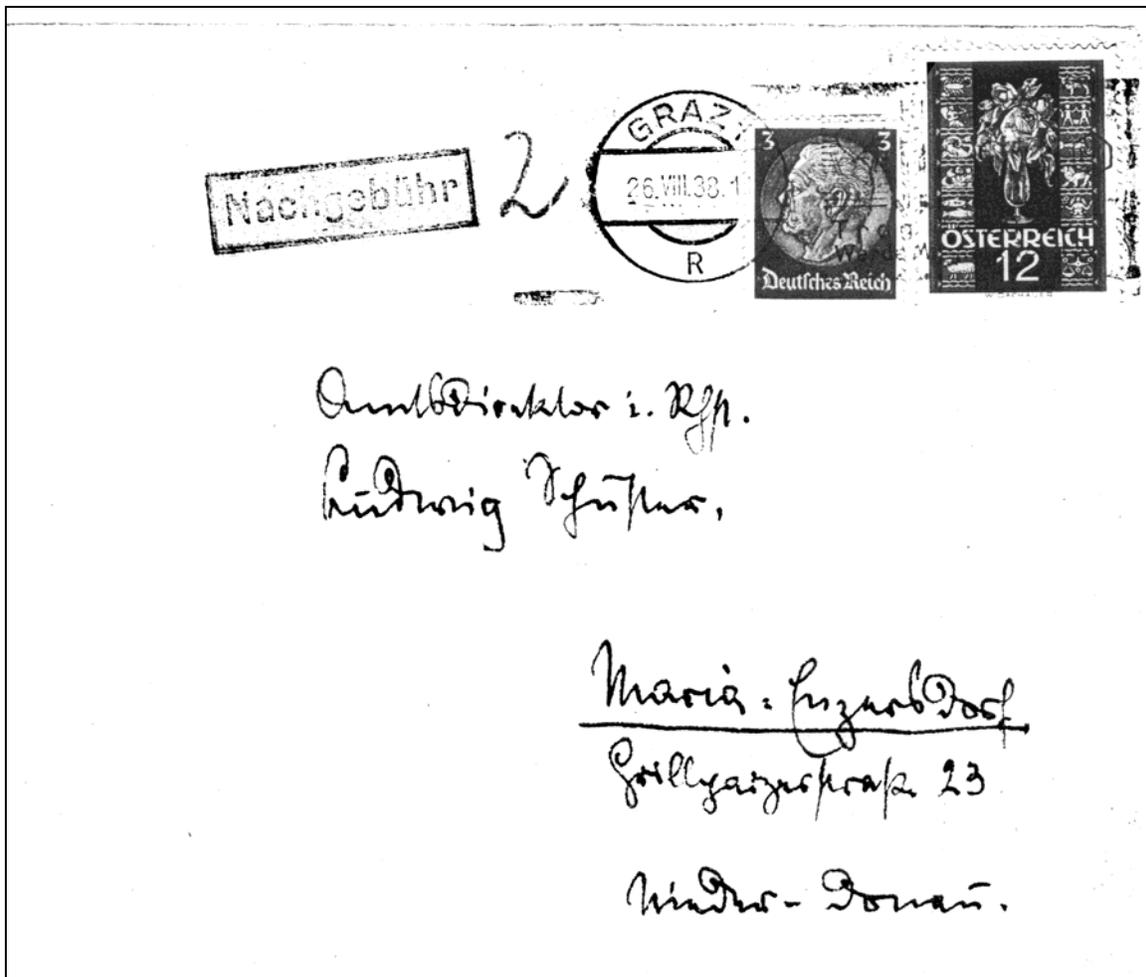
"T4c" will be 4 'gold centimes' which was indeed about 2½ Dutch cents. Under the regulations applied to Foreign mail, the charge should be 1½ times the deficiency with a minimum of 5Rpf. The gold centime was about two pfenning, so a marking of T4c is a charge of 8Rpf, which is a deficiency of 5Rpf.

Has one stamp been disallowed? They were all valid: the 6Rpf was introduced on 4th April and the 12+38Rpf on 19th April. The letter can't have been one step overweight, as that would need $25+15=40$ Rpf postage, making a deficiency of $40-27=13$. It could have been a fourth-step (61-80 gram) letter with the charity surcharge of 38 counted as franking: $27+38=65$; fourth step cost $25+3 \times 15=70$; $70-65=5$! But counting the charity surcharge as postage is unknown; and there is no weight indication, nor does it look as though it had contained 60+ grams. Maybe the stamps' values were simply added then deemed to be Groschen: $1+6+12+12=31$ Gr = 20.66 ie 20Rpf, a deficiency of 5Rpf???

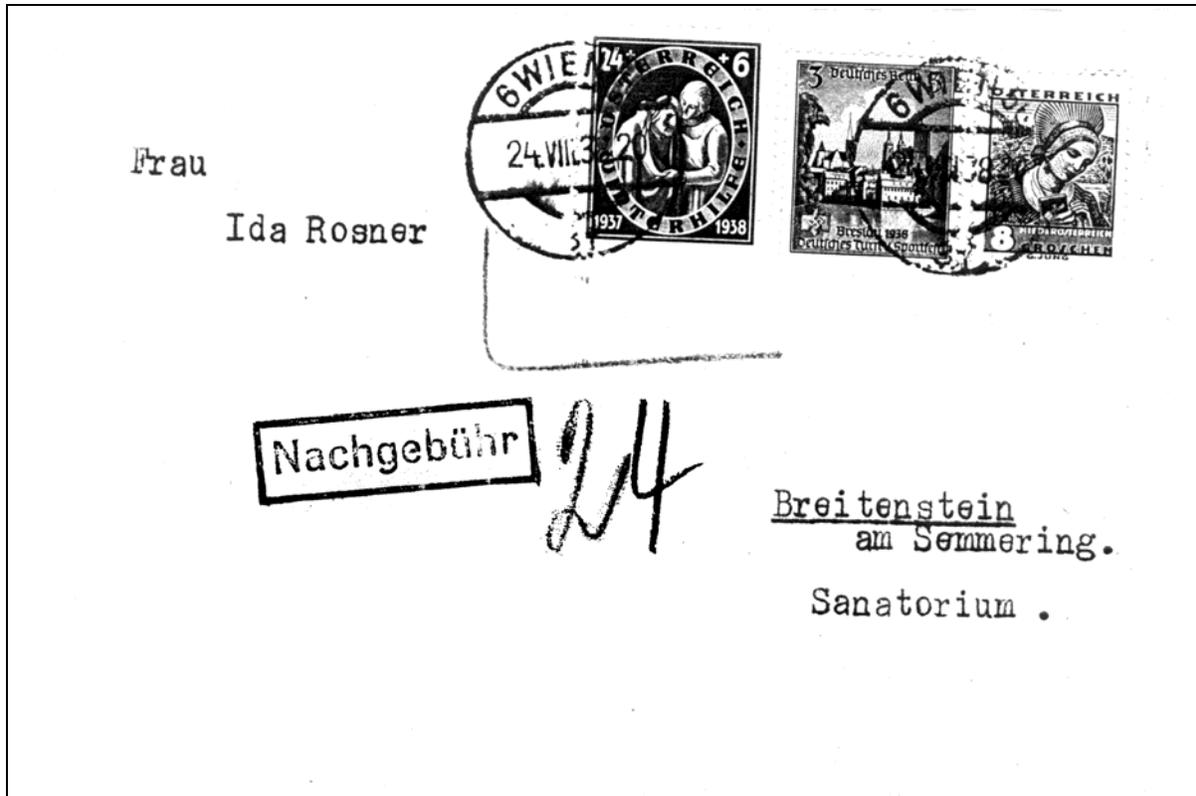
Anyone got a better idea?

The period 1st August - 31st October 1938.

On 1st August the ordinance of 9 July 1938 came into effect; amongst the consequences was the withdrawal of Postage Due stamps. Postage due and similar fees on letters had to be paid in cash. The German tariffs were now in force, not only for the basic rates, but also for all incidental charges. The withdrawal of Postage Due stamps had been expected earlier: since they bore a large Austrian eagle as well as "ÖSTERREICH" and "GROSCHEN", they were decidedly politically incorrect! The German system had always been to write the amount due on the envelope; they did not have Postage Dues. So the simplest solution was to abolish them. The surcharges were paid in cash according to the [standard German] red surcharge marking. No usage of Austrian Postage Dues after 31st July 1938 is known.



26 August, after the end of Postage Dues on 1st August. Letter from Graz to Maria Enzersdorf with 3 Rpf + 12 Gr = 8Rpf making 11Rpf in total. Rate was 12Rpf, deficiency therefore 1Rpf, charge "1½ times the deficiency" but rounded up, so Nachgebühr of 2 Rpf, as shown by the large handwritten 2.



24 August, from Vienna to Semmering. Franking is a 24+6 Groschen Winterhelf stamp, an 8 Groschen costume, and a 3+5 Rpf Breslau sport stamp. There is a blue partial box around the Winterhelf stamp, and a blue crayon 24 next to a boxed Nachgebuehr marking. Intended franking: $24 + 8 = 32$ Gr = 21 Rpf plus 3 Rpf, ie 24 Rpf for a double weight letter.

The Winterhelf stamp was not accepted, as it had become invalid on 1st July 1938. [Pedantically speaking, it should not have been cancelled either.] This left 3 Rpf + 8 Gr = 3 Rpf + 5 Rpf = 8 Rpf as valid postage, so 16 Rpf was missing. The "1½ times the deficiency" German rule was applied (correctly so), so that 24 Rpf had to be collected.

Austrian Registered Post Rates

By A Taylor ⁱ

The research for the 'Anschluß article' has made it possible to provide a correct list of Austrian Registered Post Rates, including the Anschluß period for which the rates normally given in the major catalogues cannot be justified. Note that **these are surcharges, payable as well as the normal postage on the item.** The currency abbreviations used are: Kr=Kreuzer; H=Heller; K=Kronen; Gr=Groschen; S=Schilling; Rpf=Reichspfennig; €=Euro.

From:	Inland	Foreign	Notes
1.6.1850	3Kr local; 6Kr distant	----	CM
1.11.1858	5Kr local; 10Kr distant	----	OeW
1.7.1875	5Kr local; 10Kr distant	10Kr	
1.1.1900	25H	25H	
15.1.1920	60H	1K	(1.12.1919 in Kainbacher)
15.4.1920	120H	2K	
1.2.1921	200H = 2K	2K	
1.8.1921	5K	10K	
1.12.1921	10K	25K	Inflation period. No reduction in reg rate for "reduced foreign rate" countries
1.5.1922	40K	75K	
21.8.1922	160K	300K	
18.9.1922	320K	600K	
1.11.1922	640K	1500K	
1.8.1923	1000K	2000K	
1.12.1923	2000K	3000K	
1.12.1924	3000K	4000K	
1.3.1925	30Gr	40Gr	
1.10.1925	30Gr	60Gr	
1.9.1932	40Gr	70Gr	
4.4.1938	There was no change in the registration rates at the Anschluß date, contrary to the tables in Michel and ANK		

From:	Inland	Foreign	Notes
8.7.1938	27Rpf/40Gr	47Rpf/70Gr	Same rate , but restated in Rpf
1.8.1938	30Rpf	30Rpf	
2.7.1945	30Rpf	suspended	Service in Vienna and Lower Austria only; in other parts later.
1.11.1945	30Gr	suspended	
26.6.1946	30Gr	100Gr	Michel's 30Gr foreign rate is wrong
1.9.1947	1S	1S40	
1.1.1950	1S	2S40	
1.9.1951	2S	3S40	
1.2.1960	2S50	3S40	
1.1.1967	4S	5S	
1.1.1976	8S	10S	
1.3.1981	10S	10S	
1.2.1984	15S	15S	
1.2.1986	17S	17S	
1.1.1994	20S	20S	
1.7.1997	25S	25S	
1.1.2001	28S	28S	
1.1.2002	2.03€	2.03€	Same nominal rate but in Euro

'Inland' also included Germany for most periods up to 1945. Individually-negotiated foreign rates existed even before 1850; the UPU rates are listed here. See Ferchenbauer for more pre-UPU detail.

The data above has been taken from Michel and cross-checked with several Austrian publications ⁱⁱ, and with members of Merkur Innsbruck. There is unanimity on all rates except the 1919/20 change and on those for 1938-1946. As explained above, and as shown in the tables reproduced in Dr Kainz article in Wurth III (1980), when in 1938 the Austrian system moved (in steps) over to the German, everything which was not explicitly changed remained unaltered. The registered rate is not in the 4th April list, so it remained as 40Gr internal,

70Gr foreign. In the 8th July list, this is restated in dual currency as 27Rpf/40Gr and 47Rpf/70Gr, the Rpf amounts being simply 2/3 of the Groschen, rounded up. It is not until the August list that the rate was changed to 30Rpf, and following the normal German system it was the same for internal and foreign. The 30Rpf inland & foreign rate shown in Michel & ANK for 4th April is wrong. Nor is there any record of the 30 Groschen foreign rate which Michel gives for 1.1.1947; the 100 Groschen rate of post-war 1946 remained in force.

Some 1938 examples follow...

The rate calculations for the examples are worked out as follows:

The 1st rates period (13th March - 3rd April 1938)

No change from previous Austrian practices and rates. Only Austrian stamps valid (ignoring the 3rd April Graz event)

The 2nd rates period (4th April - 31st July 1938)

The basic rates were calculated in Reichspfennig, payable by Rpf, or Groschen stamps at $1\frac{1}{2}\text{Gr}=1\text{Rpf}$ (or a mixture).

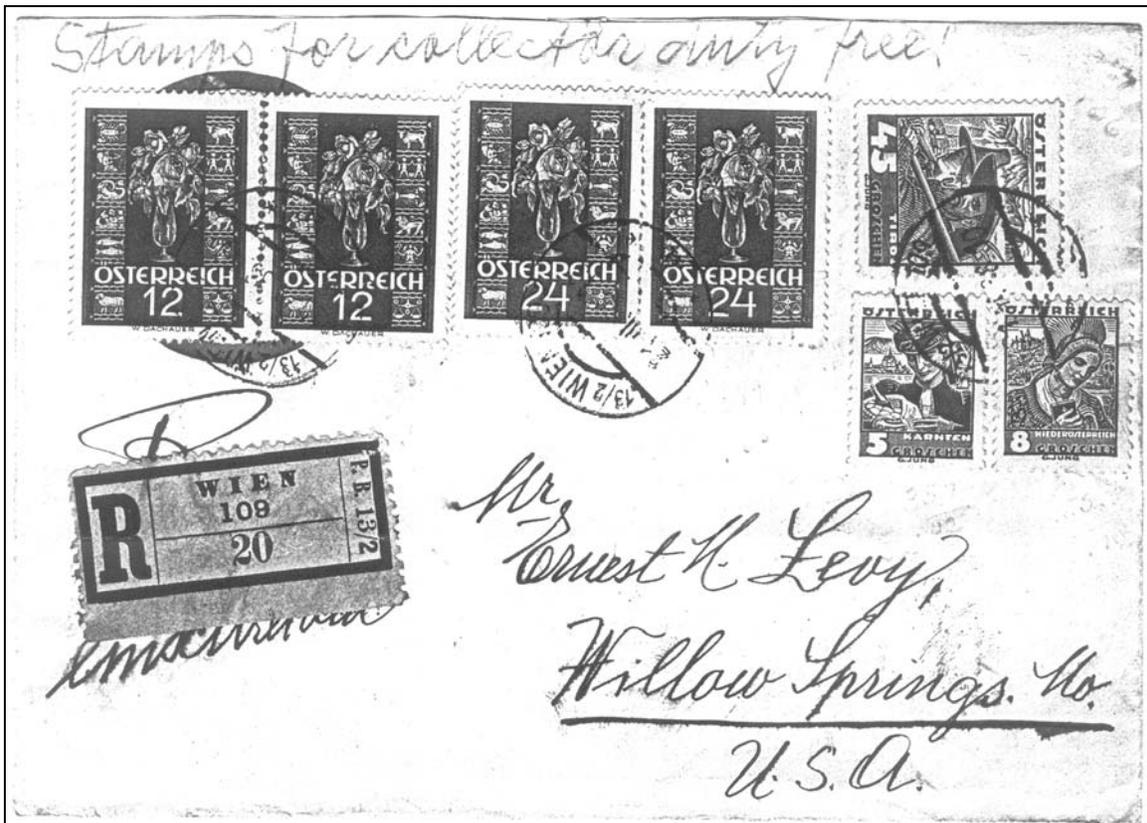
The ancillary charges for all services not explicitly changed (eg express, airmail, registered, pneumatic) remained unaltered at the Austrian rate and were expressed in Groschen. They were payable by Groschen stamps, or Rpf at $1\text{Rpf}=1\frac{1}{2}\text{Gr}$ (or a mixture).

Initially, all fractional amounts were ignored; later they were rounded. So if "too much" of one currency was affixed for its rate, the surplus was converted to the other. Examples:

- (a) "excess Rpf". A registered inland letter is franked with 36 Rpf and 4Gr stamps; the letter rate of 12Rpf leaves 24Rpf which is multiplied by $1\frac{1}{2}$ to make 36Gr plus 4Gr making a total of 40Gr, the registration rate.
- (b) "excess Groschen". A registered local letter is franked with 48 Gr and 3 Rpf stamps. Registration fee 40Gr, leaving 8Gr which is divided by $1\frac{1}{2}$ to make 5Rpf plus 3Rpf makes 8Rpf, the local letter rate.

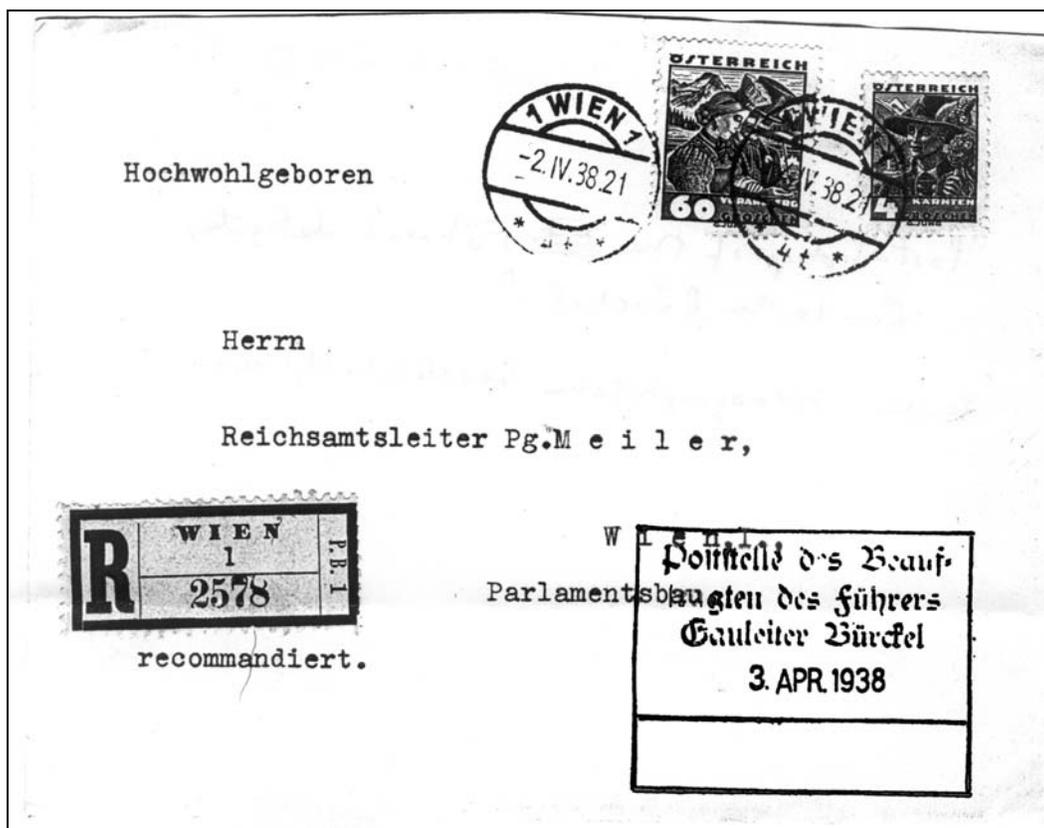
The 3rd rates period (1st August - 31st October 1938)

The German tariffs were now in force for all rates. They were payable by Rpf stamps, and/or Groschen stamps at $1\frac{1}{2}\text{Gr}=1\text{Rpf}$.



Previous page, top: Vienna to USA: cancelled 16 March, Washington arrival backstamp 30 March. Franked with 165Gr. Foreign registration fee 70Gr + 60Gr postage for 20 gram + 35Gr for next 20 gram makes 165Gr.

Previous page, bottom: Vienna to USA: cancelled 21 March, arrival backstamp 1 April. On the reverse is the handwritten note "Sent to me 3/21/38 after Germany occupied Austria", and three seals with blue on white printing "The best is always the cheapest". Franked with 130Gr. Foreign registration fee 70Gr + 60Gr postage for 20 gram makes 130Gr.



Vienna-to-Vienna letter, but Austria had abolished local rate in 1925 so inland rate applied: cancelled 2 April, receipt cachet "Poststelle des Beauftragten der Führers Gauleiter Bürckel 3 APR 1938" (ie the post-receiving office of the Führer's delegate, Gauleiter Bürckel). It was sent by the Stenographische Gesellschaft Wien. Franked with 64Gr. Inland registration fee 40Gr + 24Gr for 20 gram makes 64Gr.

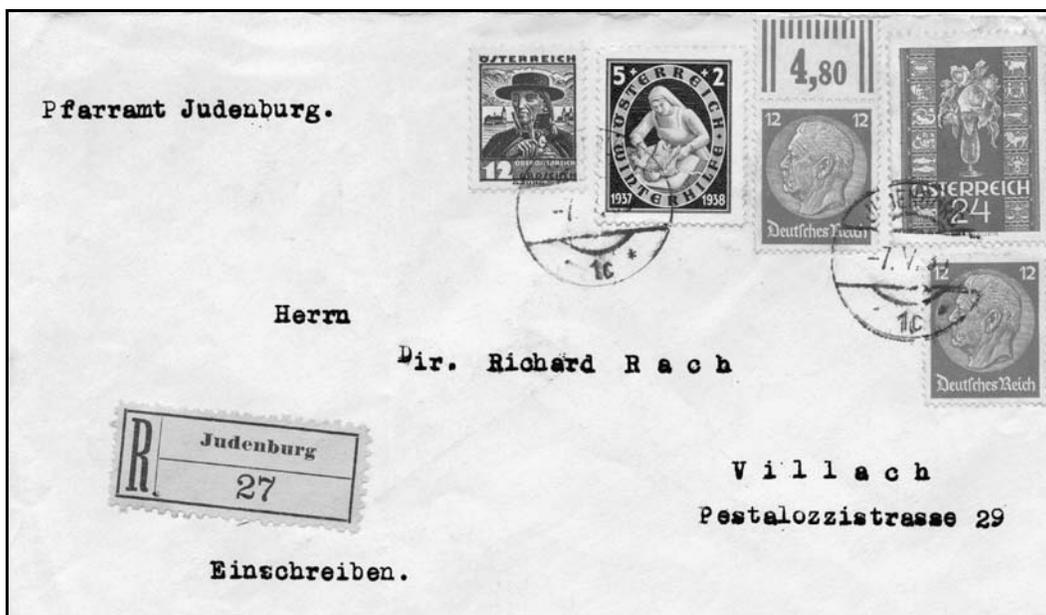
Next page, top: Vienna to Sweden, dated 4 April. Franked 71Rpf + 1Gr; foreign registered fee 70Gr = 47Rpf plus 20-gram postage of 25Rpf makes 72Rpf.



Dated 4 April. 40 Gr registration fee and 8 Rpf local letter rate, each paid by the corresponding stamp.



Postcard to Czechoslovakia, dated 4 April. Franked 10Gr plus 10Rpf makes 16Rpf. Foreign postage to Czechoslovakia 10Rpf; foreign registration fee 70Gr/47Rpf. Clearly massively underfranked: was the registration label added later, or simply ignored?



Dated 7 May; franked (12+5+24) = 41Gr plus 24Rpf. The 41 Groschen would pay the unchanged registration fee of 40Gr; the 24Rpf was the inland rate for a 20-250 gram letter. The Winterhilfe stamp was valid at that date.



Dated 3 July. Registration fee 40 Gr; express fee 30 Gr; inland letter 12 Rpf. Each paid with an appropriate stamp! Note the manuscript "Tel" on the R-label to indicate the Haupttelegraphenamt.



Dated 4 July; Bockfließ to Wien. Franked 39Rpf making up inland letter rate of 12Rpf plus registration of 27Rpf.



Dated 9 July. Franked 48 Gr and 3 Rpf. Registration fee 40Gr, leaving 8Gr = 5Rpf plus 3Rpf makes 8Rpf, the local letter rate.



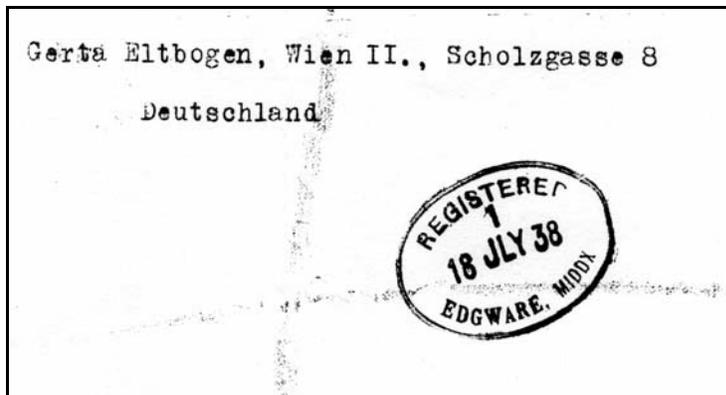
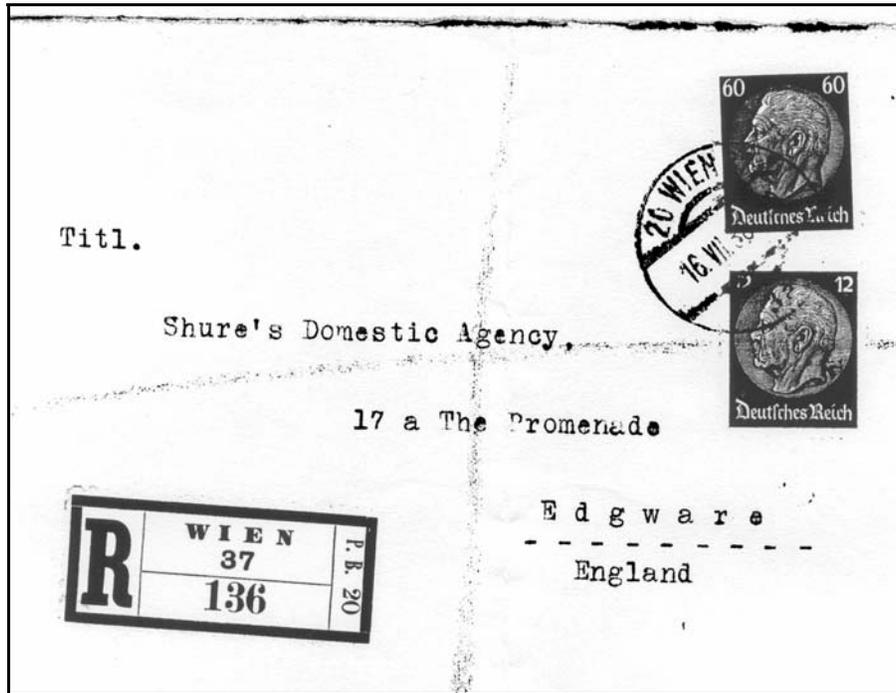
Dated 9 July; franked (4x12 + 2x3) = 54Gr and 3Rpf. Registration fee 40Gr leaving 14Gr = 9Rpf plus 3Rpf makes the required 12Rpf for inland postage.



Dated 11 July; Laa an der Thaya to ?? . Franked 36Rpf + 4Gr; inland letter rate of 12Rpf leaves 24Rpf times 1.5 makes 36Gr plus 4Gr makes 40Gr, the inland registration rate.



Kitzbüchel. Dated 15 July, to Switzerland. Franked 27Rpf + 67Gr. Foreign letter rate 25Rpf, leaving 2Rpf = 3Gr plus 67Gr makes 70Gr, the foreign registered rate.

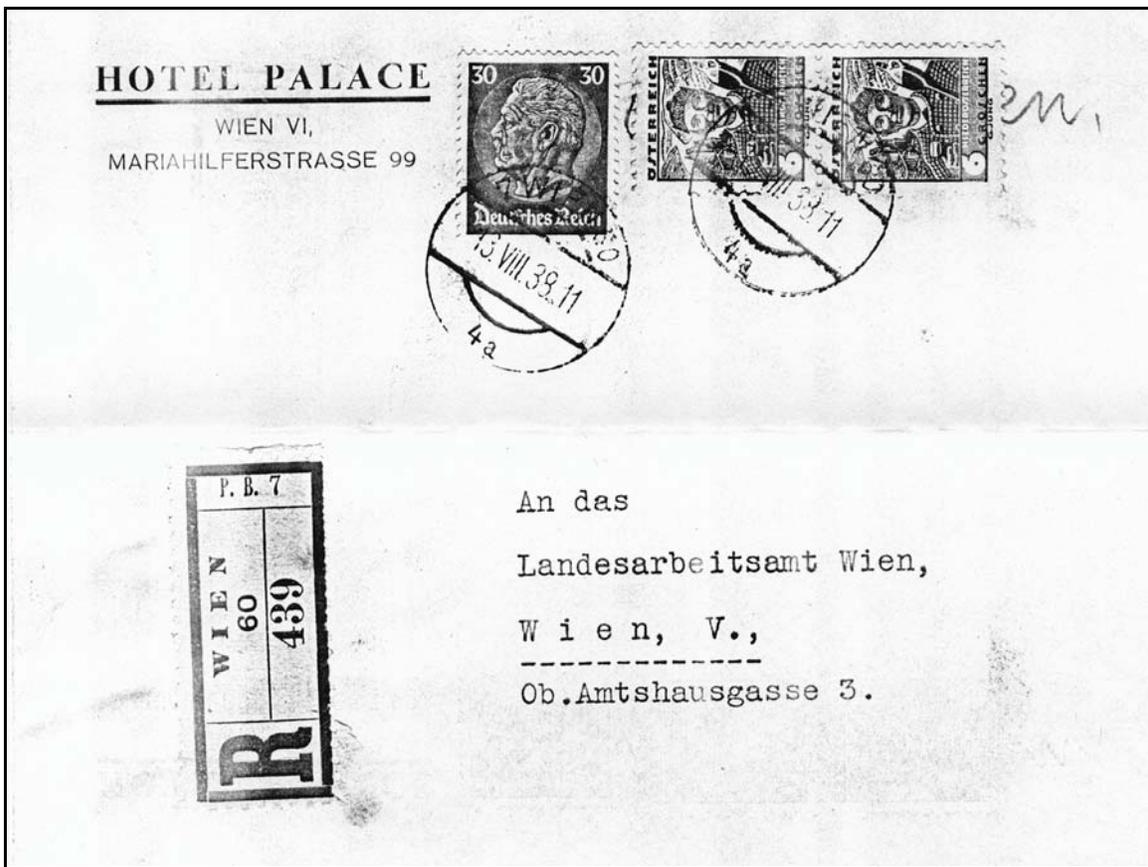
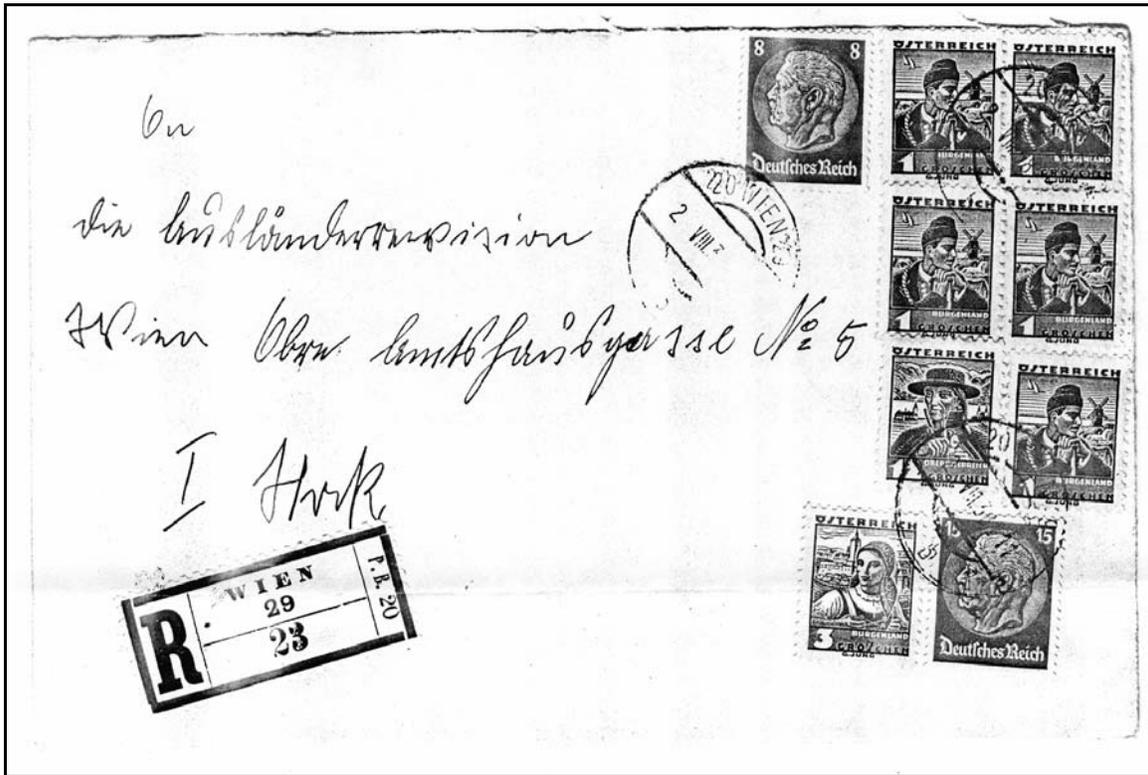


Dated 16 July. Franked 72 Rpf which makes up the foreign registered rate of 70 Gr / 47 Rpf and the foreign 20-gram letter rate of 25 Rpf.

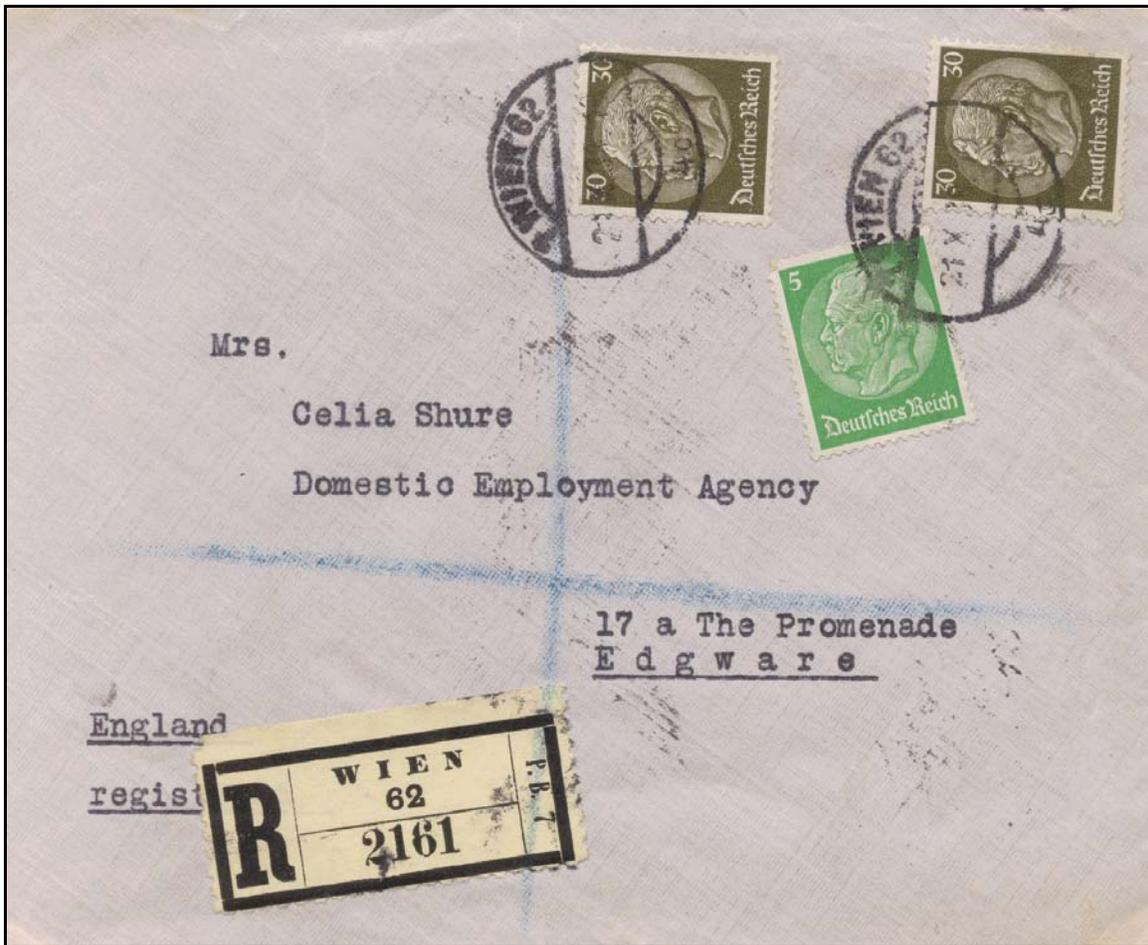
Excellent arrival mark on the back.

There are a surprising number of letters addressed to this agency in collectors hands. Perhaps they simply filed everything intact, and the archives were sold to a dealer. Or, could it have been a forwarding address for secret correspondence?

Next page, top: Local Vienna registered cover, dated 2nd August addressed to an office which might be "Auslaenderrewision". 8Rpf postage plus the newly-introduced 30Rpf registration fee makes a requirement for 38Rpf. Counting 'properly' gives franking of 23Rpf + (5x1+12+3)=20Gr=13Rpf, total only 36Rpf. The five 1 Groschen stamps must have been counted as 1Rpf each, plus 15Gr=10Rpf plus 23Rpf to make the total of 38Rpf.

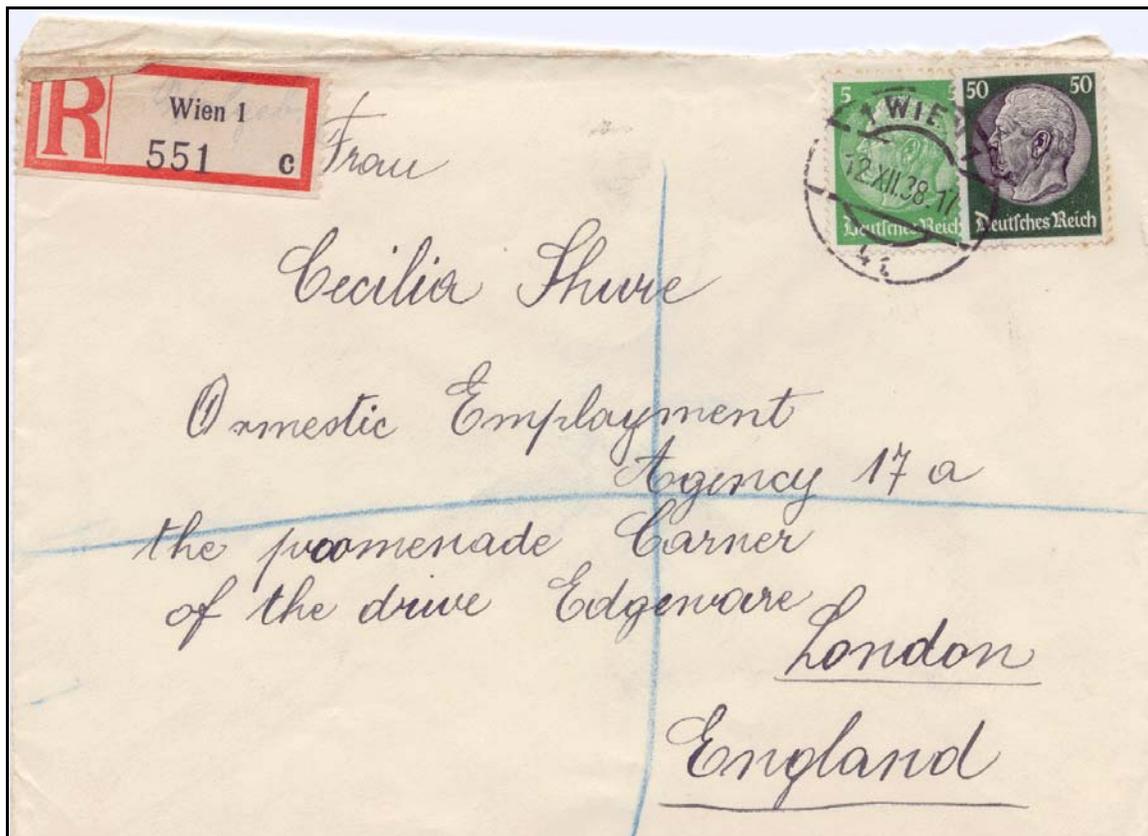


13th August. Local registered letter to government agency; rate 30Rpf registration plus 8Rpf postage; franked 30Rpf plus 12Gr = 8Rpf makes 38Rpf.



Previous page, top: Dated 25 Sep. Destination unknown; the M on the registration label is from the special Grazer Messe post office. Registration fee 30Rpf plus inland postage 12Rpf needs 42Rpf. Franked (25+8+5+12)Gr = 33Rpf +1+1+6 = 41Rpf - near enough? Or, charged at the old registration rate of 27Rpf? Strictly speaking, the two Winterhilfe stamps had been invalid since 1 July 1938!

Previous page, bottom: Dated 21 Oct. Franked 65Rpf; registration fee 30Rpf + foreign postage 25Rpf for 20 grams: 10Rpf overpaid. If it was a bit heavier, postage was 40Rpf and it's 5Rpf underpaid!



Dated 12 Dec. Franked 55Rpf which equals the registration fee of 30Rpf plus the foreign postage of 25Rpf.

ⁱ I thank C Kainz, H Moser, H Pollak, and K Schöpfer for invaluable assistance with text and examples. The mistakes are all my own work!

ⁱⁱ Publications consulted: Seebald "Auslandseinschreibbriefe 1945-2000" in WIPA2000 Festschrift; Karasek "Inflation" 1918/25 & 1925/38; Bernadini & Pfalz "100 Jahre Öst Portomarken"; Ferchenbauer-2000; Michel & ANK catalogues; Austria Postal Tarifaufzüge from 1986; "Kärnten '92" page 211.

The demise of the Schilling in 1938

By A Taylor

An aspect of the "what happened in 1938" study is to consider the currency that was used **to pay for postal services**, as opposed to that in which they were denominated. It makes an interesting saga - collecting the information has been rather like doing a jigsaw puzzle; and until Dr Christine Kainz came to my rescue the pieces didn't even have parts of the picture on them!

I have as previously used "Land Austria" below to translate "Land Oesterreich", the post-Anschluß name of Austria; and "Germany" to mean "Das Reich", the country ruled by Hitler on 1st March 1938, sometimes referred to in the originals as "Altreich". Pre-Anschluß Austria is called "Austria".

From the transcript of the Nuremberg trial of Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, President of the Reichsbank: "On the 11th [of March 1938] someone ... inquired of me how the purchasing power for the troops in Austria was to be regulated if German troops should march into Austria - purely a matter of currency policy, whether it was necessary to have prescribed regulations. I told him that, of course, everything had to be paid for, everything that the troops might buy there, and that the rate of exchange, if they paid in Schillings and not in marks, would be one mark to two Schillings. That was the rate which ruled at the time, which remained fairly steady and was the recognised ratio of the Schilling to the mark".

However, it was announced on 17th March that "Legal tender in Land Austria is, as well as the Schilling, the Reichsmark, which has the value 1 Schilling 50 Groschen." [Ref 3§I31]. At the same time, Ref 4§51 reports a decree, signed on 17th March by one A Hitler and others, that the Österreichische Nationalbank (the Austrian National Bank) was put into liquidation with immediate effect.

The Oesterreichische Nationalbank became the Vienna Hauptstelle of the Reichsbank. Its comparatively high gold and foreign exchange reserves, stated to be about 423 (DöW) or 471 (OeNB) million Schillings, were taken over by the Reichsbank and moved to Berlin. To the OeNB came also private handings-over of 1,700 million Schillings¹. By the end of the war in 1945, the liquidation of the OeNB was still incomplete. [Ref 2]

Therefore, the effective exchange rate until the 17th March decree had been 2Sch to 1Rm; this "political" exchange rate of 1½Sch = 1Rm was (*according to DöW; see Ref 2*) determined by Hitler personally against the advice of the Reichsbank, and meant an upwards revaluation of the Schilling and an increase in Austrian real incomes.

¹ *This was probably from the forced sales of over 26,000 Jewish businesses and the exit levies on their former owners.*

On the 26th March, a new scale of the basic rates for letters and postcards was decreed, expressed in Reichsmark currency, to take effect from 4th April. [Ref 5§I56]

On 1st April, the Land Austrian post switched to conducting its transactions (both postal and financial eg money orders) in Reichsmark; the entire financial transaction was carried out in Reichsmark, even though the payment could be made in Schilling notes and coins. [Ref 4§I50.1,2] Austrian postage stamps were still sold; but the payment could be made in Schillings, or in Reichsmark at the official rate of 1RM = 1½S. Postal forms etc preprinted with 'S' and 'g' were to have this manually amended to 'RM' and 'Rpf' by hand or with a suitable canceller [ref 4§I50.3]

From the 4th of April, the basic rates were calculated according to the new German schedule and charged in Reichspfennig, while the ancillary charges for express, airmail, registered and pneumatic services remained at the Austrian rate and were calculated in Groschen. For both, either German stamps, or those Austrian stamps still valid, could be used (the latter at 1½Gr = 1Rpf).

In a decree made on 23rd April, the Österreichische Nationalbank's power to issue banknotes was terminated. From Monday 25th April, Schilling notes were no longer legal tender and were withdrawn from circulation. They were still accepted at banks and Post Offices (until 15th May), and were exchangeable for Reichsmark at the Reichsbank and at the ÖNB-in-liquidation until 31st December [Ref 6§I81.1a and Ref 7§3&4]. A reminder was issued in November [Ref 12§161] that any residual ÖNB notes must by 31st December be taken to a branch of the Reichsbank for exchange; they could not be used or exchanged at Post Offices.

The position of coins is less clear! The 25Sch and 100Sch gold and the 2Sch and 5Sch silver ones were formally withdrawn (the 1Sch silver had been withdrawn around 1932). [See Ref 10§I34§1&2, which publicises on 11th June a decree of 25th May effective 31st May.] The gold coins could be exchanged for Reichsmark up to 15th July, the silver up to 31st December.

The 1 & 2 Groschen became useable as 1 & 2 Rpf [Ref 7§5(2) and Ref 11§306]. The others - 5Gr, 10Gr, 50Gr bronze & 1Sch cupro-nickel, according to ANK - were declared "valid till otherwise stated" [Ref 7§5(1)] but seem to have faded away in May without a formal announcement.

It is typical of these times that the decree invalidating the Austrian currency is first announced in the Berlin Reichsgesetzblatt [Ref 7], signed by Generalfieldmarshall Göring. In Ref 8 (the Land Austria 'Legal Gazette') it is reprinted on 25th April, with an appended note from Seyss-Inquart that it had come into effect on 23rd April, 2 days before. And in Ref 9 (the Post Office Gazette) it is again reprinted, now 5 days in arrears!

From 15th May, Schilling notes were no longer accepted at Post Offices. All postage rates and also the sale price of the postage stamps had to be converted into Reichsmark.

From then on, ancillary charges although calculated and expressed in Groschen and indicated by Austrian Postage Dues could only be paid in Reichspfennig coins!

This anomaly lasted until the 1st of August, when a new postage rate table was introduced, with all rates in Reichspfennig. The use of Postage Due stamps were abolished.

References

Ref 1: The somewhat sketchy Oesterreichische Nationalbank History on its website (www.oenb.at/content/Die!20!OeNB--200/Geschichte--900.xml)

Ref 2: The details of an exhibition "1938 NS Terror in Austria: text and pictures" by the DöW, which is the "Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes", the "Document Archive of the Austrian Resistance"; linked from their website at www.doew.at

Ref 3: "Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt" 17/1938 dated Vienna 21 March [the PuTvob contained the decrees of the Vienna Post & Telegraph Ministry]

Ref 4: "Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt" 23/1938 dated Vienna 29 March

Ref 5: "Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt" 24/1938 also dated Vienna 29 March

Ref 6: "Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt" 35/1938 dated Vienna 22 April

Ref 7: "Reichsgesetzblatt I" 60/1938 dated Berlin 23 April

Ref 8: "Gesetzblatt für das Land Österreich" 30/1938 dated 25 April

Ref 9: "Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt" 39/1938 dated Vienna 28 April

Ref 10: "Nachrichtenblatt der Abwicklungsstelle des Reichspostministeriums für das Lande Österreich" 14/1938 dated Vienna 11 June

Ref 11: "Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums, Ausgabe A" 85/1938 dated Berlin 29 July [this is the Official Gazette of the Berlin Postal Ministry]

Ref 12: "Nachrichtenblatt der Abwicklungsstelle des Reichspostministeriums für das Lande Österreich" 64/1938 dated Vienna 6 November

spacer page

NOTES from publications en route to the Library.

by Andy Taylor

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 5/2002: Best (and otherwise) stamps of 2001; 'Teddybär' stamp to be 0€51 not 0€58; Tag der Briefmarke 2002 minisheet; 100 years Postablage at Nussdorf an der Traisen; Alpenvorland-Adria fantasy issues; Austrian stamps from 'Alfred Kubin', issued 10 April 2002, to show © symbol; Prof Werner Pfeiler retires; Ferdinand Heinisch dies; Min.Rat Dr Ulrich Ferchenbauer receives title of 'Professor' (the first ever for philatelic reasons); etc etc

Issue 6/2002: Enzesfeld - early letters, postcards, metal-works cachets; History of Liesing brewery; lists of 'illegally stamp-issuing' regions of Russia, of new Post-Partner Agenturen, and 8 columns of Post Office closures; Austrian rulers 960-2002; Austria's currency changes since 1850 (i); 1928 "Return to sender" label; errors of colour in €0,51 definitive; Austria's first letter with a postage stamp [27 May 1850!] etc etc

Issue 7/2002: "Bodypainting mit Hannes Margreiter" in colour; why so few standard-rate commemoratives?; confirmed that the 1999 dual-denominated Schilling/Euro stamps and envelope are not now valid; possibilities and costs of exchanging Schilling stamps for Euro ones; Arnfels; Goisern; Austria's currency changes since 1850 (ii); much about other countries; etc etc

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Militaria Austriaca Philatelia

Issue 200A: 50 years of the Second Republic's Army; second editions of two Hans Riedel books (see next entry); diatribe on Schilling-stamp exchange arrangements; auction lists; FPA11 & FPA51 misuse; KuK reinforced concrete detachment?; etc

Item 199B: "Die Karnische Front 1915-17" and "Die 10. Armee in Tirol 1918" by Hans Riedel, revised and expanded second editions. This will be reviewed in a later issue, and added to our Books library.

Issue 200: Sources of irritation; loose ends on 1918 FPO locations (H Riedel; 7pp); Town cancels from A-H FPOs in Italy (eg Udine); assignment of FPOs to units on SW Front in early 1918; 12pp of Ergänzungsmarken; NATO etc etc

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-18

Issue 69: Kuk Kriegsmarine cancellations catalogue to be issued; MB's birthday; wants & offers; FPO608/R; the China Batteries; list of locations of

KuK Reservespitals; HFPA1100 forgery; review of "Montenegrin & Albanian cablecars 1914-18"; the B&H armoured trains; I am well" cards; etc etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 58: Book & new-issue reviews; Dollfuss stamps used in August 1938; etc

Wiener Ganzsachen F u P-Verein.

Issue 2/2002: reply-paid telegrams; lottery-coupon-bundle envelopes; AGM report; plan for new special catalogue for Austrian Private Postal Stationery.

Czechout

Issue 2/2002: Stamp shops in Prague; much of Czech & Slovak interest.

Südost-Philatelie

Issue 77/2002: Kingdom-of-Yugoslavia tariffs; much about later dates.

Austrian Philatelic Society (US) - Journal

Vol 2 No 3: Q&A; the DDSG & its stamps; the 1867 issue (trans. Ferch2K pp421-430); corrected calendar of the 1867 issue.

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 149 June 2002: a familiar appeal - they have only one issue's worth of articles in hand; article & book review on Poster (Cinderella) stamps; unusual postal stationery items; news of members etc etc.

Cinderella Philatelist

Vol 42 no 2: German WWI charity labels with Austrian eagle in design; bogus Montenegro Red Cross labels; Hungarian anti-Habsburg propaganda; and many other items exemplifying Man's boundless imagination!

Vol 42 no 3: Kaiser portrait labels and lapel badges.

Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Monograph 17: Czechoslovak Field Post 1918-1921; a study of postal activities, by Brian C Day. 135pp A4, colour cover and several of the many illustrations. The chapters cover Introduction; WW1 Austro-Hungarian Field Posts on Czechoslovak lands; WWI Independent Czechoslovak Foreign Legions

who also fought on Czechoslovak territory; Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia 1918-1920; Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine; Czechoslovak Field Post in Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine 1918-1920; Czechoslovak Mobilisation in 1921; Postage Tariffs; Maps; Czechoslovak Armoured Trains serving in Slovakia as at October 4, 1919; and a Bibliography. The work covers the historical sequence of events as Czechoslovakia disengaged from the Austrian Empire and settled its disputes with Poland, Hungary and Germany. Detailed calendars clarify the many towns occupied and re-occupied by various armies; the philatelic consequences are illustrated.

The monograph will be of great interest to all interested in Fieldpost, as well as in Czechoslovakian history. Copies cost £24 (including UK postage) from Richard Beith, 14 Middlecroft, Guilden Sutton, Chester, CH3 7HF.

Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale

This is the Journal of the Associazione per lo Studio della Storia Postale, which we will henceforth receive in exchange for 'Austria'. It will live in the non-books library, and is written in Italian (apart from notes of the Alp-Adria Philatelic Federation). A4, glossy colour cover, many illustrations. Only articles of some Austro-Hungarian relevance will be mentioned here.

Issue 117: 500 years post in Slovenia; Postablagen in Venezia Giulia (part v);

Issue 118: Post between the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Sardinia, 1854-1867;

Germania

May 2002 vol 38 no 2. Picture postcards - the first 20 years (brief mention of the Vienna printings); reports from 4 regional groups; and of course much of purely German interest including lovely colour illustrations.

Early Mails between Constantinople and the West

By Hans Smith; reviewed by A Taylor

This article is written by Hans Smith FRPSL, our Hon Sec, and forms the third part of the Rossiter Postal History Journal, vol 2: 2001, which is published by the Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund. [The other articles are on the Goldfields of Victoria and on registered etc mail in pre-soviet Russia.] It covers, in 44 A4 pages including a map, the period from antiquity to 1815. It explains the history of the times and the heroic and at times devious efforts needed to communicate between the

Sublime Porte and the Infidel, once the benefits of international trade were deemed by the Sultan to outweigh the spiritual contamination it would produce. The majority of such posts used the Austrian system, although others (eg Venetian, French, Neapolitan, Spanish) at times competed with it, especially when Austria and Turkey were having one of their frequent wars. The activities of the Couriers and the Forwarding Agents, and the inordinate delays of the quarantine systems, are described. Sixteen b/w illustrations show mail from 1453 onwards: items that most readers will only see at international exhibitions. I was disappointed that Hans admits he cannot himself read 15th century Venetian, and I claim the reviewer's privilege of noting that the Black Sea is debauched; but I salute this work as displaying the depth of knowledge and quiet scholarship that Hans possesses.

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From the Membership Secretary:

We are pleased to welcome the following new members: 1184 S. Kloppe from Croydon, 1185 B.J. Lees from Yorkshire and D.J. Noble from London.

We regret to record the death of J. McGuire of Exmouth, and the retirement, due to age, of Mr H. D. S. Morrison from Aberdeen, who was member number 259: only two members remain with a lower number than Mr. Morrison.

From the Hon Auctioneer

On page 6 of Auction 68, the last 9 lots have repeated numbering 289-297. Would members wishing to bid on these please prefix the lots with 'B eg B289.

From the Librarian:

The book on Balloon Posts, number 60, has been replaced by the second edition & numbered 60A. It now covers flights up to 31st December 1999.

Book Review: "Czechoslovak Field Post 1918-1921"

This is published by the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain as their Monograph 17; the author is Brian C Day. 135pp A4; many illustrations, some in colour. Copies can be obtained from Richard Beith, 14 Middlecroft, Guilden Sutton, Chester, CH3 7HF at £24 (includes UK postage).

Dumb Cancels

By A Taylor

This article began when I asked for information on cancels consisting of a letter W and a number in a single or double circle and was told that Everybody knew they were from Vienna, and it was all written down in an article that nobody could quite find.

I have found in the past that Everybody is getting older and his recollections are not always correct, so I decided to dig deeper. First I looked in the Index for 'Austria'.



<i>Dumb cancels, suggested joint study with Czechoslovak PS</i>	<i>119/60, 120/28</i>
<i>Dumb strike, Vienna, W1</i>	<i>See under Vienna W1 dumb strike</i>
<i>Vienna W1 dumb strike & Donauwellen</i>	<i>67/20, 94/22, 96/10, 97/32, 99/21, 100/41</i>

The suggested joint study seemed a good idea at the time, and probably still is... The 67/20 article consistently refers to "W●1" (W dot one) although the illustrations also have it with no dot. The follow-up article (6 years later!) produced a W101 cancel on the 1908 issue, and W1s from all periods from 1916 and in all sizes from 16mm to 21mm. "Wavy line" cancels were also mentioned, and the remaining 'Austria' references deal only with them.

However this didn't tell me why "Wnn" cancels were used instead of a "normal" cancel - or a pen stroke - nor what other date-and-place-free cancels might exist.

So I turned to the Library index. Items 163 and 291 looked relevant; but an electronic consultation with the Librarian soon put paid to that idea. Item 212 [*W. Tettinek "Types of Postmarks of the Vienna Post Offices after 1883": a photo-copy of a typed translation by "F.F.M."*] added that W●nn cancels in single or double rings were introduced around 1900. The introduction to Klein's catalogue (Library item 31) states "*Mute postmarks are those which do not contain the name of the place from which they originate. During the years 1887-1900 they were used without exception as arrival cancellations, possibly also at transit Post Offices if the dispatch Post Office had failed to cancel stamps or had done so insufficiently. The intention being, in the latter case, to prevent a fraudulent second use of the same stamp.*" However, someone had by now found a reference to an article in Die Briefmarke by Klein; perhaps it would add something to the rather bald catalogue note - and cover the period

after 1900 when the Wnn cancels were actually used. Needless to say, the issues I needed (Dec 1964 & Mar 1965) were for many months inaccessible because of the library rearrangements - a problem now solved.

Müller's catalogue (library item 7) observes that "*all kinds of designs and various ornaments were used for these cancellers*"; they were used during the early stamp period to cancel the stamp, and a separate place-and-date canceller used alongside. The ANK catalogue repeats all, the Michel some, of Müller's illustrations. Votoček (library item 46) provides confirming, or in a few cases contradicting, information on the Czechoslovak area. Stohl's Handbook (library item 313) mentions a projected Part N on Dumb Cancels; of this there is no news. The reissue of Klein by Rieger adds three new Dumb Cancels, of unknown place of use and found on the 1890 issue. Kainz throws some intense shafts of light into dusty corners. And further articles in Die Briefmarke have been found (9/68; 7/93; 8/93).

So now I have a large pile of information, and can try to reduce it to a coherent and correct story - the scope of which has suffered from "mission creep" and expanded to include all Dumb Cancels. However, postal cancels intended for other duties but for good or bad reason applied to stamps (eg "Nach Abgang der Post") are NOT covered.

Dumb Cancels

A "dumb cancel" is a cancel intended for use on postage stamps which even when complete and perfectly struck does not show the place where it was posted. (There are many other ways, especially on loose stamps, in which the information can be unobtainable: a selection is at the end.) To be able to ascertain the pertinent post office with safety, there must as a rule exist entire items (letters, envelopes or postcards), which show the postal route exactly. Dumb Cancels of this kind were used as originating, transit, and arrival cancels:

(a) The originating office applied the dumb cancel. This occurs mainly on the first stamp issues, chiefly because the place-name was applied by another cancel beside or on the stamp itself. A wide and weird variety of these is found!

(b) The dumb cancel was used at the delivery office, if the originating office had omitted to cancel the stamps or had done so weakly, to prevent improper reuse of the stamps without putting the name of the delivery office or the time of the cancellation. This was done from 1850 and is still practised today.

(c) As (b) but at a transit office.

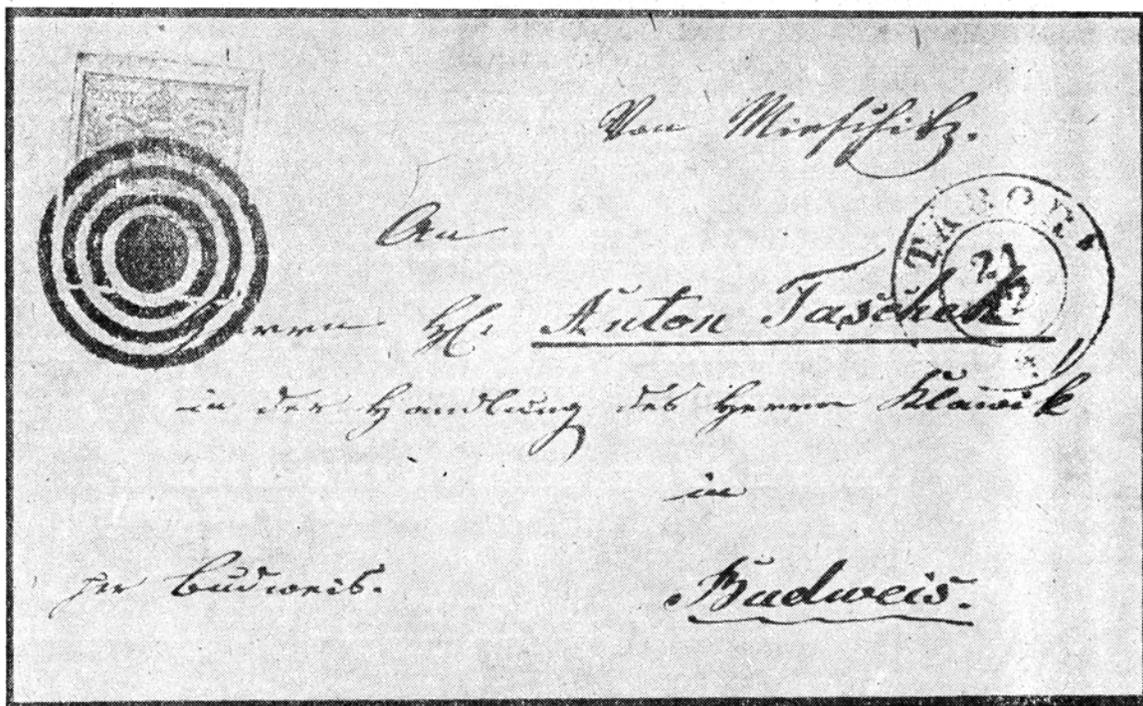
The dumb cancels used on the first stamps, which the postmasters produced personally, show diverse forms and belong to the most popular collecting fields of Old Austria. The later dumb cancels do not reach an equal wealth of forms, but are still imaginative and of interest - and are cheaper!

The cancels that Müller and Votoček list are almost all used ONLY on the first issue, normally with a "town name plus date" canceller alongside (or, rarely, on top). A few were used later as arrival marks, and for "arrived uncanceled" purposes. A very few were still in use in the period covered by Klein.

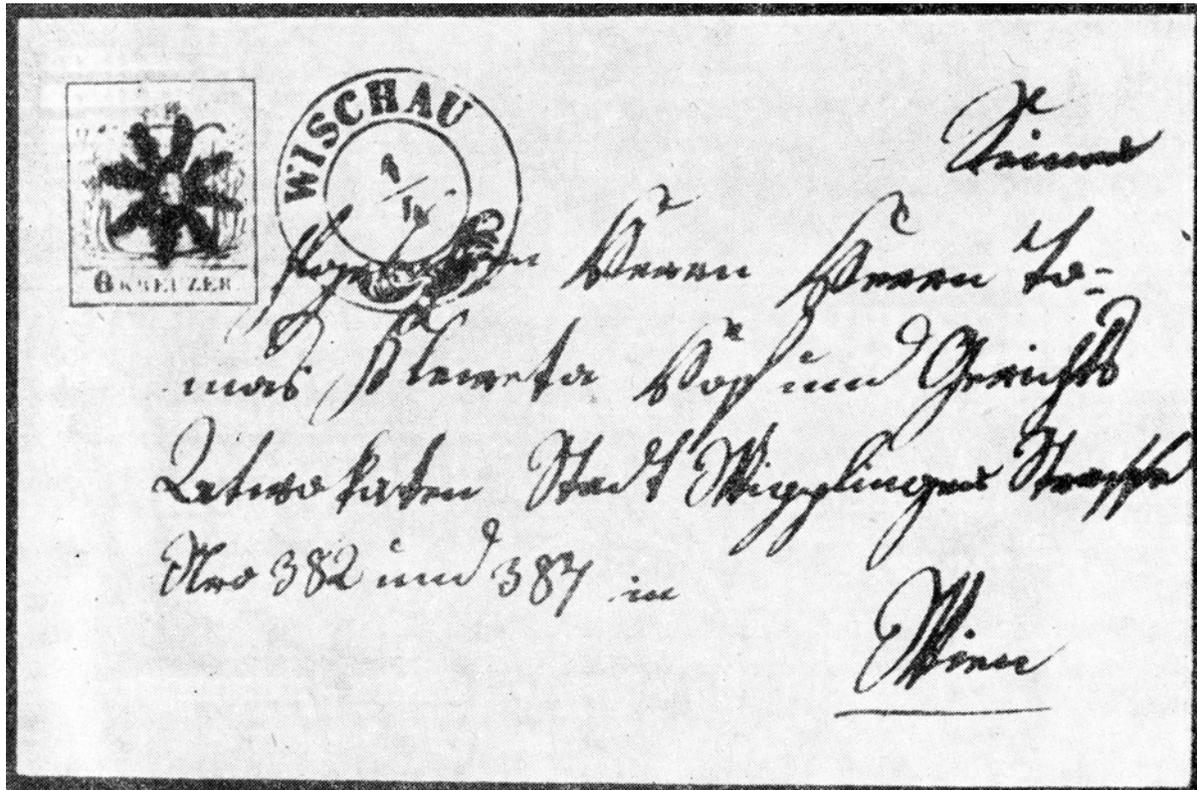
Klein's article lists 25 different dumb cancels, used from 1867 to 1900, which are shown in my second set of illustrations. All bar one (no. 2) are also in his catalogue, but that contains 4 cancels not in the article, to which I give the numbers 26 - 29. The post-1900 story is documented in various articles in Die Briefmarke, and quite varied.

Period I - 1850 - 1886

Unless otherwise stated, these cancellers were used only on the first issue, and normally with a "town name plus date" canceller alongside (or, rarely, on top). The following two examples illustrate this.



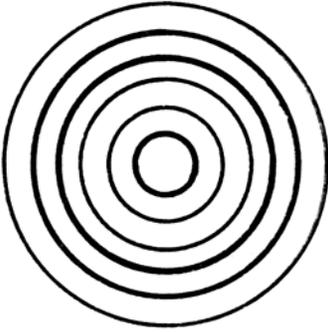
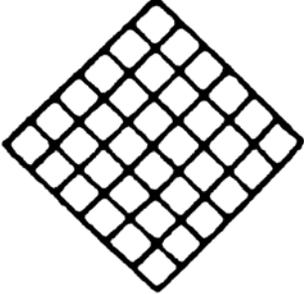
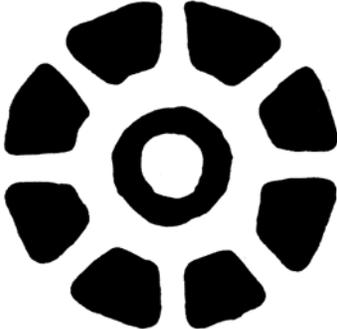
(A virtually identical cover was Lot 83 in a Robson Lowe sale in 1964 with an estimate of £350!)

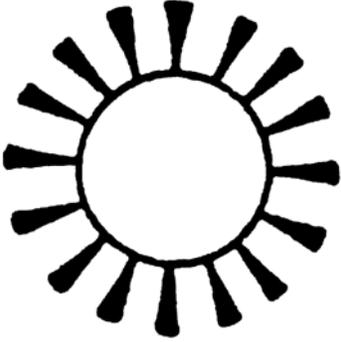
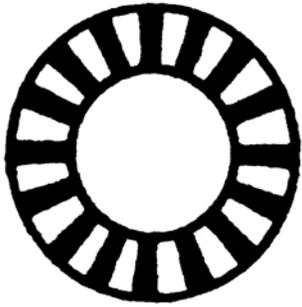
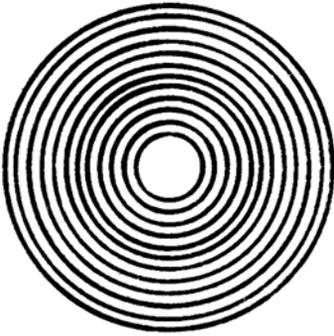


The cancels from known places are listed next. Mü numbers are references to the Müller catalogue and V to the Votoček; D-numbers are Votoček's illustrations

<p>Bielitz: Mü218c</p>	<p>Bludenz: Mü250b</p>	<p>Budweis / Budějovice: Mü360b; V274.5; D4</p>

[The shimmering gray dots between the squares in the Budweis cancel are an optical illusion!]

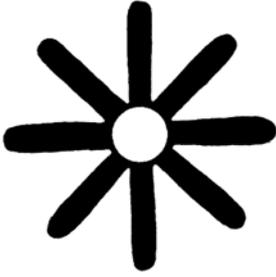
		
<p>Czimelitz / Čimelitz / Čimelice: Mü477b; V362.3; D6</p>	<p>Gran: Mü838e; 1st and 2nd issues</p>	<p>Jägerndorf / Krnov: Mü1103b; V884.3; D9</p>
		
<p>Krakau: Mü1367c</p>	<p>Křelowitz / Křelovice (larger): Mü1385b; V1130.2; D1</p>	<p>Křelowitz / Křelovice (smaller): Mü1385c; V1130.3; D2</p>
		
<p>Mezzolombardo: Mü1685b</p>	<p>Nagy Banya: Mü1792b</p>	<p>Patzau / Pacov: Mü2087b; V1745.3; D12 [ANK mistypes it Batzau]</p>

		
Pesth (no outer ring): Mü2116f; also used later as arrival mark	Pesth (with outer ring): Mü2116h; used on 1 st & 2 nd issues as arrival mark	Potschatek / Poteshatek / Počátky / Počatek: Mü2221d; V1814.6; D5

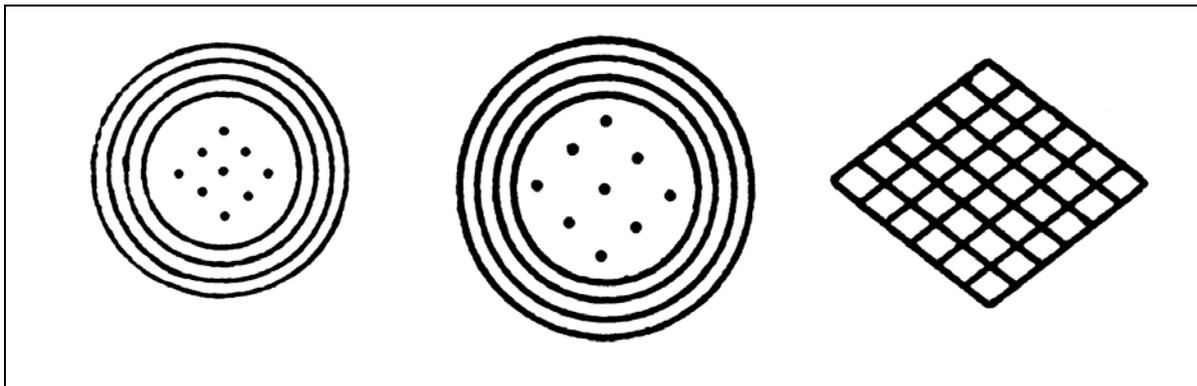


Votoček illustrates the Potschatek cancel on a stamp along with a town-date one (synthesised here). This shows that he is correct and Müller (& ANK) in which the rings have no central hole are wrong.

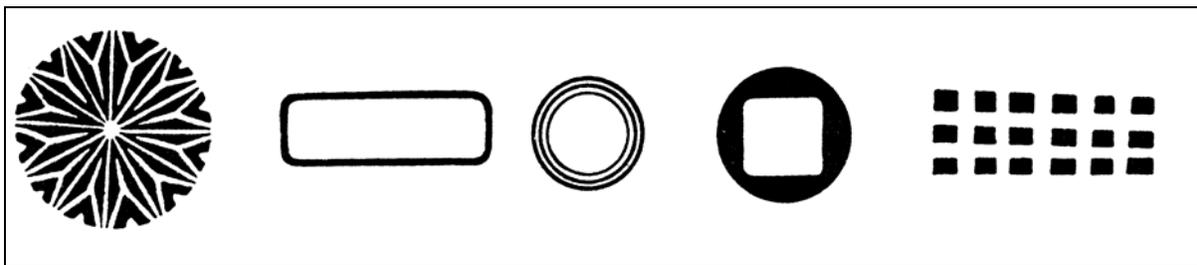
		
Pressburg: Mü2250d; also used later as arrival mark on first 3 issues	Tabor / Tábor: Mü2861b; V2393.5; D3	Teschen / Těšín: Mü2901c; V2417.6; D8

	
<p>Wischau / Vyškov: Mü3259b; V2649.7; D11</p>	<p>Znaim / Znojmo: Mü3356b; V2782.6; D7; also used as arrival on 5th issue</p>

Müller lists these next three (his Mü3214f, g, h) as used at Vienna.



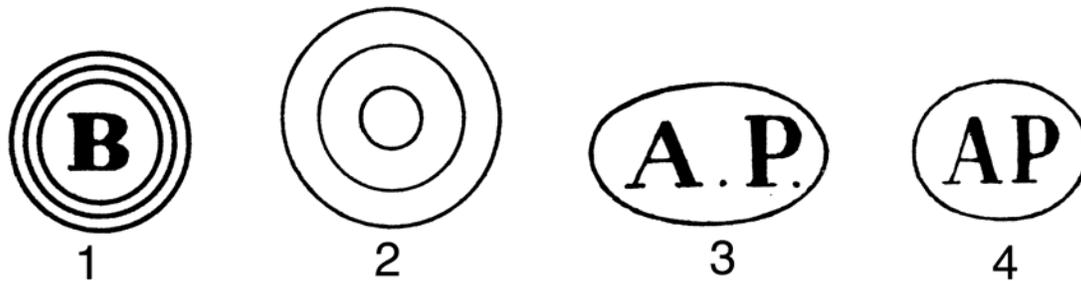
The first and second were used on "Stadtbrief", ie local letters; the third was used as an arrival mark and also as a dumb cancel on 1850 - 1860 issues. The first had its dots removed and became Klein's "variant-of-7", discussed in Period II below. The third can be distinguished from the Gran cancel above because it is lozenge-shaped, Gran being a square rotated 45°. Müller also has 3214u (3 rings with '1' inside) and 3214dz (4 rings with '1' inside), which remained in use in my Period II and appear there as items 8 and 5 respectively.



Finally, the location of these is unknown; they are listed as Mü3611a, b, c, d, e and recorded by Müller on 1st, 1st, 4th, 5th, nil issues respectively. The three-ring cancel may be Klein's number 9.

Period II - 1887 - 1900

This is covered by Klein in his articles and catalogue, in *Die Briefmarke*, and by Votoček.

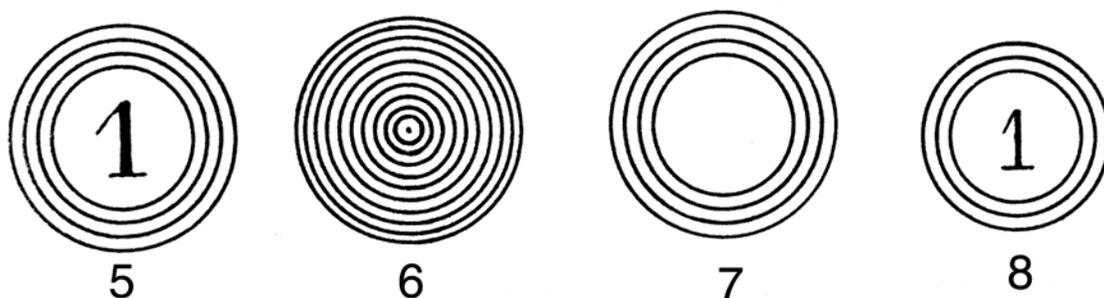


Cancel 1 has been proved to originate from Brünn; it is rare on the 1867 issue, more frequent on the later issues. Its Klein catalogue number is 512-o and its illustration number is 662. It is known on the 1890 to 1913 issues. Votoček states that it was first used in the Head Post Office in Brünn around 1870.

Cancel 2 with three equally-spaced rings is from the Austrian post office in Constantinople. It is thus not in Klein's catalogue. It is known on the 1890 issue. Later it was damaged, and resembled a C in a single circle.

Cancel 3 is almost certainly from Görz (as stated in "Die Postmarke" for 1928!). See also 'Austria' issue 128 pp 59 for a deeper analysis. Its Klein catalogue number is 1333-l and its illustration number 663. It is known on the 1890 issue.

Cancel 4 occurs as a rule as an arrival cancel on *Retourrezeppisses*, thus along with a second cancel, but also occurs alone on stamps. The letters "AP" are the abbreviation for "avis de payé". Again, see 'Austria' issue 128 page 59. Its Klein catalogue number is 5737-u and its illustration number is 669; it is also Müller catalogue number 3214-v. It is known on all issues up to 1867.

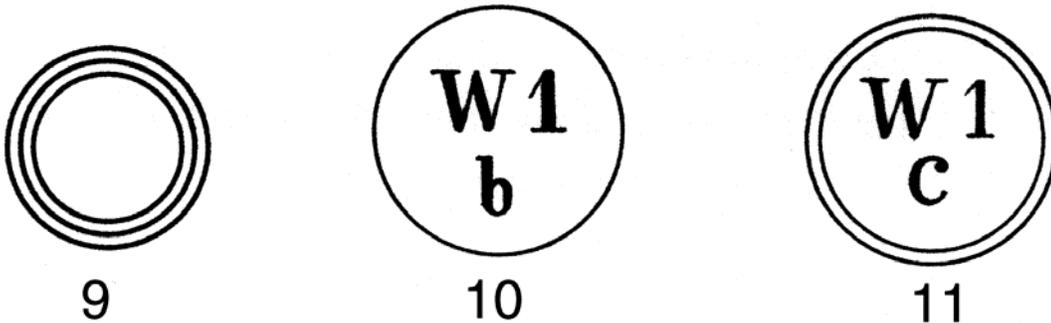


Cancel 5 is from the Vienna Head Post Office. Its Klein catalogue number is 5737-q and its illustration number is 664; it is also Müller catalogue number 3214-dz. It is known on all issues from 1860 to 1867, on letters & newspapers. [Klein's article has the text and illustrations for cancels 5 & 6 mixed up.]

Cancel 6 with ten circles has been found only on Aufgaberezepissen between 1869 & 1890, where it served to overstamp invalid cancels. It has not yet been found on stamps. Klein catalogue number 5737-t; illustration no. 668.

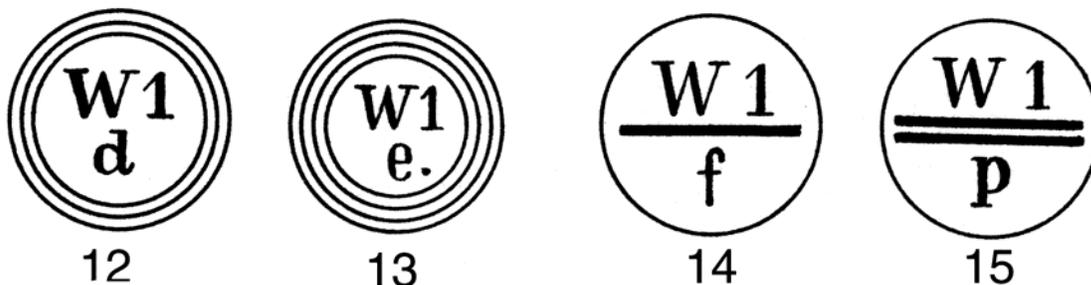
Cancel 7 is from the Vienna Head Post Office; it emerged from cancel 5 through removal of the numeral 1 around 1871. Klein catalogue number 5737-r; illustration no. 665. It is known on the 1867, 1883 & 1890 issues. A variant of cancel 7 exists with four circles of somewhat smaller diameter. This appears to have been produced by the removal of the nine points contained in the innermost circle of Müller's type 3214-f.

Cancel 8 is from the Vienna Head Post Office. Klein catalogue number 5737-p; illustration no. 666; it is also Müller catalogue number 3214-u. It is known on all issues up to 1890, on letters and newspapers. There are many distinguishable subtypes of the numeral '1'.



Cancel 9 is from the Vienna Head Post Office; it emerged from a cancel 8 through removal of the numeral 1. Klein catalogue number 5737-s; illustration no. 667. It is known on the 1867, 1883 & 1890 issues. It may also be that cancel recorded as Mü3611c - see the last illustrations of Period I above.

Cancels 10 - 15 are "counter letters" from the Vienna Head Post Office; their circles and lines differ from the other such cancels listed here. Klein catalogue numbers 5737-d4, -e4, -f4, -g4 & -h4; illustration nos 676 - 681. They are known on the 1890 & 1900 issues.



The following comments on ringed roman number cancels are by Klein. BUT, there is a different view on their origin: see note at end of this section.



16



17



18



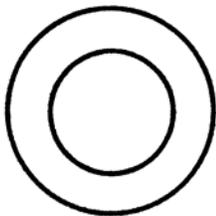
19

Cancel 16 is from the post office Altmannsdorf, Vienna 86. Klein catalogue no. 5797-e; illustration no. 670; known on the 1890 issue. Pfalz (Die Briefmarke 8/1993) seems to assign an identical cancel to Währing, Vienna 110 (unless the text actually refers to cancel 19 below).

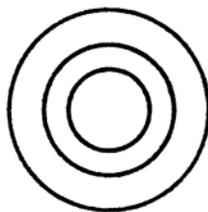
Cancel 17 up to now has been found only on loose stamps but is probably from either Vienna or Prague. Klein catalogue no. 6187-b; illustration no 683; known on the 1890 issue.

Cancel 18 is from the post office Neubau II, Vienna 62. Klein catalogue no. 5777-o; illustration no 672; known on the 1890 issue.

Cancel 19 is from the post office at Währing, Vienna 110; Klein catalogue no 5820-k; illustration no 673; known on the 1890 issue. Its diagonal bar was occasionally also placed twice on the stamp, as a cross. Votoček lists both bar and cross as in use in 1884 at unknown locations. Pfalz assigns it to Feldsberg!



20



21



22

Cancel 20 is from the post office at Favoriten, Vienna 74, Klein catalogue no 5786-c, illustration 674: diameters 13 & 20mm. It is known from the 1883 issue up till 1922. Klein 6187-i appears to be the same cancel.

Cancel 21 is from the post office Favoriten II, Vienna 75, Klein catalogue no 5787-c, illustration 675. It can be distinguished from cancel 2 by the unequal spacing of the circles (24, 16 & 10mm). Found from the 1890 issue up to 1932.

Cancel 22 was used centrally, probably at the Post Office Savings Bank, states Klein. His catalogue no is 6187-h and illustration no 689. It is known on the 1883 & 1890 issues. Votoček, however, states that cancellations of this type

were used from 1884 at many Head Post Offices at the Savings Bank counter, IV being assigned to Prague and V to Brünn. They are found used on 2Kr stamps as that was the fee for an Erlagschein, which is a Giro transfer form - and the cancel can be found on the form itself.



23



24



25

Cancel 23 was found on a loose Newspaper stamp of the fine print of the 1867 issue. The numeral suggested to Klein that it was used at a Vienna Post Office in district VIII. Klein catalogue no 6187-e; illustration no 686.

Cancel 24 was found on a loose 1890 5Kr stamp. The numeral again suggested a district IX Vienna Post Office. Klein catalogue no 6187-f; illustration no 687.

Cancel 25 exists once in black and once in violet on items originating from the year 1898, sent from two different places to Jägerstrasse in Vienna district II; they show next to the stamp the delivery cancel of the post office Brigittenau, Vienna 37. Vienna had at that time 19 districts and Brigittenau was still a part of the second Viennese district. The Roman II in the cancel evidently means the municipal district, the Arabic 5 the delivery district. Accordingly the ownership of the cancel is proven (to Klein) to be post office 37. Klein catalogue no 5759-f; illustration no 671. Known on cover: expensive.



26



27

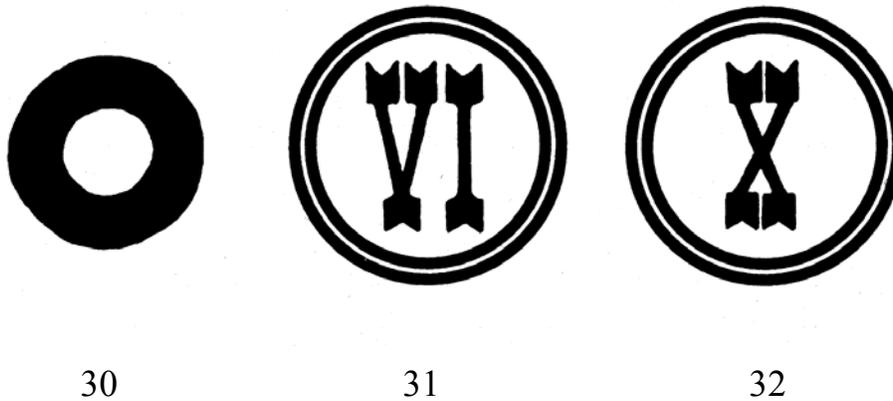


28



29

The place of use of cancels 26 - 29 is unknown, states Klein! They are his catalogue nos 6187-a, -c, -d, -g; illustration nos 682, 684, 685, 688. All are known on the 1867 & 1890 issues.



30

31

32

These last three are the new discoveries by Rieger, his numbers 1279 (the ring) and 1287 (the roman numbers). He lists them as found on the 1890 issue, place of use unknown.

Finally, Pfalz notes an 8-stripe cancel (like the "Striped Lozenge" or Schraffenstempel but with no wording) found on an August 1898 postcard and thought to be from Kuttenberg / Kutna Hora.

Single and double circled Roman numbers: another view

In her article "*Der österreichische Bezirksstempel und seine Geschichte*" in volume 9 of *Österreichische Postgeschichte* by Dr R Wurth (Library item 232/9), Dr Christine Kainz describes the introduction of District Cancellers, which were used for a variety of financial services provided by the Post Office. [There is a second article in volume 20 but it refers to post-WWII only.] In 1893, each Post- und Telegraphendirektion was assigned a roman number for these purposes, which are tabulated below. Note that they are different from those stated by Votoček as assigned to Head Post Offices for use at Savings Bank counters (see cancel 22 above)!

Votoček states [volume 2 of Library item 46 pages 567-9, the Czech text being translated into German on page 662] that cancellers with single and double circled Roman numbers were issued in 1893 for use at Head Offices for Control Stamps on money orders. Later, other offices were issued with square cancellers with the Roman number on the top line and an Arabic one below, being the office number in the relevant list. Bohemia was assigned VII, so Prague used VII and all other Bohemian offices VII above a number. Moravia and Silesia used VIII which was assigned to Brünn; from 1911 Silesia used XI. Single and double circles are equally common; Votoček suggests that whenever a cancel was ordered a double-ringed duplicate was made and kept as a spare by either the engravers or the Postmaster.

Wien	I
Linz	II
Innsbruck	III
Graz	IV
Triest	V

Zara	VI
Prague	VII
Brünn	VIII
Lemberg	IX
Czernowitz	X

Klein's listing (and Rieger's reissue) shows all cancellers with single and double circled Roman numbers as found on 1890-issue stamps - this is entirely consistent with Votoček and Kainz explanations of their origin. The only discrepancy between a definite assignation by Klein of a place of origin and the above table is item 18 above, a double-ringed VII, which the table says is Prague but Klein says is from Neubau in Vienna (he gives no details as to what it was found on). The other discrepancies are where Klein has the number "suggesting that" it was used at a Vienna district office, but the cancel was found on a loose stamp. F Puschmann has suggested that a single-ringed I was an office marking used by the Fahrpost to denote an item for Vienna.

I prefer the Votoček and Kainz explanation.

Examples



This is a weekly newspaper, dated 27 January 1883, with a 1Kr newspaper tax stamp cancelled with four rings.

Dumb cancels are relatively common on these stamps: the next illustration shows three from the author's accumulation, but all that can be said about the dates is "1858 - 1899"!



While Ferchenbauer 2000, p1041, shows a triple-ringed 14 described as "Bahnpostamt No 14", this is neither explained in his book nor shown, illustrated or mentioned anywhere else. It may be a fiscal office cancel, and is unlikely to have any railway connection. Gaube (APS Lib 23) notes it as found on 1Kr & 2Kr newspaper stamps.



On the left is a Bosnian stamp with a W1 / e cancel.



On the right, an 1899 with a 2-ring cancel, possibly no. 20 above from Favoriten.



And here, an assortment of "3 rings with '1' inside" on issues from 1850 up to 1900.



Finally, a postcard from Neuhaüsel dated 11.11.1875 (according to the message) with a WIEN arrival cancel for 12.11.1875 and a 4-ring dumb cancel (the '2' is part of the imprinted stamp).



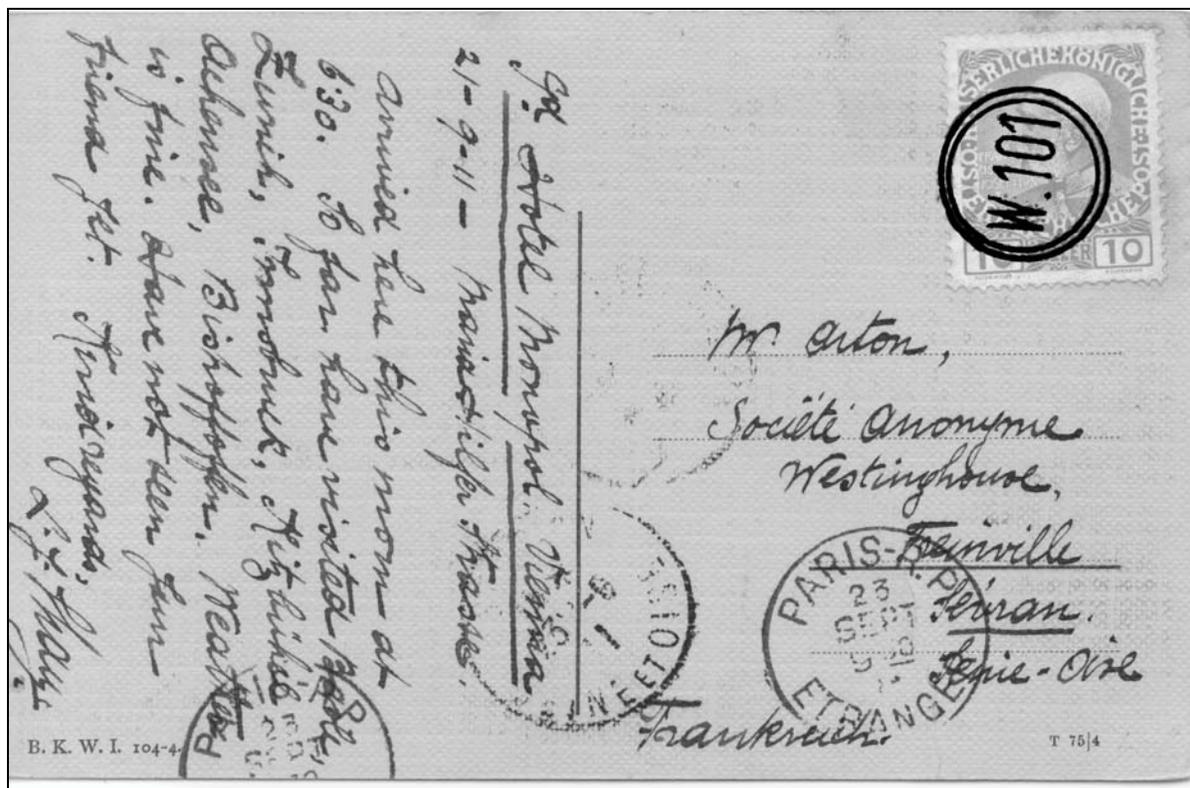
Period III - 1901 on.

According to Pfalz, the following can be found on First Republic stamps:

- ❖ A Gothic-looking capital B, possibly from Bregenz
- ❖ The letters **GL**, flanked by three pairs of parallel lines with a longer line above and below: thought to have been used at Gloggnitz in July 1935
- ❖ A multi-ring cancel (4 rings according to the text, 5 in the illustration!) from Gmunden in October 1937
- ❖ Graz used a straight-line "ENTWERTET" in 1930
- ❖ In 1908-1913, Laibach used **L.1** in a double circle.



The Wnn Dumb Strikes of Vienna



The article in 'Austria' issue 67 (1984) page 20 consistently refers to "W●1" (W dot one) although the illustrations also have it with no dot. Conversely, the follow-up in 1990 refers exclusively to a dot-free "W1" while most of the illustrations are dotted. The article states that W24, W40, W41, W50, W65 and W77 have been noted, but opines "W1 is perhaps of the greatest interest". The follow-up produced a W101 cancel on the 1908 issue, and W1s from all periods from 1916 and in all sizes from 16mm to 21mm. "W-dot-number" in single and double circles are both common, and according to Tettinek were introduced "at the turn of the century" There is a suggestion that sharp strikes are genuine while some fuzzy ones could be forgeries, especially if purporting to be from the Anschluß period.

Pfalz (& Werner: Die Briefmarke 9/68) list 8 subtypes of W.1 cancels:

Single/ Double	Size mm	Legend	Comments	Dates seen
D	20 & 17½	W●1	Pointed 1; also in blue	1904-1908
D	20 & 17½	W●1	Flat topped 1	1904-1937
S	19	W1		1914-1916
S	19	W●1	Also in violet	1914-1924
S	18	W●1●	1 has no horizontal stroke at base	1920

Single/ Double	Size mm	Legend	Comments	Dates seen
S	18	W●1	1 has no horizontal stroke at base	1925-1948
S	18	W●1	1 has angled upstroke	1947-1959
S	18	W●1	1's upstroke begins horizontally	1955-1960



Pfalz & Werner give a list of other W-cancels seen:

20 & 17½mm double-circle:	18mm single-circle:	
W24: 1916-1932	W1/4: 1938-1943	W71: 1948
W28: 1904-1929	W20: 1957	W75: 1948-1957
W41: 1908-1920	W27: 1946-1957	W82: 1948-1957
W68: 1934-1960	W40: 1948	W85: 1957-1960
W75: 1934-1957	W50: 1948	W89: 1958
W76: 1906-1937	W55: 1948-1959	W101: 1948-1961
W77: 1904-1908	W56: 1948-1961	W107: 1948
WIEN77: 1922-1925	W62: 1948-1957	W110: 1948-1957
W101: 1904-1934	W65: 1948-1957	W117: 1948-1957
	W66: 1957	

Normally these are found in black; W89 is known in reddish violet. W1/4 occurs on Hindenberg stamps.

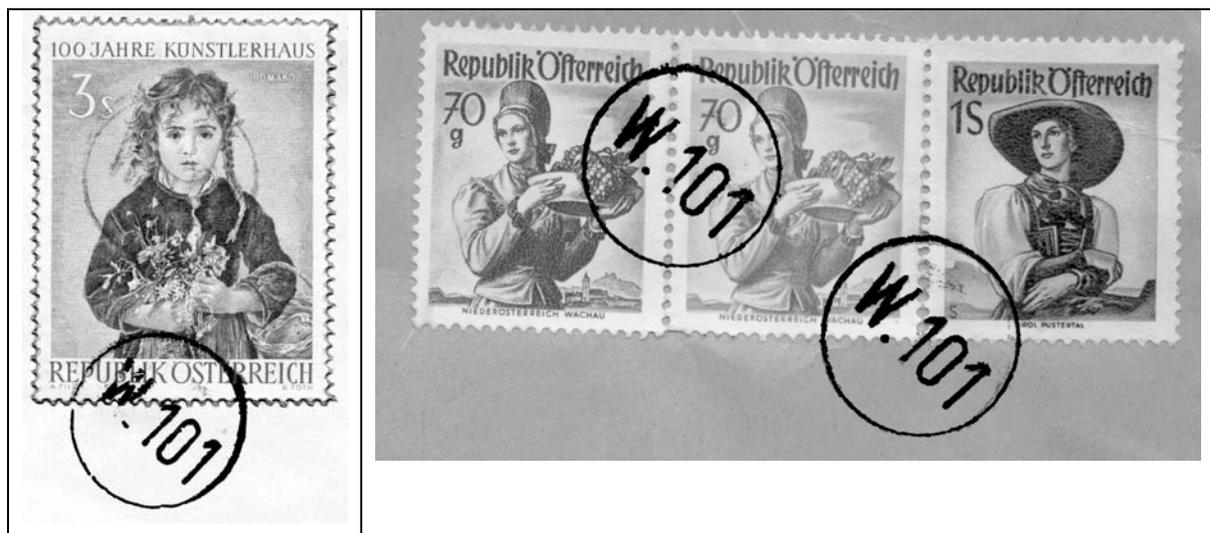
		
<p>W24 double</p>	<p>W40 single</p>	<p>W41 double</p>

Less usual ones include a 16½x13mm rectangular cancel with rounded corners from W66 (1908-1932 issues) and a 20 & 17½mm double ring with nothing inside it, known 1908-1935 including two specimens traced to Wien 89 in 1930 & 1932.



One unusual documented use of a "W.1" cancel was for some of the mail from the Austrian artillery unit at Gallipoli in 1915; this had no Fieldpost unit of its own, according to Tranmer, and its post went via Vienna (alternatively via Budapest where it was given a Budapest 72 mark).

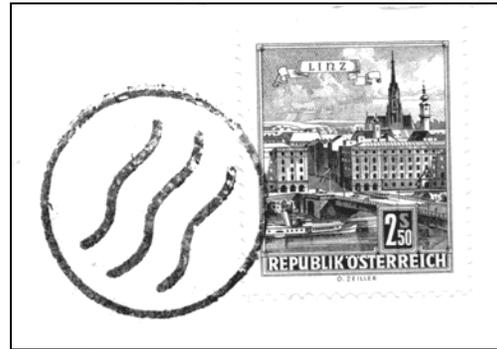
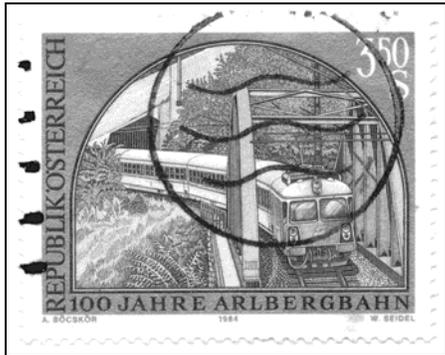
The next W101 examples must be after 11 June 1961 (L) and 4 March 1949 (R).



Wavy Line Cancels

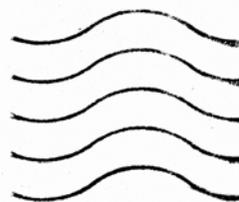


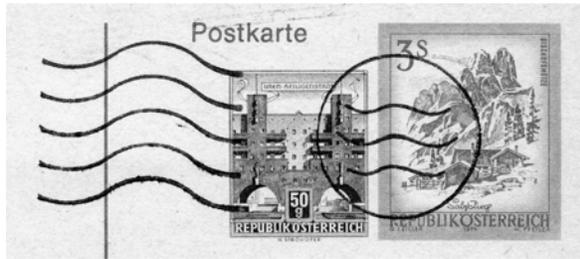
By this I refer to dumb cancellations with three wavy lines in a single circle 22 to 24mm in diameter, sometimes with 5 longer wavy lines alongside. The lines can be sharp or broad. If there is no circle, the cancel is not Austrian but Swiss!



Dr. Christine Kainz wrote in 1992: "At the end of the fifties, an Austrian firm produced dumb stamps to cancel items for which the normal date canceller had been omitted. This cancellation stamp for hand application is made of steel and always shows three wavy lines always in a circle, and is used all over Austria indiscriminately for all classes of mail. The dual cancellation marks with (more) wavy lines to the left are made with a machine canceller used since 1966 by the largest post office in Austria i.e. 1150 WIEN (Westbahnhof, formerly WIEN 101). Wavy line cancellations without a circle come from a canceller used by the Swiss PTT, and are not applied in Austria." This Kunz example is from 1994:

JULIUS KUNZ K.G.
A-1030 WIEN - AM HEUMARKT 11





Short articles in *Die Briefmarke* (Dec 1989 & Dec 1993) add the information that these cancels are called *Nachentwertungsstempel*. (Informally, they are also called 'Donauwellen' - Danube waves.) "Since a postal cancel

confirms the time and place of posting as an official record, the town-date cancellation of the office of posting cannot be added later, nor can that of the delivery or transit office be used. The stamp must therefore be cancelled with a neutral strike. Where one is not available - especially if the missing cancellation is first observed by the actual deliverer - regulations require that the stamp must be crossed out by a crayon, ink or ballpoint".

This example shows a meticulous application of the regulations...



This was obviously meant to receive a First Day Cancellation; however that was on 29 August 1967 not 2 September. So the stamps were not given a dated cancel, in case a misleading cover were to be created, but a dumb one. Mr Tyler was perhaps underwhelmed...



On the left is a cut-out piece of a Postal Stationery envelope, glued on an envelope and used to obtain a Postablage cancellation. The use is genuine, and was permitted by the rules at that date, but it's rather contrived to say the least!

On the right is a typical use of a dumb cancel: the top stamp is machine-cancelled, and the bottom one has received a dumb cancel to prevent reuse.



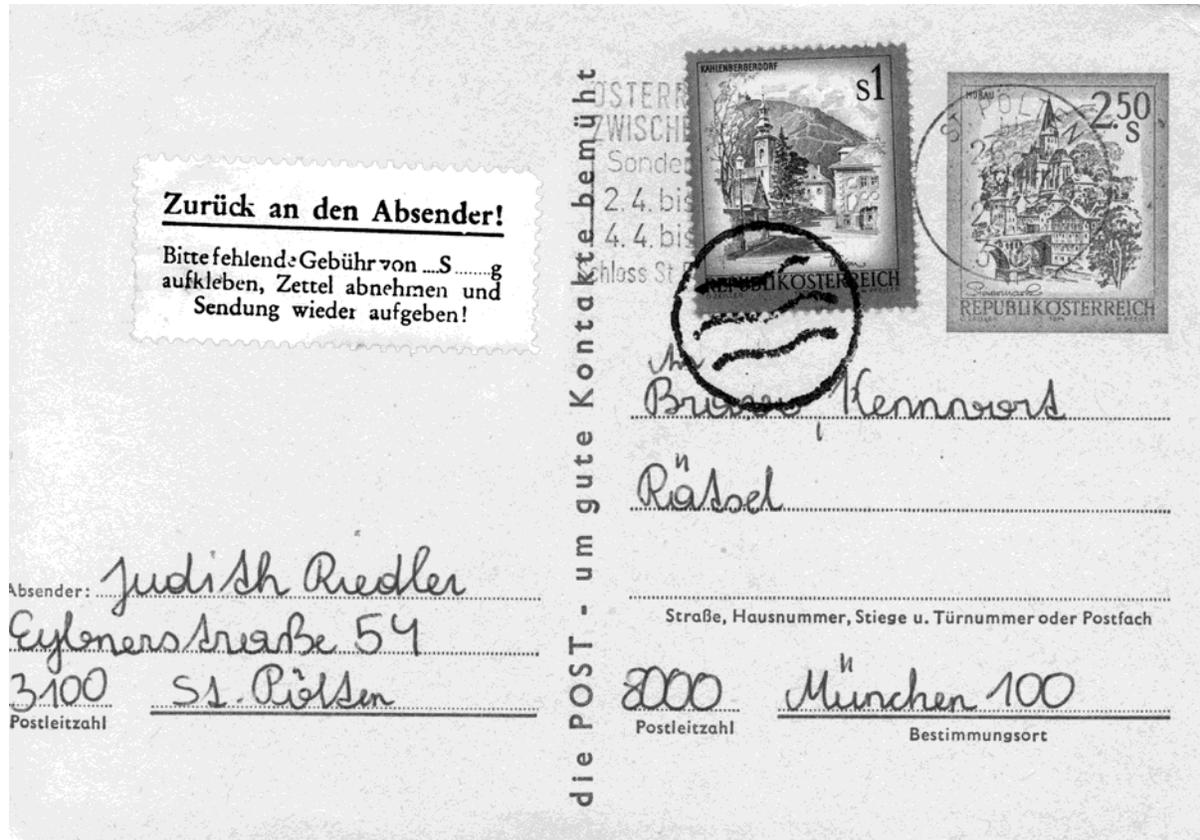
Other ways to make dumb-looking cancels

For the sake of completeness (or pedantry) I'll show some other ways whereby a loose stamp can fail to have a place-of-posting cancel.

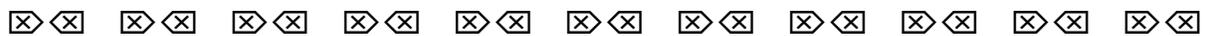
<p>Machine canceller with CDS on left</p>	<p>Stamp misplaced on item</p>
<p>Continuous roller canceller; the cancel on the stamp is Kyleakin in Scotland!</p>	<p>Canceller normal but two stamps used.</p>

The puzzle resolved

In the previous issue of 'Austria' I posed the question, what's going on here?



The imprinted stamp on the card is cancelled 26.4.1977, at which date the inland postcard rate was 2S50. However the card is to Germany, which is Foreign; also as it only has a 2-word message ("Bjoern Borg") on the reverse it counts as Foreign Printed Matter for which the rate was 3S. The small green-on-white label says "Please stick on [stamps to the value of] the missing postage of --S--, remove the label and re-post the item". (The amount is often omitted; I deduce there was a second part to the label.) This tells the sender what to do, explains to the postman why a part-cancelled item is being re-presented, and avoids the complexity of international postage dues: everybody benefits! This system was also used for overweight letters. The second-time stamps received a dumb cancel; such items can also be found with two cancels of differing dates.



The 2002 Ergänzungsmarke

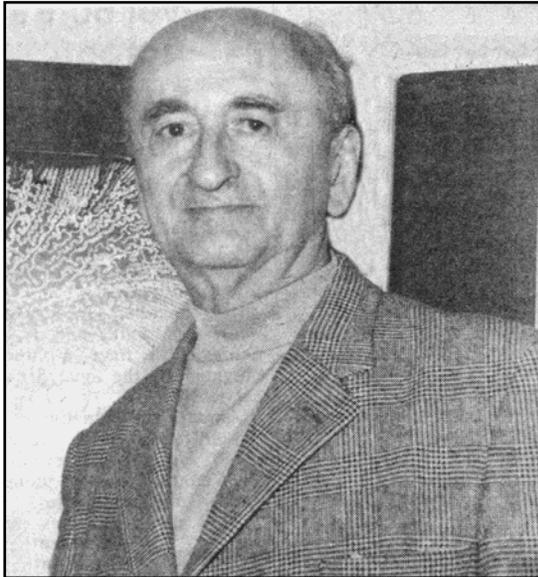


This is an example of an Ergänzungsmarke on a letter from Austria to Britain posted 2 Jan 2002, the first working day of the Euro. The sender had gone to a post office which did not have the OPAL system. The letter already carried a 1 Schilling stamp, which equates to 7.27 Eurocents and is treated as 7. The postage is 51, so a balance of 44 is due. This was paid in cash, and the counter clerk filled in the Ergänzungsmarke to record this, sticking it on the envelope.

spacer page

Obituary: Andor Bela de Dáni von Gyarmata und von Magyar-Cséke

By J F Giblin



It is with very great regret that we have to announce the death of Andor de Dáni on the 25th July 2002 at the age of 99 years.

Andor de Dáni was born on the 17th May 1903 in Vienna. He was a son of Bela de Dáni, a professional soldier in the K.K. army, and of the latter's wife Rosa Bunzel. The surname is a corruption of "Jourdon" (a Christian name) and the family had left France at the Revolution to settle in the Empire where they acquired estates in Austria and Hungary. From 1907 to 1913, Andor was educated in Japan where his father was the Military Attaché to the Imperial Court. His uncle Blasius de Dáni (1864-1944) became an F.M.L. in the Austro-Hungarian army, and was to command the army that took Belgrade upon the third and final assault in 1916. The Bunzel family was a wealthy one that owned a town house at 1 Opernring, Wien I and a country estate at Thürntal bei Fels am Wagram, near Kirchberg in Lower Austria, where Andor spent many happy summer holidays.

He started to collect stamps while in Japan and continued with this hobby whilst being educated at the Schottengymnasium in Vienna - the Eton of Austro-Hungary, reserved then for the sons of the nobility. He could remember clearly being with his father outside the Hofburg when the heralds proclaimed war on Serbia on 28 July 1914.

When he obtained his Abitur in 1921, the Empire had collapsed and it was easier for the nobility to obtain higher education in Hungary. Having taught himself Hungarian in nine months, to pass the Hungarian Alatura, he entered the Technical University in Budapest whence he graduated in 1927 with an engineering degree. On 4th June 1927, he married Alice Diener (1900-1999), the daughter of Hugo Diener, a famous etymologist in Budapest, and of the latter's wife Eugenia Ruiz de Roxas. She was thus, also, the niece of Karl Diener (1862-1928), an internationally renowned geologist and paelaeontologist who held a chair at the University of Vienna.

Andor de Dáni now specialised in the technology of glass fibres, and they lived in Brussels from 1931 to 1935 whilst working for a Belgian glass firm and liaising with their USA patentees, which involved a visit to the USA. Because of

his expertise in this branch of glass technology, he was invited by the St Helens firm of Pilkington Brothers Ltd to join their research team in 1935. In 1940 he was placed in charge of high voltage glass insulator production, whilst in September 1944 he organised the first large-scale production of fibreglass for the textile industry. He remained as head of the fibreglass unit in St Helens until his retirement in June 1969, and was then retained for consultancy work.

He had always been a keen philatelist, having inherited his father-in-law's collection of "all Europe" in 1928. Naturally he specialised in the philately of both Austria and Hungary and was actually responsible for firing the author's imagination in that context by delivering a lecture to the St Helens Philatelic Society in the autumn of 1938 on the philately of Hungary, in which he explained the historical reasons for the return of certain provinces upon the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. This lecture was later expanded and then published in 'Austria' 1971 No 21 pp 6-30 at the specific request of the editor.

Indeed the writer has always considered Andor de Dáni as the second inspirer, after his own father, of his specialist philatelic interest in Austria. Not only did Andor always provide information and historic background, but also he often donated material for the author's collection. This came to a climax in January 1985 when he was given an accumulation of around 200 covers postmarked in Austria between 1878 and 1929, thus covering the stamp issues between that of 1867 and the first groschen issues of the First Republic. This was the "Bunzel" collection that was addressed to his mother's family in their town house in the Opernring. Many came from or went to their country estate at Thürntal bei Fels am Wagram.

About this period, he gave his main stamp collection away to his nephews since his deteriorating eyesight meant that he could no longer devote to it the attention that he felt necessary. After his retirement he had also taken up the hobby of photography, and was so successful in this that he was able to stage a one-man Exhibition in November 1975. Unfortunately his wife became completely blind by 1992 and his time was then fully devoted to her welfare; a stair lift having to be installed in the house to maintain her mobility.

Andor de Dáni had joined the ASCGB in July 1978 as Member no. 782, but his advanced age led him to resign in April 1994. Indeed, on 6th July 1994 he had to have cataracts removed from both eyes. All his copies of Austria were kindly returned to the Society. After some years when his health had further deteriorated and he was looked after by his nephew, he finally died at almost a hundred years old. His Requiem mass was held at our Lady's Church in Portico - his own church - on Thursday 1st August 2002, when the President represented the Society.

THE LAST CRUISE OF SMS KAISERIN ELISABETH: Part II

By Fred Pirotte

The last Austro-Hungarian station-ship in the Far East

II - 1 Foreword

After the Boxer War, the major powers decided to maintain a permanent naval presence in the Far East. The warships of these nations had two main objectives:

- ❖ To carry out a permanent political and commercial representation, not limited to China, but throughout the Far East: the Japanese Islands, Indochina, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines Islands and Dutch East Indies.
- ❖ To be ready to give assistance to the detachment guards near the Embassies in Peking, to the foreign concessions located in many Chinese cities and seaports and, more generally, to the occidental nationals living in the seaports and along the Yangtze Kiang river (navigable up to Hankow by ocean-going ships).

Permanent sea bases already existed: the UK with Hong Kong, Germany with Tsingtao, the United States with Manilla, France with Saigon, Russia with Port Arthur and Vladivostok. The Austro-Hungarian Empire had no such facility. The Chefoo harbour was operated during the Boxer war by the Austro-Hungarian Marine Command in the Far East and the choice was renewed for their station ships. But as Chefoo was poorly equipped, it was decided to use Nagasaki and Yokohama for the logistical support.

The Austro-Hungarian permanent presence was carried out, from October 1902 to November 1914, by six warships: SMS Kaiser Karl VI, Aspern, Kaiserin Elisabeth, Panther, Leopard and Kaiser Franz Josef I; some of them making several missions during these 12 years.

II - 2 The cruise of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth from Pola to China

In 1913, SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth left the territorial waters to become station ship in the Far East where she was to replace SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I which had been there since October 1910 (the longest duration of a mission in China). SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth also carried to China the relief for the guard detachments in Peking and Tientsin. The men who returned home to Europe embarked on board SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I. SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth got underway from the harbour of Pola on 19th August at 10pm with 435 officers and men of the crew, under the command of Linienschiffskapitän Makoviz.

She successively put in at Port Said (25-26 August), Aden (1-2 September), Colombo (11-15 September), Singapore (22-23 September), and Hong Kong (30 September - 2 October) and reached Chefoo without problem on 8th October 1913. The new guard detachments were landed and the preceding detachments taken on board SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I which left Chefoo on 9th October 1913 and reached Pola on 15th December 1913. [*The details of her 8 intermediate stops on the return journey are in "Patka", APS Library 171B.*]

II - 3 Representation missions

SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth carried out several representation missions and put in to Nagasaki (4 November to 5 December 1913); Shanghai (17 December 1913 to 21 January 1914); Hongkong (1 to 23 February 1914); Amoy (24 February to 6 March 1914); Japan (9 March to 6 May 1914) where she successively visited the harbours of Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Kagoshima, Mitsugahama and Itsukushima; and Shanghai (12 May to 7 June 1914). SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth returned to Chefoo on 26th June 1914, going to sea on the following days for artillery training.

II - 4 Postal services

Postal services on board Kaiserin Elisabeth complied with the rules detailed in parts I-2 and I-3 of this article. One can find:

- ❖ During the trip from Pola to Chefoo: letters and postcards sent by officers and men of the crew, either through the postal service on board the warship and the corresponding dépêches delivered to the foreign POs of the ports of call; or directly dropped in letter-boxes of these foreign countries, frequently with a print of a service handstamp of the warship.
- ❖ During the representation missions or at anchorage at Chefoo: letters, registered letters, post cards and official mail handled on board by the post officer and sent via the dépêches. We can also find, on the market, numerous postcards dropped in the letter-boxes of the foreign countries visited but always having prints of several types of service handstamps.

Fig. II - 1 (below) Double weight registered letter from SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth, then at Shanghai. Found damaged on arrival in Vienna where it was repaired using gummed labels of the K.u.K Post u. Telegraphenamts Wien I. Arrival postmark 18-01-14. It bears the ship postmark 3-1-14 and the yellow registration label with the service handstamp of the ship.

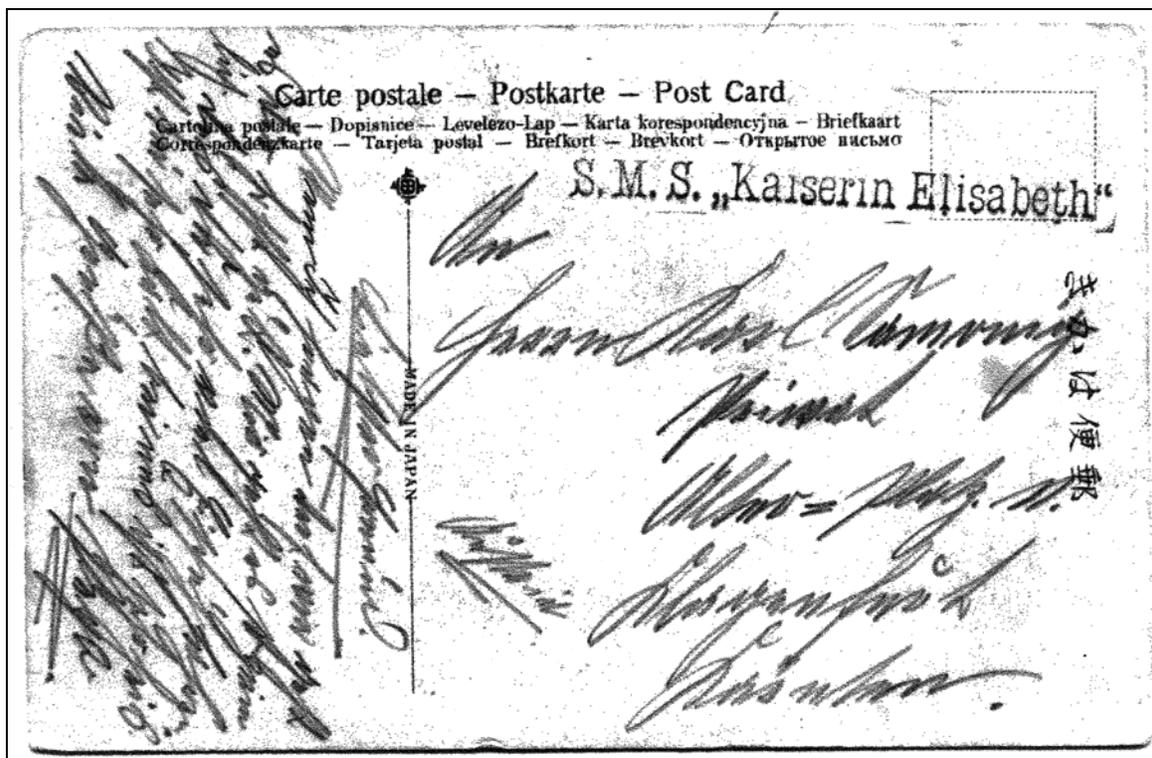
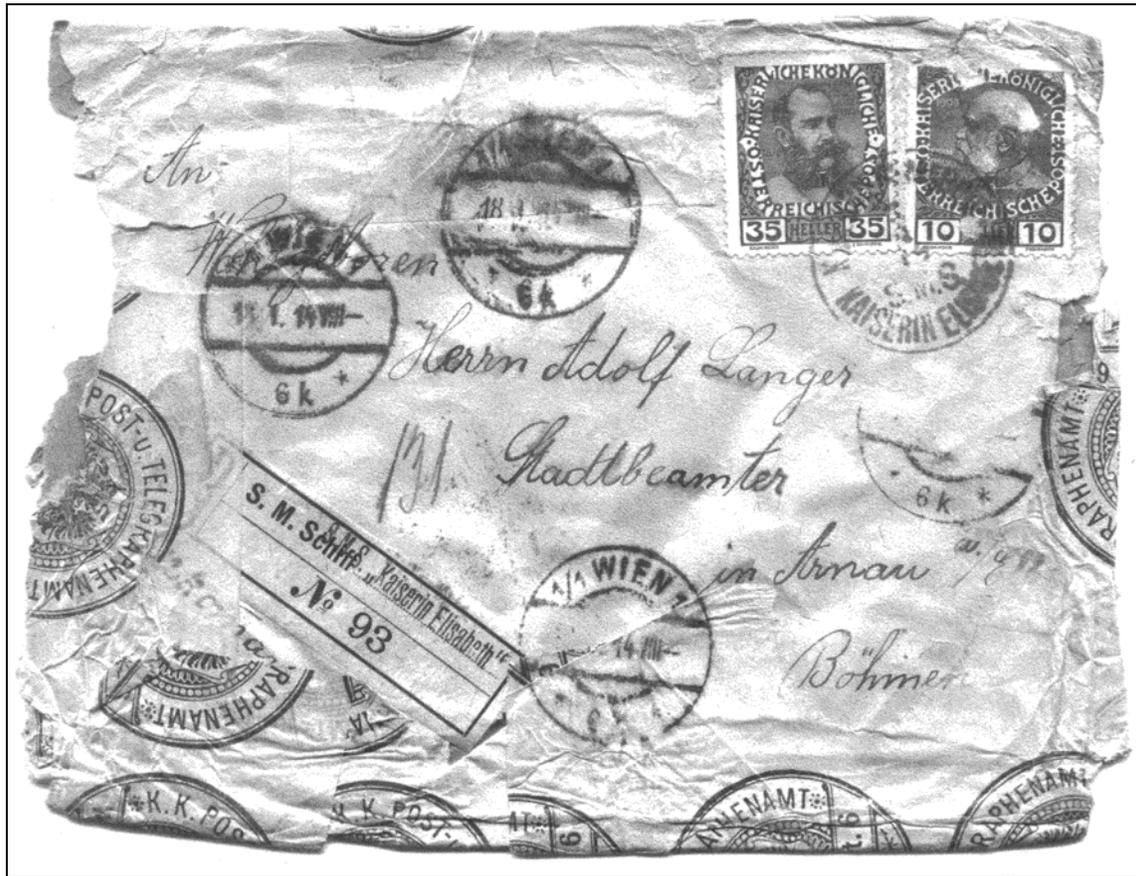


Fig. II-2 (above) Fancy postcard with straight line handstamp of the ship. Dropped in the letter box of the main Post Office of Nagasaki with dated postmark: NAGASAKI/10-03-14/JAPAN cancelling the Japanese stamp.



Fig II-3 (above) Registered letter franked with 35 filler stamps, cancelled with the postmark of the ship on 22-4-14 when at Yokohama. Yellow registration label with straight line service handstamp of the ship's name. Arrival postmark at Budapest "914 Maj 9" [ie 9 May 1914]



Fig. II - 4 (above) Double weight letter franked with a 20 filler stamp cancelled with the ship's postmark on 6-4-14 when at Kobe. On reverse, arrival postmark at Zagreb on 23 Apr 1914. Re-directed to Glina with a gummed label.

II - 5 SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth at Tsingtao: 22 July to 3 November 1914

On 29th June, when the warship was at sea for artillery training, a telegram informed the officers that the Heir to the Throne, Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand, had been murdered at Sarajevo. The warship immediately returned to Chefoo. Waiting for orders, during July, she went several times to sea to perform artillery trials.

On 21st July, she received the order to proceed to the roadstead of Tsingtao where she arrived on 22nd July. On 28th July, the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia. When this information was received, SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth was prepared for action. The 28 sailors who had strengthened the guard detachments at Peking and Tientsin were recalled by telegram on 29th July.



Fig. II - 5 (above) Express letter franked with 63 Filler stamps, cancelled with ship postmark on 3-7-14. At this date, she was at Chefoo waiting for orders following the murder of Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand.

On 1st August, orders arrived from Wien to send back 3 officers to Europe. The same day, Germany declared war on Russia. On the 3rd and 5th of August, France and UK declared war on Germany. On the 11th and 13th of August, France and UK declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire. On 23rd August, Japan sent an ultimatum to Germany to release to Japan all her overseas possessions in China and the Pacific Ocean.

On 24th August, an unsigned message from Shanghai gave the order to lay up SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth and send the crew and officers to Tientsin. Only 2 officers, 4 leading seamen and 12 hands had to remain on board. On request, this surprising message was confirmed by Berlin.

On 25th August, a state of war between Japan and Germany/Austro-Hungarian Empire became effective. On 26th August, a message from Tientsin reminded that all the sailors were there. Half an hour later, a message from Vienna pointed out that the German and Austro-Hungarians had to fight "shoulder to shoulder" - this was taken to imply that all the sailors had to return from Tientsin to Tsingtao. In the meantime, the Chinese government had declared its neutrality and forbade the return of the sailors. The only possibility for the sailors was to return in small groups, dressed like civilians and when necessary bribing the collusion of Chinese authorities. On the 13th September, 6 officers, and 312 leading seamen and hands had reached Tsingtao. 2 officers and 92 hands remained in Peking and Tientsin. So, 10 officers and 328 leading seamen and hands came to be engaged in fighting.

On 2nd September, both 150mm guns of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth were removed and taken to operate in Battery XV manned by Austro-Hungarians. On 17th September, landing of Japanese and British troops commenced, taking over Kiautcheou, and the railway between Tsingtao and China was cut off. On 27th September, the Japanese and British offensive against Tsingtao started.

During the night of 2nd to 3rd of November, SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth was scuttled.

On 7th November 1914, the Tsingtao forces surrendered.

II - 6 Postal Services at and from Tsingtau

During this period, China was always neutral. This fact had had an important impact on the postal services allowed to the German and Austro-Hungarian military personnel in Tsingtao.

On 16th August, after the declaration of war on Germany and Austria-Hungary, information from the German post office in China pointed out that a post-free concession had been allowed to the garrison in Tsingtao, for letters up to 50 grams and postcards to the relatives of the military personnel in the Tsingtao area, and also for outgoing mail.

Mail had to have the indication "field-post letter" or "field-post-card", name, rank and, if possible, identification of the sender's unit. Printed field-post cards were sold at the counter of the German PO in Tsingtao. The post-free concession included the sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth. It was, for them, the only possible way to exchange mail with the 94 sailors remaining in Peking and Tientsin and also with Europe through the German post agencies. Up to now, such items have not been seen for the Austro-Hungarian forces.

On 25th August, a parcel service between China and Tsingtao was set up; but on 19th September Tsingtao became encircled, and postal traffic with China became impossible.

II - 7 Postal traffic through the German post, between China and Europe, during WWI

Communications were maintained, up to 18th September 1914, through the railway line Tsingtao - Tientsin - Peking. In Tientsin and Peking, there were German post agencies, both dependencies of the German general post agency in Shanghai. Since 1903, the German post agencies in Tientsin and Peking had been responsible for dispatching and receiving the dépêches from and to the Austro-Hungarian guard detachments and also mail from Austro-Hungarian ships calling at Taku.

At the outbreak of WWI, the Trans-Siberian line was cut off, the Japanese became an enemy, but China remained a neutral country. To enable the dispatch of the Austro-Hungarian and German *dépêches* for Europe, the German post office in Shanghai used two seamail routes, the choice of which depended on the opportunities: the route Shanghai - Brindisi/Naples (Italy being a neutral state and having a common frontier with Austria); and the route Shanghai - USA - Amsterdam (the Netherlands was also a neutral state with a common frontier with Germany).

The method used by the German post office was to put the *dépêches* inside a double packaging; on the external package was written the address of the general post office at Brindisi/Naples or Amsterdam, depending on the route selected.

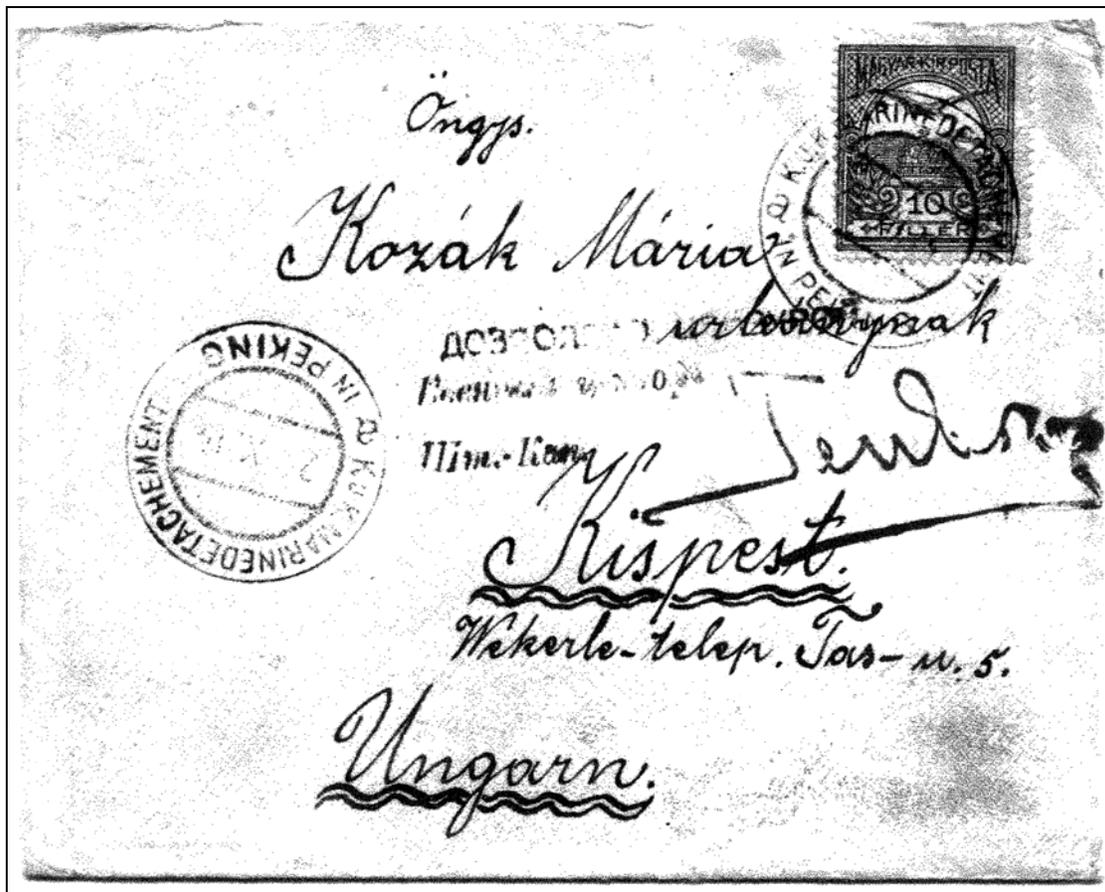


Fig. II - 6 (front) Envelope from the guard detachment in Tientsin, franked with a 10 Filler stamp, cancelled at the K.u.K. Marinedetachment in Peking on 27-07-1914. The delay suggest that this letter was returned to Peking by the Russians following the cut-off of the Trans-Siberian railway line (red two-line Russian handstamp). Re-directed by the Austrian PO at Peking to Shanghai on the 22-X-14. The letter reached Europe through the neutral countries. Arrival postmark at Kispet on "914 Dec. 18". Opened at the neutral PO; on the internal package was written the address of the Austrian PO: Wien 76.



Fig. II - 6 (back)

This method was successfully used for the Italian route, up to the declaration of war by Italy on the Central Powers on 15th May 1915; and for the American route, up to the declaration of war by China on the Central Powers on 15th August 1917.

Items suitable for a collection include letters and postcards from the Austro-Hungarian detachments sent to Europe up to March 1917, and also receipts of the German agencies for payment of the fees incurred.

Concerning mail from the sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in Tsingtao, we can envisage three periods:

- ❖ From 22nd July to 13th August, mail from the sailors for Europe was sent to Tientsin and included in the *dépêches* of the detachments.
- ❖ Starting on 14th August, in the state of war, the sailors had the postal free concession and, normally, used the field-post cards. Up to 17th September, the Austro-Hungarian mail was certainly sent together with the German mail to Tientsin, where the *dépêches* were set up and forwarded to Shanghai.

- ❖ Starting on 18th September, Tsingtao was completely encircled by the British and Japanese forces. Mail could be no longer dispatched.

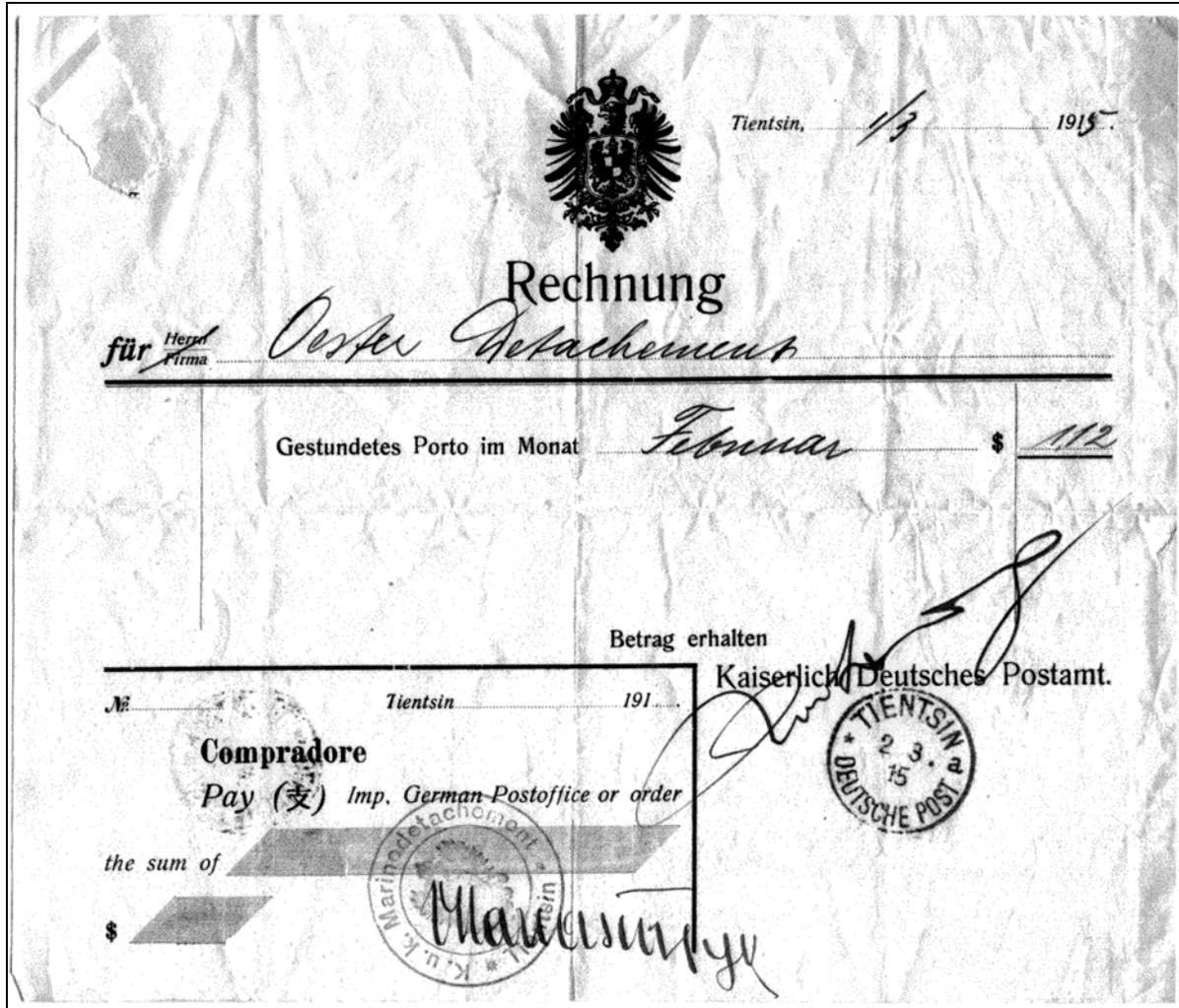


Fig. II - 7 Receipt from the German postal-agency at Tientsin for Austrian mail handled during the month of March 1915. Postmark of the German agency and red circular handstamp of the Austrian guard detachment in Tientsin.

From the Archives...

Your editor recently discovered that there was a supplementary page for 'Austria' issue 21 (July 1971): page 12a, between 12 and 13 in Andor de Dáni's article "An Introduction to the History and Philately of Hungary". Here it is.

headed an uprising against the Austrians, and fought many desperate though losing battles. It was in his time that a certain well known ballad was written which started significantly with the line: "Don't you Hungarians trust the Germans!" - a piece of advice which unfortunately was not remembered in 1940.

In a session of the Hungarian parliament of 1712-1715, the Lower House, sitting at that time in Pozsony, which is perhaps today more familiarly known as Bratislava, was made to vote for the so-called "Pragmatic a Sanctio", a document securing the Hungarian throne to the Habsburgs, even in the event of their male line of descent becoming extinct. It is an interesting sidelight on history, that the text of this document, published in Vienna and declared as legally binding, is believed to differ from that contained in the records of the Hungarian parliament.

We now enter the period of darkest absolutism in Europe. The Empress Maria Theresia started large settlements of all kinds of non-Hungarian elements in Hungary. All the Germans, who even if not in overwhelming numbers, but still in groups sufficiently large for external exploitation, and still living in Hungary and Transylvania were settled there during her reign. Her son, Joseph II did not even find it necessary to have himself crowned with the Hungarian crown, a custom which up to then had been quite strictly observed.

His successors, Emperors Leopold II and Franz I made things even worse, and when the young Francis Joseph succeeded to the throne, the situation in Hungary had once more become quite intolerable. In 1848 the big fight for independence started under the leadership of Lajos Kossuth. Fired by the patriotic poems of the young genius Sandar Petofi, who was later to be killed in battle, the Hungarian uprising was at first victorious on all fronts, but was finally crushed when the Austrians called upon the Russian Czar for help. He sent an army to aid the Austrians, as he could not bear the idea of any revolution to be successful. Kossuth fled from the country. In another explanation for the tilt of the cross on the Hungarian crown, it is claimed that Kossuth tried to take the crown to London, but he did not manage to get it across the frontier and buried it near Orsova, when the damage is said to have occurred. Kossuth

<There was an illustration: Hungarian stamp SG779>