

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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Editorial 144

By Andy Taylor

The "Tirol 2003 Philatelistischer Salon" was held by Innsbruck Merkur on September 5-7; APS members exhibited a total of 37 frames (plus 'Austria') and three attended the event, including your Editor. It even featured in "What's On" produced monthly by the Innsbruck Tourist office, and on Radio Tirol!

The APS annual Fest was quite literally sent to Coventry - a major plumbing catastrophe caused our booking to be transferred there from Leamington Spa!

Congratulations to (a) Sal Rizza, who won a Silver medal at the Pacific International Philatelic Exhibition for a seven frame exhibit on Znaim/Znojmo; (b) those who exhibited at Innsbruck, whose awards are detailed on a later page.

We thank the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain for providing us with the early editions of "Czechout" - our library now has a complete run of this publication, including the indexes.

A reminder to most members - the Auction exists to sell your material, and will in general realise higher prices than any other sales route! Also, it's available to ALL members not just those living in the UK. The Auctioneer would be delighted to hear from you.

All those mint Schilling stamps you've been hoarding... you have until 19th December to take or send them to Wien Gaspasse 9 (behind Westbahnhof) if you want them exchanged into Eurostamps. Details from me...

Paraphrasing the Austrian Post Office's Letter of 23 September: *"The new management at the Philately Department released a number of thematic stamps at short notice this year. Such orders placed with the Austrian state printers are usually not completed on time. The processing of the subscription mailings also*



takes time, and for this reason we have not always managed to deliver punctually. As a means of thanking you for your custom, we enclose the Subscriber loyalty gift 2003. The 'mint supplementary stamps without value imprint' were selected at the request of many of our subscribers. In 2002, two designs of these stamps were in use at post office counters; they were only intended for internal use and were not to be sold without a value being

entered. Despite this a number of these supplementary stamps found their way to the market in mint condition through unknown channels, and the result was annoyance among collectors. As of June 1, 2003 these 'supplementary stamps without value imprint' were declared invalid and withdrawn from post offices."

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Philatelistischen Salon Tirol 2003

By Joyce & Tony Boyer and Andy Taylor.

Nil illigiti carborundum... we completed our respective trips despite the travel industry's best efforts! There is no easy way to reach Innsbruck from the UK - the least difficult way turned out to be a package holiday, even with the many irritating post-booking changes to our different schedules. The locals suggested that flying to Munich then taking a train was also viable; but as the Karwendelbahn is being rebuilt much of that journey would have been on a big red bus. The charter flight accepted 5kg of hand luggage (120 sheets) each, much to our surprise and relief! We stayed in Igls, in a hotel most of whose clients were French OAPs who got up with the coq and retired with the pudding. However, we were in Austria, there were trams to travel on, and we were overwhelmed with philatelic friendship.

Philatelic proceedings began on Thursday afternoon, so we fortified ourselves with lunch in the Weißes Rößl in Innsbruck's Altstadt before taking the trolley bus to the Kolpinghaus. We were relieved to find that the frames were already erected, and extremely pleased that our friends in the PhKMI (the Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck, with which the APS has a Partnership agreement) had already mounted all the exhibits brought over in the summer. It wasn't too difficult to mount the remainder - and once we'd been shown how to use the plastic clips it was easy. The frames were interesting: they are about 1m square, backed with white-painted perforated hardboard; the clips fit into any of the holes, so sheets of any size can be mounted, and a display can have mixed size sheets up to frame-size. With Perspex doors, they are light to handle - indeed the only improvement we could suggest was that all the locks should have used the same key.



Andy speaking: Hans Moser (the organiser) looks on apprehensively.

On Friday we arrived 40 minutes early for the opening ceremony, only to discover that it had just started. Andy scarcely had time to turn on his camera when he was called upon to deliver the Formal APS Greeting to their Partners! He explained how pleased we were to be able to join in the Salon, both as exhibitors and visitors, and he hoped the many visitors would be interested in our displays. Speeches from other political and philatelic personalities were followed by the official opening of the Exhibition, whereupon everybody rapidly adjourned to the free buffet kindly provided by

the Innsbruck Postal Directorate. In the afternoon, Radio Tirol did a live "road show" from the event - Andy tried but failed to get himself interviewed.

The main displays occupied 200 12-sheet frames. The small but impressive Court of Honour and Youth displays included letters from (and signed by) Kaiser Maximilian and Andreas Hofer; and three Youth entries including "Animals of my Homeland" (pictured below) by 11-year-old Stefanie Egger. The Klubmeisterschaft competition had 35 entries, mostly 1 frame, and the literature class had 9 entries including 'Austria'. A full list of the displays is in the Salon Guide, a copy of which is in the library & can be borrowed in the usual way. Hans Smith's display drew many admiring remarks even while we were putting it up.



A Festschrift "75 Jahre Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck" was produced for the event, and has been added to the APS library as item 380. Its 120 pages include Formal Greetings; history of links between PhKMI and (a) Societa Filatelica Trentina (b) Austrian Philatelic Society [*with articles by J Boyer & A Taylor*]; 75 years of the PhKMI (H Moser); Censorship in Innsbruck 1914-18 (O Schilling); the Illyrian provinces and the post in Osttirol & Oberkärnten (K Schöpfer); the Innsbruck Post-Direktion in today's North Tirol (H Jungwirth

& K Klieber); Airmail to & from Austria 1945-6 (H Seebald). The articles will repay careful study! Joyce has a copy for sale at £13, and may be able to obtain a few more at €20 including postage.

Also, each day saw the arrival of many PhKMI members, plus one dealer, Tyrol-Phila (whose owner & staff are also members) bringing as is normal at all their meetings many desirable items to sell... temptation was not resisted. Meanwhile the Jury were at work; we took the opportunity to have an informal discussion on how our entries might more closely meet modern Austrian practice - which differs considerably from British! What we think we were told is discussed below. In addition, a Symposium had been arranged with five sessions on different aspects of the post in the Balkans and Levant.

On the Saturday evening, the formal Festessen was held in the Gasthof Kranebitten - the menu, of course, had a commemorative cancel on a 4 cent stamp! As is customary the first 90 minutes were occupied by exchanges of congratulations and the Salon's presentation of prizes and certificates. Andy's second speech congratulated the Klub and especially the organisers on a good show. He mentioned the diverse and interesting displays they had, and recalling the Chester 2002 event where Klub members had two items in the literature class presented medals to Karl Ploner for his Tiroler Werbestempel and Hans Moser for his Festschrift -100 Jahre Innsbrucker Philatelistische Vereine. A list of the British entries and awards is below. Joyce collected the certificates for those members who did not visit Innsbruck, and had great pleasure in presenting them after the APS dinner on the Saturday evening at Covenfest where a formal photo of all the entrants, with their certificates, was taken by Tony and appears elsewhere.

On Sunday, an outing had been arranged to the new Bergisl ski jump tower - an impressive construction, although the jumper's view of the Wilten cemetery is still unimpeded. Time to immortalise the Philatelic Partnership in a farewell photo: from the left Hans Moser; Tony & Joyce Boyer; Dorothea Haslauer; Andy Taylor; Johannes Haslauer. To mark the APS visit, a copy of Dalmatia, suitably inscribed by the President of the APS, is on its way to the Library of the PhKMI.

The exhibition closed at 1pm, and the displays vanished surprisingly rapidly, accompanied by raucous cries of "Schlüssel!" followed by the judicious application of a large screwdriver to recalcitrant frames. The final purchases were made and books bought for the Library and ourselves, and the APS entries taken back to Igls by tram with only a brief pause (well, brief compared with the age of the Universe) at the Igls station buffet for liquid refreshment taken outside in the sunshine for sustenance before the climb up the hill to the hotel.



We were all departing on Wednesday (Andy at 03:15), so on Monday Andy went to Kitzbühel to visit a newly-found philatelic friend. On Tuesday he went to Fulpmes on the Stubaitalbahn, while Joyce & Tony visited friends in Telfs to the West of Innsbruck, travelling (how else!) by train. Wednesday brought a novel complexity: loading two planes simultaneously through two gates. "Yes sir, you are in seat 15B, sir, but not on this aircraft!" At least we returned to the correct UK airport, though we suspect at least one Newcastle passenger ended up in Dublin, and Joyce & Tony enjoyed watching a Manchester-bound passenger being ejected from their Gatwick-bound aircraft.

Comparison of display requirements

Our notes on earning more Austrian brownie points, based primarily on an informal Jury view on our Kitzbühel and Airmail displays.

- ❖ Page 1 to be history, description etc of the theme of the display. A relevant cover may appear.
- ❖ Page 2 to be how you have shown this philatelically - can include (could consist only of?) a detailed contents list like 2 xxx - 2.1 yyy - 2.1.1 zzz
- ❖ Remaining pages repeat or possibly expand the text of the contents list.
- ❖ Include whenever possible detailed calculations and explanations of the franking; ensure the item isn't under- or over-franked, wherever possible displaying only correctly franked commercial covers. Genuine postally used high frankings earn more points than the standard basic charged covers.
- ❖ If displaying postal stationary (overprinted or otherwise), postally used items are preferable to mint items. All items must however be of the same condition - a mix of mint and used must be avoided at all costs. The point was made that mint examples are more easily obtained, hence the desirability of cancelled cards, even though any overprint may thereby be obscured.
- ❖ Two-of-the-same is if anything slightly *less* mark-earning than one on its own. Pick the best and sell the rest?
- ❖ For each item, ask yourself "what does it add to the theme of the display as set out on page 2?". If the answer is Not A Lot, omit it.
- ❖ Separate stamps detract from the same stamps used on a cover. Avoid mint stamps.
- ❖ Check your spelling - judges love picking nits.
- ❖ Finally, look to display a mix of covers used commercially wherever possible, and with more than the basic rate correctly paid, rather than First Day, First Flight, or other purely philatelic items.

It seemed to us that the marking was harder than in the UK, but the grade boundaries were lower - so, ignoring the page 1 & 2 differences, an entry would earn a similar medal in both countries. The Austrian mark-medal scale is:

Rang	Gold	GV	V	GS	S	SB	B	U
I	85	80	75	70	65	60	50	less
II	80		70		60	55	45	less
III	75		65		55	50	40	less



The Jury has decided: UK Results



Berrisford A A	Poland, Krakow provisional postal stationery 1919	3/III: 65%: Vermeil
Boyer J	Austrian Airmail 1918-1938	4/III: 65%: Vermeil
Richardson G M	Slogan cancellations of Austria 1938-45	4/III: 59%: Silver
Richardson G M	Postal Stationery	4/III: 65%: Vermeil
Smith H	Habsburg friends & foes	8/II: 81%: Gold; Best Postal History in Salon
Taylor A	Newspaper post stamps	4/III: 52%: Silver-bronze
Taylor A	Heimatsammlung Kitzbühel	6/III: 59%: Silver
Taylor A (Editor)	'Austria', 2002 issues	(4)/II: 60%: Silver
Tobitt C	Vienna Censorship 1946-53	4/III: 73%: Vermeil
Tranmer K	Kaiserjäger	3/III: Silver
White H G	Costumes series: the effect of inflation	4/III: 63%: Silver

In the third column, "4/III: 52%" means "4 frames, Rang III: 52 marks out of a possible 100". Rough UK equivalents: Rang III = Area; Rang II = National; Rang I = International

APS member Richard Kruger also won praise for his two books in the Literature class: "US Military Postal Facilities (APOs) Operating in Austria 1945-1955" and "Censorship of the Civil Mails in Occupied Austria 1945-1953".

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The Pneumatic Post in Vienna - part 2

By Colin Tobitt & Andy Taylor

Firstly, while pages 16-18 of Part 1 (Austria 143) drew heavily on the researches of the late John Fluck, the acknowledgements on page 38 omitted to say so; neither did they thank Mrs. Fluck for allowing all his papers including a complete reproduction of his exhibit to be reproduced and sent for our use. We gladly and gratefully acknowledge his contribution and her assistance.

Post-1930 Operations

During the Anschließ period, the pneumatic system continued its normal operations but with tariff changes which will be explained in a later instalment. From 1943 (as the official history of the City of Vienna reminds us) Vienna suffered repeated Allied bombing, and when Vienna fell to the Russians on 13th April 1945 fighting was going on in the very heart of the city. Within days of the end of the fighting, in April 1945, a provisional city government was constituted. The situation was far from encouraging: in the urban area, more than 3,000 bomb craters were counted, many bridges were in shambles, sewers, gas and water pipes had suffered severe damage ⁽¹⁾. The immediate post-war imperative was to get the city back into some degree of working order.

The political context was no less complicated, the Allied Occupation Forces often withholding approval for necessary work "just because they could". Although the postal system re-opened progressively from May 2nd 1945 with the introduction of the overprinted stamps and the opening of Post Offices, the pneumatic pipe-work under the streets had been disrupted by the bombing. A skeletal pneumatic service began on 23 July, and by 20 September most of the rest was functional.

⁽²⁾ Beginning on 2 January 1946, international mail was permitted (except to and from Germany and Japan, which was not authorised until late March). Such mail originating from Vienna was censored in Vienna at I Wien 1. Beginning about 20 March 1946, domestic mail originating in Vienna was censored also; however mail from Vienna to Vienna was never censored. The censorship facility at I Wien 1 was an "Allied" facility, jointly staffed and operated by all of the Occupying Powers; however it applied the rules and procedures implemented by the Soviet authorities in their surrounding Occupation Zone.

¹ See the map on pp 538-9 of "The Book of Austria" by Marboe (APS lib 32).

² This para is adapted from comments by Richard Kruger, author of "Censorship of the Civil Mails in Occupied Austria 1945-1953"

Once these difficulties had been overcome, there were only on average 8 blockages per year, and at the end 2308 trains were run daily. Inevitably the arrival of the telephone took away much of the custom from the Pneumatic Post, although the growth of air mail correspondence from the 1930s enhanced the value of Pneumatic Post between the city offices and the Airmail collection point, from which the mail was taken by road to the airport. However, the Pneumatic Post's other function, of expediting telegrams to the Central Telegraph Office, became of less importance as the use of telegrams declined. As an example, in 1910 the traffic was 8.32M (million) items including 4.85M telegrams, 1.18M letters & 1.99M cards. By 1955 this had dwindled to 3.77M items comprising 0.97M telegrams, 1.77M express letters and 1.03M airmails. Eventually the economics of maintaining the Vienna Pneumatic Post system in post war conditions led the authorities to close it down in 1956.

The last train

The 2nd April 1956 was Easter Monday, and the pneumatic system "received a rotten Easter Egg". At 13:25, the last pneumatic train ran from Post Office 129 (Webergasse 14, Vienna 20) at around 13:25 to the Central Telegraph Office (Börseplatz 1, Vienna 1). It arrived there three minutes later and rang the familiar arrival bell, to find for the first and last time the station full of decorations, red-white-red streamers and honoured guests. Souvenir mail was taken from the cans and speedily delivered. There only remained the dismantling of the now unnecessary 28 pneumatic offices, 59km operational pipe and 11½km service pipe. A Special Delivery service in the Viennese area started immediately, using Lambretta three-wheelers or small cars (eg VW Beetle), which did have the advantage that small express packets could be carried.

This event was noted rather abruptly in the *Die Briefmarke* issue of May 1956, page 235: "*Die Wiener Rohrpost hat ihren Betrieb eingestellt. Mit dem letzten Rohrpostzug am 2. April 1956 sandte Ing. Turner noch dem Postmuseum eine letzten Gruß.*" - "The Viennese Pneumatic Post has ceased operation. With the last train on 2 April 1956, Ing. Turner sent the Post-museum a final greeting."

Pneumatic Postage Rates

The charges up to April 1938 are well-defined; but it is proving unexpectedly difficult to reconcile the regulations and the available examples for subsequent years! Further work is required; we hope to complete it for the next issue.

Pneumatic Stationery - overview

Special stationery was issued for the Pneumatic Post - letter sheets (1.3.1875), envelopes (1.3.1875), post cards (1.8.1879), and letter cards (2.10.1887). The envelopes had to be thinner than for normal mail, since the weight of a pneumatic item was not permitted to exceed 10 grams. As the catalogues do not give validity dates after 1900; the date of change to Schilling currency, ie 1925, has been used for the end of heller-denominated items.

Faltbriefbogen - letter sheets

1873 telegraph-stamp imprint:	20 kreuzer blue, printed "PNEUMATISCHER BRIEF / an"; validity 1 March 1875 to 31 October 1884
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Briefkuverts - envelopes

1873 telegraph-stamp imprint:	20 kreuzer blue, printed "PNEUMATISCHER BRIEF an"; validity 1 March 1875 to 31 October 1884
	20 kreuzer blue. Printed "BRIEF zur pneumatischen Expressbeförderung" and other changes in text; validity 1 July 1880 to 31 October 1884
1883 postage stamp imprint	20 kreuzer grey; validity September 1883 to 1887
	15 kreuzer grey; validity 1887 to 30 June 1891
1890 postage stamp imprint	15 kreuzer rotlila; validity 1 September 1890 to 30 September 1900
1900 postage stamp imprint	30 heller rotlila, 1900-1925
	45 heller orange-brown, 1907-1925
"Old F.J." Jubilee imprint of 1908	45 heller olive-brown, 1908-1925

Korrespondenzkarten - postcards

1867 postage stamp imprint	10 kreuzer blue, with list of 10 pneumatic stations; validity 1 August 1879 to 31 October 1884
	Doppelkarte with paid answer; twice 10 kreuzer blue; validity 1 July 1880 to 31 October 1884
	10 kreuzer blue, with changed printing and list of 17, later 27, offices; validity 1880 to 31 October 1884

1883 postage stamp imprint	10 kreuzer blue, with list of 30, later 31, even later no offices; validity September 1883 to 30 June 1891.
	Doppelkarte with paid answer, twice 10 kreuzer blue; validity 1 November 1884 to 30 June 1891.
1890 postage stamp imprint	10 kreuzer blue; validity 1 September 1890 to 30 September 1900.
	Doppelkarte with paid answer, twice 10 kreuzer blue; validity 1 September 1890 to 30 September 1900.
1900 postage stamp imprint	20 heller brown, 1900-1925
	Doppelkarte with paid answer, twice 20 heller brown
	25 heller brown, 1907-1925
	Doppelkarte with paid answer, twice 25 heller brown
"Old F.J." Jubilee imprint of 1908	25 heller blue, 1908-1925
	Doppelkarte with paid answer, twice 25 heller blue
Arms imprint	38 heller red, 1916-1925
	70 heller grey, 1918-1925
	85 heller grey, 1920-1925
	25 Kronen grey, 1922-1925

Kartenbriefe - letter cards

1883 postage stamp imprint	15 kreuzer grey; validity 2 October 1887 to 30 June 1891.
1890 postage stamp imprint	15 kreuzer rotlila; validity 1 September 1890 to 30 September 1900.
1900 postage stamp imprint	30 heller red, 1900-1925
	35 heller green, 1907-1925
"Old F.J." Jubilee imprint of 1908	35 heller blue, 1908-1925
Arms imprint	45 heller blue, 1917-1925
	80 heller brown-red, 1918-1925
	1 Krone blue, 1920-1925
	2 Kronen blue, 1921-1925
	27½ Kronen grey, 1922-1925

Pneumatic Post Stationery

To facilitate the use of the Rohrpost, customers could purchase at each station "pneumatic letter" forms which already bore the impression of a 20Kr Telegraph Stamp, the required fee. The post also accepted individually prepared letters, provided they had the Telegraph stamp applied and did not overstep the weight limit. Confirmation of delivery by a "Rezepiss" cost 5Kr extra.

Special postal stationery was issued for the Vienna Pneumatic Post system and a full list of all the sheets, envelopes, postcards and letter cards is given below. A study of this material illustrates the way in which in the early days of the Pneumatic Post a quite complex clerical system was gradually simplified. In 1875, special letter sheets and envelopes were the first items of stationery to appear. These bear the imprint of the then current 20kr telegraph stamp, thus indicating the link between the Pneumatic Post and the Telegraph service. The letter sheets carried the following information:

"Pneumatic letters can be accepted at all Pneumatic Post stations for addresses within the area of the City of Vienna. / The fees for the despatch of such letters will be 20kr. This achieved by the purchase of stamped blank sheets or stamped envelopes and does not depend upon the number of words in the letter. / Despatch takes place between 8am and 10pm at quarter hourly intervals through the medium of stations which are connected by pneumatic tube. From these stations further despatch then takes place by special messengers. // Letters should not exceed a maximum weight of 10 grams and the format laid down for official printed matter. Such letters should not contain rigid or breakable enclosures and should not be sealed with sealing wax. The closure of the letter should always be by means of a thin seal or the adhesive edges to the flap. / Acknowledgement of the receipt of letters through the Pneumatic Post will be given upon request against payment of a further fee of 5kr"

As well as these extensive instructions, the face of the letter sheet or envelope had space for entering manually the letter's serial number and the numbers of the despatching and receiving stations, together with the hour and minute time of receipt at each station. Apparently most of these details had also to be recorded in registers at the Pneumatic Post stations so that once the system had got into its stride, it is not difficult to picture the harassed Pneumatic Post officials, subject to large fines should they commit an error or fail to record an action in the numerous ledgers, slowly coping with a pile of mail at the counter as an avalanche of containers arrived through the tubes! Their only consolation was the much-sought status of "Beamte" and the guaranteed retirement pension.

Zur Nachricht.

Pneumatische Briefe können bei jeder pneumatischen Station für Adressen innerhalb des Reichbildes der Stadt Wien aufgegeben werden.

Die Beförderungsgebühr von 20 kr. ö. W. ist bei der Aufgabe durch den Ankauf eines gestempelten Couvertes oder eines gestempelten Blanquetes zu entrichten, und ist von der Wortzahl des Briefes unabhängig.

Die Beförderung erfolgt in den Stunden zwischen 8 Uhr Vormittags und 10 Uhr Abends in viertelstündigen Zwischenräumen vermittelt der die Stationen verbindenden pneumatischen Röhren, von hier ab weiter durch besondere Boten.

Telegraphen-Drucksorte Nr. 61.

N^o.....

PNEUMATISCHER BRIEF

an

Die Briefe dürfen das Maximumgewicht von zehn Grammen und das Format der für sie bestimmten amtlichen Drucksorten nicht übersteigen, keine steifen oder zerbrechlichen Einlagen enthalten und nicht mit Siegellaek verschlossen sein. Der Verschluss ist stets nur durch dünne Siegelmarken oder durch Zukleben der gummirten Ränder des Couvertes herzustellen.

Empfangsbestätigungen über pneumatische Briefe werden dem Aufgeber auf sein Verlangen gegen Ertrag einer weiteren Gebühr von 5 kr. ausfolgt.

Aufgegeben bei der Station um Uhr Min.
Eingelangt bei der Station um Uhr Min.





Reply-paid cards were brought into use in 1880. These were the normal postcard with a pre-stamped reply section attached and carried the inscription "The messenger is allowed to wait 5 minutes for the answer". The first two Pneumatic Post cards to appear, incidentally, were inscribed "delivery is free" - which has been interpreted by some writers as indicating that the Pneumatic Post messengers were not averse to seeking tips.

Letter cards first appeared in 1883; they were charged the same rate as envelopes, but were easier to use and had the advantage that the postman couldn't read your message!



Provision for the sequential numbering of Pneumatic Mail continued for many years although examination of used Pneumatic Post material shows that the numbers were not always entered in the space provided. In 1888 the practice of listing the Pneumatic Post stations (which had increased to more than 30 by this time) on the face of the stationery was discontinued. Over this period the wording on the stationery became more simplified, and no inscription at all appeared on the new material introduced in 1907 following a tariff change.

The colour of the paper or card used for the Pneumatic Post stationery were brought into line in 1908 (when the stamp design of the jubilee issue showing the Emperor was introduced), and from this date onwards all Pneumatic Post stationery was coloured pink, thus providing a colour linkage with the red letter-boxes used for the Pneumatic Post.

The 'Ascher' listings.

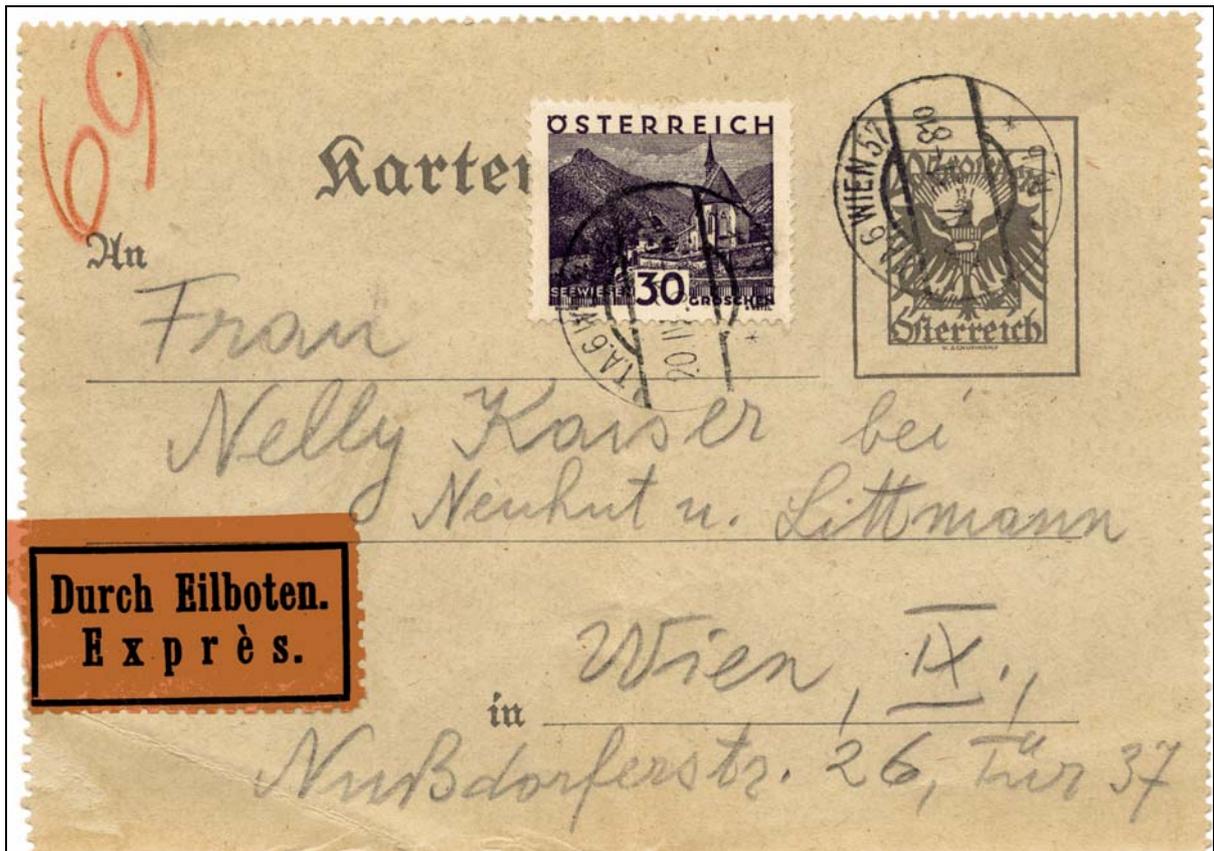
The most useful and extensive listing of Pneumatic Post stationery is that provided by Dr Ascher's "Grosser Ganzsachen-Katalog" (Berlin 1928). All the various types of specially printed envelopes, letter cards and postcards are described in some detail though he does not deal with the flap variations on the envelopes or perforation varieties on the letter cards. So long as it was adequately prepaid, ordinary postal stationery could be sent by the Pneumatic Post, and such items - not included in the Ascher catalogue, and not listed here - are much sought after. [In the Schilling period, there was no Pneumatic Post stationery and ordinary items were used.]



Above: 10H lettercard, uprated with 2x10H adhesives to 30H, the pneumatic letter rate in 1904 when it was posted.

Below top: ordinary envelope with 80H total franking, the pneumatic letter rate in 1919.

Below bottom: When the Schilling currency was introduced, no special stationery was produced for the Pneumatic Post. This 20 Gro letter card has been uprated with 30 Gro adhesive making 50 Gro total. Although the rate had gone up to 54 Gro on 1.9.1932 while this was posted in 1934, there is no postage due charged. Perhaps it was taken as the express fee of 30 Gro added to a standard letter card.



Abbreviations used in tables:

"**Ash**" is the 1928 Asher catalogue (APS Library 1B) which as far as pneumatic items goes is identical to the 1977 supplement (APL Lib 55). See from page 871.

"**Fer**" is the 6th (2000) edition of the Ferchenbauer catalogue (APS Library 41B) which has few changes to the 5th edition.

"**Mi**" is the Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Europa West 2000/01 (APS Lib 355). Prefixing the number are the letters RU for Rohrpost-Umschläge; RK for Rohrpost-Kartenbriefe; or RP for Rohrpost-Postkarten. The order of the catalogue is that of the imprinted stamp design!

"**Sch**" is the Schneiderbauer catalogue (APS Library 56), second edition, with the 1988 supplement incorporated (there are very few changes from the 1st edition). A table appended to this gives equivalences for obsolete issues of Ferchenbauer (1981) and the Michel Ganzsachen-Europa (1978) catalogues.

"**Col**" is colours: B=Blue; Bk=Black; Br=Brown; G=Grey; Gn=Green; GB=Green-Blue; O=Orange; P=Pink; W=White; Y=Yellow; R=Red. Combinations such as GB or GGn indicate intermediate colours and could have been written BG or GnG respectively.

"**Des**" is the imprinted stamp designs: Tel=1873 Telegraph; EA=Eagle Arms; EFL=Emperor facing left; Jub=Emperor's 1908 Jubilee; Als=Arms (large shield); Ass=Arms (small shield); Asq=Arms (square format); EFR=Emperor facing right

"**Ins Col**" is the colour of the inscription. "**Perf**": 'C' is Comb; 'L' is line

Note 1: all reprints, printings with supplementary imprints, & private printings have been ignored! See Schneiderbauer for their details. Private printings are listed from 1908.

Note 2: For Postcards Ash 14a & 14b, and Letter Cards Ash 2I & 2II, the catalogues give different colours; the entries in the table were determined by examining actual specimens.

Official Envelopes

Year	Ash	Fer	Mi RU	Sch	Stamp			Paper col	Ins Col	Comments
					Value	Col	Des			
1875	1	1	1	1	20Kr	B	Tel	W	Bk	Letter Sheet, 238x300mm
	2a	2A	2a	2	20Kr	B		W	Bk	Rounded flap without inscription
	2b		2b		20Kr	B		W	Bk	Straight flap without inscription
1881	3a	2Ba	3a	3a	20Kr	B	EA	W	Bk	Pointed flap with PO list; "Schönbrunn... 22"
	3b		3b		20Kr	B		W	Bk	Rounded flap with PO list; "Schönbrunn... 22"
	4	2Bb	4	3b	20Kr	B		W	Bk	POs listed on flap - Schönbrunn... 42"
1882	5	2C	5	4	20Kr	B	EA	W	Bk	Flap: "Amter für den..."
1883	6	3	6	5	20Kr	G		W	Bk	Flap: "Amter für den..."
1887	7	4A	7	6	15Kr	G		W	Bk	No information on flap.
1888	8	4B	8	7	15Kr	G	EFL	P	Bk	Info on flap.
1890	9	5A	9	8	15Kr	R		P	Bk	Info on flap.
1892	10	5B	10	9	15Kr	R		P	Bk	Info on front. Lower flap beneath side flaps
1894/ 1897	11a	---	11I	10a	15Kr	R	EFL	P	Bk	Ash11a: 10 or 11 dots after "No"; Ash11b: 17 dots. Lower flap over side flaps
	11b	---	11II	10b	15Kr	R		P	Bk	
1899	12	6	12	11	15Kr	R	EFL	P	Bk	Inscription in German & Czech - for Prague

Year	Ash	Fer	Mi RU	Sch	Stamp			Paper col	Ins Col	Comments
					Value	Col	Des			
1900/ 1902	See below!				30H	R	EFL	P	Bk	13a: For Vienna. Lower flap under side flaps
					30H	R		P	Bk	13b: For Vienna. Lower flap over side flaps
					30H	R		P	Bk	14a: For Prague. Lower flap under side flaps
					30H	R		P	Bk	14b: For Prague. Lower flap over side flaps
1904	16	7B	17	16	30H	R	P	R	"Absender" at top left: for Vienna.	
	17	8B	18	17	30H	R		R	"Absender" at top left: for Prague.	
1907	18	9	19	18	45H	O		---	No printed matter; for Vienna and Prague	
1908	19	10	20	19	45H	Br		Jub	---	Ornamental border in Brown

Note! The catalogued classification for 1900 & 1902 is as below. The Higgins and Gage list introduced further confusion by printing for 1900 'side flaps over bottom flap' and for 1902 'bottom flap under side flaps' (the same in anybody's language). For the Prague/Wien issue it has two listings for 1900 with both types of flap 'over' and 'under'. We have seen examples of all 4 types used from 1900 to 1904 (Prague is rather rare!), and propose the new classification listed above.

Year	Ash	Fer	Mi RU	Sch	Stamp			Paper col	Ins Col	Comments
					Value	Col	Des			
1900	13	7A	13	12	30H	R	EFL	P	Bk	For Vienna. Lower flap beneath side flaps
	14	8A	14	13	30H	R		P	Bk	For Prague. Lower flap beneath side flaps
1902	15	---	15	14	30H	R		P	Bk	For Vienna. Lower flap over side flaps
	---	---	16	15	30H	R		P	Bk	For Prague. Lower flap over side flaps

Official Letter Cards

Year	Ash	Fer	Mi RK	Sch	Stamp			Card colour		Perf	Ins col	Comments	
					Value	Col	Des	Out,	inside				
1887	1.I	1A	1	1	15Kr	G	EA	P	P	C	Bk	Mi also lists an unissued 20Kr value as RK1!	
	1.II				15Kr	G		P	P	L	Bk		
1889	2.I	1B	2	2	15Kr	G		P	G	C	Bk		
	2.II				15Kr	G		P	G	L	Bk		
1890	3.I	2A	3	3	15Kr	R		EFL	P	G	C	Bk	
	3.II				15Kr	R			P	G	L	Bk	
1892	4	2B	4	4	15Kr	R	P		G	C	Bk	Long S in "Sammelkasten"	
1893/ 1897	5aI	2C	5I	5a	15Kr	R	P		G	C	Bk	Short S; 10-11 dots after No	
	5aII				15Kr	R	P		G	L	Bk	Ditto; Ditto	
	5b		5II	5b	15Kr	R	P		G	L	Bk	22 dots after "No"	
1899	6	3	6	6	15Kr	R	P		G	L		No inscription (for Prague)	
1900	7	4s	7	7	30H	R	P		G	L	Bk	For Vienna	
	8	5s	8	8	30H	R	P		G	L	Bk	For Prague	
1904	9.I	4r	9	9	30H	R	P		G	C	R	'Absender' at top left	
	9.II				30H	R	P	G	L	R	'Absender' at top left; for Vi		
	10	5r	10	10	30H	R	P	G	L	R	'Absender' at top left for Pg		
1907	11.I	6	11	11	35H	Gn	P	G	C		No printed inscription		
	11.II				35H	Gn	P	G	L				

Year	Ash	Fer	Mi RK	Sch	Stamp			Card colour		Perf	Ins col	Comments
					Value	Col	Des	Out,	inside			
1908	12a	7	12a	12x	35H	B	Jub	P	YGn			
	12b		12b	12y	35H	B		P	GGn			
1917	13a	8b	13a	14x	45H	B	Als	OP	OP			Thin card (Sch has '1918')
	13b	8c	13b	14y	45H	B	Als	P	P			Thick card (Sch has '1918')
	13c	8a	13c	13	45H	B	Als	P	GGn			
1918	14	9	14	15	80H	R	Als	P	P			
1920	15	---	15	16	1Kr	B	Ass	P	P			
1921	16	---	16	17	2Kr	B	Als	P	P			
1922	17	---	17	18	27½Kr	B	Asq	P	P			

Official Postcards

Year	Asher	Fer	Mi RP	Sch	Stamp			Card col	Ins Col	Comments
					Value	Col	Des			
1879	1	1A	1	1	10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	10 stations; "Bezirk" on line 4
1880	2		2	2	10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	10 stations; "Bezirk" on line 3
	3a	1B	3I	3a	10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	12 stations. "Zieglergaffe"
	3b		3II	3b	10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	12 stations. "Zieglergasse"
	4	2B	4	4	10Kr+ 10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	12 stns. "Z-gaffe" on top, "gasse" on reply

Year	Asher	Fer	Mi RP	Sch	Stamp			Card col	Ins Col	Comments
					Value	Col	Des			
1881	5a	1C	5I	5a	10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	17 stations. Z-gasse "Schön... 22"
	5b		5II	5b	10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	17 stations. Z-gasse "Schön... 42"
	6	2C	6	6	10Kr+10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	17 stations. Z-gaffe "Schön... 42"
1883	7	1D	7	7	10Kr	B	EFR	B	B	27 stations.
	8	3A	8	8	10Kr	B	EA	B	B	30 stations. 4th last "Abgeordnetenhaus"
1884/ 1885	9aI	3B	9a	9a	10Kr	B	EA	B	B	31 stations, no "Abgeordnetenhaus". "Nibelungengasse". 12-15 dots after "No"
	9aII			9c	10Kr	B	EA	B	B	Ditto; 20-22 dots after "No"
	9bI		9b	9b	10Kr	B	EA	B	B	"Nibelungengasse". 12-15 dots after "No"
	9bII			9d	10Kr	B	EA	B	B	Ditto; 20-22 dots after "No"
	10a	4B	10a	10a	10Kr+10Kr	B	EA	B	B	"Nibelungengasse". 12-15 dots after "No"
	10b		10b	10b	10Kr+10Kr	B	EA	B	B	"Nibelungengasse". 12-15 dots after "No"
1888	11	3C	11	11	10Kr	B	EA	B	B	No stations listed.

Year	Asher	Fer	Mi RP	Sch	Stamp			Card col	Ins Col	Comments
					Value	Col	Des			
1890	12	5A	12	12	10Kr	GB	EFL	B	B	Ferch. has two colour varieties, a & b
	13	6A	13	13	10Kr+10Kr	B	EFL	B	B	
1892	14a	5Ba	14a	14A	10Kr	GB	EFL	GB	GB	"7" under "b" in 4th line (1892)
	14b	5Bb	14b	14B	10Kr	B	EFL	B	B	Ditto; (1893)
	14c		---		10Kr	B	EFL	B	B	"7" under "e" in 4th line (1894)
	15a	6Ba	15a	15A	10Kr+10Kr	GB	EFL	GB	GB	
	15b	6Bb	15b	15B	10Kr+10Kr	B	EFL	B	B	
1899	16	7	16	16	10Kr	B	EFL	B	B	Czech on left, German on right.
	17	8	17	17	10Kr+10Kr	B	EFL	B	B	Czech on left, German on right.
1900	18	9A	18	18	20H	Br	EFL	G	Bk	For Vienna
	19	11A	19	19	20H+20H	Br	EFL	G	Bk	For Vienna
	20	10A	20	20	20H	Br	EFL	G	Bk	For Prague
	21	12A	21	21	20H+20H	Br	EFL	G	Bk	For Prague

Year	Asher	Fer	Mi RP	Sch	Stamp			Card col	Ins Col	Comments
					Value	Col	Des			
1904	22	9B	22	22	20H	Br	EFL	G	Br	"Absender" at top left, for Vienna
	23	11B	23	23	20H+20H	Br	EFL	G	Br	"Absender" at top left, for Vienna
	24	10B	24	24	20H	Br	EFL	G	Br	German / Czech for Prague
	25	12B	25	25	20H+20H	Br	EFL	G	Br	German / Czech for Prague; Mi says unknown genuinely used.
1907	26	13A	26	26	25H	B	EFL	G		No printed inscription.
	27	14A	27	27	25H+25H	B	EFL	G		No printed inscription.
1908	28	13B	28	28	25H	B	EFL	G		Vertical line on address side.
	29	15	29	29	25H	B	Jub	P		Sch has 29A, 29B as colour variations
	30	16	30	30	25H+25H	B	Jub	P		
1916	31	17	31	31	38H	R	Als	P		
1918	32	18	32	32	70H	G	Als	P		
1920	33	---	33	33	85H	G	Ass	P		
1922	34	---	34	34	25Kr	B	Asq	P		

NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS EN ROUTE TO THE LIBRARY.

by Andy Taylor

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 7/2003: new Briefmarkenhändlerverband President; on the Anglicisation of the German language; new stamps, special cancels, meetings etc; postal history of Podersdorf; new Vorarlberg cancels catalogue; thematic: space; "Internet Christkindl Xmas Cards" for a mere 2€50; thematic: ships; etc.

Issue 8/2003: the philatelic climate is changing; first draft of 2004's new issues programme (including a FDC on 1 Jan!); personalised stamps?; postal history of Tulln; thematic: Mozart; Gmunden in 1945; Braunau; etc.

Issue 9/2003: new "one stop shop" locations; the Opost Sammler-Service; Air Mail 1946-49; VOePh president E. Bober is 70.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Militaria Austriaca Philatelia

Issue 207: On new issues & recent activities and material.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 63: Early use of the first postcard (sc. 30 Sep 1869; official first day 1st Oct); queries & answers; the Salzburg forgeries; 197-item auction list.

Czechout

Issue 3/2003: useful notes-from-pubs and book reviews; 3rd & final part on "German WWII censorship including reference to Viennese practice"; pneumatic mail in Vienna & Prague; etc

We thank the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain for providing us with the early editions of "Czechout" - our library now has a complete run of this publication, including the indexes.

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 154 September 2003: review of "additional franking on 1869 & 1971 Postal Stationery cards"; return-to-sender labels; and of course much of later Hungarian interest.

Südost Philatelie

Issue 81-2/2003 tabulated postal & other history of the former Yugoslavia, part 2; packet-cards & their cancels; literature for sale; book reviews; etc

Germania

Aug 2003 vol 39 no 3: June 1948 currency reform (Kleinwalsertal relevance?); local group reports; Q&A; letters; Siebenburgen/Transylvania.

Wiener Ganzsachen F u P-Verein.

Issue 3/2003: "The new 'Stohl' parts B-Z" (*which lists the contents but carefully conceals whether it has been published yet!*); information-requests; typos; WIEN 157; post-WWII airmails to Sweden.

Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale

Issue 123: (i) Distribution and use of Pontifical stamps in Bologna during the 1852-1859 period; (ii) Ladies letters in Italy in the mid-eighteen hundreds; (iii) Post routes from Bologna to the rest of Europe between 1500 and 1700; (iv) Postal arrangements in the Papal States: The Agreement with the North German Federation; (v) Thoughts on the introduction of the electric telegraph in Romagna in 1853-1859; (vi) The Papal railways in Romagna; (vii) Papal states postal history; (viii) Postal history snippets from the European Philatelic Press.

Issue 124: (i) The first issue of Thurn and Taxis; (ii) Cornello dei Tasso in Valle Brembana, the imperial postmasters' home town; (iii) The postal service of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis, descendants of the Tasso family, & the Agreement between the Austrian Government and the Directorate-General of Posts of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis of 30 January 1843; (iv) A brief description (with a detailed map: Vienna, 1850) of the Treaty and facilitated postal traffic between the Italian states and Northern Europe by transiting Vienna. [In particular, the article explains some of the more obscure rates appearing on letters of the period passing through Austrian territory. The full text of the Agreement is printed.]; (v) The importance of bibliographical sources in philately; (vi) Carriage fees and duties in the Venetian Republic [by Adriano Cattani, with an English translation; The article takes up what is known to date about the vexed problem of postal charges in the Republic of Venice up to 1797.]; (vii) More about the Rothschild letter from the Ionian Isles.

Additions to the Library

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Txt
194A	Przemyśl 1914-1915	Revised & extended edition	116	Keith Tranmer	2003	E
301A	Stempel-Handbuch der k.u.k. Feldpost in Österreich-Ungarn 1914-1918	Second edition, extensively revised. Intro in 6 languages!	372	Herwig Rainer	2003	G
374	Monografie Československých A Českých známek 20. Díl	Czechoslovakian Post Office names: old & new cross-referenced.	212	Jiří Kratochvíl	2002	C
375	"Czechoslovak Legion in Poland and Russia 1939-41" and "Czechoslovaks in the Middle East 1940-43"	CSPSGB Monograph 16	60	Vratislav Palkoska and Otto Hornung	2003	E
376	The Danube	An anthology in stamps and post cards. 3 rd edition, A5	36	Julius A Herrstein		E
377	Stempelsignetten Katalog von Österreich-Ungarn part 1: Die Urkundenstempel.	Documentary stamp tax imprints up to the introd'n of revenue stamps in 1854	140	L Hanus	1930	G
378	Fiskalganzsachen von Österreich	Listing of the documentary stamp tax imprints found on a wide variety of forms & documents.	92	R Tkalsics	1982	G
379	Bahnpost in Sudtirol	History and details of cancellations of TPOs in South Tirol in both the Austrian and Italian periods.	126	Gerhard Bock	2003	G
380	75 Jahre Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck	Festschrift	120	(PKMI)	2003	GE

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Txt
	Formal greetings; history of links between PKMI and (a) Societa Filatelica Trentina (b) Austrian Philatelic Society [articles by J Boyer & A Taylor]; 75 years of the PKMI (H Moser); Censorship in Innsbruck 1914-18 (O Schilling); the Illyrian provinces and the post in Osttirol & Oberkärnten (K Schöpfer); the Innsbruck Post-Direktion in today's North Tirol (H Jungwirth & K Klieber); Airmail to & from Austria 1945-6 (H Seebald).					
381	Ergänzungen zur Postgeschichte 1850-1900 ... Tirol & Vorarlberg		57	H Jungwirth	2003	G
	This book provides an introduction to the postal system of the 1850-1900 period in Tirol for the collection, transport & delivery of both people and mail. It then lists for 395 Post Offices the available data on opening & closing dates, the Postmaster/mistress, routes, and rates.					

Item 194A is "Przemyśl 1914-1915" by Keith Tranmer in a revised & greatly extended edition of 116pp. It is ArGe Mil & Phil publication 204A, in their usual style of an A4 colour cover with b/w pages. The postal and military history of the sieges, and the many devious ways used to send non-official mail, receive extensive coverage. Numerous maps and illustrations.

Item 374 is the 20th volume of the great Monografie; most readers will know Votoček's 13th & 14th volumes. Arranged in the order of the extended Czech alphabet ABCČDE..., it lists and cross-references the names of all Czechoslovakian Post Offices, firstly by today's name suffixed by all previous names, second by each previous name cross-referenced to the first list. So for example in Part 2 I seek and find "Cameral Ellgoth K-164", which was an obscure place in the detached part of Austrian Silesia around today's Český Těšín, the former Teschen. Entry K-164 in Part 1 is "Komorní Lhotka (FM) 28.10.1896 Cameral Ellgoth → 5.11.1918 Ligoťka Kameralna (*pod polským vlivem*) → 27.1.1919 Cameral Ellgoth → 1920 Komorní Lhotka - Ligoťka Kameralna..." and so on: which being interpreted means that a post office first opened on 28.10.1896 when the place was called Cameral Ellgoth; between 5.11.1918 and 26.1.1919 it was under Polish control & was renamed; it reverted to Czechoslovakia & its old name on 27.1.1919; from 1920 it had both names (etc etc: the book also records WWII & other changes).

Item 375 is the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain's Monograph no 16: "The Czechoslovak Legion in Poland and Russia 1939-1941; and Czechoslovaks in the Middle East 1940-1943" by the late Dr Vratislav Palkoska and Otto Hornung RDP. See 'Austria' 143 p80.

Item 376 presents in a curious miscellany of fonts an Anthology of the Danube as depicted on Stamps and Postcards. Those interested should also consult Arthur Godden's article in 'Austria' 132.

Item 377 is volume 1 of an in-depth thesis, and covers the documentary stamp tax imprints up to the introduction of revenue stamps in 1854. (As far as we know, no further volumes were published.)

Item 378 has lists, some illustrated, of the documentary stamp tax imprints found on all manner of forms & documents, eg rail-freight-letters, Bills of Exchange, fishing-permits, and parcel-cards..

Item 379 is reviewed below

Item 380 is the Festschrift for the 75th anniversary of the Philatelistenklub Merkur in Innsbruck, with which the APS is partnered. It contains formal greetings; history of links between PKMI and (a) Societa Filatelica Trentina (b) Austrian Philatelic Society [*with articles in English by J Boyer & A Taylor*]; 75 years of the PKMI (H Moser); Censorship in Innsbruck 1914-18 (O Schilling); the Illyrian provinces and the post in Osttirol & Oberkärnten (K Schöpfer); the Innsbruck Post-Direktion in today's North Tirol (H Jungwirth & K Klieber); Airmail to & from Austria 1945-6 (H Seebald).

Item 381 is in full "Ergänzungen zur Postgeschichte 1850-1900 Auszüge aus Amtsbüchern der K.k. Post- und Telegraphen-Direction für Tirol und Vorarlberg", and comes from a very active working group within the PKMI. [A partial translation may appear later.]

All these books, and the remainder of the "get a round tuit" file, have been added to the web site version of the library - including a thorough revision of the "not-books" section.

Book Review: "Bahnpost in Südtirol", by Joyce Boyer

This 120 page A4 book in German has been added to the library as number 379 and as the title says it relates solely to the TPOs in the South Tirol, but it covers both the Austrian and Italian periods. The book may be divided into three sections.

The first section opens with a map showing the 12 lines in the area followed by a potted history of each one and then details of the train numbers at different dates and examples of cancellations. The second section covers the Austrian period and gives more details of the cancellations, the periods of use and on

which stamp issues they should be found. The third section contains similar information for the Italian, post 1918, period.

To anyone interested in early TPOs from this area the book should be useful if only to discover how many more cancellations there are to be collected - I did not realise there were so many for the Kufstein-Ala route so there are a lot more that can be added to my "Trans Tyrol TPO" collection relating to this line.

Questions, Answers, Letters...

Perforations of the 1916 Postage Due

These have red Heller values and blue Kronen values; the ANK catalogue lists them as ANK 47-57. The perfs on actual examples are: Heller values 12½x12½; Kronen values 12½x12½ and also 12½x13. CT writes that in the Michel catalogue's 2003 edition the entry has been changed, and now agrees with what is actually found.

Korrekptions

Austria 143 page 69 assertion 4 - for 19 read 16. It is correct in the table.

Unusual mark on 1953 censored item



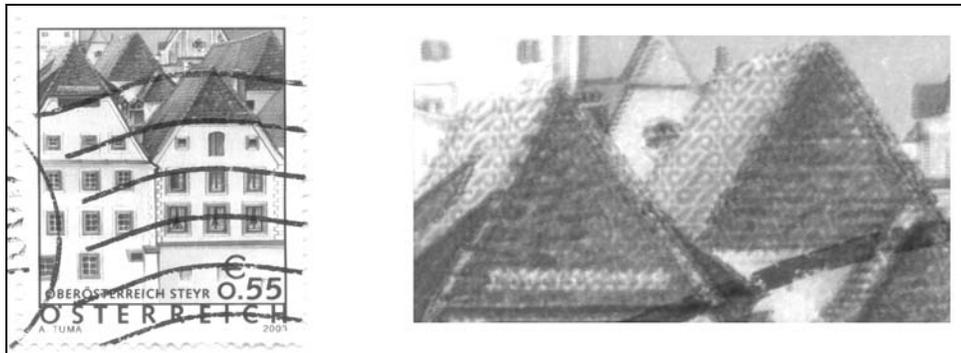
The item illustrated is the address half of a postcard sent from Vienna to Uganda on 22 March 1953. To the left of the address is a number; the original is the same pale violet as the censor mark but I have made it black so you can see it. Question: what is it?

HP replies: it is the day of the month when the item was censored; this system was introduced (in 1951?) following increasing criticism that the delay caused by the censors was excessive. The rate of 355 groschen is 145 surface rate plus 210 air surcharge: see the forthcoming book by Heinzel for lists of these surcharges.

Definitive difficulties and Security Features

Philatelists are discovering colour variations in the new definitive series. The October 2003 Die Briefmarke describes, and illustrates in colour, two of the latest. In the €2.03 (Heiligenkreuz), the trunks of the trees in the top row are brownish, but in the rest of the sheet they are greenish. And the €0.87 (the Inneralpbach cow) exists in full-strength and partly-desaturated colours - it looks like the difference between spring and summer grass! The latter, but not the former, may be caused by a change in the paper; research continues.

These definitives also have a new-to-stamps security feature: Microprinting. In the €0.20, €0.25, €0.55, €0.75, €1.00, €1.25, and €3.75 values, a sufficiently strong magnifier shows that parts of the design have a pattern of posthorns. In the €0.55 "Steyer" stamp, the roof tiles have the posthorns: see illustration.



In Future Issues...

Here are some of the planned articles - including those which are complete but for which there is no room!

- ❖ Pneumatic Post parts 2½ (rates, including after 1938), 3 (cancellations) and 4 (miscellaneous)
- ❖ The chequered history of Wien 11 & 13
- ❖ More on Revenue Stamps
- ❖ A list of all offices in Bukowina??
- ❖ Newspaper Post (expanding some aspects of the article in Austria 136)
- ❖ Newspaper Tax
- ❖ and the ongoing attempt to keep up with the Austrian Post Office's new issue policy, blocks included...

However, all members are as always invited to contribute an article!

spacer page

New Issues - 2003 part 1

By Andy Taylor

All stamps are printed by the Oesterreichische Staatsdruckerei on "white postage stamp paper" with "cold glue" gum unless otherwise specified. The descriptions are taken from the *Post.at* website, press releases, and blackprints, and increasingly often have to be translated from the original english...

Graz - World Culture Capital



Issue date: 14.3.2003; €0.58 Perf 13½x14¼; Photogravure: yellow, yellow-green, ultramarine, black. Issue 880,000. Design Vito Acconti & Robert Punkenhofer.

The famous singer and former Minister of Education Melina Mercouri constantly tried to bring together the different peoples of the EU to improve cultural co-operation and to promote cultural aspects alongside economic and political unification. And so in 1985 Athens became the first Cultural Capital of Europe. Graz has today a multicultural tradition and innovation even in the fields of science and economics, and is the best choice as Cultural Capital 2003. Wolfgang Lorenz wants to prove that art and culture are necessary for a liberal and democratic society. The program is chosen under the guiding principle that culture is the most important output civilisation can produce. The reorganisation of public space and infrastructure will change Graz permanently. The island in the river Mur with amphitheatre, cafe and children's playground has since January 2003 been a floating platform for arts and communication.

Billy Wilder



Issue date: 21.3.2003; €0.58 Perf 13½x14¼; Photogravure: grey-black, black. Issue 500,000. Design Peter Konkolits.

The famous script-writer and director was born in 1906 in Sucha near Krakau in Poland, which that time was part of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy. His mother named him Billy after Buffalo Bill! In the beginning Wilder worked as a reporter and journalist in Vienna, and after 1927 as a script-writer in Berlin, where he received attention because of "Emil and the Detectives". But soon Billy Wilder understood that he as a Jew would have no future within the

German Reich. In 1933 he travelled to Paris, and in 1934 went to his brother in New York and then on to Hollywood. Employment as a script-writer was made possible with the help of the Austrian Joe May, who was working for Columbia. The later partnership with Manny Wolf led to "Ninotchka" with Greta Garbo. Billy Wilder made his debut as a director with the comedy "The Major and the Minor". Then "Double Indemnity" followed, which is considered as one of the best films ever. In 1945 "The Lost Weekend" won 5 Oscars. Later Wilder co-operated with the denazification in Germany, which became a bitter time for him. He couldn't find his father's grave in the bombed out Berlin and discovered that his family was murdered in Auschwitz. Back in America he worked on "Witness for the Prosecution", "Some like it hot" with Marilyn Monroe, "The Apartment" (3 Oscars), "The Front Page" and many more unforgettable films. Billy Wilder died in 2002 in Beverly Hills, aged 96.

Hochzeit



Issue date: 21.3.2003; €0.58 Perf 13½x14¼; Photogravure: straw-yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black. Issue 2,000,000. Design Peter Konkolits.

Originally the word "Hoch-zeit" ("high-time") in the German language meant any religious or profane celebration. Today it's the word for the act of marriage only. At the 25th anniversary people celebrate their silver wedding, at the 50th the golden wedding. After 60 years they celebrate the diamond wedding and after 65 or sometimes 75 years follows the iron wedding. World-wide there are very interesting different wedding-traditions, for instance the Jewish, Chinese and the Red Indian customs. In Austria we celebrate with stopping of the bridal procession, bride-stealing, a midnight dance to lift the veil and many more specific customs. The new stamp is meant for wedding announcements and any wedding-related correspondence.

10 years of ARA

Issue date: 11.4.2003; €0.55 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: light greenish-blue, light cobalt-blue, yellow, crimson. Issue 1,000,000. Design Till Dellisch.

ARA stands for Altstoff-Recycling-Austria AG, a waste management enterprise. The "Regulation on the avoidance and recycling of packaging waste and particular product residues and the establishment of collection and recycling systems (Packaging Regulation, 1996)" was adopted on the basis of the "Waste Management Act 1990", and is addressed to manufacturers, importers, packers, packaging distributors and end users. In order to avoid waste, packaging made

of paper, cardboard, glass, wood, metal, synthetics, and other materials, in particular organic materials, are to be collected separately.



In order to implement the Regulation, industry set up the ARA company ten years ago with the aim of organising the collection and recycling of packaging waste throughout Austria together with its partners. These partners are largely smaller industrial enterprises, but also include major companies and local government departments responsible for waste collection, together forming a comprehensive network of regional waste disposal partners. By concluding a release and license contract with ARA and by reporting and paying for packaging put into circulation, an enterprise can obtain exemption from the obligations imposed by the Packaging Regulation. Packaging licensed under ARA can be handed over at collection points free of charge if it has been separated into the materials referred to above. [Visitors to Austrian airports will be familiar with the 3 or 4 separate waste bins and the uncertainty over where to put ones yoghurt pot! Ed]

Confetti: Kasperl

Issue date: 11.4.2003; €0.51 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black. Issue 1,000,000. Design Elisabeth Pirker & Peter Widmann.

"Are we all here?!" When the red curtain rose for the first time on Austrian



television and Kasperl and his friends greeted the children, no-one knew that this program would develop into a real classic. Still modern and childlike, it is today years later the longest-running program of ORF and part of Austrian culture. Five different puppet-groups perform in turn: Kasperl & Pezi; Kasperl & Strolchi; Kasperl & Buffi (formerly Kasperl & Habakuk); Kasperl & Hopsi; and Kasperl & Co. Nowadays Kasperl runs at the weekend: on Saturday 7:30 a.m., repetitions on Sunday 6:50 a.m. The program is broadcast within CONFETTI TIVI, the children's program of ORF. Grandparents and parents remind their kids of clumsy Dragon Dagobert, scary magician Tintifax, and Strolchi, the faithful little dog. And the kids tell them about the "younger" characters: tricky robber Schlauklau or the silly but loveable witch-sisters Urma and Irma.

Design Austria: Glasses by Adolf Loos

Issue date: 11.4.2003; €1,38 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: green-blue, red, black. Issue 500,000. Design Mag. Robert Sabolovic.



This issue shows a bottle and three glasses from "Bar service No. 248" designed by the designer, architect and critic Adolf Loos. As he himself described it, it is "a simple series with a matt-ground base" made of hand-blown crystal glass, produced in 1931 by J & L Lobmeyer, a company famous for exclusive glassware that still exists in Vienna's Kärtnerstrasse. Alternatively, this set is also referred to as a "Vienna Service". Loos, born in Brünn in 1870, studied building and architecture in Reichenberg and Dresden, and spent several years in the United States of America. He then became involved in Vienna in the contemporary artistic movement of reducing everything to the essential. His views were strictly against anything ornamental, including Jugendstil, the Vienna Secession and the Wiener Werkstätten, and did not always result in such elegant solutions as the service presented here. He expressed his views in radical form in his publication "Ornament and Crime". The building he designed on Vienna's Michaelerplatz in 1909-11 exactly opposite the Imperial palace, and today generally referred to as the Loos house, was hotly contested at the time. It was depicted on the special issue that was released on January 13, 1995 on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Loos' birth. Such was the uproar that completion of the building was only allowed once Loos had agreed to permit window-boxes to be fitted. Rumour had it that Crown Prince Rudolph caused the Hofburg curtains to be kept drawn so that he did not have to look upon "the abomination"!

Panda research at Schoenbrunn (Block of 2 stamps)

Issue date: 14.4.2003; €0.75 & €1.00 Perf 14x14; Photogravure: straw-yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black. Issue 1,500,000 blocks-of-two. Design Adolf Tuma. The circular stamp is 38mm dia.

Zoo director Helmut Pechlaner: "The charismatic pandas are ideal ambassadors for China. They are coming to Austria as a gesture of friendship and will both arouse interest in the vast and mysterious country and advertise for the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature). The enthusiasm that these animals will generate amongst visitors and friends of our zoo will be a powerful reminder of how many fascinating creatures are facing extinction."



In September 2002, a treaty was signed between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Austria providing for a young panda pair born in Chinese zoos to be brought to Schönbrunn Zoo as part of an international research and breeding programme. The former elephant enclosure was adapted to house them. The main reason for the research project is the serious threat to the species faced with extinction. Relentless deforestation of the bamboo forests has increasingly reduced their habitat and their opportunities to find food, while at the same time the pandas endanger themselves through their unbalanced way of life. 90 % of their diet consists of bamboo, although their digestive system is not really designed for plant food. They are solitary creatures, and in zoos can practically only be reproduced by means of artificial fertilisation. For 20 years, scientists have been studying the reproductive behaviour of the animals with little success.

With the experience acquired, Schönbrunn Zoo is hoping to obtain more detailed information about the social and sexual life, the language, the eating, sleeping and inquisitiveness behaviour of the Pandas by means of round-the-clock observation and the use of infra-red technology. The aim of the ten year project is to breed a population that can maintain itself.

1000 years of St Georgen am Längsee convent

Issue date: 25.4.2003; €0.87 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: turquoise-blue, pale purple-red, greenish-yellow, ultramarine-blue, grey-black. Issue 500,000. Design Maria Schulz.



Between 1002 and 1008, Gräfin Wichpurch founded the first religious institution in Carinthia, a Benedictine convent to replace a small church dedicated to St. George. Probably, the Gräfin was moved to found a convent for aristocratic young women by three circumstances: Her husband, Graf Ottwin von Sonnenburg, had left on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and had gone missing by this time.

Her oldest daughter, Hiltiburg, had entered a convent on the Nonnberg. Finally her brother Hartwig had been the Metropolitan of Salzburg since 991. It was he who consecrated the convent and the new church to St. George, providing them with all the usual spiritual and worldly powers of the time. Hiltiburg was the first Abbess; after her death she was succeeded by her sister Perchkunt.

The convent was rebuilt, in different forms, after each of the many destructions by the Hungarians, by the Turks, and by fire. The rectangular inner courtyard divided by the convent church gives a particularly attractive character to the Renaissance arcade. The two-storey Baroque wing with an arcade of pillars on the courtyard side and along the south side of the church was constructed by P. F. Carlone in 1654-58. A hundred years later, another storey was added to this wing, and rich Baroque decoration was added to the former Gothic convent church with its Romanesque stepped portal.

Marcel Prawy (Block)

Issue date: 24.4.2003; €1.75 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: straw-yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black, dark violet-grey. Issue 800,000. Design Christian Scheidl.



Marcel Prawy once said: "I think that as one gets older, one should make life more difficult from day to day. One should always look to see if there is still a hurdle that one can overcome." It was according to this principle that he worked until his death. Until the very end, his diary was filled with appointments, and a number of new projects were planned with the ORF. Umberto Giordano's opera "André Chénier"

was to be the subject of the next programme, an undertaking that unfortunately can no longer be completed. Prof. Prawy was one of the most important champions and communicators of culture in Austria. In his unique way, the legendary "Opera guide of the nation" introduced millions to the world of opera, operetta and musicals in countless television programmes, proving to be a "public educator" in the best sense of the word. Whether through his function as head dramaturge at the Volksoper and the Vienna State Opera House, as creator of television and radio programmes or as author, his love - indeed his passion - for music was irresistible. Austria's culture and the ORF will always owe



Marcel Prawy a huge debt of thanks. And the "Marcel Prawy commemorative stamp" will help ensure that his memory will always be held in honour. It commemorates a man who, like no other, rendered great services to the popularisation of so-called serious music. The original photo used for the block was by Alexander Zeininger. A special packaging of the block was produced, including a CD of Prawy's favourite music - the block is the size of a CD "jewel" case.

Europa 2003: Poster Art

Issue date: 9.5.2003; €1.02 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: straw-yellow, purple red-lilac, ultramarine, black, silver. Issue 500,000. Design Cordula Alessandri.



It was soon after 1450 that the first posters developed from handbills, but they were mainly used by showmen until the 18th century. The rise of industry, mass production, and the emergence of competition gave increasing importance to advertising and, alongside it, advertising media. To begin with, products were simply presented and their qualities extolled. Senefelder's invention of lithography had a direct effect on posters, which also acquired a particular status as a result of eye-catching advertising for the theatrical world, particularly in Paris around 1890, with Toulouse-Lautrec's posters from that age still being used in modern calendars. Art Nouveau made very frequent use of posters, and indeed artists generally at the beginning of the 20th century made considerable use of posters for their own self-promotion. After World War II, a very distinctive poster art developed in Europe and Japan. For the Europa special issue, a motif has been selected that was created by Alessandri-Design for the "100 posters from Vienna" exhibition in the Ginza Graphic Gallery, Tokyo, one of the most famous graphic design galleries in the world.

Day of the Stamp 2003 (sheetlet)

Issue date: 23.5.2003; €2.54+1.26 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: dark blue-green, yellow-green, black, pale purple-red, yellow, ultramarine. Letterpress: black. Issue 850,000. Design Maria Siegl.



For over a century most mail was transported by passenger trains in special postal carriages. To save time, the mail was sorted during the journey. After WWII separate postal trains were used. Only three of these are still operating today: the "250" between Vienna and Villach, the "300" between Vienna and Innsbruck and the "306" from Vienna to Wolfurt and back. Modern cars which can drive on motorways directly to the addressee, as well as substantial price reductions for air transport, forced the rail companies to decrease journey times. Ideally this is achieved by minimising the time taken for loading and unloading at the stops.

Large fluctuations in the amounts of transported goods pose a problem because loading times cannot be standardised in accordance with the train timetables. Transportation by road, however, is not an environmentally-sound alternative.

Following the idea of Erich Bober, President of VOePh, postal trains are documented on the Day of the Stamp. This year the last of the stamps in this series features the modern Siemens M 320 wagon, which has been operated by the post and telecommunications administration since its inception in 1987. The 10 wagons are designed for a maximum velocity of 160 km/h.

Definitive series: Steyr, Upper Austria

Issue date: 30.5.2003; €0.55 Perf 13¾x14; Photogravure: ultramarine, pale purple-red, yellow, black. Issue 150,000,000. Design Adolf Tuma. The stamp has "microprinting" on the roof tiles: see "Questions & Answers" in this issue.



The late Gothic civic houses are a particularly prominent feature of the iron town of Steyr. The stamp artist Adolf Tuma has drawn two of them in a somewhat stylised manner as a means of showing how beautiful they actually are. The most famous of these buildings, the highly ornamented Bummerlhaus, was the subject of a 1953 commemorative in the series on the reconstruction of the Protestant School at Vienna's Karlsplatz. The brisk trade relationships with Germany meant that Steyr was particularly open to Protestantism. In the Counter-reformation, Steyr lost all its knife-makers when they went to Solingen to develop the now famous knife industry. The name "Bummerlhaus" derives from a tavern sign showing a lion that look more like a fat dog and was given the name "Bummerl" (deriving from "pummelig", chubby).

The characteristic houses of the town centre of Steyr are mostly three-storey with an arcaded courtyard that occasionally also extends over two plots of land for more light. On the road side, they almost always have a baroque or rococo façade. Steyr is particularly fortunate in that, despite the at times very frenzied development of its industry, despite a major fire in 1727 and despite the many bombs that fell on the town in the last war - all of which could have triggered the desire to redevelop the town - particular attention has always been paid to maintaining the traditional appearance of the town

Definitive series: Bodensee, Vorarlberg

Issue date: 30.5.2003; €0.75 Perf 13¾x14; Photogravure: ultramarine, pale purple-red, yellow, black. Issue 25,000,000. Design Adolf Tuma.



Austria, with 38 sq.km of water and a shoreline of 27 km, has a very small share of the 571 sq.km Lake Constance (called Bodensee in German); in addition, the Fussach bay silts up rather quickly with the deposits from the Rhine, a consequence of the regulation of the estuary in 1906 and 1923. In this relatively clean lake in the foothills of the Alps, often referred to as the "Swabian Sea", there are a remarkable 35 species of fish such as perch, pike and eel. The "Lake Constance Conference" was established in 1972 and comprises the surrounding regions of Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, the Swiss cantons of Schaffhausen, St. Gallen and Thurgau and the Austrian province of Vorarlberg. Its functions include cross-border co-operation in the field of conservation and the prevention of water pollution, which is of major of health and economic importance with regard to tourism and the water supply to the hinterland.

The new definitive by Adolf Tuma shows a particularly impressive view of the luxury paddle steamer "Hohentwiel" built by the Swiss shipyard Escher Wyss & Cie in 1911-1913 and restored in 1984-90 by the "International Lake Constance Navigation Museum" association. With its 950HP and a top speed of 31 km/h, the ship is still today the fastest on Lake Constance and is a popular tourist attraction thanks to its Art Nouveau furnishings.

Definitive series: Farmhouse in Rossegg, Styria

Issue date: 30.5.2003; €1.00 Perf 13¾x14; Photogravure: ultramarine, pale purple-red, yellow, black. Issue 15,000,000. Design Adolf Tuma.



With the exception of open-air museums, very little has survived of the original peasant architecture. Its replacement proceeded in three stages. First of all in the late middle ages, then at the end of the 18th and start of the 19th centuries, along with the Industrial Revolution, when a switch was made from leaving fields fallow to using fertilisation and from the sickle to the scythe, while new crops and barn feeding increased productivity and somewhat improved the frequently miserable living conditions. This led to farms becoming larger and changing in form. The third and largest period of building activity took place after 1955 with the

introduction of modern agriculture with its tractors and machinery and cultivation on a scientific basis.

Wooden buildings were replaced by stone, the living parlours became lighter, airier, more spacious and healthier, the windows larger, while the "smoke parlours" for smoking ham etc became smoke kitchens, subsequently replaced by smokeless kitchens with energy-saving stoves; the thatched roofs were replaced by tiles, straw and mud walls replaced by brick. The soft plaster limewashed skin was temporarily replaced by cement rendering. Log buildings and stone houses can be found in West Styria. The residential buildings are often extended by means of a parlour at right angles to the main wing, covered by steep roofs with protruding gables, under which there is a "Gangl" (open corridor).

Definitive series: Wine Press House, Eisenberg, Burgenland

Issue date: 30.5.2003; €1.25 Perf 13¾x14; Photogravure: ultramarine, pale purple-red, yellow, black. Issue 10,000,000. Design Adolf Tuma.



In southern Burgenland, 23 km southeast of Oberwart, close to the Hungarian border, at the foot of the vineyard bearing the same name, nestles Eisenberg, a village with a population of 400. As early as 1500 BC there was a settlement here. In 1931 two ancient smelting workshops were discovered. Bronze coins and a belt-buckle have been preserved from Roman times. Since the first documented mention in the 12th century, the place has had several names, such as "PRAEDIUM CHEGGE", "CHEYHKE", "Villa Cheyka", then, as a settlement for Hungarian border guards "Csajka", later "Csake", which became the German "Schauka". In 1930 the Provincial Government renamed the village as "Eisenberg an der Pinka". The 1971 Local Government Structural Improvement Act made the village part of the municipality of "Deutsch Schützen Eisenberg".

According to the US wine magazine "Wine Spectator" the Eisenberg red wine "Perlwolff 2000" was awarded 93 points out of a possible 100, the highest number of points ever awarded to an Austrian red wine. The white wine variety Furmint was cultivated here, but was abandoned in favour of the production of successful red wine varieties following the phylloxera disaster. Of interest is that grave furnishings indicate that, surprisingly, black grapes were grown here as early as the Iron Age. The stamp shows a typical press house

Definitive series: Bildstock, Hochosterwitz, Carinthia

Issue date: 30.5.2003; €3.75 Perf 13¾x14; Photogravure: ultramarine, pale purple-red, yellow, black. Issue 5,000,000. Design Adolf Tuma.



North of Hochosterwitz Castle, the highly visible and most mighty landmark in Carinthia, runs the Seeberg Federal Road from St. Veit an der Glan to Brückl and from there southwards toward the Slovenian border on the Seeberg pass. Just north of the Castle, two roads branch off, one to St. Martin in the south and one to Unterbrückendorf in the north. At this point, in the district of St. Georgen am Längsee, stands the 16th century Gothic wayside shrine reproduced by Adolf Tuma on this new stamp. The shrine is actually rectangular, stands on two mighty octagonal pedestals, and bears the following illustrations: St. Martin in the east, St. Christopher in the south, symbolic characters (probably much later and generally mysterious) in the west and a Pieta in the north.

Wayside shrines at crossroads, heights, along pilgrimage routes or at the middles or ends of towns are often associated with particular events and miracles, or occasionally with saints with a relationship to the place name, such as St. Martin here. Unlike the wayside crucifixes, they are rarely a reminder of accidents. Particularly in Carinthia, there is a large number of stone wayside shrines with particularly rich painting and decorations, almost always protected by a steep and often round protruding tent roof.

Definitive series: makeup values

All these were issued on 2.6.2003, and were previously issued in different colours in the Euro-definitive series. The designer was Adolf Tuma. All are perf 13¾x14, Photogravure



Schoenlaterngasse, Vienna: €0.04; yellow-brown, black. Issue 30,000,000
Previously issued as the €0.51 value: see 'Austria' 142p14.

Heiligenkreuz, Lower Austria: €0.07; green-blue, black. Issue 400,000 [increased later?]. Previously issued as the €2.03 value: see 'Austria' 142p17.

Inneralpbach, Tirol: €0.13; lilac-red, black. Issue 15,000,000. Previously issued as the €0.87 value: see 'Austria' 142p16.

Hadres, Lower Austria: €0.17; light violet, black. Issue 880,000. Previously issued as the €0.58 value: see 'Austria' 142p15.

Am Steinernen Meer, Salzburg: €0.27; light cobalt-blue, black. Issue 24,000,000. Previously issued as the €0.73 value: see 'Austria' 142p15.

OeBB Series 5045 Locomotive

Issue date: 6.6.2003; €0.75 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: ultramarine, yellow, pale purple-red, black. Letterpress: black. Issue 700,000. Design Peter Sinawehl.



During the period following the Second World War the Austrian rail company was finally able to make some crucial investments. Routes where the tracks had either not yet been electrified or where this process was just being implemented required diesel-powered locomotives to establish fast inter-city connections. An initial design by the Simmering-Graz-Pauker Corporation proposed an ambitious concept which was eventually rejected due to anticipated difficulties with restricted railway loading gauges and substantial increases of axle loading.

Instead, a close-coupled double 8-wheeled (in UK, 4-axled) railcar set was introduced, which was referred to as the 5045. The prominent ventilation system was one of the main distinguishing elements of this machine and acted as a reminder of the original design for years to come. Ultimately it was removed because of the restricted railway loading gauge issue mentioned earlier.

The 500 HP engine reached high speeds of around 115 km/h yet it could not really live up to the nickname "Blue Flash" promoted by heavy advertisement campaigns, mainly because ascending slopes lowered the maximum velocity to around 33 km/h. This is substantially slower than steam-powered locomotives. Cross-border services were supplemented by an additional carriage to accommodate First Class seating as well as buffet and restaurant facilities

100 years of the bridge between Oberndorf & Laufen

Issue date: 12.6.2003; €0.55 Perf 13¾x14; Photogravure: cornflower-blue, yellow, pale purple-red, black, greenish. Letterpress: black. Issue 1,900,000. **Prizewinning design by Hannes Margreiter.**

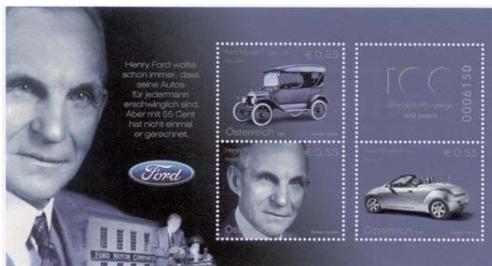


Oberndorf has witnessed a large number of devastating floods during the last centuries. The first record of a bridge being washed away dates back to 1316. The damage was often caused by flotsam which stuck between the wooden bridge pylons and dammed the water so that the bridge was washed away. During the last decade of the 19th century four floods caused great damage, and a decision was made to relocate the town to a more elevated plateau. The Bavarian Laufen and Austrian Oberndorf developed the plan to construct a bridge made of stone and iron incorporating a greater span. As the bridge was in close proximity to both the old town square of Laufen and the new centre of Oberndorf, an aesthetic design was implemented.

The two-pylon construction had three apertures, the largest of which was on the Austrian side to allow for shipping needs. The construction required 648 tonnes of "Martinflußeisen" (*which is wrought iron made by the (Siemens-)Martin-process, not "Martin River iron ore" as the 'englisch' Blackprint text has it!*), with a chain-like curved upper cable and a straight lower cable. The facing of the pillars and decorative elements required an additional 67 tonnes of material to ensure a pleasing design. Eagles with spread wings were placed upon the bridge portals, adding to the elegant impression of the construction. The bridge was inaugurated on the 2nd of June 1903 with a festival of inhabitants from Laufen and Oberndorf.

100 years of Ford - Block of 3 stamps

Issue date: 16.6.2003; €0.55 x3 Perf 12x12; Photogravure: ultramarine, purple red-lilac, grey-black, silver. Issue 1,000,000 blocks-of-3. Design Kobald-Nikerl.

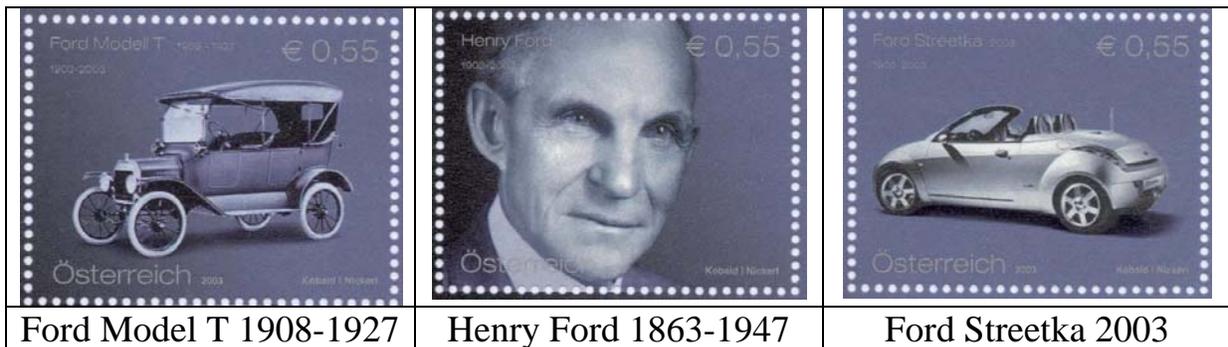


Henry Ford's visions and ideas formed the basis of modern private transport. He spent a lifetime trying to make cars affordable for everyone and not just a luxury item for a small segment of society. On June 16, 2003 the Ford Motor Company celebrates its 100th anniversary. Two innovations successfully implemented this social commitment in particular. Firstly, his choice of black,

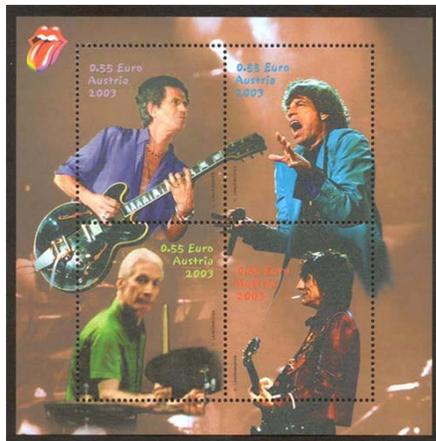
which was used for the first time on the legendary Model T. The reason for his choice was both simple and a stroke of genius: black dried more quickly than other colours, thus permitting faster and, more importantly, cheaper production. The result was entirely in line with Henry Ford's aim of producing a car for people of limited financial resources.

His second innovation not only significantly reduced production costs, but also revolutionised the entire industry. Henry Ford was, in 1908, the first to use a production line for the manufacture of cars, thereby signalling the start of the age of industrial mass production. From then on, there was no holding back his company. The legendary black Model T was followed in 1928 by the faster Model A. In 1948, Ford launched the Taunus, the leisure car of the post-war generation. At the end of the 1960s and in the 1970s, Ford was even able to win over the anti-industry flower power generation with the Ford Capri.

The last 100 years have thus passed for the Ford Motor Company just as Henry Ford intended when he founded the company on June 16, 1903. He always wanted more than "just" to make cars, his ambition being to use his inventions and innovations to make quality cars available to really everyone. And as our roads today show, he more than succeeded.



Rolling Stones - block of 4 stamps

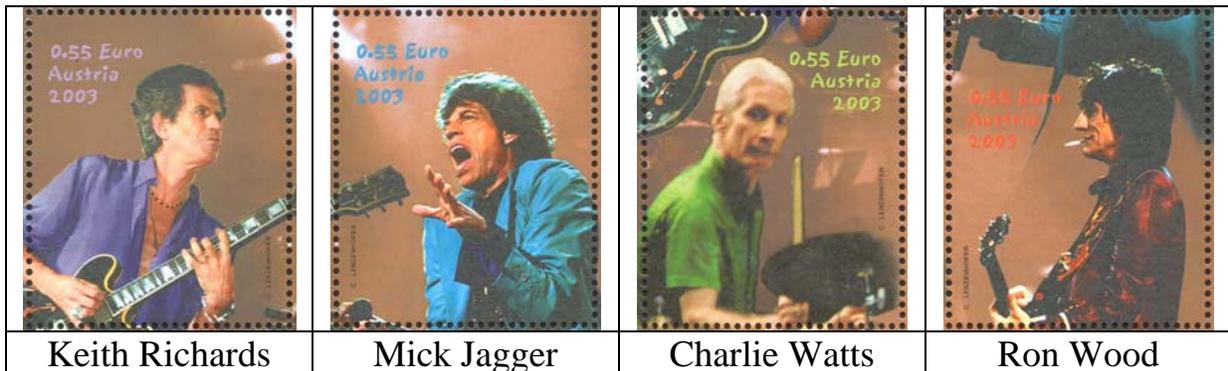


Issue date: 18.6.2003; €0.55 x4 Perf 14x13¾;
Photogravure: pale purple-red, ultramarine,
yellow, black. Issue 1,000,000 blocks-of-4.
Design C Lenzenhofer.

It was on September 17, 1965 that the Rolling Stones gave their first Austrian concert before an audience of 12,500 fans and 600 policemen - with "Satisfaction" already on the programme. On April 2, 1967, they gave two concerts in the Vienna Stadthalle. For the band, these were the last concerts in Austria with Brian Jones, who later left the Stones before he died on July 4, 1969. The band found themselves only three years later, on

September 26, 1970, back in the Vienna Stadthalle, playing in a new formation before 12,000 enthusiastic fans. With Mick Taylor on rhythm guitar, the Stones and their music were given a great welcome.

On September 1, 1973, the Rolling Stones began their European tour in the Vienna Stadthalle, attracting an audience of 15,700, the largest concert that the hall had ever seen. A few days later, on September 23, 1973, the Rolling Stones played to an almost capacity crowd of 8000 at the Innsbruck Olympiahalle. Three years later the Rolling Stones, before an audience of 12,000 on June 23, 1976, conquered both the Vienna Stadthalle stage and the hearts of the critics. The album "Black and Blue" was No. 1 in Austria for weeks, Ron Wood having replaced Mick Taylor on rhythm guitar. On Saturday, July 3, 1982, 60,000 fans welcomed the Rolling Stones in the Vienna Prater Stadium. Technical innovations, in part commissioned by the band, meant that the music could be heard well everywhere in the stadium, and gave the musicians freedom of movement on an 80 metre wide stage.



On July 31, 1990, the Vienna Prater Stadium again rocked to the mighty performance of the "Urban Jungle Tour" and a capacity crowd of 54,051. This was the last Rolling Stones concert in Austria with Bill Wyman. On August 1, 1995, Zeltweg in Styria experienced one of the largest concerts ever in Austria with almost 90,000 spectators. "Voodoo Lounge" was now overlaid with multimedia elements, the 73-m-wide futuristic stage framed by a 28 m high metal cobra, spitting fire at the highlights. "Bridges to Babylon" was the tour event that came to Wiener Neustadt on July 11, 1998. An audience of 68,000 experienced the Stones for the first time on two stages, the second stage in the middle of the public being reached by a 52 m long bridge. Over 49,000 fans welcomed the Stones on May 31, 1999 to Imst in Tyrol, the audience again acclaiming an arrangement of the "Bridges to Babylon" show. On June 18, 2003, the Rolling Stones performed before a capacity audience in the Ernst Happel Stadium in Vienna's Prater as part of their "Forty Licks Tour 2003".

Year of the Bible

Issue date: 20.6.2003; €0.55 Perf 13¾x13¾; Photogravure: lilac-green, violet-marine, gold, ultramarine, purple red-lilac, yellow, crimson, black. Issue 700,000. Design Maria Schulz.



All the Christian churches of the German-speaking countries have agreed to make 2003 the "Year of the Bible", a collaboration truly in the spirit of the "Charta Oecumenica". For all Christians of whatever confession, the Bible is the basis of their common belief, and the Year of the Bible is intended to be a classical example of ecumenical collaboration aimed at deliberately documenting the Bible as the binding element for all Christians. Radio, television, newspapers and magazines, the Internet and every other media are to be used to draw the Bible to the public's attention and generally make it a topic of discussion. Our culture having been decisively determined by the message of the Bible, the "Year of the Bible" aims at activating co-operation with all cultural and artistic institutions. An experience-focused approach to the Bible is to be presented, at the same time evoking the rich treasures of our western Christian culture combined with a focus on creative and innovative ideas. In Austria, the Year of the Bible is being organised by the Österreichische Bibelwerk, the Österreichische Bibelgesellschaft and the monasteries at Klosterneuburg, Göttweig, Melk, Altenburg, Zwettl, St. Paul and St. Florian, each presenting remarkable exhibitions based in particular on the rich treasures of their libraries throughout the summer

Airport Fire Engine "Panther 8x8"



Issue date: 20.6.2003; €0.55 Perf 13¾x14; Photogravure: dark olive-grey, black, blue, crimson-red. Issue 500,000. Design Maria Siegl.

The fire engine shown on the stamp is to be found at many major airports around the world, including 8 machines in Athens, 6 in Oslo, 3 in Dubai, and others at Altenburg and Dortmund, in Japan, China etc. This fire-fighting giant (11.7 m long, 3 m wide and 3.32 m high) with its 1000 hp engine, a top speed of 140 km/h and a weight of 40

tonnes can transport 12,000 l water, 1,500 l extinguishing foam and 2 x 250 kg dry powder to the site of the action. Its 229 kW pumping engines at full power can spray 14,000 l extinguishant up to 90 m within 100 seconds. The Panther is manufactured by the world's leading fire brigade supplier Rosenbauer International AG with headquarters in Leonding, Upper Austria, 12 additional production facilities, 14 subsidiaries and agencies in 100 countries. The company is a listed joint stock corporation, the majority of shares being held by the Rosenbauer family, and is a quality-aware business certified to ISO 9001



B. L.'s mystery card..

This orange-yellow card is inscribed "Correspondenz-Karte / Antwortblanquett / pneumatischen Expressbeforderung". What is it? Best guess so far: an item from a child's play-post-office set! Any better or more authoritative ideas?

The Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Austria and Lombardy Venetia (Part 1)

by Martin Brumby

Introduction

In recent years, the collection of revenue stamps has once again become more popular after nearly a century in the doldrums. Why is this the case? What is the attraction? For those whose primary collecting interest is the design of stamps, the early issues of Austrian revenue stamps are both interesting and attractive. But that isn't the whole story. For 'advanced collectors', the philatelic techniques needed for the study of the classic postal issues and the methods of study of postal history transfer easily enough to studying the revenue stamps. And as these stamps were printed at the same Imperial Printing Works and, at times with designs very similar to the telegraph stamps and the imprints of various security printed stationery items, there are times when the study of the revenue material illuminates the study of the postage stamps and, indeed, *vice versa*. And the years of neglect mean that there are very likely to be new discoveries to make!

It must be accepted that Austrian Post is now shamelessly milking the remnants of the new issue stamp collectors' market by producing more stamps of higher value and (whilst still beautifully printed) commemorating events and people increasingly ridiculous or, at least, without real relevance to Austria. It is, perhaps, no wonder that collectors are looking elsewhere. And if most serious collectors recognise that an issuing policy which includes miniature sheets for the Rolling Stones or Henry Ford (must we wait long for Lady Di?), printed in restricted numbers and only available at certain offices, is reminiscent of the old antics of Paraguay, Grenada Grenadines and the Emirates, obviously not everyone can afford to assemble an exhibition class collection of the postage stamp 'Classics'.

With revenue material, the various wheezes and rackets that have been dreamt up to empty the pockets of the gullible can very largely be forgotten. No 'unmounted mint', because most revenue stamps no longer exist mint. No 'souvenir sheets' or 'miniature sheets', no 'gutter pairs', no philatelic 'special cancellations', no 'maximum cards', no F.D.C.s, no commemoratives at all! No need to worry about frankings contrived by philatelists (or rather, by dealers!) as almost all frankings were put onto documents by some overworked clerk or harassed bureaucrat, and with the high values in question, they were pretty unlikely to put more on than absolutely necessary! Forgeries are few and far between. About the only rather questionable material from either Austria or

Hungary that I can think of are some of the Hungarian Municipal revenues, (especially Budapest), where rather a lot of printers' waste has come onto the market. Of course, Revenue collecting isn't everyone's choice and there are particular problems - how to preserve and display large documents for one, where to find better material for another. But now revenue material is recognised as an individual category in FIP International Exhibitions, we will certainly need to consider these hitherto neglected stamps in a new light!



Some History and General Considerations

In 2000 several of us were lucky enough to be in Vienna to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the first Austrian postage stamps. Whilst the 6th May 1850 is a key date for all students of Austro-Hungarian philately, all collectors will know that Austria was by no means the first country to introduce stamps to prepay postage, Great Britain having led the way ten years earlier. But Austria does have a number of philatelic 'firsts', most famously the post card introduced on 1st October 1869 but also including the perhaps more humble postal stationery letter card and, I suspect, several other types of postal stationery items.

Perhaps fewer collectors are aware, however, of an even more notable Austrian 'first', the world's first adhesive documentary revenue stamps, issued on 1st November 1854. So, 2004 may be an excuse for another celebratory trip, perhaps to Budapest, to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of this notable event! It might even happen that a handbook and catalogue of the revenue stamps could one day be produced to rival the superb and weighty (in more ways than one) tome on the postage stamps produced by Dr. Ferchenbauer.

Although this seems at present somewhat unlikely, it has encouraged me to write this brief introduction to the 1854 issue as the first of (hopefully!) a series of articles exploring the Austrian Revenue stamps. Perhaps one day I'll even manage to consider the end of this saga: in Austria, general documentary revenue stamps were abolished from 1st January 2000 and those still used for certain specific uses (visas, passports, driving licences) were finally abolished from 1st January 2002.

In fairness, there had been earlier adhesive revenue stamps for particular purposes. Great Britain had produced adhesive tax stamps for hats, gloves and perfume in the 18th century and a 1 penny receipt tax stamp in 1853. For collectors of Austria, the most familiar (and, indeed, so familiar that even Gibbons lists them) are the Newspaper Tax Stamps. The first of these, the 2kr green in a comparatively crude design, imperforate and typo printed, had already been issued on 1st March 1853 and was used throughout the Empire. These purely revenue (not postage!) stamps have already been mentioned in AUSTRIA [*a long article is planned! Ed*] and an extensive article may be found in Ferchenbauer, or, indeed in the book by Gaube. But Austria's 1854 issue can be considered as the world's first adhesive documentary revenue stamps!

Certainly, previous treatment of Austrian Revenues in English has not been generous. John Barefoot's recent catalogue is probably worth having but adds very little to the well known listings (in German and English) by Erler, other than more up-to-date prices. And make no mistake, an exhaustive treatment of the stamps and revenue imprints of Austria, together with Lombardy and Venetia, the Military Border District, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the occupations of Russia, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania would add up to a respectably thick volume, especially if all the different tax rates were elucidated and all the special purpose stamps, regionals and local municipal issues were included. And then, there's Hungary, which is a major field in itself, even if only the 'Habsburg' issues 1867 - 1918 are considered.



In fact, the adhesive stamps were not the original means of raising revenue from taxation of paper used for various financial transactions, certificates and licenses and a whole range of services and imposed duties. Indeed, Austria was one of the first countries (in 1686, in the reign of Emperor Leopold I) to introduce a Stamp Tax which required that paper used for a variety of official purposes such as certificates for birth marriage or death, petitions, contracts, mortgages etc. be marked with an imprint to indicate the duty paid by way of a 'seal'

normally indicating duty paid and, in some cases, also indicating the tax office applying the mark. These imprints are almost always in black ink and the later types are usually also embossed. For the collector, the revenue imprints on documents are, in some ways, analogous to prephilatelic covers. And, like the latter, they are keenly sought after by some collectors and ignored by others. In both cases however, I believe a basic knowledge of the early material will enrich a study of the more obviously attractive later stamps. In a later article (or articles) I hope to consider this rich field in more depth.

Another related area, almost unremarked in the literature, is the post-1854 revenue imprints on documents. These are, I suppose, analogous to postal stationery. Most Postal History collectors will have some examples of these: our old friends the parcel cards which usually bear revenue imprints to pay the tax and postage stamps to pay the postal charges. But parcel cards are only part of the story! Another common 'stationery' item is the Wechsel or Bill of Exchange (or promissory note) whose handsome cut-out imprints may sometimes be found tucked away in the back of old stockbooks. Other 'stationery' items include freight bills of lading (Frachtbriefe), fishing permits and so on and (more recently) road tax discs and the like. And, analogous with the sought after 'privately printed' postal stationery, receipts may also be found pre-stamped by the tax office, presumably to avoid messing about with sheets of adhesives. Another little-considered collecting area awaiting a keen researcher!

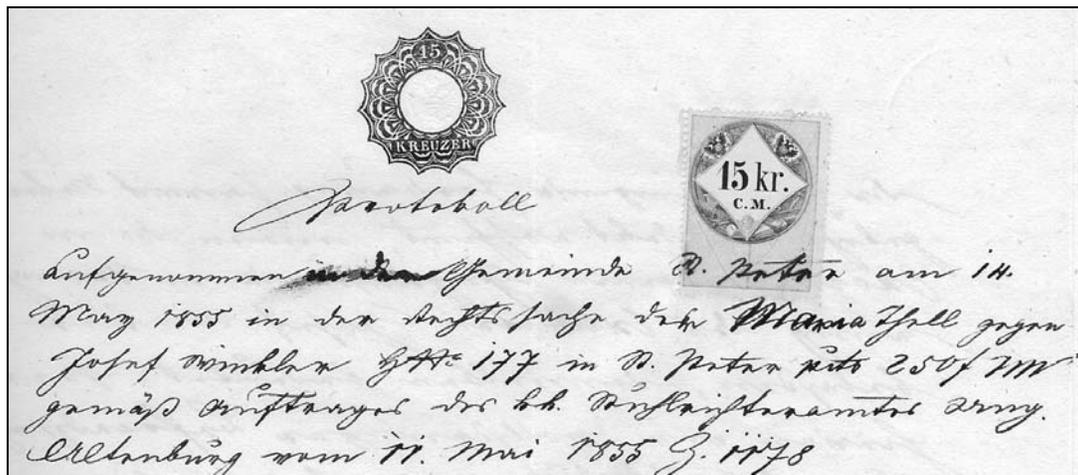
The World's First Revenue Stamps

What then, of the first series of documentary adhesives? As well as being one of the most beautiful series of stamps ever issued, there is plenty of interest for the philatelist both in the history and details of their production and the various aspects of papers, watermarks, printing errors and the like, not to mention the great diversity of uses to which they were put.

The proposition that adhesive stamps should be produced was made by one Johann Deodart Freiherr v. Spiegelfeld, Director of Administration in the Chamber of Finance in Capodistria (and later the Direction of Financial Administration in Venice), dated 17th April 1848. Spiegelfeld's proposal was based on the idea of postage stamps, which would not appear in Austria for another two years, but were becoming increasingly widespread in Europe and elsewhere. He suggested that "little pre-stamped sheets of paper" (kleinen vorgestempelten Papierblättern) replace the usual pre-stamped stationery in paying the stamp tax. Spiegelfeld is thus as much the Father of the Documentary Revenue Stamp as is Rowland Hill the Father of the Postage Stamp.

The proposal was eventually accepted and the first Decree of the Ministry of Finance was issued on 28th March 1854. This set out the legal framework for the new stamps and their use as replacement for the earlier imprints. It was followed by two further ordinances of 24th May and 29th September 1854 which set out various technical details and the individual values which would be produced. Public Announcements for the forthcoming issue of the stamps on 1st November 1854 were made, dated 10th October 1854 (Lombardy) and 13th October 1854 (Venetia). Many of the documents are reproduced in their Italian versions in the book by Dr. Helmuth Avi (Ref 1). No doubt other announcements were issued at about the same time in Austria and Hungary.

The stamps themselves were issued on 1st November 1854, denominated in 'Convention' Kreuzer and Gulden, with 21 values from 1 Kreuzer "C.M." (Conventionsmünze) to 20 Gulden (¹) for use in Austria and with 21 values from 5 Centesimi to 60 Lira for use in Lombardy & Venetia. They would be in use for precisely four years, being invalidated on 31st October 1858 and replaced by the second series, following the currency reform when the Conventionsmünze was replaced by "Österreichisches Währung" with 100 (new) Kreuzers equalling 1 (new) Gulden and at a rate of 21 (new) Gulden = 20 (old) Gulden. (Hence, incidentally, the rather weird value of the 1.05 (new) Kreuzer Newspaper stamps!) The revenue stamped paper which the stamps were designed to replace were also invalidated on 31st October 1858. Thus supplementary frankings of adhesives on the stamped paper can be found, although they are far from common.



¹ Much confusion has been caused [not least to me! Ed] by the denominations of the higher values (and, indeed, monetary amounts in manuscript on old documents) being expressed as 20 fl. (for example). This does not mean that the currency was expressed in 'Florins' (although Hungarians or Italians might have called the units 'Forint' or 'Fiorini' respectively). The German symbol for the Gulden was fl. just as the British symbol for the Pound Sterling is £.

In addition to the general purpose documentary stamps, a few special purpose tax stamps for advertisement tax and calendar tax were also issued at the same time. We will consider these in a little more detail later on.

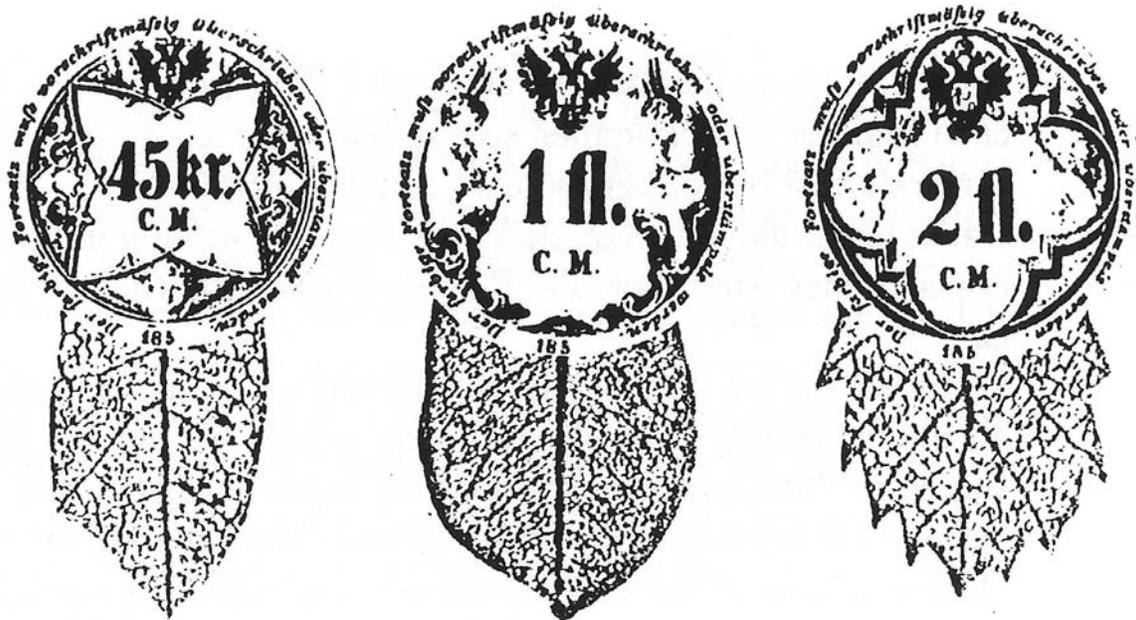
Security Concerns and a Leafy Solution

One aspect which must be emphasised right from the start is the Administration's anxiety about forgery and their careful response to this threat. It should be pointed out that some forgeries of the previous revenue imprints had been detected, although it seems not to be recorded whether this was a forgery purely to defraud the revenue of the value of the imprint or part of a more radical fraud to produce a bogus legal or commercial document. Certain it is, that just a year before the revenue stamps appeared, the well known Verona postal forgeries of the 15c and 30c postage stamps had appeared. And if it was well worth the effort of producing rather good forgeries of stamps for these lowly amounts, one could imagine the temptation presented by stamps with values of 20 Gulden or 60 Lire, or 200 times as much! Just to get a feel for this, the C.M. Gulden was worth around 2s 1d (2 shillings and a penny) in the contemporary British currency [*For our younger readers: 12 pennies to the shilling, 20 shillings to the pound sterling. Ed*], so 20 Gulden was just over £2 (or not quite 2 Guineas). About a month's wages for a semi-skilled tradesman!

The revenues were therefore designed and printed with considerably more care than the much loved but (to be honest) rather crude 1850 postage stamps. Fine quality printing and a variety of more or less cunning security devices are a feature of all the documentary stamps throughout their 150 year life. From the first issue, they showed an unusual security device that would remain on almost all issues of Austrian, Lombardy Venetia, Hungarian and Military Border District documentary stamps until the currency reform of 1898. This was the use of an imprint of a natural leaf (apparently from a Linden tree) whose veins and sub-veins form a distinctive and delicate tracery as a background printing. This green typographically printed background is constant for each value, (although sub types creep in with later issues) and there are a few rare errors recorded where the 'wrong' background has been used to produce the stamp. Stamps can also be found showing damage (or poor printing) to the background, leading to breaks or white patches. These shouldn't be confused with the paper folds which can also be found, probably from sheets which got creased or wrinkled when dampened for the recess printing. Obviously, the more spectacular these effects are, the more they are sought after. The green colour of the background of the 1854 issue was normally a yellow-green - notably blue-green shades are worth more.

The 'natural printing' process was a galvanoplastic technique and used a soft metal cliché (lead) impressed with a natural leaf (allegedly with a "pressure of 50 tons") before the die was coated with copper. This was then removed from the lead and backed with type-metal, presumably polished in some way to reduce the height of the main leaf veins to the same height as the secondary and tertiary veins (essential for typographic printing) and dies assembled to build up the printing plate. There were, no doubt, primary, secondary, tertiary dies, groups of dies and 'mother' plates produced. This procedure and the idea of 'natural printing' was invented by Ritter Alois Auer von Welsbach, Director General of the Imperial Printing Works, with technical collaboration from his assistant Andreas Worring, and was successfully presented to a Commission under the direction of the Finance Minister Baumgartner, as a certain precaution against forgery. (One wonders whether the Minister's name might have been an inspiration...). Incidentally, Von Welsbach's lad Carl (1858-1929) was later to be commemorated on an Austrian stamp (ANK 1015) as the inventor of the light bulb. An inventive family!

The initial essays for the issue seem to have survived up to the time (early 1920s) when Koczynski wrote his book but are apparently now lost. Reproductions show an engraved medallion with a leafy 'tail', each from a different tree and initially it was the intention that the leaf should also be recess printed. It is not clear how these unusual "free form" essays could have been turned into stamps printed in sheets.



Three of the original essays with a leaf tail.

In fact, it has been pointed out (Ebner) that the notion of using a leaf design for security purposes was not entirely novel but had been tried before in some 18th

century local American currency notes. The 'natural' leaf background is attractive, and undoubtedly hard for the forger to reproduce. But, although I am not aware of any successful forgeries, it must be said that human beings are 'programmed' to perceive very small variations in a face (and hence, a portrait), whereas minor variations in the tracery of a leaf are quite difficult to spot without very close study! It is presumably for this reason that the concept of the Penny Black (a portrait within a regularly patterned framework) is much more common in security printing than the use of leaves.

The 'Medallion' Designs

In the adopted designs, the pictorial, emblematic 'medallions' including the values from 1 Kreuzer to 20 Gulden and the letters 'C.M' (for Conventionsmünze, 1 Gulden = 60 Kreuzer) are inset in the leafy background. In the case of the parallel, and closely related series for Lombardy Venetia, values ranged between 5 Centesimi and 60 Lire.

The medallions, closely resembling the essays, are beautifully recess printed with all but the lowest values in black. The 1 and 2 kreuzer and the corresponding 5 and 10 Centesimi values, however, have their medallions typographically printed in orange and red, respectively.

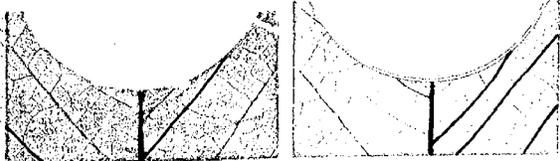
Based on an original concept design produced at the end of 1849, the detailed design for the medallions was by the painter Leandro Russ who was paid 200 Gulden on 28th September 1852 for the first 10 designs, with a further 200 Gulden in 1853 for the remaining eight designs. The engraving was carried out by Carlo Kotterba. The lower kreuzer / centesimi values have, in addition to the Imperial double-headed eagle which features on every design, some delicate but unexceptional ornamentation. Heads of putti creep in as values increase, followed by more and more elaborate (and hard to forge!) allegorical designs with a good range of cherubs, angels and so on for the high values. A descriptive illustrated listing will appear in the next issue.



It should be noted that, in the preceding series of imprinted stamped stationery (from 1836), the imprints generally tended to get smaller the higher the value, supposedly to deter people cutting the imprints out of used documents and stitching them into fresh sheets. It is a little unclear how this size reduction

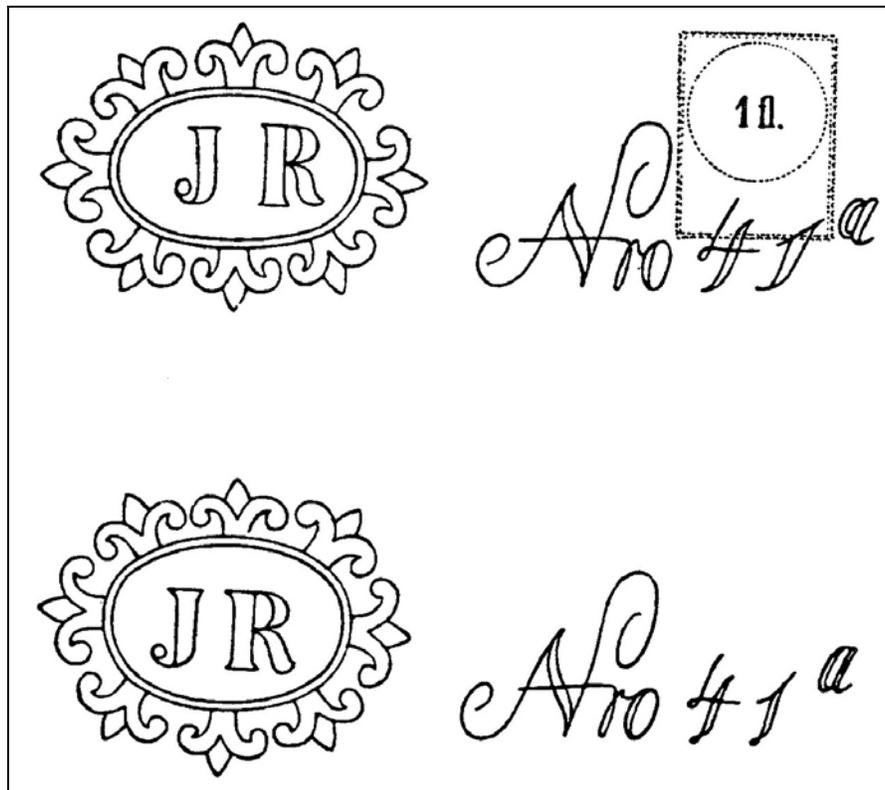
might help! With the adhesives, however, the more normal sequence of increased size with increased value was followed and the top values are quite large stamps. The lowest values are just 20 x 28 mm (measured over the leafy background) and the top values 35½ x 44½ mm. It follows from this that the printing plate for each value must presumably have been different. Presumably varying numbers of the dies were assembled for printing on available sized sheets of paper. As the medallions were apparently printed first, using recess or copperplate techniques which involve dampening the paper (with consequent differing shrinkage as the paper dried), it is remarkable that the centring of the medallion within the background and the (rather variable) alignment of the line perforations are as good as they generally are.

The varieties with "wrong leafy background" are particularly interesting. Those discovered so far are the 5fl. C.M. with the background of the 6fl. C.M., the 16fl. C.M. with the background of the 18fl. C.M. and lastly the 48 Lire with the background of the 54 Lire. Note that the (unique) 48 Lire stamp (Ebner) is the equivalent value in the L&V series to the 16fl. C.M. stamp. Even a 'normal' 48 Lire stamp is very scarce and clearly comes from an early (the only) printing. The 16fl. C.M. error appears to be from a very similar printing, but copies of the 5fl. C.M. error are known with different paper and background shade, thus from more than one printing.

 <p>Unterdruck der 5 fl. C.M. : kleine Diagonale links unten.</p> <p>Unterdruck der 6 fl. C.M. : kleine Diagonale rechts unten, doppelte große Diagonale rechts.</p>	 <p>Starke Vergrößerung der linken oberen Ecke vom Unterdruck der 16 fl. C.M.</p> <p>Der Unterdruck der 18 fl. C.M. unterscheidet sich im wesentlichen durch eine zusätzliche Wellenlinien in der linken oberen Ecke.</p>
<p>Enlargement of the underprint at the bottom of the 5fl (left) and 6fl (right) stamps. Note the small diagonal in the lower left corner of the 5fl and the double large diagonal on the right side of the 6fl.</p>	<p>Enlargement of the underprint of the upper left quadrant of the 16fl (left) and 18fl (right) stamps. Note the wavy line in the corner of the 18fl.</p>
<p>Both reproduced from Ebner "Die Blattunterdruckmarken etc" (Ref. 5)</p>	

Paper and Watermark

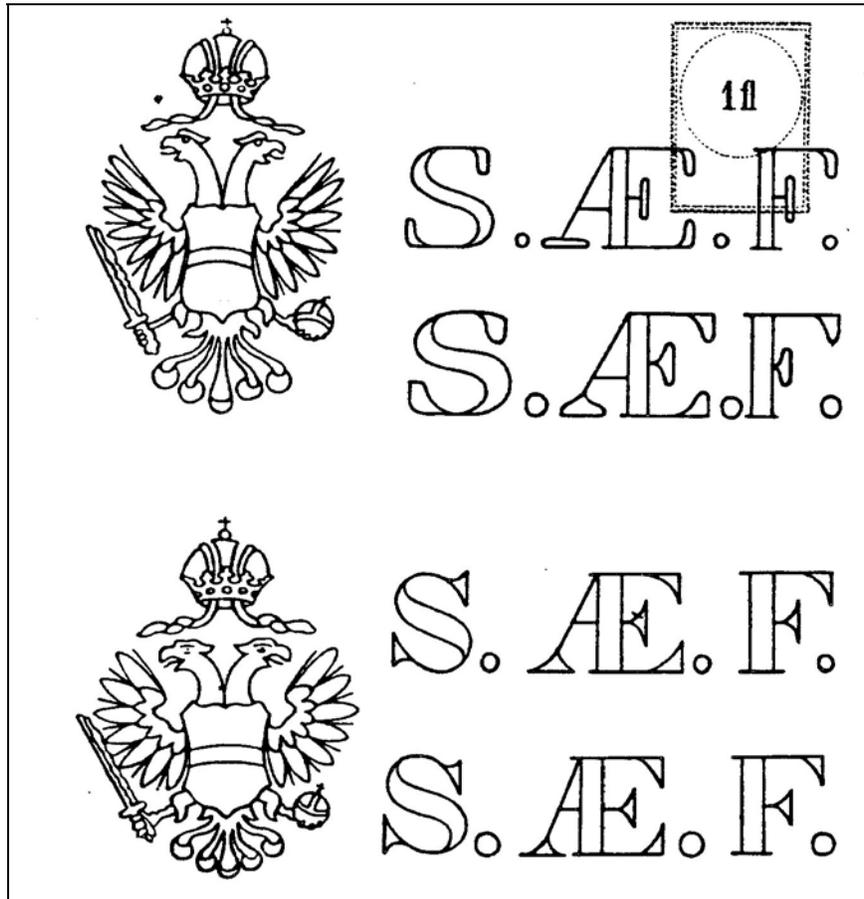
White, machine made paper (some sources say hand-made but it is certainly a fine quality paper) from two different mills was used (up to September 1856 and thereafter) each with a distinctive watermark normally across the bottom margin of the sheet ⁽²⁾; and specialists recognise two subtypes of each! The first paper was produced by the factory of Josef Reichle and the watermark showed the initials JR inside an ornamented oval with the code "Nro 41a" alongside. Initially this measured 65 x 58mm and had sharp ends to the numerals, a later type measured 68 x 51mm and had loops at the bottom of the numerals.



Both subtypes of the paper by Reichle. (Note size of 1fl. stamp for comparison.)

The 1856 paper was produced by the state Schlögmühle Ärarialpapier Fabrik, and their watermark comprised an Imperial double-headed eagle with a double row of the initials "S. Æ. F.", initially 78 x 52mm with blunt ended letters and later 71 x 55mm with pointed letters.

² although some authorities suggest across the *middle* of the sheet: obviously there is scope for some confusion if more than one *pane* of stamps was printed on every sheet, as in the case of the postage stamps



Both subtypes of the Schlögmühle paper.

Stamps showing parts of these watermarks are worth significantly more than 'normals'; those with a full letter or, even better, a good part of the eagle are worth considerably more!

During 1858 a new paper was introduced, and the first printings of the second series are found on this. This paper is similar to that used for the first issue but is without watermark. It has been suggested that the last printings of the first issue may have also been printed on this but, unless someone turns up a complete sheet of 1854 stamps without any sign of a watermark, I can't see how you might be certain of the difference! There are also "Ladurner" watermarks (a row of short lines caused by the joint on the sieve of the paper making machine) to be found.

The paper is normally white but a 'yellowish light brown' can also be found on this issue, as can very thin or very thick paper. Paper thickness can, of course be measured but who can measure the effects of different handling and storage of the stamps over 150 years? I am a bit sceptical about some of the finer distinctions between white / yellowish / yellow / greyish / grey paper shades that are alleged to exist and am more comfortable with the fairly obvious bluish and rose (L&V) shades in later issues.

Perforation

The postage stamps printed by the State Printing House were, of course, imperforate until 1858 and (excepting a few errors) fairly unvaried, initially perf 15, then perf 14 and then perf 9½. Only from the fine printings of the sixth issue (so from the mid 1870s) onwards did things start to go seriously awry in the perforation department, leading to the heroic (or insane?) proliferation of perforation types found with the 1890 issue of Austria. With the revenue stamps, however, they started off as they meant to carry on! The first issue is recorded variously perf 13½, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, 16½ and 17 and in a good variety of compound perforations! You don't *have* to try to collect all these, although the stamp squirrel in us will point out that some variants are *much* scarcer than others....

Both Erlar and Cavazzoni have attempted tables of perforations known to them of the Austrian and L&V stamps. These results (with a few minor alterations and additions) are shown in the appendices. Neither has attempted to measure to the nearest quarter perforation (thankfully!) and it must be accepted that accurately separating perf. 17 from perf. 17½ (say) is a little challenging. But it is interesting that although a number of perforation 14 and 14½ varieties in various combinations and multiples are recorded by Erlar, very few have been found by Cavazzoni, who conversely notes perf. 9½ and 17½ varieties not seen in the Austrian stamps. For someone with eyesight, patience and access to lots of material, I suspect there may be some interesting conclusions to be drawn, especially as the finest perforations are found on typo high value Lire stamps, which can by inference be dated to early 1854/5. The perf. 9½ specimens recorded by Cavazzoni are also curious - this coarse gauge would not reappear in either postage or revenue stamps until five years after this series was invalidated.

It is worth noting that the perforation equipment was purchased from Perkins Bacon and was based on Henry Archer's patents. These are, then, some of the earliest perforated stamps, the perforated Penny Red only having been issued in February 1854. And it must be said that although different gauges abound and minor misperforations (wide or narrow margins - indeed, wide and narrow stamps!) can be found quite easily, the perforations themselves are pretty cleanly cut.

Numbers Issued

Allegedly, 500,000 or more of the 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 15, 30, 45 Kreuzer and 1, 2 and 3 Gulden values were issued (which seems strange as the 1 & 2 Kreuzer are decidedly scarce!). Mayr & Hanus list the numbers issued of the high values as:

4 Fl	454,000	5 Fl	276,000	6 Fl	222,000	8 Fl	86,250	10 Fl	81,250
12 Fl	26,575	14 Fl	27,500	16 Fl	26,875	18 Fl	27,500	20 Fl	72,000

Of course, no-one can say how many of these have survived but, certainly, the 12 - 18 Gulden values are all quite difficult to find, even as loose stamps.

In the case of the Lombardy Venetia stamps, Mayr & Hanus again give '500,000 or more' as the numbers of the 5, 10, 15, 30, 50, 75 Centesimi and 1 Lira 50 Centesimi stamps and the high values as:-

2L25	194,000	6 L	324,000	9 L	219,000	12 L	75,000	15 L	49,500
18 L	22,500	24 L	18,750	30 L	21,800	36 L	18,750	42 L	16,250
48 L	17,500	54 L	16,250	60 L	13,000				

There are several points to note here. Firstly, it is obvious how much scarcer the top L&V values are than the corresponding Austrian stamps. Secondly, these figures take no account of the fact that the values of the L&V stamps were printed by two processes (initially typography, subsequently by recess printing: see below) and thus there are two sets of the L&V stamps together comprising the numbers listed above. Some of the recess printed high values are real rarities. Lastly, there is the curious omission, once again, of the two lowest values which are again notably scarce.

It may be worth considering the history of and the need for these low values. It is worth noting that until the tax law of 9 February 1850, coming into effect on 24th April, there was no need for either, as both the 1818 and 1840 tax scales ran in multiples of 3 Kreuzer (3, 6, 15, 30 Kreuzer, 1 Gulden etc). The new 1850 scale (see later) did include a 10 Kreuzer rate, creating the possible need of make-up values. From 1st May 1850, 1 Kreuzer and 5 Centesimi stamped paper was issued in Austria and in both Lombardy and Venetia.

For obscure reasons, Hungary had never been subjected to taxation on official paper. Probably to help pay for the costs arising from Kossuth's 1848 revolution (and to punish the losers in traditional style), the 2nd August 1850 Tax Patent introduced for the first time documentary taxes in Hungary, including Croatia, Slavonia with the coastal area, Serbian Voivodina, the Temes District (Banat), Transylvania and the Military Border District, whose citizens were, no doubt, overjoyed. On 1st October 1850, a 1 Kreuzer (or more correctly 1 Krajczár) Hungarian stamped paper, with all the other values, duly appeared. On 20th February 1851 an Austrian 2 Kreuzer and a Hungarian 2 Krajczár paper arrived. Lombardy and Venetia got their 10 Centesimi paper probably in May 1852. All

are rare. I believe that the 1 Kreuzer and 5 Centesimi were used for low value tradesmen's invoices and Hanus states that the 2 Kreuzer and 10 Centesimi were used to pay a tax on business accounts (Geschäftsbücherstempelung). The former use suggests that many stamps may have been used but (rather like the imprints raising tax on hair powder and cosmetics) the number to survive would be very low. One might have thought that accounts would be likely to have been preserved but, in the 1854 issue, the 2 Kreuzer and 10 Centesimi are rarer than the bottom value.

It is also worth noting that Marchetto's recent book points out that both the postal and revenue material that does survive, suggests that the 5 and 10 Centesimi stamps were not used until June 1855 and even lists these as a separate issue. Perhaps the sources from which Mayr & Hanus compiled the numbers issued in the tables above simply didn't include these values?

Marchetto also points out that 1854 uses of all the stamps are hard to find. Up to now, the stamps known to have been used fiscally on document in 1854 are those of 15, 30, 50, 75 Centesimi and 1Lira50 and, most probably, also those of 2L25, 3, 6, 9 and 12 Lire.

The Simultaneous Issue for Lombardy & Venetia

The first issue of Lombardy Venetia closely parallels the first Austrian issue. As mentioned above however, all values from 5 Centesimi to 60 Lire exist not only with the values printed typographically within the black engraved medallion, but all but four (the 5 and 10 Centesimi and 48 and 54 Lire) also exist with both value and medallion printed from the same engraved plate. This added (and important) complication can only be found in the Austrian revenue stamps (other than the curious exception of the 3Kr Calendar Tax Stamp) after 1858, i.e. on the second issue, occasioned by the currency reform. As the typo values were printed in a separate operation, there are numerous minor misplacements of the value within the medallion and occasionally a different shade of ink can be detected. Indeed the misplacements lead to a simple test: if the value is clearly off centre within the medallion then the stamp is certainly a 'typo' printing, if it is well centred then it may well be an 'engraved' printing. There are also (more or less) clear differences in the shape of the numerals and the letters of the words "Centesimi" and "Lire". These will be considered and illustrated later.

The high values of the L&V stamps are notably hard to find and there are some very scarce stamps, including the 15 Lire and 42 Lire with engraved values. The 48 Lire and 54 Lire are thought not to exist at all with engraved values; even the typo-printed 54 Lire is difficult. A rare variety of the 42 Lire typo has the "42

Lire" on one line above the medallion's cherubs, whereas the "normal" stamp has "42" at the top and "Lire" at the bottom. This spectacular variety deserves consideration in some detail, which will be done in the next instalment.

Other Printing Varieties

Another spectacular error is the 6 Lire Typo with both medallion and value inverted. (Or perhaps it should be with background and perforations inverted?). There are apparently only three copies known and Kimmel-Lapart in his article illustrates two, one of which has clearly been used 'upside down', presumably as a 9 Lire stamp. What's going on here? To invert one printing process seems careless, but two? The best construction is that after printing both medallion and value, the operator of the typographic press and the man on the perforator (all perf. 15) had been over indulging themselves at lunch time and re-aligned their machines for a prank!

Other varieties include inverted values (75c and 6L typo), values offset on reverse (30c typo) and double and offset printings of the green leaf background (various values including 5c, 10c, 15c, 30c, 75c, 1,50 L, 3L, 18 L and 30 L typo; 15c, 30c, 50c, 75c, 1,50 L, 9 L and 24 L engraved). One unique copy of the 10 Centesimi has been found spelled "Centesimi", used on piece with a 15 Centesimi and cancelled "I.R. Tribunale Provinciale di Vicenza". Again, one wonders how this quite spectacular error came about. One must assume that an odd incorrect die was assembled into the plate but was spotted and removed at an early stage of production. Imperforate or partially perforated copies of the 30c, 50c, and 75c typographic and 30c, 50c and 1,50 L engraved have been recorded. And, of course, there are various minor constant flaws for those who collect such things.

A number of varieties also exist in the C.M. series, including printings of the value on the reverse (6kr, 3fl and 5fl) and printings of the leaf background on the reverse (15kr, 30kr, 3fl.). There are double prints of the 10kr and both 15kr and 30kr stamps are known imperforate. Although the C.M. values, being printed by recess together with the medallion, don't 'wander about' like the L&V typo values, there are significant variations in the actual numerals and big, small, fat, thin, more- or less-serifed numerals may be found. This seems particularly to be the case with the numerals 2, 4 and 5. Perhaps of more interest are the varieties of the 30kr: Erler lists three distinct types with (i) full shading under the bar below "30kr." and the 'curl' to the right complete, (ii) horizontal shading partially missing and curl partly broken, (iii) no shading below the bar and a wide gap in the curl. This saga of cliché damage, deterioration and attempts at repair would continue in the 30kr. and 90kr. (ö.W.) stamps in the second issue! Lastly, the 14fl. may be found with part of the outer line of the

circle at the top missing. Again, I suspect that this list could be significantly extended by anyone with good eyesight, patience and a good stock of material!

Usage of the Documentary Stamps and the Special Duty Stamps



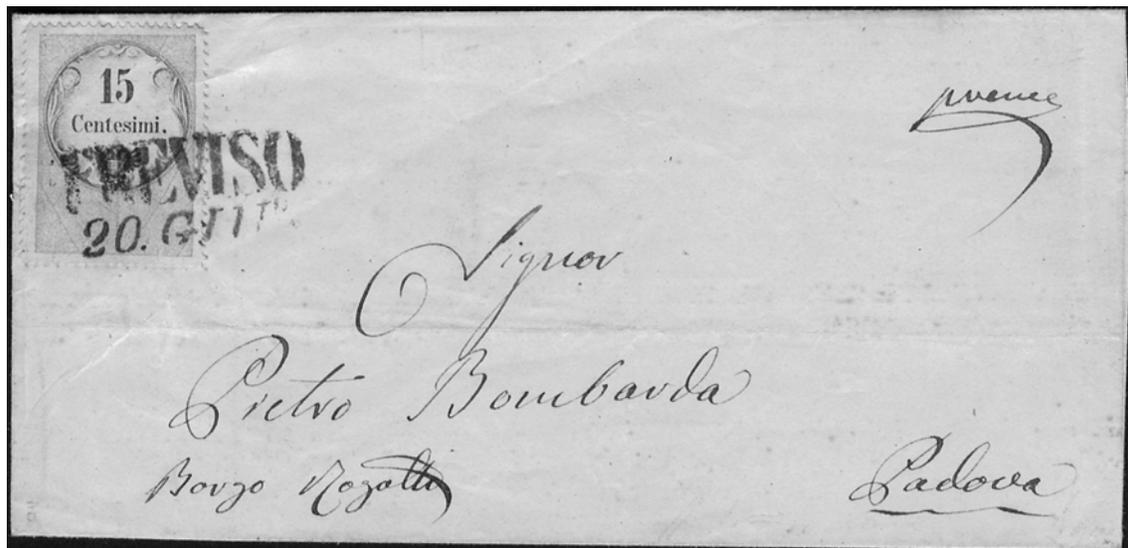
The documentary stamps were used for a wide variety of commercial and legal duties and may still be found on all sorts of documents, from 'hatching - matching - despatching' certificates (birth, marriage, death certificates), 'protocols' (reports of court proceedings), passports, permits to carry weapons, receipts, petitions, complaints, mortgages and so on. But there were also stamps issued for special purposes. In addition to the Newspaper Tax Stamps, the other 'special duty' stamps in this early period, already mentioned, were the advertisement stamps and the calendar stamps. The designs of these are very similar to the corresponding documentary revenue stamps. The advertisement stamps are typo printed "½ kr. / Ankundigungs- / Stempel." (in rose) , "1 kr. / Ankundigungs- / Stempel." (in blue), "3 / Centesimi / Bollo per gli annunci." (in red) or "5 Cen. / Bollo per gli / annunci." (in blue). The medallions are in black and the leafy background is in green. The L&V 3c stamp has three varieties, "Bollo per gli annunci." initially measuring 14mm, then 15mm and finally 13mm. These stamps can be found on various proclamations and advertisements, notably on Playbills or notices of forthcoming concerts. They can also be found, very occasionally, used together with 'normal' revenues on a variety of legal documents. Equally occasionally, a normal revenue stamp can sometimes be found paying advertisement tax.

The calendar stamps paid the 3kr (or 15c) tax on calendars and almanacs. The stamps have the background printed in rose rather than green but are of the same basic design. The value imprint is replaced by "3 kr. / Kalender- / Stempel." or "15 Cen. / Bollo per gli / almanacchi". The kreuzer stamp exists in typo and (scarce!) recess printed versions. The centesimi stamp, with value and inscription printed typographically, has two varieties, with "Bollo per gli"

measuring 11½ mm or 12½ mm. The calendar stamps are fairly uncommon at the best of times. It is nice to find an old calendar where they may be found always fixed on the title page. But not infrequently the 'signette' version was used, even after the introduction of the adhesives. These signettes are, themselves, highly desirable.

Postal Use

Of interest to (postal) philatelists is the fairly well known use of the revenue stamps to frank letters. Although the volume of postal traffic in Lombardy Venetia was around an eighth of the traffic in the rest of the Empire, the postal use of revenue stamps was considerably more common in Lombardy Venetia than in Austria, but even the latter is more common than the occasional (mis)use of postage stamps for revenue purposes. The difference here was that, if postal use of revenues was initially tolerated, then frowned on and eventually specifically banned by a decree dated 9th July 1857, the use of postage stamps on legal documents was throughout invalid! There seem to have been more controls on the use of the revenues in Austria and there were apparently different practices in the accounting for the stamps. Postage stamps (which were produced for the Ministry of Trade, who organised the postal service) were available only for cash. Apparently revenue stamps could (presumably for larger organisations) be obtained with accounts reckoned and settled quarterly in arrears and there were, in Lombardy & Venetia, even private retailers who were permitted a discount!



Although postmarked revenue stamps and, even more, letters bearing revenue stamps are highly desirable and fairly expensive, the 'basic' items are fairly common. Indeed, Dr. Avi's excellent book catalogues usage throughout Lombardy & Venetia and there seems to be something recorded from even the

most obscure offices, let alone Milan or Venice! But only certain values may be found. In Austria, the 1, 3, 6, 10 and 15 Kr. C.M. stamps are recorded and in Lombardy & Venetia the 5, 10, 15, 30, 50, 75 Centesimi and the 1 Lira 50 Centesimi. Several of these values are rare or very rare and, in general the L & V engraved value types are rarer than the typo printed value types. This isn't surprising, as the former didn't appear until the ban was in the offing. But it is interesting that Marchetto queries whether any of the L&V were used in 1854. So early uses are also worth looking out for. The postal use of any other values, or postal use of the advertisement or calendar stamps (if they exist at all), will be extremely rare.

No doubt the Ministry of Finance were quite relaxed about selling their stamps for a service provided by the Ministry of Trade but when, eventually, it was estimated that 80,000 letters per year were being franked with revenues, the prohibition was introduced. Despite the eternal optimism (or ignorance) of some dealers, postal frankings with Austrian revenues after 1857 are exceptionally rare: there seems to have been more tolerance - or negligence - in Lombardy & Venetia at least up to the change in currency, even in the difficult conditions of the World War. Revenue stamps on postal documents other than during this initial period are almost always paying tax on something which has been used as evidence in a Court case, (from 1854 6 Kr. C.M., later 15 Kr, later 30 Heller) and will be cancelled with a Court handstamp rather than a postmark. After the Decree of 1st November 1863, 5 kr. revenue stamps will be found postally cancelled; these pay the tax on goods sent from one party to a second party and conveyed by a third party. They are, in fact, the fore-runners of our friends the parcel cards prior to the introduction of the stationery parcel cards from 1871.

Cancelleds

The different common types of cancellation the stamps received are (in increasing order of desirability and hence value):

- ❖ punched or perforated (fortunately unusual on this issue)
- ❖ a cross in ink plus manuscript
- ❖ a cross in ink only
- ❖ manuscript only
- ❖ a handstamp plus manuscript
- ❖ a handstamp only.

Obviously, the lighter and neater the pen cancellation is, the better. Coloured and clearly struck handstamps deserve a good premium, as indeed do cancels that confirm use in Hungary, Liechtenstein or any of the more far flung and

collectable parts of the Empire. It has been suggested that handstamp cancels are somewhat more common on the first issue than they become later.

Tax Rates

The keen postal historian will no doubt be eager to verify what rate of tax is being paid on a document and why. This isn't entirely straightforward and the student should be aware that additional frankings can sometimes be found on documents for various reasons. Sometimes these additional frankings will be dated many years later than the original document, even bearing the revenue stamps of the Czechoslovakian Republic, or wherever. Another problem is the 'complete' document which is anything but! But even in the more normal case where a single type of tax is being paid on a simple transaction and with a document that hasn't been reduced, it can take a bit of digging to work out what is going on. Many of the taxes were fixed amounts (e.g. birth certificate, school report, records of a court judgement (Protokoll), identity papers, fishing permit and so on.). I'm not sure that any taxes were reckoned on a strictly proportional scale in this period, but it is certain that "Geldurkunde" (or financial documents, including receipts, money transfers, powers of attorney, loan agreements of all kinds) were on an incremental scale.

The primary scale (introduced on 9th February 1850) is as follows:-

Amounts of:	Tax:	Amounts of:	Tax:
Up to 20fl. C.M.	3kr.	1,600 - 2,000fl. C.M.	5fl.
20 - 40fl. C.M.	6kr.	2,000 - 2,400fl. C.M.	6fl.
40 - 70fl. C.M.	10kr.	2,400 - 3,200fl. C.M.	8fl.
70 - 100fl. C.M.	15kr.	3,200 - 4,000fl. C.M.	10fl.
100 - 200fl. C.M.	30kr.	4,000 - 4,800fl. C.M.	12fl.
200 - 300fl. C.M.	45kr.	4,800 - 5,600fl. C.M.	14fl.
300 - 400fl. C.M.	1fl.	5,600 - 6,400fl. C.M.	16fl.
400 - 800fl. C.M.	2fl.	6,400 - 7,200fl. C.M.	18fl.
800 - 1,200fl. C.M.	3fl.	7,200 - 8,000fl. C.M.	20fl.
1,200 - 1,600fl. C.M.	4fl.	Then per 400fl. C.M.	+ 1fl.

Note that this scale does not apply to bills of exchange (Wechsel) which were charged on a different scale, nor does it apply to invoice or statement duty. But it's a start! It does apply to "money transfers or agreements for transfer, for which a record was required for legal or official reasons." (Whiteside)

A few odd duties to look out for during this period

3 kr "Quittung" (Duty on a receipt up to 20fl.)

6 kr Application to a Court for settlement of rent arrears

Application to record a change in ownership in the Land Registry.

"Quittung" (Duty on a receipt from 20fl up to 40fl.)

15 kr "Ärztliches Zeugnis" (Doctor's Certificate)

"Protokoll" (Court case judgement)

"Kaufvertrag" (Bill of Sale)

"Erklärung" (Declaration)

30 kr Schuldschein (Promissory Note for a loan or mortgage 100 - 200fl.)

Revers (Petition - in Czech language)

And so on!

Finally...

The 1854 issue was in use for exactly four years before being invalidated on 31st October 1858 prior to the introduction of the new currency stamps on the following day. The decree of the Ministry of Finance dated 15th July 1858 also allowed for the exchange of the old stamps held in private hands up until 31st January 1859. The new stamps were all denominated in the new currency of 100 Kreuzer = 1 Gulden and were used throughout the Empire, although the stamps for L&V had a pink leafy background and those for the rest of the Empire had a brown background. These stamps, somewhat more complicated than the first issue (!) will be considered in the next article.

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[*Note! Can anyone sell / lend me this rare book? - MHKB*]
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From the Membership Secretary

At the recent AGM Geoff Frost took over the position of Membership Secretary so this is my last chance to welcome new members to the Society. Those joining in the last three months are: 1205 A. Jones, Oxford; 1206 C. Colomb, Canada; 1207 M. Wendt, U.S.A.; 1208 W. L. Lewis U.S.A.; 1209 A.T. Pinder Wrexham; 1210 J F Matschinegg, USA; 1211 D Potts, Oxford; 1212 R N Foulkes, Cheshire. Resignation: 1184 S. Kloppe.

From the Treasurer

At the AGM I presented the detailed financial statement for the year to 31 March 2003. The basic details are given below but a copy of the full statement may be obtained by sending me a SAE before 15 December.

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	3256	Printing 'Austria'	1868
Auction	800	Posting 'Austria'	756
Advertisements in 'Austria'	270	Newsletter and enclosures	544
Payment for posting other items	250	Library expenses	229
Income from other sources**	757	Officers expenses	390
Bank Interest	127	Other outgoings**	782
Total	5460	Total	4569
		Surplus for the year	891
			5460

** These figures include items like the subscriptions for Die Briefmarke that appear as both an income and an expense.

Part of the surplus was allocated to pay for the printing of the new Library list. As at 31 March 2003 the Society had funds of £8,062 of which £1,395 represents Subscriptions paid in advance.

At the AGM Mr. John Anthony was appointed Treasurer and I hope to pass all papers over to him in the near future.

As members will see I have relinquished the previously joint position of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Last year I indicated that I wished to reduce my workload and with volunteers for the two positions I can now spend more time on my collection. I would like to thank all members for their support over the years and for your forgiveness when I made an error. I hope you will be as kind to my successors.

Joyce Boyer

From the Hon. Secretary

Another AGM has come and gone as has another “Fest”, our main social function that over the years has come to characterise both the philatelic and non-philatelic activities of our Society. Some say we have come a long way since the semi-informal gathering at Todmorton 13 years ago while others still hanker after the informality and the postprandial squeezebox entertainment of the Lancashire moors.

Be that as it may, Covfest – a very late replacement for Leamfest when our booked hotel at Leamington ran out of heating facilities – was adjudged a success, a few cold dinners apart. Fest-watchers report that the attendance (33 persons) is the highest to date: with 19 members present, the AGM was certainly the best attended on our books. Next year we shall be “festering” (a horrid word invented by our Hon. Editor) at Honiley Court, a highly recommended conference hotel between Warwick and Leamington: Brian Presland – now thankfully restored to the best of health – and Geoff Frost will be organising it jointly.

The decks are now cleared for our Society display to the Royal Philatelic Society, London on Thursday 8 January 2004. Our members have come forward with an awe-inspiring range of displays. These are now being listed and those who have offered to participate will be contacted later this month.

All members of the APS are welcome to attend – indeed their support will be greatly appreciated. The show opens at 1pm and closes at 5.30 with wine and nibbles. The “Royal” is at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, nearest L.T. stations Baker Street and Regents Park. Just one requirement if you are not displaying, please let me know if you intend to come, as it helps the “Royal” with numbers for tea etc. (Tel. 0208-458 7353; e-mail smithhans963@aol.com)

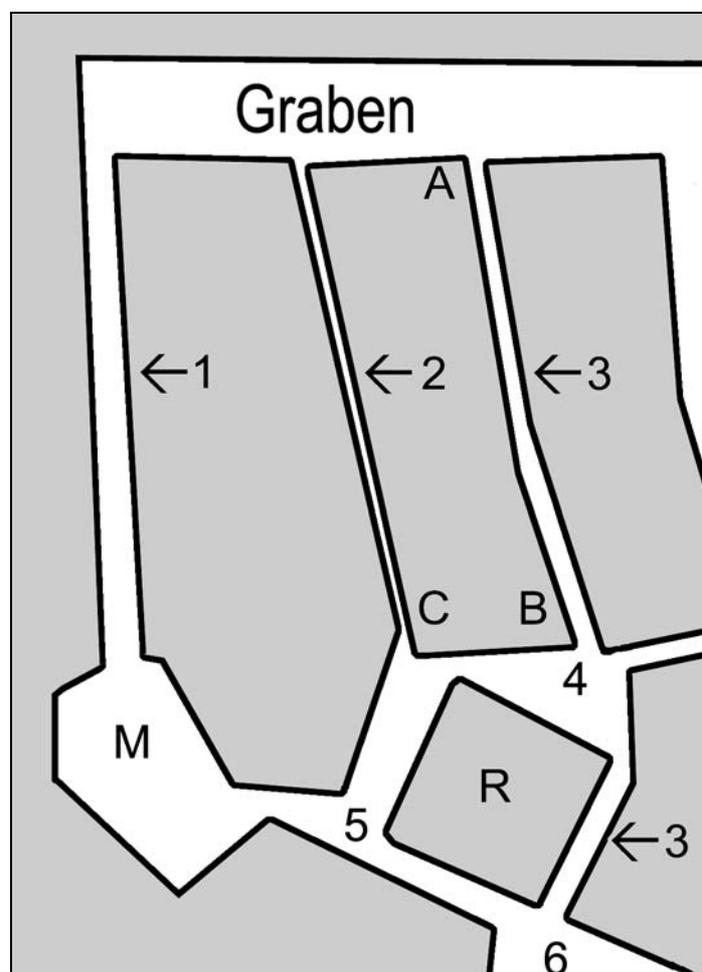
Lastly, if you still have goodies you want other people to see, especially Lombardy-Venetia or the 1883 – 1890 issues, it is not too late to enter them. This promises to be the largest and finest display of “Austria” ever to be mounted in the UK!

Where were Pneumatic Offices WIEN 11 & WIEN 13?

By Andy Taylor (¹)

A tangled tale, illustrating the complexities of a changing and expanding system and the cross-checking that sometimes (not always) clarifies the detail! From the available data, I have drawn the following conclusions on when and whence **pneumatic service** was provided from within these offices.

- ❖ WIEN 13 from 1894 to 1902, located at Bräunerstrasse 4-6
- ❖ WIEN 11 from 1902 to 1932, located at Bräunerstrasse 12
- ❖ WIEN 13 from 1905 to 1922, located at Police HQ, Schottenring.



First, just a little geography... Bräunerstrasse runs from Graben across Stallburggasse to Josefsplatz, in the heart of Vienna's centre. Key:

1 = Kohlmarkt;
 2 = Habsburgergasse;
 3 = Bräunerstrasse;
 4 = Stallburggasse;
 5 = Reitschulgasse;
 6 = Josefsplatz;
 M = Michaelerplatz;
 R = Reitschul.

A is Bräunerstrasse 2
 B is Bräunerstrasse 12
 C is Habsburgergasse 9

B & C were once the same building...

In the book "Kataster der Haupt- und Residenzstadt WIEN", Jos. Schlesinger, WIEN 1885, one reads: "*Stallburggasse 4 was the formal entrance of the large town-palace of the Countess Attems. Habsburgergasse 9 is the left wing of the building, and the right wing is Bräunerstrasse 12*". It is normal in Vienna for a

large building to have different addresses for different doors, especially if they are in different streets! At the ground level both wings are now occupied by shops, and no side entrances are visible. See also the Eyewitness Guide Book for Vienna, 1999 edition page 91; the "bird's eye view" of the Hofburg-Graben area clearly shows this building as having a courtyard inside it, which would be the service accesses to the Countess's Palace.

Date	Event (²)	Source or Proof
1867	WIEN 11 Post Office opened in Habsburggasse	Stohl A2477; Klein 5745
1867	Postamt 11, founded in 1867 as "Postamt mit Fahrpost", & located at " <u>Braeunerstrasse 12</u> ", followed by the addendum "unter (?) Habsburggasse".	Opost handwritten office-lists
	"unter X" means in this context "under the name X". This must imply a connection to the Habsburgergasse wing, because the "Fahrpost" (which was horse-drawn coaches with parcels and travellers) needed space and a through passageway.	
1880	A Pneumatic Office opened in Habsburggasse	"1867 Müller" p238 Nr 4760.
	This must have been planned but not implemented: see "Collecting Offices" in Pneumatic Post Part I, 'Austria' 143.	
1888	Telegraph service opens at WIEN 11 in Habsburggasse on 1.5.1888	Opost lists
	PuTVoB 1888/50 notes that this had previously been operated by the Vienna Private Telegraph Coy, and with 23 others in Vienna and 46 elsewhere was taken over by the State.	
1890	The street "Habsburggasse" was renamed "Habsburgergasse".	Stohl A2477; 1891 Baedeker Map
1891	The Police HQ was at Schottenring 11	1891 Baedeker Map
1892	There was a post and telegraph office at <u>Habsburgergasse 9</u> called WIEN 11, and a telegraph-only office at the corner of <u>Graben 14 / Bräunerstrasse 2</u> called WIEN 13. Neither provided a pneumatic service; both had red postboxes adjacent.	Renumbering Decree (³); and Stohl A2477 1892 Post & Telegraph directory

Date	Event (²)	Source or Proof
1894	1.11.1894 "1/1 WIEN 13" opens at Bräunerstrasse	Stohl A2479; but he lists no cancels from this address. Not in Klein.
1894	WIEN 13 began to provide pneumatic services	Hajek p77 (⁴)
1894	"Rohrpost at the Telegraph Office 13 started on 1.11.1894; contemporary translocation to <u>Bräunerstrasse 4-6</u> ; new name: 'k.k. Rohrpost- und Telegraphenamnt WIEN 13'; supervision by the head of the k.k. Post- und Telegraphenamnt 11."	Circular-Verordnungen der k.k. Post- und Telegraphen-Direction fuer Oesterreich unter der Enns 1894/18
1900	WIEN 13 was providing pneumatic services at Bräunerstrasse; WIEN 11 wasn't open as a pneumatic office.	Map: Klein vol 2 p715
1901	WIEN 13 closed as Telegraph office 16.10.1901	Opost lists
1901	WIEN 13 closes as a post office on 16.11.1901	Stohl A2479
1901	WIEN 11 providing postal, telegraph, telephone and pneumatic services at Bräunerstrasse. WIEN 13 not mentioned	Instradirungs-Behelf(⁵) dated Nov 1901
1902	Pneumatic office WIEN 13 renamed as WIEN 11 This must have resulted in the pneumatic service being transferred to the Bräunerstrasse 12 building belonging to WIEN 11, the WIEN 13 postal service being discontinued, and the office number "WIEN 13" disappearing, because (i) "WIEN 13" was reused in 1905 (ii) the postal function of WIEN 11 operated till 1923 (ii) the pneumatic function of WIEN 11 operated from Bräunerstrasse 12 till 1932.	Hajek p77: "Umbenennung von WIEN 13 in WIEN 11"
1905	Office number WIEN 13 was reused for a pneumatic, postal & savings-bank office in the Police HQ at Schottenring 11; opened 20.3.1905.	Stohl A2479; he lists cancels in use 1905-1917 (⁶). Also Hajek p77 & Opost lists
	This was a reuse of the number 13 , not a reopening of the office.	

Date	Event (²)	Source or Proof
1907	WIEN 11 was providing pneumatic services in Bräunerstrasse and WIEN 13 at Police HQ	1907 map, Turner p12
1908	Schatz (⁷) made "1/1 WIEN 13 2a" on 9.11.1908	Görig. This is Stohl's A2479f, recorded 1908-1917. No minutes.
1909	Schatz made "1/1 WIEN 11 P" on 1.2.1909	Görig. Matches Stohl A2477z, type 6t11, with minutes.
1909	Schatz made "1 WIEN 11 p" on 18.2.1909	Görig. Matches Stohl A2477ak, type 6l20; minutes ambiguous.
1912	Schatz made "1/1 WIEN 11 7a" on 28.2.1912.	Görig. Matches Stohl A2477aj, type 6t20, with minutes.
1913	WIEN 11 was providing pneumatic services in Bräunerstrasse and WIEN 13 at Police HQ.	1913 map, Hajek App.1
1917	On 15.9.1917 WIEN 13 was serving the Police HQ only	Opost list
1918	WIEN 13 closes as Police HQ's post office on 7.1.1918	Opost list
1922	WIEN 13 closes as Police HQ's post office on 8.4.1922.	Stohl A2479
1922	WIEN 13 closes as Police HQ's pneumatic office.	Hajek p79
1923	Stohl says at A2477 for WIEN 11: "A 19.2.1923 (dem PA WIEN 9 eingegliedert)". He lists WIEN 9 under WIEN 1014 which says "am 19.2.1923 wurde das PA WIEN 11 eingegliedert" ['A' = Aufgelassen: closed].	Opost list confirms the transfer. ["eingegliedert" means "incorporated" or "merged"].
	WIEN 9 operated from 1883 to today, moving from Herrenhaus to Minoritenplatz 9 to Wallnerstrasse 5-7. I deduce that what Stohl means is that the POSTAL function of WIEN 11 was transferred to the WIEN 9 office and Habsburgergasse 9 closed. WIEN 11's Rohrpost function remained intact at Bräunerstrasse 12 until 1932.	

Date	Event (²)	Source or Proof
1925	Schatz modified "T.A. WIEN 11 R/a" by removing the "T.A" on 6.11.1925	Görig
1929	Schatz made "1/1 WIEN 11 p" on 18.2.1929	Görig
1932	WIEN 11 providing pneumatic service from <u>Bräunerstrasse 12.</u>	10. Dienstanweisung, vol 2 p23.
	Turner's 1956 map shows the pipe running along Graben and down Bräunerstrasse.	
1932	WIEN 11 closes as pneumatic office.	Hajek p79
1932	WIEN 11 [c/o WIEN 9] closes as post office	Opost list
1956	WIEN 11 and WIEN 13 confirmed closed as Pneumatic offices	1956 map, Turner

Examples of pneumatic covers prove (if genuine!) that the service was provided, but not where from. Checking with the available cover collections (list available on request) shows consistency with the above deductions.

¹ My grateful thanks to Dr Christine Kainz [APS HLM] for locating and sending copies of numerous obscure Decrees, and for discussions on their interpretation.

² An underlined address means "street number explicitly stated in the source".

³ "Circular-Verordnungen der k.k. Post- und Telegraphen-Direction fuer Oesterreich unter der Enns" 1891/28; the decree is dated 27 Nov 1891 and the document 12 Dec 1891 but no "effective-from date" is stated. See 'Austria' 143.

⁴ Note that Hajek only gives years, not months or days.

⁵ This is a directory listing for each street in Vienna the appropriate pneumatic (et al) station: for use by pneumatic office dispatch clerks.

⁶ Stohl's introduction states (page 12A para 6) that in his Part A he does not record cancels found on pneumatic items unless they are also found on express or similar postal usage.

⁷ Schatz was the Official Cancel Maker & Repairer; Görig transcribed his records; in 1964 a copy was deposited for safety in the USA; I have access to it.

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