

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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Editorial 145

By Andy Taylor

An article in the APSUS magazine led me to the web site of the Claims Resolution Tribunal http://www.crt-ii.org/index_en.phtm. This body has received over 32,000 claims from Nazi victims or their heirs to assets deposited in Swiss banks in the period before and during World War II. The claims process is part of the settlement of the Holocaust Victim Assets class action. A selected list of laws, regulations, and ordinances used by the Nazi regime to confiscate Jewish assets abroad is provided. Among the successful claims is case CV96-4849, brought by the descendants of Rudolph Friedl "formerly a stamp dealer in Vienna"....



Two of our Honorary Members, Dr C Kainz and Prof R Zimmerl, had to undergo surgery last December. The best wishes of the Austrian Philatelic Society were sent to them - despite which we hear that they are recovering.

The APS gave its display to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 8th January. It was very well received! A copy of the yellow-covered booklet detailing the displays is enclosed with this issue of Austria, and the RPSL's official minute of the event will appear in the next issue. Our Society was presented with a Plaque to mark the occasion. The possibility of producing a visual record of the exhibits on a CD is being pursued: read the next Newsletter carefully!



The Austrian Post Office's innovation of "Do It Yourself" stamps has begun interestingly. Basically, you can insert any approved picture into a standardised frame, either landscape or portrait. There is a considerable surcharge and a high minimum order (although this may change later). Some of the results are familiar to our travelling membership...



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The Pneumatic Post in Vienna - part 3

By Colin Tobitt & Andy Taylor

Postal Markings and Cancellations of the Pneumatic Posts.

Initially, special cancellers were used: an oval canceller with the office number was used until 1883, followed by a circular sanserif type with the time, date, and office name. In 1890, a single circle seriffed canceller with the name or location was introduced, followed in 1893 by the last specifically-pneumatic canceller, with the time, date, and office number. The next canceller type was a bridge, introduced in 1901. From 1925, the same basic types of cancellers were used as for the normal post, with special 'counter letters' and often (but not always) with the time in hours & minutes; senders usually marked their mail "Rohrpost". Note however that for some time after the pneumatic system closed, Express mail could receive an hours-and-minutes cancel.

Note that Stohl says in his Part A *"Pneumatic-post & Telegraph cancels which occur regularly on Express post items are listed in the catalogue. Cancel types which are found exclusively on Pneumatic-post items are not recorded here."*. So while we have given some of his A-numbers below, their absence does not mean the cancel was not in use. Conversely, we have applied the following filter to an hours-&-minutes cancel listed in Stohl: it must be from an office listed elsewhere as having pneumatic service AND it must be recorded as in use before 1956. There is a commonly-held view that "all cancels with a 'counter letter' of 'R' or 'R/a' denote pneumatic transportation" - this is not true.

The "V-x" numbers in the article in 'Austria' 14 merely mean "Illustration 'x' of a Vienna cancel" and have no relation to the date of use; similarly the illustrations from Prag are P1 - P3 and that from Karlsbad, K1.

In the tables, the first column is the serial number used in this article for the cancel type or subtype (it is NOT any number on the cancel nor of the office), 'Text' is the wording on the cancel, 'Klein' is the Klein Vol II reference. The classification system of W G Genzler, as corrected (see Die Briefmarke 10 & 12 of 1989) is followed and extended; within each type the cancels are given serial numbers 2, 4 etc to allow for interpolation of later discoveries.

The final "ON" column is the office number, as used also in Part 1, taken from the 1892 Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt.

List of types

The pneumatic cancellations described below are divided into these types:

- ❖ Type I - Oval cancel with office number
- ❖ Type II - Oval cancel with office name
- ❖ Type III - Single-circle sanserif cancel
- ❖ Type IV - Date-time cancel with ornaments
- ❖ Type V - Date-time cancel with "WIEN"
- ❖ Type VI - Date-time with Post-Office number
- ❖ Type VII - Ring cancel
- ❖ Type VIII - Bridge cancel
- ❖ Type IX - T.A. Bridge cancel
- ❖ Type X - Miscellaneous

Type I - Oval cancel with office number

From 1875 to 1883 a 30mm x 24mm oval canceller was used, with the inscription K. K. PNEUMATISCHE STATION [KKPS below] surrounding the KKPS number preceded by No.



Used on 24 Feb 1880 from Pneumatic Station 2 (Fleischmarkt) to Vienna III.

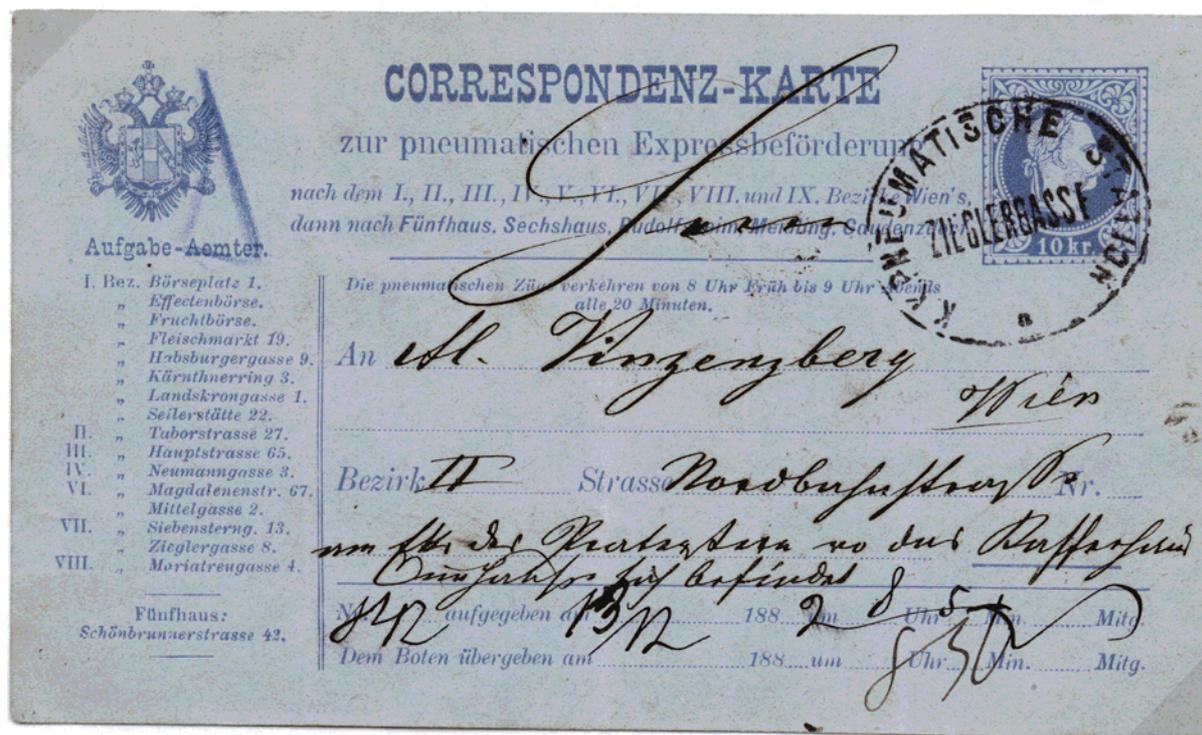
Type	Text	Location, comment	Klein	ON
I-2	KKPS No 1	K.K. Central Telegraph Office, Börseplatz 1	7787a	(Z)
I-4	KKPS No 2	Laurenzgebäude, Fleischmarkt 19.	7788a	2
I-6	KKPS No 3	Telegraphenamt Kärntner-Ring 3	7792a	15
I-8	KKPS No 4	Wieden, Neumanngasse 3	7803a	50
I-10	KKPS No 5	Gumpendorf, Magdalenenstrasse	7807a	57
I-12	KKPS No 6	Neubau, Siebensterngasse 13	7810a	62
I-14	KKPS No 7	Josefstadt, Mariatreugasse 4	7812a	64
I-16	KKPS No 8	Effectenbörse [See Notes!]	7789a	7
I-18	KKPS No 9	Leopoldstadt, Taborstrasse 27	7793a	23
I-20	KKPS No 10	Landstrasse, Hauptstrasse 65	7799a	40

Type II - Oval cancel with office name

In 1879-80, three more stations were opened - Fruchtbörse (in Börsegasse), Zieglergasse, and Fünfhaus Schönbrunner Strasse (¹). They were given larger oval cancellers, 39mm x 28mm, and instead of the office number had the name. The Fruchtbörse office used the oval cancel of the existing telegraph station there.

Type	Text	Comment	Klein	ON
II-2	FRUCHTBÖRSE	See Notes!	7877	36
II-4	K. K. PNEUMATISCHE STATION ZIEGLERGASSE		7809a	60
II-6	K. K. PNEUMATISCHE STATION FÜNFHAUS		7822a	100

¹ As explained in the "Vienna expansion" article (Austria 142 p5), this office received a new address in 1890 when the second major expansion of the boundaries of Vienna took place. Fünfhaus became part of the 15th Bezirk, and its Schönbrunner Strasse was renamed Außere Mariahilferstraße.



Used 13 Dec 1882 from Zieglergasse to Vienna II.

Type III - Single-circle sanserif cancel

In 1883, all the offices then open were given a standard canceller - a 29mm circle with WIEN in the upper half and the office name in the lower half (except for the Fünfhaus-Schönbrunnerstraße and Lazarethgasse offices, which had no room for the WIEN!) In the middle is the year, month, day and hour; this detail being needed as the pneumatic letter boxes were emptied every 20 minutes. This cancel type remained in service till 1892.

Type	Text	Comment	Klein	ON
III-2	WIEN TELEGRAFEN-CENTRALE		7787b	(Z)
III-4	WIEN FLEISCHMARKT		7788b	2
III-6	WIEN TABORSTRASSE		7793b	23
III-8	WIEN LANDSTR. HAUPTSTR.		7799b	40
III-10	WIEN KÄRNTNERRING		7792b	15
III-12	WIEN NEUMANNGASSE		7803b	50
III-14	WIEN MAGDALENIENSTRASSE		7807b	57
III-16	WIEN SIEBENSTERNGASSE		7810b	62

Type	Text	Comment	Klein	ON
III-18	WIEN MARIATREUGASSE		7812b	64
III-20	WIEN EFFECTENBÖRSE		7789b	7
III-22	WIEN PRODUCTENBÖRSE		7798a	36
III-24	WIEN ZIEGLERGASSE		7809b	60
III-26	FÜNFHAUS SCHÖNBRUNNER STRASSE		7822b	100
III-28	WIEN RATHAUS	See note 1	[7790a]	10
III-30	WIEN REICHSRATHGEBÄUDE	See note 2	[7832a]	(R)
III-32	WIEN STEFANIESTRASSE	See note 3	[7797a]	34
III-34	K. K. PNEUMATISCHE STATION XVI	(in Lazarethgasse)	7816a	71
III-36	WÄHRING	See note 4	[7827a]	110
III-38	HERNALS	See note 5	[7826a]	105
III-40	WIEN ROTUNDE	See note 6	---	--

Note 1: Kl.7790a actually says that the regular Wien Rathaus postmark was used: Kl.5744a. Later Kl.7790b = WIEN 1/1/10r - see below

Note 2: The regular Wien Reichsrathgebäude postmark was used: Kl.5848b. Later Kl.7832b = WIEN 1/1/R.r - see below

Note 3: Although STEFANIESTRASSE appears in all the pneumatic cancellation listings for this 1883 cancel type, the operational lists state that service began in 1889 and Klein gives 29.4.1889 as the opening date.

Note 4: The regular Währing postmark was used: Kl.5820f

Note 5: The regular Hernals postmark was used: Kl.5816c

Note 6: Wien Rotunde was an exhibition site on the Prater; its cancel isn't listed in any of the 'standard' works on cancels but is item 4116b (on postage stamps) in Müller's 1930 work "Die Poststempel ... Ausgabe 1867" and is the only entry for 1883 in Wurth's "Sonderpostämter in Österreich". The office is shown as open during 1883 only, and there is no evidence that the pneumatic tube reached it. However, at least 57 pneumatic items are known to have been posted here (see next illustration!) so presumably a telegraph office was opened for the exhibition and a special messenger service connected it to the nearest station.



Wien Rotunde 1883 cancel.



Used 26 Feb 1883 from Neumangasse to Taborstrasse; note destination number 9 in blue at top left.

Type IV - Date-time cancel with ornaments

In 1889 a new design was tentatively introduced to four offices: a 31mm single-circle canceller with at the top an ornament different for each office. Across the centre is the time in hours & minutes, V or N (am/pm), day, month, year. For example: **1120 N 9 II 90**.

Type	Text	Klein	ON
IV-2	OTTAKRING	7824a	102
IV-4	GAUDENZDORF	7821a	85
IV-6	MEIDLING	7820a	82
IV-8	NEULERCHENFELD	7825a	104

The pneumatic station at Hundsthurm **ON55**, opened in 1888, used a regular single-circle postmark [Kl.5772a type gEje]; later changing to a specifically pneumatic one Wien 5/2/55 r - see Type VI below.



8 July 1891: Neulerchenfeld to Neubau (office 6); the illegible cancel in the centre appears to be 'Neulerchenfeld' in reverse, presumably an offset from a cancellation on another item, or the table! The item number (41 or 71) has been added in blue crayon

Type V - Date-time cancel with "WIEN"

In the year 1889 a new type was issued to several offices which lay in the inner part of the city. It is the same as type IV except that WIEN appears at the top instead of an ornament.

Type	Text	Comments	Klein	ON
V-2	WIEN STEFANIESTRASSE		7797a	34
V-4	WIEN WESTBAHNHOF		7823a	101
V-6	WIEN PRODUKTENBÖRSE	Taborstraße	7798b	36
V-8	WIEN FRUCHT-U MEHLBÖRSE			36
V-10	WIEN NEUMANNGASSE		7803c	50
V-12	WIEN DÖBLING	See note 1	7828a	117
V-14	WIEN NEUBAU II		7810c	62
V-16	WIEN TELEGR. CENTRALE		7787c	(Z)
V-18	WIEN TELEGRAFEN- CENTRALE		7787d	(Z)
V-20	WIEN FAVORITEN	See note 2	7817a	74

Note 1: According to Hajek, service began in 1903; Klein says "open 1889?; limited service only till 1903"

Note 2: According to Hajek, service began in 1895; listed in Klein 3rd supplement as opening 29.12.1895



Posted 26 Dec 1890 from Kärntnerring to Neumangasse; reposted to Magdalenenstrasse: office 5, as required by the big blue '5'. Neumangasse is the office before it in the circuit. Mixed type III & type V cancels.

Type VI - Date-time with Post-Office number

In 1892 all the Post, Telegraph, and Pneumatic offices in Wien were renumbered. Appropriate cancels were made for the pneumatic offices, which took until 1893, after which all the older cancellers were (in theory!) withdrawn. The new type is a single circle with at the top WIEN followed by the delivery district number; in the centre is the time-date arrangement in a straight line; at the bottom is the Post Office Number flanked by ornaments and often followed by an 'r'. In some examples, the bottom number etc is in a straight line, not an arc.

Below: 5 Heller Jubilee postcard, with added 30 Heller adhesive to make up the Express rate. Posted 6 June 1916 from Station 11 Bräunerstrasse to Station 76 Südbahnhof.

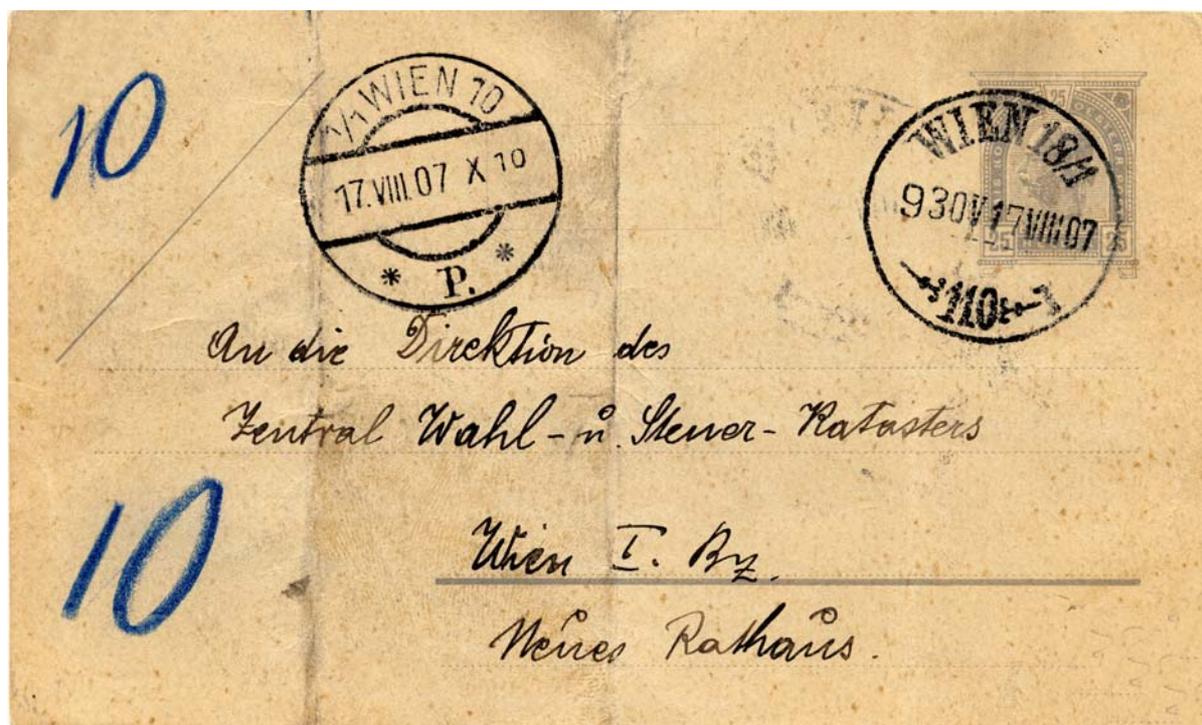
Type VI cancel WIEN 10/2 76 r (still in use some 20 years after issue), alongside two 1/1 WIEN 11 / 6.6.16.-4 / * j * normal cancels (Stohl A2477p) and a 1/1 WIEN 11 / -6.VI.16.5¹⁰ / * 7a * pneumatic cancel!

There are many subtypes of these cancellers, having different values of circle diameter, height of the Post Office Number, height of the 'r', and relative location of the 'r'. The ornaments flanking the number have the largest variations. The most likely explanation of these is that the canceller was repaired, or a replacement was made which didn't exactly match the original. Comments like "r" 3, 4mm high mean that that cancel has two subtypes; in one the "r" is 3mm high and in the other 4mm.

Type	Text	Comment	Klein	ON
VI-2	WIEN 1/1 C.R.	Telegrafen Centrale; no 'r'	7787e	(Z)
VI-4	WIEN 1/1 C.R. r	"C.R." 4, 5mm high	7787f	(Z)
VI-6	WIEN 2/4 P r	Produktenbörse	7798c	36
VI-8	WIEN 1/1 E r	Börse	7789c	7
VI-10	WIEN 1/1 R r	Reichsratgebäude	7832b	(R)
VI-12	WIEN 1/1 2 r	"r" 3, 4mm high	7788c	2
VI-14	WIEN 1/1 10 r	Rathaus	7790b	10
VI-16	WIEN 1/1 11 r	"r" 3, 5mm high		11
VI-18	WIEN 1/1 13 r	"r" 3, 5mm high	7791a	13
VI-20	WIEN 1/1 15 r	"r" 4mm high	7792c	15
VI-22	WIEN 2/1 23 r		7793c	23
VI-24	WIEN 2/1 24 r		7794a	24
VI-26	WIEN 2/7 24 r		7794b	24
VI-28	WIEN 20/2 24 r		7794c	24
VI-30	WIEN 2/2 27 r	"r" 3, 4mm high	7795a	27
VI-32	WIEN 2/2 28 r	"r" 3, 4mm high	7796a	28
VI-34	WIEN 2/3 34 r		7797b	34
VI-36	WIEN 3/1 40 r		7799c	40
VI-38	WIEN 3/4 41 r		7800a	41
VI-40	WIEN 3/2 45 r	"45" 4½, 5mm high	7801a	45
VI-42	WIEN 3/3 49 r		7802a	49
VI-44	WIEN 4/1 50 r		7803d	50

Type	Text	Comment	Klein	ON
VI-46	WIEN 4/2 53 r	"53" 4, 5½mm high. Straight ornaments.	7804a	53
VI-48	WIEN 5/1 54 r		7805a	54
VI-50	WIEN 5/2 55 r		7806b	55
VI-52	WIEN 6/1 57 r	"r" 4, 5mm high	7807c	57
VI-54	WIEN 6/1 59 r		7808a	59
VI-56	WIEN 6/2 59 r		7808b	59
VI-58	WIEN 7/1 60 r	"r" 2, 3½mm wide	7809c	60
VI-60	WIEN 7/2 62 r		7810d	62
VI-62	WIEN 7 62 r	missing "/2"		62
VI-64	WIEN 7/1 63 r	7/1 until 1892	7811a	63
VI-66	WIEN 7/3 63 r	7/3 from 1892	7811b	63
VI-68	WIEN 8/1 64 r	"64" 4, 5, 6mm high	7812c	64
VI-70	WIEN 9/1 66 r		7813a	66
VI-72	WIEN 9/1 68 r		7814a	68
VI-74	WIEN 9/4 69 r		7815a	69
VI-76	WIEN 9/2 71 r	"r" 4, 5mm high	7816b	71
VI-78	WIEN 10/1 74			74
VI-80	WIEN X/1 74 r	Roman figures	7817b	74
VI-82	WIEN 10/2 76 r	"76" 5, 7mm wide	7818a	76
VI-84	WIEN 10 76 r	Known with straight & curved ornaments		76
VI-86	WIEN 10/2 77 r		7819a	77
VI-88	WIEN 11/1 79 r			79
VI-90	WIEN 12/1 82 r		7820b	82
VI-92	WIEN 12/2 85 r		7821b	85
VI-94	WIEN 15/1 100 r		7822c	100
VI-96	WIEN 15/2 101 r		7823b	101
VI-98	WIEN 15/1 101 r	Post district altered in 1898	7823c	101
VI-100	WIEN 16/1 102 r	"102" 4, 5mm high	7824b	102

Type	Text	Comment	Klein	ON
VI-102	WIEN 16/2 104 r		7825b	104
VI-104	WIEN 17/1 105 r		7826b	105
VI-106	WIEN 17/1 105	"r" missing		105
VI-108	WIEN 18/1 110 r	"r" 4, 5mm high	7827b	110
VI-110	WIEN 19/1 117 r		7828b	117
VI-112	WIEN 14/2 127 r	"r" 3, 4mm high	7829a	127
VI-114	WIEN 3/3 128 r		7830b	128
VI-116	WIEN 3/4 128 r	Post district altered in 1898	7830a	128
VI-118	WIEN 2/5 129 r	"r" 3, 4mm high	7831a	129
VI-120	WIEN 20/1 129 r	Bezirk & Post district altered. Two types of "129"	7831b	129
VI-122	WIEN 20 129 r	Missing post district		129



25h Postcard. New 1907 design, no text. Type VI cancel from Station 110 on 17-8-07 at 9.30; type VIII arrival cancel of Station 10 arriving at 10.10am

Type VII - Ring cancel

This type was intended for offices with long place names; however it was only used for a short time around 1900 and then replaced by a Bridge cancel. Type VII measures 31mm diameter and shows the letter "P" at the bottom. Being post-1900, they are not in Klein; Stohl's A- numbers are given here.

Type	Text	Comments	ON
VII-2	1/1 WIEN REICHSRAT *P*	A2455k	(R)
VII-4	1/1 WIEN REICHSRAT R	A2455m	(R)
VII-6	1/1 WIEN TELEGRAPHENZENTRALSTATION P	No stars flanking the P.	(Z)
	Stohl A2467e 1910-19. Used on incoming mail. Usually violet.		
VII-8	1/1 WIEN TELEGRAPHENZENTRALSTATION P•	P has dot but no stars.	(Z)
	Stohl A2467f 1923-24.		
VII-10	TELEGRAPHENZENTRALSTATION WIEN x	'x' = b, c, d	(Z)
	This was used on outgoing air mail for foreign countries. Stohl gives only just-post-WWII examples, with no minutes.		
VII-12	WIEN 57 r	A2500d. 1941-56	(Z)

Below: Card with imprint and added adhesive. Used 18 Nov 1920 from Station 28 to Telegraphenzentralstation. Type VIII-6 cancel.



Type VIII - Bridge cancel

Bridge cancellers were introduced to the Viennese Post in 1901, those with counter letter "P." being used at pneumatic post counters. At the top, the city & postal district numbers are before the WIEN, the pneumatic office number after it. In the centre is the day, month, year and time. The outer diameter varies from 28 to 30 mm, and the height of the bridge from 8 to 10 mm. The "P." and its flanking stars vary; some cancels have no dot after the P; subtypes differentiated only by the size or shape of the stars have been amalgamated. Being post-1900, they are not in Klein; some (given here with his A- numbers) are in Stohl.

Type	Text	Comments	ON
VIII-2	1/1 WIEN 2 * P. *	A2472l, 1907-9	2
VIII-4	1/1 WIEN REICHSRAT * P. *	A2455l	(R)
VIII-6	1/1 WIEN 8 * 7a *	A2529be	8
VIII-8	1/1 WIEN 10 * P. *	A2476o, 1906-10	10
VIII-10	1/1 WIEN 11 * P. *	A2477z, 1909-11.	11
VIII-12	1/1 WIEN 11 * 7a *	A2477aj	11

Type	Text	Comments	ON
VIII-14	1/1 WIEN 11 * r *		11
VIII-16	1 WIEN 11 * R/a *	A2477al	11
VIII-18	1/1 WIEN 15 * P. *		15
VIII-20	1/1 WIEN 15 * 7a *	1914-; also 7b 1920-25	15
VIII-22	1 WIEN 15 * 7b *	1934-	15
VIII-24	2/1 WIEN 23 * P. *	A2486o	23
VIII-26	2/1 WIEN 23 R	A2486q	23
VIII-28	20/2 WIEN 24 * P. *		24
VIII-30	20 WIEN 24 * P. *	A2487ae, 1914-	24
VIII-32	20 WIEN 24 * R/b *	A2487ag, 1934-36	24
VIII-34	20 WIEN 24 * 1a *	Also 2a, 3a	24
VIII-36	2/2 WIEN 27 * P. *		27
VIII-38	2/1 WIEN 27 * P. *	Post district altered	27
VIII-40	2 WIEN 27 * P. *		27
VIII-42	2 WIEN 27 P.		27
VIII-44	2/2 WIEN 28 * P. *		28
VIII-46	2/1 WIEN 28 * R *	Also without the minutes	28
VIII-48	2/3 WIEN 34 * 5d *		34
VIII-50	2/4 WIEN 36 * P. *		36
VIII-52	2/1 WIEN 36 * P. *	Post district altered	36
VIII-54	3/1 WIEN 40 * P. *		40
VIII-56	3/1 WIEN 40 * 7a *	7b also known	40
VIII-58	3 WIEN 40 * 7a *	7b also known	40
VIII-60	3 WIEN 40 7b		40
VIII-62	3 WIEN 43 4c		43
VIII-64	WIEN 43 4c		43
VIII-66	3/2 WIEN 45 * 7a *		45
VIII-68	3/2 WIEN 45 * R *		45
VIII-70	3 WIEN 45 * R *		45

Type	Text	Comments	ON
VIII-72	3 WIEN 45 R		45
VIII-74	3/3 WIEN 49 * P. *		49
VIII-76	4/1 WIEN 50 * P. *		50
VIII-78	4 WIEN 50 * R *		50
VIII-80	4 WIEN 50 R		50
VIII-82	4 WIEN 53 * P. *	Closed 1923	53
VIII-84	5/1 WIEN 54 * P. *		54
VIII-86	5 WIEN 54 * P. *		54
VIII-88	5 WIEN 54 * 5b *		54
VIII-90	5 WIEN 54 * 7a *	also 7b	54
VIII-92	5 WIEN 55 * 7a *		55
VIII-94	5 WIEN 55 * R/a *		55
VIII-96	5 WIEN 55 R/a		55
VIII-98	6 WIEN 57 * P. *		57
VIII-100	6 WIEN 59 * P. *		59
VIII-102	7 WIEN 60 * 7a *	also 7b	60
VIII-104	7 WIEN 63 * P. *		63
VIII-106	7 WIEN 63 * P *	No dot	63
VIII-108	7 WIEN 63 * R *		63
VIII-110	7 WIEN 63 R		63
VIII-112	8 WIEN 64 * R *		664
VIII-114	8 WIEN 64 * 7a *		64
VIII-116	8 WIEN 64 * 7b *		64
VIII-118	8/1 WIEN 64 * P. *		64
VIII-120	9/1 WIEN 66 * P. *		66
VIII-122	9/1 WIEN 66 R		66
VIII-124	9/1 WIEN 66 * R *		66
VIII-126	9/4 WIEN 66 * P. *		66
VIII-128	9 WIEN 68 * 9a *		68

Type	Text	Comments	ON
VIII-130	9/4 WIEN 69 * P. *		69
VIII-132	9/1 WIEN 69 * R/a *	Post district number changed	69
VIII-134	9/1 WIEN 69 * R *		69
VIII-136	9/1 WIEN 69 R		69
VIII-138	9/2 WIEN 71 * P *	Later, no dot after the P	71
VIII-140	9 WIEN 71 * P. *		71
VIII-142	WIEN 73 r	Probably pneumatic	73
VIII-144	10/1 WIEN 75 * P *		75
VIII-146	10 WIEN 75 * R *		75
VIII-148	10 WIEN 75 * r *		75
VIII-150	10/2 WIEN 76 * 8b *		76
VIII-152	WIEN 76 t		76
VIII-154	10/2 WIEN 77 * P. *		77
VIII-156	10 WIEN 77 * 7a *	Also 7b; & with month in Roman or Arabic	77
VIII-158	10 WIEN 77 7a		77
VIII-160	11/1 WIEN 79 * P *		79
VIII-162	12/1 WIEN 82 R/a		82
VIII-164	WIEN 82 R/a		82
VIII-166	12/1 WIEN 82 * P. *		82
VIII-168	12/1 WIEN 85 * P. *		85
VIII-170	12/1 WIEN 85 R		85
VIII-172	12/2 WIEN 85 * P. *		85
VIII-174	13/1 WIEN 88 * P. *		88
VIII-176	13/2 WIEN 89 * P. *		89
VIII-178	13/1 WIEN 89 * Pb *		89
VIII-180	13/1 WIEN 89 Pb		89
VIII-182	15 WIEN 101 * P. *	(1936)	101
VIII-184	15 WIEN 101 P		101

Type	Text	Comments	ON
VIII-186	16/1 WIEN 102 * R/a *		102
VIII-188	16/2 WIEN 104 * P. *		104
VIII-190	17/1 WIEN 105 * P. *		105
VIII-192	17 WIEN 105 * R *		105
VIII-194	17 WIEN 105 R	Also 6a, R/a	105
VIII-196	18/1 WIEN 110 * P. *	Also R/1, R	110
VIII-198	18/1 WIEN 110 R	Also R/a, R/1	110
VIII-200	18/1 WIEN 110 * R/1 *	(1938)	110
VIII-202	WIEN 110 * R/1 *		110
VIII-204	18/1 WIEN 111 * P *		111
VIII-206	18/1 WIEN 114 * P. *	Listed, but no record of pneu service	114
VIII-208	19/1 WIEN 117 * P. *		117
VIII-210	19 WIEN 117 R/a		117
VIII-212	9/1 WIEN 125 * R *		125
VIII-214	14 WIEN 127 * 6a *	Also * 6b *	127
VIII-216	14 WIEN 127 * R/b *		127
VIII-218	3/4 WIEN 128 * P. *	Known in violet-red	128
VIII-220	3/4 WIEN 128 R		128
VIII-222	3 WIEN 128 * R *		128
VIII-224	20 WIEN 129 * b *		129

Comment: these lists are "type-then-office"; it is technically possible to invert the lists into "office-then-type". This would be about 10 pages long, and an unreasonable infliction on those readers for whom pneumatic post is of no interest. Anybody wishing a copy of this inverted list should write to the Editor.



Used 6 Oct 1923 from Station 82 to Station 36. Inflation Period III: 200Kr card with 100Kr added imprint and 2000Kr adhesive, making up the 2300Kr rate.



Unusual 1/1 WIEN 11 * 7a * arrival cancel



Postal Stationery card with additional adhesives to make up local postage of 70gr plus express of 1S50. Arrival cancel WIEN 64 without district number.

Type IX - T.A. Bridge cancel

Examination of several collections has shown a somewhat different type of wording on bridge cancels, to which we have given a separate section. At the top is T.A., the postal district number, WIEN, & the pneumatic office number. In the centre is the day, month, year and time. At the bottom is R/a (usually) flanked by stars. These have been found in the 1921-1938 period. The diameter is constant at any one office, but ranges from 26mm to 29mm from one office to another. "T.A." could mean "TelegraphenAmt".

Type	Text	Comments	ON
IX-2	T.A. 1 WIEN 1 * a *	Stohl has no 'R/'	1
IX-4	T.A. 1 WIEN 2 * R/a *	no minutes	2
IX-6	T.A. 20 WIEN 24 * R/a *		24
IX-8	T.A. 2 WIEN 28 * R/a *	no minutes	28

Type	Text	Comments	ON
IX-10	T.A. 3 WIEN 43 * R/a *		43
IX-12	T.A. WIEN 49 * R/a *	no district	49
IX-14	T.A. 4 WIEN 50 * R/a *	Wide-spaced R/a	50
IX-16	T.A. 5 WIEN 54 * R/a *		54
IX-18	T.A. 5 WIEN 55 * R/a *		55
IX-20	T.A. 6 WIEN 57 * R/a *	thin stars; narrow spaced R/a	57
IX-22	T.A. 6 WIEN 57 * R/b *	R/b variant	57
IX-24	T.A. 6 WIEN 59 * R/a *		59
IX-26	T.A. 8 WIEN 64 * R/a *		64
IX-28	T.A. 8 WIEN 64 R/a	no stars	64
IX-30	T.A. 9 WIEN 66 * R/a *		66
IX-32	T.A. WIEN 75 * R/a *	no district	75
IX-34	T.A. 10 WIEN 76 * R/a *		76
IX-36	T.A. 10 WIEN 76 * R/b *	R/b	76
IX-38	T.A. 10 WIEN 76 R/b	R/b; no stars	76
IX-40	T.A. 10 WIEN 77 * R/a *		77
IX-42	T.A. 11 WIEN 79 * R/a *		79
IX-44	T.A. 11 WIEN 79 * R *		79
IX-46	T.A. 12 WIEN 82 * R/a *		82
IX-48	T.A. 13 WIEN 89 * R/a *		89
IX-50	T.A. 16 WIEN 102 * R/a *		102
IX-52	T.A. 16 WIEN 104 * R/a *		104
IX-54	T.A. 16 WIEN 104 R/a	no stars	104
IX-56	T.A. 117 WIEN XIX * R/a *	Wien 117, in 19 th district.	117



1923 inflation period 11: 200Kr imprint with adhesives to make the 300Kr postcard plus 2000Kr express rates. From Station 117 to Station 2

Type X - Miscellaneous

In this section we have collected various cancels that don't fit elsewhere!

X-2: TELEGRAPHENAMT WIEN 1 R/x

Segment cancel. Stohl A2465e-h for x = a-d

X-4: TELEGRAPHENAMT WIEN x

Segment cancel. Stohl A2465i-o for x = a-g

X-6: TELEGRAPHENZENTRALSTATION WIEN 1

Segment cancel. This is known on outgoing airmails in the late 1940s, but they show no signs of pneumatic transportation (no red or blue marks, no folds) and probably received expedited handling only.

X-8: T.Z.ST WIEN segment cancel; no year; known in black, also in red.



10 groschen Inland imprinted postcard (this rate came into effect on 1.12.26) with additional 30gr adhesives for express rate. Card of 1927 used on 1.1.31 from district 9 to district 1. Address crossed through indicating that it is Pneumatic (manuscript in red crayon). Telegraphen Zentral STation cds in red.

X-10: This is the cancel of Office 71 after it moved to Office 73. It says

**TELEGR. AMT 13 WIEN IX/2
R/a 25.VIII.32.13-
DIENSTSTELLE DES P.A.71**

Also found with R/b



X-14: Pneumatic Station No. I (Telegrafen Centrale) used a **blue numeral handstamp** as a canceller from March 1881 to January 1883; these markings sequentially numbered the letters posted each month. [A fuller discussion is in reference "P.S."]

X-16: In July 1878, the oval No. 8 canceller used by the Wien Börse (the Stock Exchange) was damaged and taken out of service. Various "Wien Börse" handstamps were used to replace it, the first being a rectangular boxed handstamp measuring 15x47mm with the wording "**K.K. Tel. Station Wien Börse**".

X-18: The second handstamp was a straight line canceller with the legend "**Wien Börse**". This latter type can be found in two formats, Type I measuring 5x32mm and Type II measuring 4.5x38mm. [See illustration; the cancel was faint & has been enhanced.]



Postal Rates 1867 to 1883. A Display given at Covfest 2003

by J.G.Cottrell

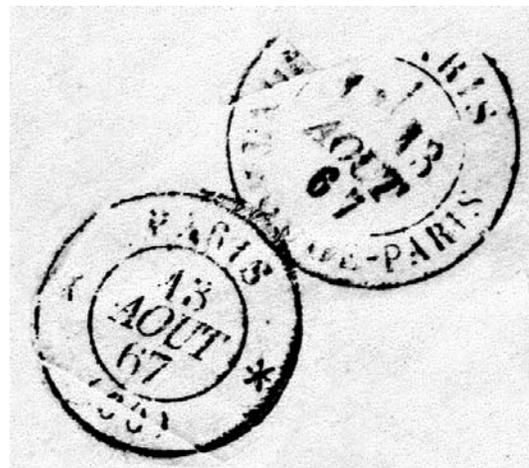
In his introduction John said that most members associate him with the History of Flight and Airmail Services in Austria from the earliest days up to 1950 and which had been the subject of several presentations during previous Fests. Although that collection was still slowly expanding, new worthwhile material had become increasingly difficult to find.

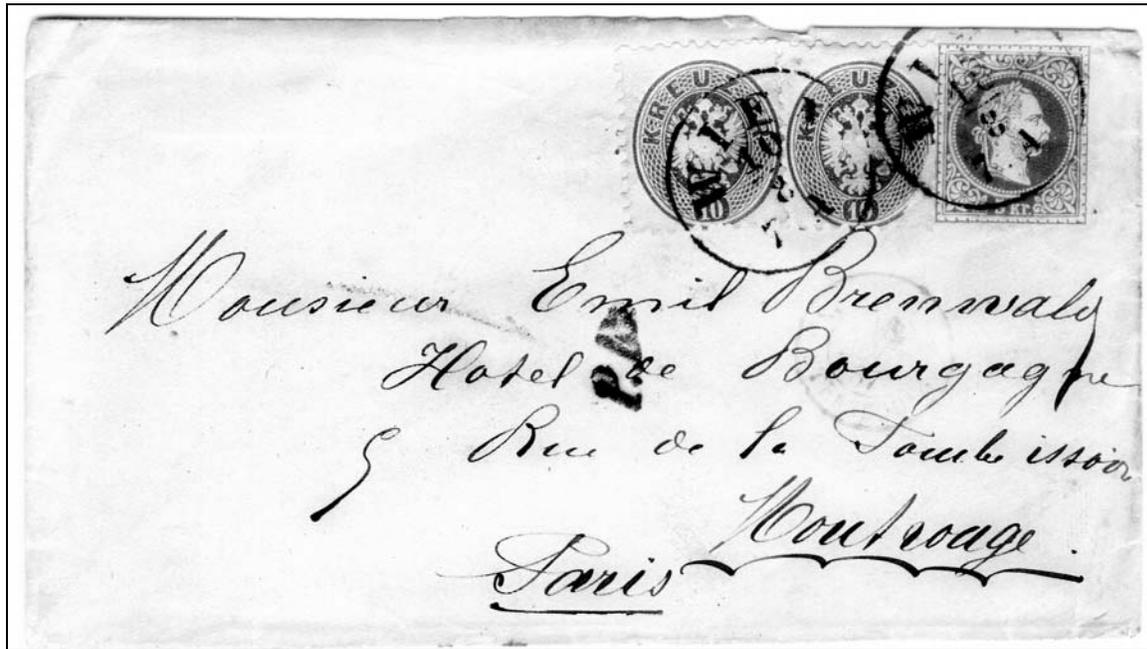
In consequence, a new collection based on the 6th stamp issue, 1867-1883 was now being formed including Kreuzer and Soldi values, varieties, shades, perforations, postage rates, stationary and watermarks. Due to time limitations, however, this presentation was limited to showing some examples of Postal Rates charged in the Empire and The Levant during the period 1867-1883. It was not a dissertation on Postal Rates in general.

The 6th issue resulted from the 'Compromise' between Austria and Hungary. Both countries required new stamps which did not carry the name Österreich or any other indication of Nationality. So the design only incorporated the head of the Emperor Franz Josef and expressed the value as Kr - Kreuzer for the Austrian currency and Krajczár, the Hungarian.

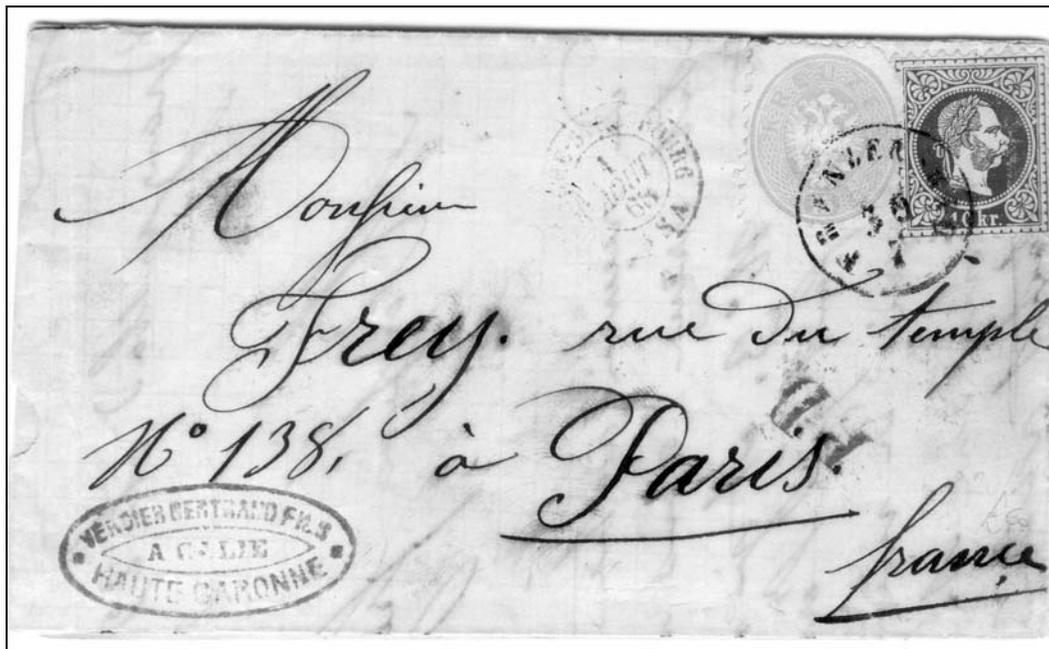
Initially, five values (2, 3, 5, 10 & 15 Kr) appeared on June 1st 1867 followed by the 25Kr and 50Kr on September 1st. The Hungarians introduced the stamps immediately, but the Austrian Post Office instructed that the previous issue (1863) had to be exhausted before the new stamps could be brought into use. However, some overlap inevitably occurred, if only because different values of the previous issue ran out at different times.

Consequently, mixed franking, although not common, occurred. Three such covers were shown: The first from Wien to Paris with 2 x 10Kr 1863 & one 5Kr 1867 for the pre-UPU 25 Kreuzer postage between Austria and France. On the reverse is the Paris arrival mark for 13 Aout 67: a transit time of 3 days

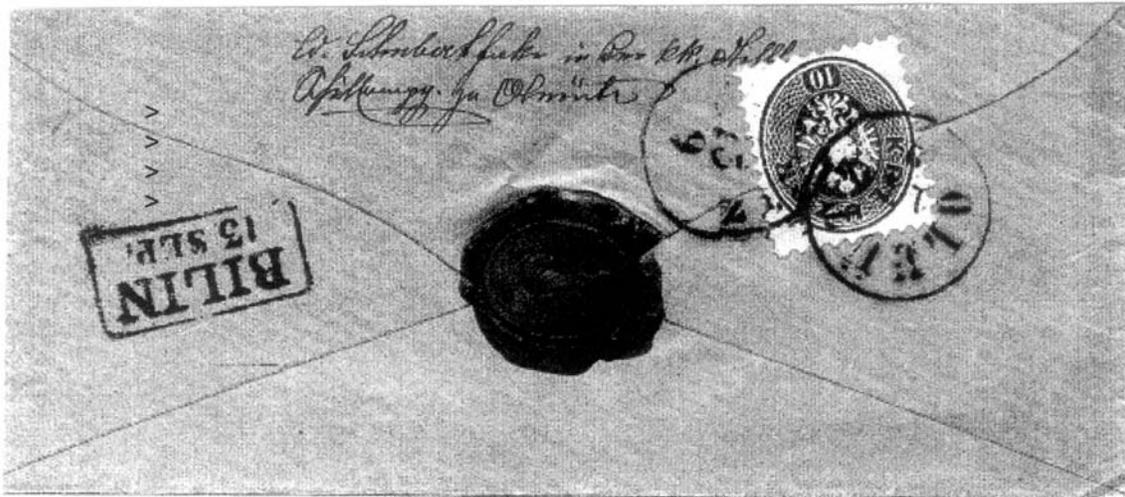
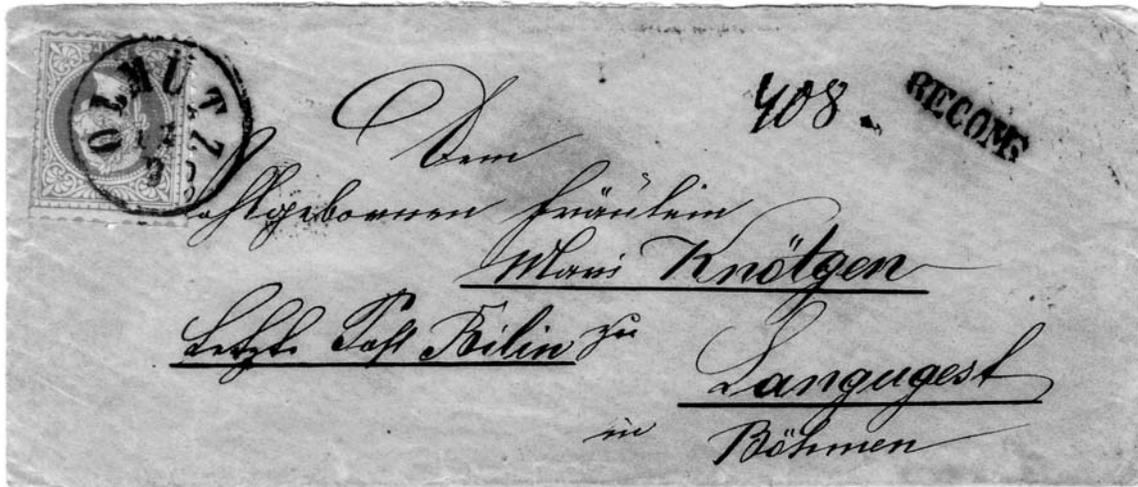




Below is the second, from Franzenbad in South Bohemia to Paris; it bears one 15Kr 1863 issue plus one 10 Kr 1867 issue and with a faint red Strasbourg transit mark alongside the franking.



The third example (below) is from Olmutz in Moravia to Bilin in Bohemia, & was franked with a 5Kr of the 1867 issue for the normal postal rate within the Empire plus 10Kr of the 1863 issue for the registration fee, which is affixed to the reverse of the cover, as was normal at that time. Note the Olmutz acceptance of 13 Sep and Bilin arrival on the same date, suggesting a fast rail service existed between the two towns.



Then followed a series of covers showing examples of letters for Local Delivery at 3 Kr, 'Area Delivery', ie outside the local area but within 76km, at 5 Kr, and letters for destinations anywhere within the Empire but outside the 76km limit at 10 Kr. Also printed matter at only 2 Kr.

In November 1867 the German/Austrian Postal Convention established common rates of postage between the two countries. Examples were shown and followed by a display of Registered and Express mail. Registration cost an additional 10 Kr and Express Delivery a further 15 Kr so letters normally costing 5 Kr rose to 30 Kr if sent both Registered and for Express Delivery. However, that only applied to addresses within the area covered by the normal charge. A further 35 Kr was charged for deliveries to addresses up to 7.5km outside this area.

The example below shows an 1876 envelope from Buchlowitz to Csicman in Hungary carrying 5 Kr red type 2a + five 10 Kr dark blue as well as a sixth 10 Kr stamp on the reverse, which also shows a Hungarian Transit cds 'HRADISCH' dated 21.6.76. Total franking 65 Kr. as described above. According to the Ferchenbauer Certificate this is a very rare franking.



Samples of covers to European and overseas Destinations - Italy, Spain, England, France, Serbia, U.S.A and Brazil followed, including some overweight

frankings. One such was a letter from Wien to St. Petersburg franked with 60 Kr, compared with the normal rate of 15 Kr per 15 Grammes to Russia, so it must have contained much more than a simple letter.



In fact the cover was from the British Embassy in Wien so it might have contained a passport. See illustrations, including the fine intact example of the British Embassy seal on the reverse.



A feature of the post in the 19th century were the application of transit marks and receiver date stamps in the country of destination. This practice can be seen very clearly on letters which cannot be delivered and have to be returned to the sender. Two examples were shown - one from Austria to Milan which took 13 weeks for the round trip and a second from Graz to London, taking one month. The latter is illustrated below.



1881 Graz to London addressed to 5, Rokely Road, New Cross, London and franked with six 5 Kr (three on reverse) consisting of 10 Kr postage plus 10 Kr

normal registration fee plus 10 Kr supplement for foreign letters. Posted in Graz on 13th November 1881 to Herrn Lander but not delivered. On the back there is a manuscript note saying No ans and on the back a second manuscript note:

Absent from home, Probable return unknown

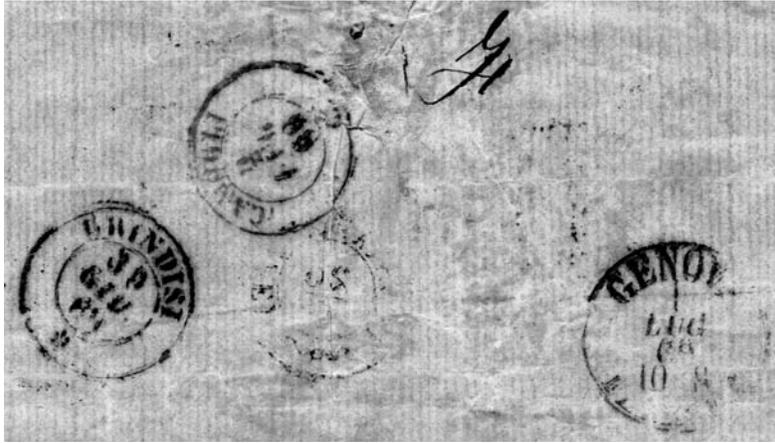
signed by two persons, namely F.J. Bennett and C.J. Jones (Neighbours perhaps) 're Tour' was added in a third hand against London and it went back to Graz. Undelivered mail does not get such careful treatment today! It arrived back in Graz on the 12th December 1881.



Throughout the Levant, the Venetian Gold currency of 100 Soldi = 1 Florin was used. Austria had a large number of Post Offices across this region, which, therefore, required stamps valued in Soldi instead of Kreuzer, although the designs were, otherwise, identical. Mixed franking occurred and an example from Constantinople to Camogli is shown below.



The franking of 23 Soldi indicates that it travelled to Brindisi by a non-Italian mail ship, but was then transferred to an Italian ship to Genoa - hence the cachet PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANA meaning Italian mail ship. The reverse



carries Brindisi and Genoa arrival marks dated 30 June and 6 July respectively confirming the sea transport. It was unusual for mail landed in Brindisi to go on to Genoa by sea. Normally the onward transit was by train, taking only 24 hours instead of six days. If

transport had been by an Italian ship from Constantinople direct by sea to Genoa, and without calling at Brindisi, the franking would have been 28 Soldi. An example of a letter with this higher franking was also shown.

Postmarks and covers from other Levantine P.O.s including Egypt, the Lebanon, Turkey, Greece and some of the islands were included in the display. One such was a mourning cover from Beirut to Florence.



Posted on 10th January 1878, it received a transit mark in Alexandria just 24 hours later on 11th January and arrived in Florence on 21st January. There are no other transit markings to indicate the routing from Egypt, but the ten days it took to reach its destination suggests it travelled on a slow boat stopping at several intermediate ports, rather than on the fast service from Alexandria to

Trieste, with only one port of call, in Corfu. This mourning cover was franked with 20Kr, the standard rate to Italy in the late 1870s.

No covers were shown addressed to South Africa, India or to anywhere in the Far East, including the Antipodes. John explained that the reason was simply, that in several years of searching, he had never seen any examples to these destinations, either in Auctions, Dealers stocks or Catalogues. Undoubtedly, they exist but are very few in number, although there are some illustrated in Ferchenbauer.

Principle Sources & References

1. *Österreich 1850 - 1918. Handbuch und Spezialkatalog.* By Dr Ulrich Ferchenbauer
2. *Austria Katalog Briefmarken Österreich Spezialkatalog 2002/2003* Pub. Netto
3. *Die Postmarken von Österreich* by Ing. Edwin Müller
4. Articles in Austria, especially those in issues 5, 8, 10, 59, 61, 66, 67, 70, 92 and others, by John Giblin
5. *Österreich Freimarkenausgaben 1867 Freimarken Kreuzer und Soldi-Ausgaben* by Alois Wilhelm Waschutt
6. *Die Poststempel auf der Freimarken-Ausgabe 1867 von Österreich und Ungarn* by Ing. Edwin Müller
7. *Die Postalischen Abstempelungen auf die Ausgaben 1867, 1883 und 1890* by Klein

NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS EN ROUTE TO THE LIBRARY.

by Andy Taylor

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 10/2003: the Jerger collection (of extremely desirable items; mouth-watering illustrations); Austria-Cup round 1; presence & absence of the "three little triangles" in Osttirol cancels; Maria Schulz as house-painter; security printing features of, and colour variations on, new definitives; etc etc

Issue 11/2003: VOePh open day; new rules for new-issue subscriptions; Maria Schulz' new logo; Hohenems; activities of the Salzburg Railway Philatelic Group (including the conversion of a TPO into a special post office); printing & plate errors on new definitives; scarcity of the 7 €cents makeup especially with right-hand-margin printing date; pussies from Åland, navy from Poland, beer from Armenia; regulations for single-frame displays; Ford Block winning numbers; etc etc

Issue 12/2003: personalised stamps unveiled (*and, I've read elsewhere, to cost 1€ next year although only €0.55 face*); Kleinwalsertal definitive (€0.45; useful historical summary); 2004 issue programme; 2004 sees 50th anniversary of State Treaty and 200th of State Printing Works; Christkindl cancel forgeries; Philatelic Abbreviations (*if APS perplexes you...*); "yellow cards" (*a Hannes Margreiter initiative to involve youth in philately*); Thematic: Tupolev; list of office numbers for the octagonal cancels of Niederoesterreich; should Austrian stamps say "Austria" or "Österreich"?; etc etc

Issue 1/2004: personalised stamps illustrated; WIPA prize for World's Prettiest Stamp won by Czech Republic, followed by Portugal, Palestine, etc.; VAT on stamps?; 2003 Christkindl cancel with missing die number; Michel catalogue on-line; Friedrich Schmiedl's Rocket Post; Andrei Tupolev; stamps of the Hejaz Railway; catalogues; new stamps; an over-franked Kleinwalsertal letter. etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Militaria Austriaca Philatelia

Issue 208: Six members (one GB) evicted for not paying their subs; on personalised stamps; '50 years of the Army' stamp design competition; British fieldpost in Iraq; German fieldpost cards in WWII; 100 years of Franz Josef Land; UNO etc operations; etc etc

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost

Issue 75: 1917 letter with correct franking of 68Kr40; Clement medal to Kallis & Kohl; their Innsbruck event; Qs & As; Postanweisungscontrollestempel in occupied Italy; Tirol military medical arrangements 1914-18; etc etc etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 64: AGM reports; supplementary list of west-Silesia post offices (*Botenwald, Groß Morau & Karlsberg differ from Votoček and the 1906 Postlexicon, and are at best doubtful. Ed*); 2 types of Lloyd Agency cancels from Constantinople; the Salzburg forgeries; Q&A.

Czechout

Issue 4/2003: meeting notes and book reviews; pneumatic mail in Vienna & Prague; WWII Airgraphs; Czech Republic's PTOs in 1999; Registration labels post-WWII; Q&A; new issues; etc

CUMULATIVE INDEX to Czechout volumes 1 - 20 (1975 - 2002)

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 155 December 2003: 1918-21 issues - local or occupation? (useful what-happened-when list); much of post-WWI Hungarian interest.

Südost Philatelie

Issue 83/2003: age distribution of membership; two stamp forgers executed; usage of Bosnian newspaper stamps as postage stamps on 29.1.1919; book reviews; etc

Supplement: subject index to issues 01/1975 to 80/2003. [We have all of these in our library.]

Germania

Nov 2003 vol 39 no 4: local group reports; beautiful postcards of Lauenburg in Pomerania; Q&A; letters; etc etc.

Wiener Ganzsachen F u P-Verein.

Issue 4/2003: An express letter sent by pneumatic post on 14.4.1938?; Stohl on meter-marks (& a classification thereof?)

Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale

Issue 125: (i) The first provisional issue for Fiume in Italy; (ii) Postal history of SudTirol at the end of WWI; (iii) The battle of Custoza, 1866 (marginal notes on a military letter)

The Cinderella Philatelist

Vol 43 No 4: Book reviews: Cinderella Stamps of Bohemia & Czechoslovakia: Bohemia Vol 1 (up to 1918) & Vol 3/1 (Wehrschatz stamps - fundraising for the German Societies Abroad); and much else of interest. Also received: their Library List.

APSUS Journal

Vol 3 Nr 4: History of the Friedl family (with new discoveries on what happened in 1938, and a most interesting URL link to the Claims Resolution Tribunal); Austrian Postal History, 1840-UPU (Ferchenbauer2000 pp18-23); DOAV precancels; etc.

UKRANIAN PHILATELIST - УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ФІЛАТЕЛІСТ

We have agreed to a trial exchange of Journals with the Ukrainian Philatelic & Numismatic Society, which is USA-based but has a world-wide membership; several people are members of both Societies [*Hello, Peter!*]. Most articles are in English. I'll list mainly those I think are of APS relevance; there are of course many more on modern topics.

Vol 48 No 2 (83): their website is www.upns.org; Lviv issue of 1918 (overprinted Austrian stamps); classical (and modern) forgeries;

Vol 49 No 1 (84): The State of the Society; 1994-UPU-approved World Association for the Development of Philately's Manual;

Vol 49 No 3 (86): the Hutsul Battalion (a WWI formation similar to the Ukrainian Legion); the first regular international air mail service in the world (Vienna-Kyiv/Kiev); UPU proposal that all stamp issues be uniquely numbered (so that forgeries, bogus issues etc being un-numbered will be identifiable)

Vol 51 No 1 (89): the Roman Dubniak Ukranian Museum Foundation (based in Leeds); Odessa-Ungeni Railway 1910-14; Ukranian Legion postcards.

Additions to the Library

In the yellow-covered library list, page 83, Wurth's Annual Handbooks: please:

Renumber existing XXIV 'Sopron' as XXV and existing XXIII 'Ofen' as XXIV

Insert before 'Sonderband': Band XXIII (2000): **Das kaiserlich-österreichische Postwesen 1849/50 bis 1867.** Tarifreform, Briefmarke, DÖ-Postverein, Münzvertrag, Technische Fortschritte usw

Add at end: Band XXVI (2003): **Abschied vom Gulden.** Österreich-Ungarns postwesen gegen Ende des XIX. Jahrhunderts.

Book reviews

The Silver Yardstick: 1840-1871 - currencies applied to postal rates in the nineteenth century. By Gavin Fryer FRPSL and John Whiteside FRPSL. Published as a supplement to The London Philatelist, Vol 112, Dec 2003.

I cannot better its own description: "*A description of currencies of the world, their minting and their development with application to Postal Rates from circa 1800, particularly to mail sent in the period from the issue of the first postage stamps in 1840 until the commencement of operations by the Universal Postal Union in 1875 including comprehensive data providing the basis for exchange between any currency based upon minting of relevant silver coins in circulation.*" Appendix II, 8 pages long, is "The Austrian & Hungarian Lands". One of the many things I learnt is that the kronen introduced for postage on 1.1.1900 (though the decree was 1893: see also Wurth XXVI) was on the gold standard, while the various gulden currencies, used 1753-1900, were silver standard.

G&CPS Third Reich Study Group

Their News Sheet 115 has an interesting article by Tony Hickey on the April 1938 Plebiscite Cachets "Am 10. April dem Führer Dein Ja". He makes it clear that these were applied only in certain offices (* list below), some having several types. So while Joyce can seek the three from Innsbruck, I'll never find any applied in Kitzbühel!

* main office in Vienna; Salzburg; Linz; Bregenz; Innsbruck; Eisenstadt; Graz; Braunau am Inn; plus main district sorting offices in Linz; Salzburg; Vienna; Klagenfurt; Innsbruck; Graz.

spacer page

Questions, Answers, Letters...

Korrekptions (now a regular feature @...)

Todmorden is in Yorkshire, not Lancashire where Austria 144 p78 placed it.

SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth

HLM Prof Zimmerl writes (in Andy-Translation): A remark on "Austria" 140, pp 60, 68 and 70 - a part of the gigantic Iglseeder correspondence has somehow come to Great Britain! Theodor Iglseeder was an Oberst in the k.k. Army and conducted an extensive philatelic correspondence. His son, Ministerialrat Erwin Iglseeder, was an Oberforstrat and took over and continued his collections. He was co-founder and Obmann of the First Austrian Registration Label Collector Society (later I was Obmann for 15 years). I bought his collection, and still have two boxes in the cellar; it includes numerous POW cards. Iglseeder father and son had greetings sent to themselves from everywhere in the world - as "Austria" shows, even from the sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth from the Japanese POW camps. I do not believe that Theodor Iglseeder was there himself, as he was in the Army and not the Navy. Somehow the cards you illustrated look philatelically inspired.

Pneumatic Post Part 2

In the first paragraph on page 15 we said: ... *The post also accepted individually prepared letters, provided they had the Telegraph stamp applied and did not overstep the weight limit...* Henry Pollak points out that this might be misunderstood to mean that you could bring your own envelope, buy a 20k telegraph stamp, put a letter in it, and send it as long as it wasn't too heavy.

You couldn't! See Austria 143 pp 48-53 " The Founding Ordinance for Vienna's Pneumatic Post", in particular page 51 para 5: "These pneumatic letters should be written as a rule on the official printed sheet ... otherwise on thin stationery, which latter however is to be inserted by the sender in a pre-stamped envelope, which is sold likewise at the pneumatic stations." So, do-it-yourself envelopes were explicitly forbidden (until the Bahnhofbrief was introduced). Müller, Hajek et al directly or indirectly come to the same conclusion.

B.L.'s Mystery Card

(Austria 144 p55) Could it be one of the cards provided in certain restaurants & dance halls, for a message delivered by the waiters from one table to another?

The Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Austria & Lombardy Venetia (Part 2) - the Designs.

by Martin Brumby

Introduction

Enlarged illustrations are given of each different stamp design, showing one of the 'Austrian' stamps in kreuzer and Gulden C.M. together with a brief description of the design. The corresponding 'Lombardy and Venetia' stamps are shown in a smaller format but with big enlargements of the printed values and practical guidance for differentiating between typo and engraved values. It will be seen that the guidance given in other published works is sometimes unhelpful. Note that the easiest and quickest thing to look for is the value off centre within the medallion - a sure-fire indication of a typo printing, albeit naturally some typo prints *are* in accurate register.

For the avoidance of doubt: the descriptions 'typo' or 'engraved' refer *only* to the inscriptions of value and currency. The medallions are *always* recess printed (a.k.a. engraved, copperplate, intaglio or whatever), the green leafy background is *always* typographically printed (a.k.a. letterpress).

The descriptions of the designs are given as concisely as possible; I haven't attempted to interpret their allegorical or symbolic significance. Some details are a little unclear - literally - a good glass will be required in some cases and even then not every feature in the design can be clearly understood. It is a matter of conjecture whether some features (eg the heads of the putti at either side of the lowest values) are obscure due to a lack of understanding by the designer and engraver of the stamps of the practical limitations of large scale printing in a very small format or whether the intention was to produce yet another security feature. I doubt that they, or the bureaucrats who controlled the production one hundred and fifty years ago, considered whether any normal person would be greatly interested in these minutiae.



Both Cavazzoni and following him Marchetto give dimensions for each value. These are measurements over the tips of the perforations, an approach which seems unhelpful for reasons which may be apparent from the illustration (an extreme example, admittedly)!



The dimensions below are measured over the printed leafy background and are given for general guidance. Individual stamps will be found differing by at least a quarter of a millimetre in height or width,

presumably due to different paper shrinkage but possible also to differences between the individual printing dies. A subject for research?

Key to corresponding values in Austrian & Lombardy Venetia series.																				
Kreuzer								Gulden												
1	2	3	6	10	15	30	45	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
Centesimi						Lire														
5	10	15	30	50	75	1.5	2.25	3	6	9	12	15	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60

1 kr and 5 centesimi (19³/₄ x 27¹/₂mm)



1 kreuzer (typo)

Within the medallion the value is centre top and C.M. or Centesimi in the centre. The Habsburg eagle is at the bottom. An ornament is at the top of the circle with further ornaments turning into sprigs of long leaves at either side. Faint heads of putti peep out of the leaves at either side.

The values are printed by typo only and the medallions are in orange rather than the usual black. As in many of the typo stamps, different subtypes may be found.

2 kr and 10 centesimi (19³/₄ x 27¹/₂ mm)



2 kreuzer (typo)

Designs identical to the 1kr / 5c stamps. The values are printed by typo only and the medallions are in red rather than the usual black.

3 kr and 15 centesimi (19½ x 27¾ mm)**3 kreuzer (engraved)**

Designs identical to the 1kr / 5c stamps. The L&V values are printed by either typography or recess and the medallions are in black.

6 kr and 30 centesimi (21 x 29 mm)**6 kreuzer (engraved)**

The medallions show, inside both a plain and a radially hatched border, the outline of a twin apex gothic arch. The head of a winged putto at top, value in the centre, Habsburg eagle at bottom. Elaborate stylised plant motif at sides and bottom.

10 kr and 50 centesimi (22½ x 30¼ mm)**10 kreuzer (engraved)**

The medallions show asymmetric and stylised foliage and ornaments inside a plain border. The head of a putto at the right, observing a bird perched at the left. Value in the centre, Habsburg eagle at bottom.

15 kr and 75 centesimi (23¼ x 31½ mm)**15 kreuzer (engraved)**

Within a thin plain and radially hatched broken inner border, a four pointed concave bordered diamond with inscription in the centre and a winged putto's head at the bottom. Small eagles are at either side at the top with laurel and oak on a shaded background at either side. The shading continues in the space below the diamond, where an open book is at the bottom, a fasces at lower left and the scales of Justice laid down at lower right. A sword lies across book and scales. A spear point peeps out beside the fasces.

30 kr and 1Lira 50c (24½ x 31½ mm)**30 kreuzer (engraved)**

An ornamental tablet inset over cross hatched shading within a plain border. The Habsburg eagle is at the top with decoration at either side. The value in two lines is central on the tablet and below in a blank area within shading. Shadowy beribboned faces at either side. Fruit and foliage strewn at the bottom. Tear shaped pendants at either side of the tablet and spheres above each face. A ribbon starts above the eagle's heads and is swagged round the tablet, disappearing behind the heavy curlicues at either side of the lower inscription.

45 kr and 2Lira 25c (25¼ x 33 mm)**45 kreuzer (engraved)**

The medallions show a six pointed (diagonals, plus horizontal) tracery of branch-like elements with shading outside, within a double ring plain and radially hatched border. The Habsburg eagle is at the top with sprigs of long leaves at either side. The value inscriptions are central on two lines. A winged putto's head is in the bottom cusp. At the sides, stylised foliage sprouts from the side branch tracery.

1 fl and 3 Lire (25¼ x 34¼ mm)**1 Gulden (engraved)**

Within a horizontally hatched outer ring, a large scallop shell at the bottom, the Habsburg eagle at the top and the value central ("C.M." or "Lire" within shell). At either side below, curlicues and stylised foliage makes seats for two (wingless) putti. The putto at the right faces towards the rear and appears to play a flute. His comrade faces forwards and is about to join in. Both wear three pheasant's feathers (?) in their hair, behind and above which a vine trails towards the eagle.

[Reminder: the currency is the Gulden but its symbol is 'fl'.]

2 fl and 6 Lire (27½ x 35 mm)**2 Gulden (engraved)**

A cusped square with contoured and hatched profile surmounts a similarly profiled outer ring. The Habsburg eagle at top, the inscription at centre and bottom. Two curly haired shepherdesses (?), the one at the left facing forward, her partner rearwards, elevate laurel wreaths to the eagle with their left arms.

3 fl and 9 Lire (28³/₄ x 35¹/₄ mm)**3 Gulden (engraved)**

Within a contoured outer ring, a large white but gently shadowed cross. The Habsburg eagle at the top and the value in one line centrally (9 Lire) or with "C.M." below. At either side winged putti behind the cross. That at the left leans on the horizontal bar with his right arm and holds a vertical sword with his left. His companion hold up the scales of justice also with his left arm. Under the feet of the former an open book and some papers. To the lower right a fasces, another paper and a loop of ribbon. The edge of a shield (?) can be seen in the darkly shaded background.

4 fl and 12 Lire (26³/₄ x 35 mm)**4 Gulden (Engraved)**

Within a plain double outer ring, a bearded giant sits leaning on his left hand. His legs are crossed and a cloth draped across his lap. He appears to be seated within a large scallop shell or perhaps on a large sculpted rock. Next to his hand, a club. The Habsburg eagle is at the top emblazoned on a curled edged, irregular tablet (a stylised cloud?) which the giant supports on his neck and steadies with his right arm. The numeral(s) are to the left, the denomination to the right and the Austrian stamp has "C.M." below. Highly stylised foliage to left and right and at the bottom. Note! Smaller than the preceding value.

5 fl. and 15 Lire (31 x 37½ mm)**5 Gulden (Engraved)**

Inside a plain outer ring a large rock with, to the right, a putto holding aloft a large tasseled and bifurcated pennant with the Habsburg eagle. To his side a large long leafed plant. Verdure at his feet. He regards, to the left of the rock, a large dragon, feet in air, tongue lolling and hoping for his tummy tickling. Or perhaps he is deceased.

6 fl. and 18 Lire (30 x 37 mm)**6 Gulden (engraved)**

Inside a thin and plain outer ring, a radially hatched ring and (partially obscured) a contoured inner ring with small cusps. Centrally, a triangle with similar hatching and inner cusped strip. The central space occupied by "C.M." or "18". At the top an angel rests his arms on two wreaths of laurel and oak containing "6" and "fl." or "Lire." (twice). From the bottom of the wreaths, cornucopias spill fruit into the bottom of the medallion, with a central third wreath containing the Habsburg eagle.

8 fl. and 24 Lire (32 x 39 mm)**8 Gulden (engraved)**

Inside a thin radially hatched ring and wider plain inner ring, the Habsburg eagle at top, value in the centre and "C.M." or "Lire." at the bottom on an ornamental and shaded tablet. Entwined in the latter, stylised foliage rises up the sides and form sockets in which comely but apparently complacent maidens lounge, sprigs of long leafed foliage in the crooks of their arms. A garland of small flowers and foliage trails around them.

10 fl. and 30 Lire (32¼ x 39¾ mm)**10 Gulden (engraved)**

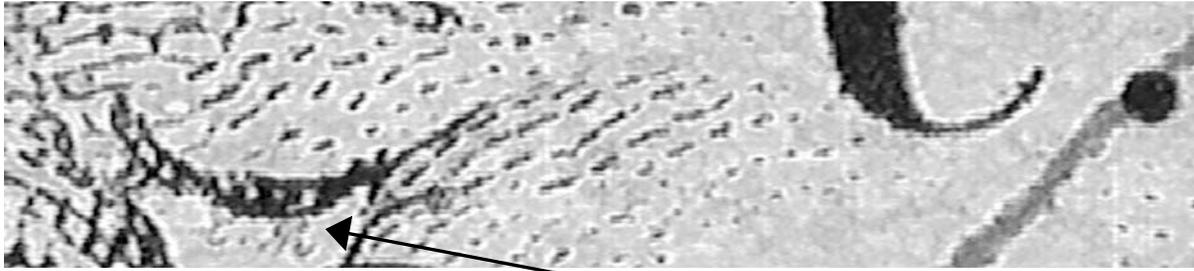
Inside a vertically hatched ring a thin inner ring. Romanesque archway with columns bears on a plinth. At top the Habsburg eagle with "10fl." or "30" below, on the plinth "C.M." or "Lire.". Two small arches at the sides, with standing figures, outer legs raised on steps. The (male?) on the left carries a sword, the (female) on the right a fasces. Both raise their inner arms bearing laurel wreaths. At the bottom, crossed sprigs of long leafed plants. Above the columns, cornucopias filled with fruit and foliage.

12 fl. and 36 Lire (32 x 38 mm)**12 Gulden (engraved)**

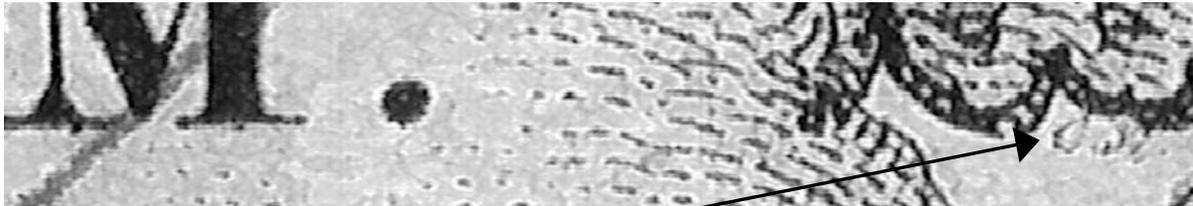
Within a plain outer and 'woody' inner border, a trellis of branches and stylised foliage. At the top, the Habsburg eagle. In the centre the value, at the bottom "C.M." or "Lire". Two winged putti perch in the trellis work at either side, each holding three long leaves in their inner hand and leaning forward, seemingly to hold a conversation across the eagle. Note! Smaller than the preceding value!

14 fl. and 42 Lire (34 x 41¾ mm)**14 Gulden (engraved)**

Within a thin, plain outer border, an oddly shaped platform (a stylised cloud?), at the bottom with "C.M." or "Lire". At the centre, the Habsburg eagle below the value figures. Two wingless putti sit on the platform, playing with a floral garland. Around the sides and almost meeting at the top, vigorously climbing laurel. Uniquely, this stamp incorporates secret markings, the initials of designer Leandro Russ and engraver Carlo Kotterba, in minute manuscript letters, at either side under the 'cloud'. Did they like this design best?



"L.R." (for Leandro Russ)



"C.K." (for Carlo Kotterba)

This value (in the 42 Lire stamp for Lombardy Venetia) also exists in the very rare 'value on one line' version. This will be discussed below.

16 fl. and 48 Lire (34¼ x 41½ mm)



16 Gulden (engraved)

Within a plain outer and thicker, horizontally hatched inner border, a six cusped inner frame with ornamental finials horizontally. At the top, the Habsburg eagle. The value in the centre, in the two upper cusps "L" and "I" (L&V only), in the lower cusps "C." and "M." or "R" and "E" (L&V). A winged putto sits on a cushion holding long leaves and a laurel sprig. In the pendentive spaces, heavily stylised foliage.

18 fl. and 54 Lire (35¼ x 41¼ mm)**18 Gulden (engraved)**

Within a plain outer and thin contoured inner ring, a sailing boat. At the mast a Habsburg flag blows forward (although a ribbon above trails behind). A helmeted female figure (Minerva?) stands, right arm akimbo holding the tiller with her left. A winged putto flies forward towing the boat along with a floral garland also fastened to the mast. On the sail the value, on the bow "C.M." or "Lire". Flowers and foliage can be seen amidships and an anchor hangs over the bow. The bowsprit sports what might be a bunch of carrots (?).

20 fl. and 60 Lire (35 x 43¼ mm)**20 Gulden (engraved)**

Within a horizontally shaded outer ring and a circle of pearls, a stone casket (inscribed "C.M." or "Lire") surmounts a stone plinth bearing the value. At top, the Habsburg eagle in a roundel on an ornamental plaque adorned with foliage and fruit. At the bottom a small ornament with stylised vegetation. At either side, winged and skirted putti stand with left leg raised on the plinth, that on the left holds a book, his companion raises a sword.

The Lombardy & Venetia Stamps

As outlined above, the stamps in Centesimi and Lire produced for use in Lombardy & Venetia follow the designs produced for Austria but have the added complication of existing (for the most part) in two distinct versions, the full set of 21 with values printed by typography and all but the 5 and 10 Centesimi and the 48 and 54 Lire also with recess printed (engraved) values. Unfortunately, there are apparently no records (and only a little circumstantial evidence) to suggest, on one hand, why the 'typo value' L&V stamps were produced and also why, on the other, 'engraved value' prints don't exist of these four values.

The second of these conundrums is a little easier than the first. It is easy enough to work out why the two lowest values (in both currencies) had the values typo printed. As the medallions were printed in orange (1kr, 5c) or red (2kr, 10c), they were stuck with carrying out three printing operations to produce the stamps. This, in turn, raises the question why they opted for the coloured medallions. Admittedly the medallion designs were the same as the next 'ordinary' value (3kr, 15c) but one wouldn't have thought there was much danger of confusing the stamps. (Incidentally, are there any earlier three-colour stamps, counting black as a colour?) As they needed three processes and three sets of plates then the values might as well be typo - easier and cheaper both to prepare and to use than recess printing. Consideration of the design shared with the 3kr / 15c, the different colour medallions and consequent use of typo for the values doesn't prove Marchetto's theory that these low values were a separate, later issue, but I think it gives the idea some weight.

In the case of the scarce 48 and 54 Lire stamps, it must surely be the case that having made one printing of these values (by whatever process) they never needed any more, or certainly not enough to make it worth messing about with different printing plates. In fact, it is a wonder that they bothered to print these rather obscure high values (in either currency) in the first place. My guess is that they hadn't really thought through the concept of using adhesives, which lend themselves so readily to multiple and supplementary frankings. As 16 fl. and 18 fl. were steps on the tax scale, it is easy to see why there were imprints produced for sheets of the old stamped paper in these denominations, although these are very hard to find. When planning the issue, they presumably never thought of using (say) two 8 fl. stamps to make up the 16 fl. rate.

But none of this really helps to explain why the initial printings of all the L&V stamps used typographic printing. It would be a reasonable guess that, having gone through all the procedures necessary to produce printing plates for each leafy background and for each medallion and getting them in the proper corresponding alignment, duplicate 'medallions' plates would be produced and

the values only then inserted. Someone with practical experience of security printing could perhaps advise but my guess, for what it is worth, would be that it is probably quicker, cheaper and simpler to set up metal type in a form to print the values for the stamps rather than messing about engraving values (or using a die to impress values) onto a recess printing plate. But, conversely, once this latter operation had been carried out, it would be quicker and easier to produce the stamps by two print runs plus perforation rather than adding a separate print run for the values.

Perhaps they ran short of time late in 1854 and compromised, as an expedient. Or perhaps they didn't imagine the demand for the L&V stamps would justify the effort of producing the engraved plates. However, it wasn't long before the effort was taken (in the case of the most used stamps) and, in my experience, many of the low value stamps are much more common engraved than typo.

It would be profligate with magazine space to reproduce enlarged images of the L&V stamps in both printings. I also have to admit that I'm still looking for the engraved top values (and, indeed for the 60 lire typo - offers of any of these will be carefully and gratefully considered!). But it is worth illustrating the basic (typo values) stamps and then considering the details of the two sets of value imprints.

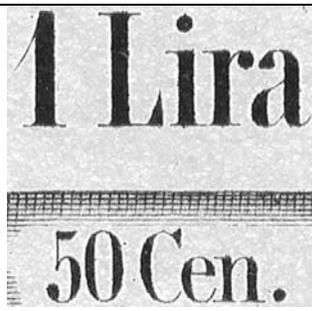
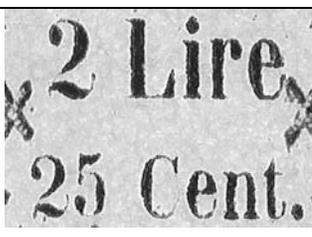
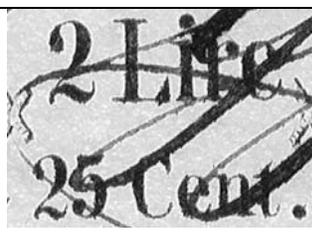


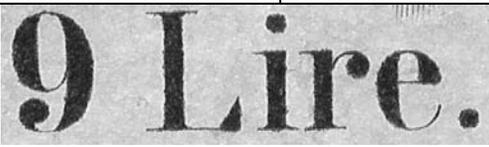
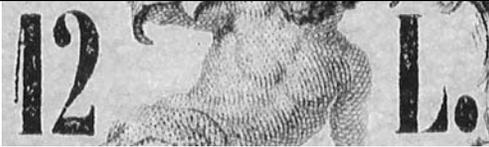
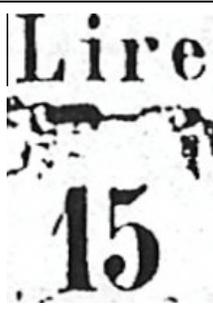


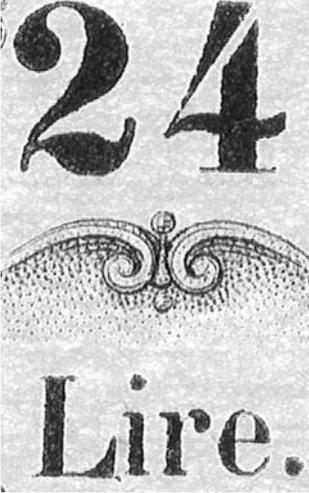
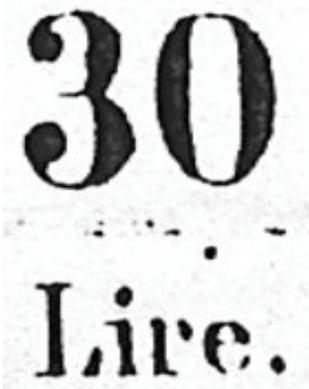
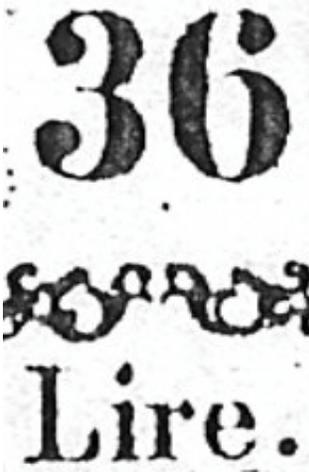
The details of the value imprints.

It is worth emphasizing that although the notes and enlarged details below should facilitate the separation of the two series, there are significant minor variations between copies of the 'same' stamps in the numerals, the letters of the text and the layout. This is particularly (but not exclusively) the case with the typo prints. Reference should be made to Cavazzoni, who sketches numerous subtypes similar to the following varieties of "5 Centesimi":

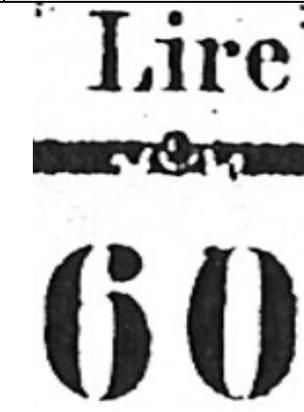


Note	TYPO	ENGRAVED	Note
Fat C and e, narrow space in tail of 5			Tall C and e, wide space in tail of 5
Fat sided 0, tall C and e, big stop.			Fat e, 3 has wider space in tail and rounder end dot, more even sides to 0.
Balanced 5, oval C and e, oval dots and stop.			'Tripping' 5, squarer C and e, round dots and stop.
Bulbous top to 7, rounder C, narrow space in tail of 5.			'Sweeping' top to 7, taller C, wide space in tail of 5.
Short serif on 1, balanced 5, oval dot on i and end to r and a. C is nearly closed.			Long serif on 1, 'tripping' 5, round dots, taller open C.
Narrow and sharp space in upper 2, oval dots and stop, taller e.			Blunt space in 2, 'tripping' 5, round dots and stop, serifs to L stronger.

Note	TYPO	ENGRAVED	Note
3 is very fat with round ends, narrow spaces. Concave serif to leg of L.			3 less fat, wider spaces. Triangular serif to L. Narrow space in r.
Narrow space in top of 6, large round end. Concave serif to leg of L. Wider e and thicker i.			Wide space in top of 6. Triangular serif to L.
 Fat front to 9, blunter space in bottom. Concave serif to leg of L.	 9 appears 'crouching'. Triangular serif to L. Spaces at bottom of 9 and inside r are sharper.		
 Long drooping serif to 1, round narrow space inside 2. Large oval stop. Concave serif to leg of L.	 Shorter serif to 1, wider and blunt space in 2 which has tall thin bottom serif. Triangular serif to L.		
Concave serif to leg of L. Dot to i high and round, 5 has oval end and is straight inside, short serif to 1			Triangular serif to L. Larger, lower, oval dot to i. Longer serif to 1. (illustration ex Cavazzoni)

Note	TYPO	ENGRAVED	Note
 <p data-bbox="220 390 797 468">Concave serif to leg of L. Dot to i rounder, smaller, higher. Letters taller.</p>		 <p data-bbox="831 380 1385 495">Triangular serif to L. Larger dot to I, letters shorter and fatter. (illustration ex Cavazzoni)</p>	
<p data-bbox="207 506 457 793">Concave serif to leg of L. Dot to i high and round, bottom of 2 more bulbous, gap to 4 narrow.</p>			<p data-bbox="1169 506 1406 842">Triangular serif to L. Larger, lower dot to i. Bottom of 2 'sweeping', gap to 4 wide. (illustration ex Cavazzoni)</p>
<p data-bbox="207 1020 457 1230">Concave serif to leg of L. Fatter numbers, especially back of 3, sides of 0.</p>			<p data-bbox="1169 1020 1406 1272">Triangular serif to L. Wider space in 0, ends to 3 smaller. (illustration ex Cavazzoni)</p>
<p data-bbox="207 1451 457 1650">Concave serif to leg of L. Fatter numbers, especially back of 3, front of 6.</p>			<p data-bbox="1169 1451 1406 1692">Triangular serif to L. 6 appears more 'balanced'. (illustration ex Cavazzoni)</p>

Note	TYPO	ENGRAVED	Note
<p>Top of 4 is flat and opening at top is narrow. Bottom of 2 more bulbous, e is narrow.</p>			<p>Top of 4 pointed, wider opening. Bottom of 2 'sweeping', fatter e. (illustration ex Cavazzoni)</p>
	<p>(Typo only) 'one line' variety. Different style of 4 and shape of 2 (similar to 1858 series). (illustration ex Cavazzoni)</p>		
	<p>(Typo only) Concave serif to foot of L. Flat top and narrow opening to 4</p>		
	<p>(Typo only) Concave serif to foot of L. Flat top and narrow opening to 4. Strange shape to top of 5, a little like Mickey Mouse's ears.</p>		

Note	TYPO	ENGRAVED	Note
Concave serif to leg of L. Fat sides to 0, top of 6 seems to 'dangle' over shorter, round body. (illustration ex Cavazzoni)			Triangular serif to L. 'Body' of six is taller, numbers are less 'pointed' at top. (illustration ex Cavazzoni)

Special Purpose Stamps - Advertisement Stamps



1/2kr (typo)



1kr (typo)



3c (typo)



5c (typo)

The design is identical to the 3kr and 15c documentary stamps. The leafy background is in green and the medallions in black. The value and inscription is in red (1/2kr and 3c) or blue (1kr and 5c). The advertisement tax is paid by a 1/2kr stamp on this Playbill (heading) for a subscription performance of Donizetti's "The Daughter of the Regiment" performed on 13 June 1857 at the Arena, Raab.



Special Purpose Stamps - Calendar Stamps



3kr (typo)



3kr (engraved)



15c. (typo)

The design is identical to the 6kr and 30c documentary stamps. The 3kr exists with both typo and engraved values and the latter has a 3 narrower at the top and broader at the base, with round ends and full stop. Here, the leafy background is in rose-pink, the medallions, values and inscriptions in black. (Illustrations 3kr engr. ex Erlar, 15c ex Cavazzoni).

A curious rarity - the 42 Lire 'One Line' variety

(Adapted mainly from Cavazzoni, in turn based on an article by Paolo Cometta (1954), and from Marchetto - MB)



"Issue No.6, 7th June 1898, of the Rivista del Francobollo ('Stamp Magazine') published in Rome, contains a thank you to Mr. A. Genovese from Livorno for having informed them of a great rarity in the stamps of Lombardy Venetia in his possession, an example of the 42 Lire stamp with the wording printed on one line rather than two.

"In considering the stamps with the inscription on one line, I should record the view of Dr. Stephan Koczynski¹, raising the concern that this could be a case of a falsification to defraud collectors:

" "If only some examples in every entire sheet of the 42 Lire value had the inscription in one line, what unlikely accumulation of circumstances might have led to the preservation of only two examples (*known in 1924*), both in the same ownership and both cancelled with the same word "Contracted" ("*Stipulato*") written clearly by the same hand and with the same ink. If it was a case of an entire sheet with wording on one line, a greater number of used examples would have arrived in the hands of the collectors.

" "From the back of these stamps, the transparency of just the inscription '42 Lire' should be noted. The thick and intense ink of such a quality that it shows through to the reverse of the two examples (*known to him*) was not in use at that time by the Imperial State Printing House. It is necessary however to admit that the typographical characters used for the inscription 42 Lira are like the characters used by the Imperial State Printing House for the Italian inscriptions. If it is a case of falsification for collectors for the purpose of making money, by changing the original printed inscription, then it must be admitted that the alteration of the original stamps with the removal of the inscription in two lines and then applying the inscription in only one line was done in a masterly fashion. Certainly Lombardy was from the start the classic country for the forgery of Austrian values; if therefore the inscription on one line on these stamps is genuine or fake, it must be classified amongst the most interesting specimens of this type of stamp."

" "It should be noted that the examples with the inscription on one line are printed on thin paper like the normal stamps with inscription by typographical printing, while the stamps with engraved inscription are printed on thicker paper."

"I (*Cometta?*) want now to share my thoughts on the manufacture of this value of 42 Lira with the inscription on one line.

¹ Koczynski's book is considered to be the primary source on the classic Austrian revenues but I have never had the opportunity to study a copy. Native German speakers, whilst paying tribute to Koczynski's erudition, report that it is written in what may be described as a fusty and antiquated Kuk 'bureaucratese', which even they find, at times, hard to understand. Readers may wish to consider whether this quotation may have lost the occasional nuance in its transmutation into English (via Italian).

"It should be pointed out that the design of the vignette presents two spaces to contain the inscription of the value on two lines. Influenced by what one reads in the Mayr-Hanus catalogue of 1929, page 105 suggesting that the stamps are essays, I immediately thought that one or more sheets of these stamps were printed with the inscription on one line but had not satisfied the technical management of the Printing House and were put to one side in favour of the composition with the inscription of the value divided in two spaces.

"Since the existence of 42 Lira with wording on one line only became known after the publication in the Rivista dei Francobollo in June 1898, from that time the search began for other examples to enrich Italian collections.

"The four stamps (*now totalling six*) printed on thin paper now to hand, are perforated 17 x 15. The pale green colour of the background tends a little towards yellow in the copy I own but that might be derived from the washing that the example was subjected to in order to remove paper and gum.

"The printing of the design by recess and that with typographical value appear to be identical. The four stamps (*now six*) have the characteristics of the 42 Lira script which show differences between them, composed as they are with typographical characters that present some differences or disruptions. To confirm that not only one stamp has by chance been included, but more likely of a whole sheet, is the fact of the variations that confirm themselves in the copperplate engraved design. This is particularly visible in the lower part below the two headed eagle. The tiny space, containing the white part, differs considerably between one example and another.

"A peculiar feature of the four stamps (*now six*) is the weak printing on the reverse of the stamp, of the inscription '42 Lire'. It is not a case of colour seepage, or of transparency, but of genuine offset (*abklatsche*), a rather rare variety and one that is not known to me other than in some examples of the 1 Lira and 50 cent. (also the 30 cent.)

"In conclusion the suggestion of falsification of this variety of 42 Lire is to be absolutely discarded. Most likely a single test sheet of it was printed and this received the offset by being placed immediately on top of the sheet of paper that had received the first proof impression of the typographical plate containing the value inscriptions 'on one line'. The offset acquires the value of a mark of guarantee.

"This sheet formed part of a small quantity of watermarked sheets that already carried the first impressions - green background and black medallion - and would not be rejected to avoid the inevitable operations necessitated by the removal of a watermarked sheet. (*By which I assume he means that no one*

wanted to take the blame for wasting a sheet of security paper!! - MB). It was therefore sent to Italy to supply the Bureaus of Standards (Uffici di Commisurazione)"

Cavazzoni reproduces in his book here a sequence of photographs of the six known examples, giving them individual names:

- 1 - "Stipulato I°" (*Contracted I°*)
- 2 - "Stipulato II°" (*Contracted II°*)
- 3 - "abbiamo" (*We have*) (former collection Cometta)
- 4 - "il Sig." (*Mr...*)
- 5 - "Gìochino" (former collection Genovese)
- 6 - "Giovanni" (collection Cavazzoni)

In contrast to Cometta and Cavazzoni's very positive account of these rarities, the most recent handbook by Marchetto remains more sceptical. He points out, quite correctly, that the design of the numerals '2' and particularly the '4' is different from the design of these numerals in the rest of the issue (see particularly the 24, 42 (normal), 48 and 54 Lire stamps) and is 'identical to that found in the 1858 issue'. He points out that this rather circumstantial detail suggests a 'late' rather than an early date. This is true, although it must be said in passing that if the 4 is obviously different to the other L&V 4 numerals, it is quite similar (but not identical) to the numerals used in the Austrian 45kr, 4fl. and 14fl. stamps.

Marchetto continues:

"These six stamps are all manuscript cancelled and unfortunately have all been removed from the documents on which they were used, documents of which nothing it is known, not even the locality (Lombardy or Venetia) in which they had been written. As variants, there is no record of their being submitted to the Expert Commission of the Imperial & Royal State Printing House (as prescribed by the Decree of the Ministry of the Justice of 3rd January 1856), for examination to determine whether the stamp suspected is a product of the Establishment of the State Printing House. For Lombardy the decree above was valid until June 1859 when war intervened. Since the medallion carved with the relevant design was printed separately from the typographical printing of the denomination, one, or several sheets of these stamps, could have gone out from the State Printing House incompletely printed, (that is to say lacking the value imprint) and then arrived in clever hands, who completed in typography the value "42 Lire" on one line. Probably these stamps were used, (in times and at places out of the control of the KK Administration of Vienna), to legitimise old

documents, still lacking the necessary fiscal stamp, but still liable to the danger of some fiscal control."

Marchetto himself detracts from his critique (so far as the submission of the 'one line' stamps to the Expert Commission is concerned) by later admitting that the series of engraved numeral stamps themselves, genuine without any doubt, were issued in the middle of 1855 (and according to Marchetto mainly used that year) not only without reference to the Committee but "there are no known laws, decrees or executive notifications for the manufacture of these copperplate engraved stamps".²

What conclusions can we draw from this debate? It would be unworthy to suggest that the views of the acknowledged experts on the L&V revenues might be coloured by the consideration of whether or not a specimen can be found in their album. But it does seem to me that there is some special pleading on both sides. There seems to me little justification for Cavazzoni's suggestion that offset printing of the value on the reverse of the stamp has the 'value of a mark of guarantee'. In fact it suggests only that the six stamps now known were probably produced by the same hands and also probably derive from a single sheet.

The only one of these rarities I have seen was in Cavazzoni's display at WIPA 2000 and clearly I had no opportunity to poke about at it. But I assume that, by now, all six have been subjected to the obvious tests of ultraviolet lamps and the like. I think we can accept that there is no question of a complete forgery or, indeed, of the normal value imprint having been cunningly removed. So, let us assume that we start with a sheet of the stamps printed with leafy background and recess printed medallion (and presumably perforated) but with the printed value omitted. This omission might be by design or by error. The first possibility, suggested by Mayr & Hanus and apparently backed by Cometta and Cavazzoni, is that this was a deliberate 'essay' or 'trial print' which didn't find favour but which was subsequently sent out, presumably with a supply of 'normal' stamps, to some office which needed to regularly tax documents for transactions between 14,400 Lire and 16,800 lire. This is feasible, I suppose. One wonders why a printing plate should have been assembled with "42 Lire" on one line when the design obviously incorporated two spaces (for "14fl." and "C.M."). There is some precedent in the 3fl. / 9 Lire and 4fl. / 12 Lire stamps albeit it is easy in those cases to see why the layout was varied. There remains Marchetto's point about the design of the numerals, which I think is a bit

² *[The explanation might be the same as that for the Decree-less 1850 Soldi postage stamps: the Ministry, it is alleged, forgot to mention them in the formal submission to the Emperor and for reasons of both Court Protocol and job security didn't dare to ask twice! Ed]*

debateable but may point to a late rather than an early printing. If this is the case the "essay" theory is clearly holed below the waterline.

What other possibilities are there? I think we can discount the idea that a sheet with missing values came into the hands of unscrupulous stamp dealers. The fear, presumably, is that someone would go to all the trouble of producing a die for the value, with numerals and letters a good match for those used by the State Printing House (whether of 1854 pattern or later) but of a different layout. They would then have someone cancel them in manuscript of the same handwriting and then trickle two onto the market between 1898 and 1922, a further two between 1922 and 1954 and then two more in the following 50 years. This idea seems frankly bizarre - given a sheet of these stamps without value imprints, I'm sure I could dream up several approaches which would convert them into cash more quickly and probably with less effort.

There only remains Marchetto's thesis that the partly printed sheet of stamps had the values added semi officially (by an official printer and presumably with the connivance of the printers' immediate superiors if not with express authorisation from 'on high') and were used to legitimise some documents retrospectively. One might infer from his discussion that he thinks this might have happened in Lombardy after unification with Italy in 1859. This is feasible but still begs the question why anyone would go to all the trouble of assembling a plate with the 'right' letters and numerals but the 'wrong' layout. In the event of a document relating to a mortgage or contract for around 15,000 Lire going to court, I don't think it would need Sherlock Holmes on the case to spot something unusual about the validation stamp!

I don't think this conundrum can be resolved without the emergence of yet another 42 Lire 'one line' on document or, possibly, by forensic testing of the ink used in the value printing. In the meantime, any specimens surplus to your requirements will be gratefully accepted....

Austrian Documentary Stamps

	Kreuzer								Gulden													
	1	2	3	6	10	15	30	45	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	
13½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X					X
13½x14½			X	X		X	X															
13½x15	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X				
13½x15½				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X				
13½x16	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X			X	X
13½x16½	X				X	X			X	X	X		X			X	X					
14x15½			X			X					X											
14½x13½								X	X		X	X	X									
14½						X						X										
14½x15						X					X											X
14½x15½																						X
14½x16			X																			
14½x16½				X																		
15x13½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X	X
15x15½	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			
15x16	X				X								X									
15x16½			X				X				X											
15½x13½	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X					X
15½x14			X			X																
15½x14½				X		X		X														
15½x15			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X				X
15½			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
15½x16			X				X	X	X			X										
15½x16½			X		X	X		X	X		X	X										
16x13½			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X		X	X			
16x14½						X																
16x15			X	X		X	X		X	X			X		X		X					X
16x15½			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X				X			X		
16	X	X			X	X					X											
16x16½		X									X		X									
16½x13½			X	X		X	X		X		X			X		X		X	X			
16½x14½										X												
16½x15			X	X		X	X	X	X		X											X
16½x15½		X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X									
16½x16				X			X							X								
16½	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X					
17x15½			X								X		X									X
17x16½										X												

Austrian Advertisement Tax Stamps

There are two values, ½kr and 1kr - they are listed as "Perf. 13½ to 17"

Austrian Calendar Tax Stamps

There is one value, 3kr, which occurs as Typo and Engraved - both are listed as "Perf. 13½ to 17"

Lombardy Venetia Documentary Stamps - Typographic Values

	Centesimi						Lire															
	5	10	15	30	50	75	1.5	2.25	3	6	9	12	15	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	
9½																						
13½x9½																						
13½x12																						
13½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X							
13½x14				X					X													
13½x15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X												
13½x15½	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X												
13½x16			X	X		X		X	X	X												
13½x16½	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X											
15x9½																						
15x13½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X							
15x14½				X																		
15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X						
15x15½	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X									
15x16			X	X		X																
15x16½		X	X	X		X			X		X											
15x17		X	X						X													
15½x13½	X		X	X	X	X							X	X	X							
15½x14																						
15½x15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X									
15½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
15½x16				X			X	X														
15½x16½	X		X			X	X	X														
15½x17		X	X							X												
16x13½	X				X		X			X												
16x15			X	X						X												
16x15½																						
16																						
16x16½			X			X	X															
16x17									X													
16½x13½	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X												
16½x15			X	X	X	X	X		X	X							X					
16½x15½	X		X	X		X	X		X	X							X					
16½x16		X		X	X																	
16½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X					
16½x17									X			X										
16½x17½									X			X										
17x13½			X	X		X																
17x15					X					X			X	X	X		X			X		
17x15½					X					X			X		X		X			X		
17x16											X	X				X		X				
17x16½						X					X	X				X		X				
17			X	X		X						X										X

	Centesimi				Lire													
17½x13½			X		X	X												
17½x15½				X										X				
17½x16½			X															
17½x17					X	X				X								X
17½x17½					X													

Lombardy Venetia Documentary Stamps - Engraved Values

	Centesimi				Lire													
	15	30	50	75	1.50	2.25	3	6	9	12	15	18	24	30	36	42	60	
9½				X														
13½x9½				X														
13½x12				X														
13½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X					
13½x14					X													
13½x15	X	X		X	X		X	X	X									
13½x15½	X	X	X	X	X	X												
13½x16	X							X										
13½x16½				X														
15x9½	X			X														
15x13½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X					
15x14½																		
15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X				
15x15½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X			
15x16				X	X	X	X	X										
15x16½	X		X	X	X		X											
15x17																		
15½x13½	X	X	X	X	X		X	X					X					X
15½x14													X					
15½x15	X	X	X	X	X		X											X
15½	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X					X	
15½x16						X	X			X								
15½x16½	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X									
15½x17																		
16x13½	X	X		X	X													
16x15	X	X		X		X		X										
16x15½					X		X											
16					X													
16x16½		X																
16x17																		
16½x13½	X	X		X	X		X											
16½x15	X	X		X	X		X	X										
16½x15½	X	X		X	X		X	X										
16½x16				X														
16½	X			X	X													
16½x17																		

	Centesimi				Lire												
	15	30	50	75	1.50	2.25	3	6	9	12	15	18	24	30	36	42	60
16½x17½																	
17x13½																	
17x15				X													
17x15½																	
17x16																	
17x16½																	
17																	
17½x13½																	
17½x15½																	
17½x16½																	
17½x17																	
17½x17½																	

	L&V Advert Tax		L&V Calendar Tax
	3 Centesimi	5 Centesimi	15 Centesimi
13½	X	X	X
13½x15	X	X	X
13½x15½		X	X
13½x16	X	X	
13½x16½	X	X	
15x13½	X	X	
15	X	X	X
15x15½	X		
15x16	X	X	
15½x13½	X		
15½x15	X	X	X
15½	X		X
15½x16		X	
15½x16½	X	X	
16x13½	X		
16x15	X	X	X
16	X	X	X
16x16½		X	
16½x13½	X		X
16½x15		X	X
16½x15½	X	X	
16½	X	X	

From the Hon. Secretary

The past few months have seen a momentous event in the history both of our young Society and in that of the two precursor societies; our display to the Royal Philatelic Society. The fact that we were invited to show at all testifies to the early maturity of the APS, but what amazed our hosts and the many of our members who attended alike was the sheer variety of material and the “depth” our exhibitors revealed in their displays. The display from an “outsider’s” view - written by the Royal’s Hon. Secretary Keith Fitton - will in fact be published in the next issue of “Austria” as it is still under embargo but it is highly congratulatory of the Society and we must not anticipate it now.

The Austrian ambassador was unable to attend but was represented by the Embassy’s cultural attaché - now called the “Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum” - Dr. Michael Zimmermann. The event was clearly an eye-opener for Dr. Zimmermann who we suspect had had very little idea as to what he was about to see, and he quickly warmed to the tour he was given of the exhibition, even hazarding snippets of useful information, such as the fact that the building of the former Austrian Post Office in Jaffa now commemorates the event with a blue plaque! Dr. Zimmermann has kindly offered us the occasional use of his Forum’s premises off Hyde Park in London for future important events.

Eighty-six persons attended the function, there were 25 exhibitors and 52 exhibits including several from France (our member Fred Pirotte had come all the way from the French Riviera to be present) and the USA. We hope to release a CD to APS members showing most of the exhibits.

Budapest Visit

One of the benefits of collecting “Austria” is the special linkage it offers with various other societies with “Austrian” interests, such as the Hungarian, Czech, Italian and Yugoslav to mention only a few. Amongst other things, this offers unusual opportunities for cooperation and knowledge exchange - and the chance to join each other’s excursions.

Your attention is therefore drawn to the visit to Budapest that the Hungarian Society is organising from 2 - 10 June this year (adjustable: you can go for a shorter period if you like) and which APS members are very welcome to join. The visit coincides with a major exhibition of Revenues in the city, and for those not so interested in this area, there will be many dealers to call on and a whole range of excursions in Budapest and to the surrounding beauty spots. If you have not already signed up for the tour but are interested, please contact Roger Morrell on 0208 287 0828 or rm@npl.co.uk.

From the Librarian

I would like to thank W. Green and G G Cappellari for their recent donations of items for the library. Whilst your committee add new books to the library when funds are available and the book is considered important, I am - like any librarian - happy to accept gifts of volumes no longer required by members. Unless they contain an index of their contents, files of magazine cuttings are not generally borrowed by members.

From the FestmeisterInnen

HONFEST 2004

Basic Details are as follows

Hotel	Corus Hotel Warwick
Location	Honiley - A 4177. 2 miles outside Warwick
Journey times	Warwick Stn - 10 mins, Berkswell Stn -5 mins, Birmingham International Stn/ Airport -20 mins.
Dates	Friday 8th October - Sunday 10th October 2004
Conference Room	Warwick Room reserved
Refreshments	Tea/ Coffee and biscuits available during conference and for the Ladies on Saturday when they return from their sightseeing and shopping.
Meals	Choice of 3 menus at each dinner. Wine included. Comments noted at previous conference noted and assurances from hotel that quality meals will be provided
Cost	£120 incl. for the weekend, including wine and refreshments.
Reservations	To be made as soon as possible via Brian & Nancy Presland or Geoff & Pat Frost
Deposit	No deposit has been requested by the Hotel
Contacts	Brian & Nancy Presland, 4 Parklands Close, Chandlers Ford, Hants, S053 2EQ - Tel. 02380 - 265347
	Geoff & Pat Frost - Duart Cottage, 19 Norton Bavant, Warminster, BA12 7RR - Tel 01985 - 840433, gw.frost@btopenworld.com

Why not book it now?

spacer page

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain

Joint meeting with the APS, the Hungarian PS of GB and the Society for Polish Philately in GB at Heaton Royds, Bradford, Sat 16 August 2003

REPORT BY REX DIXON

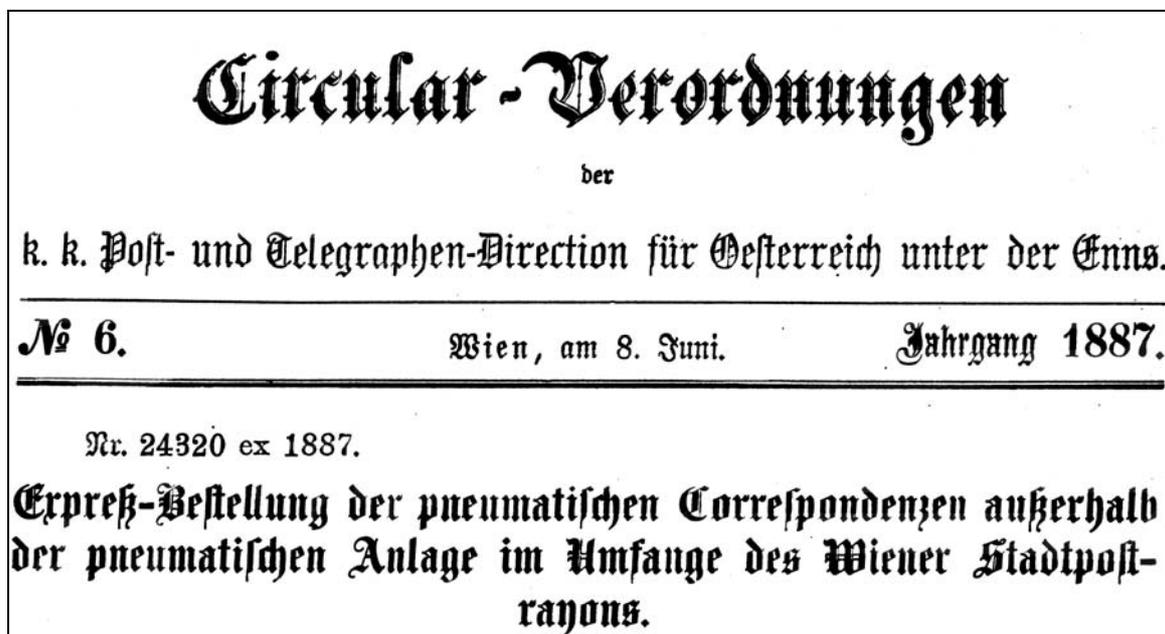
This was the sixth joint meeting between the four societies, although unfortunately no-one was specifically representing the Hungarian PS. Stephen and Judith Holder again kindly hosted it, at their cottage and barn high above Bradford, as always on a warm and sunny day. Around twenty people were greeted with tea and coffee in the garden. The meeting started a little late, with six rounds of five frames, three before lunch and four after. A break was taken for a buffet spread of meats, salads, cheeses and fruit washed down with wine or beer.

Rex Dixon	<i>Anschluß of Austria – postal rates and Kleinwalsertal</i>
Edmund Jagielski	<i>Polish Legion</i>
John Whiteside	<i>Rail freight documents</i>
Joyce Boyer	<i>1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck</i>
Reg Hounsell	<i>1920 Masaryk issue</i>
Richard Wheatley	<i>Censored mail into Austria after WWII</i>
Charles Grainger	<i>Various, including Polish WWII Forces</i>
John Pitts	<i>Vienna–Kiev air service 1918</i>
Hans Smith	<i>Albania – Austrian POs</i>
John Pitts	<i>Adria shipping company; Peterdi handstamps</i>
Andy Taylor	<i>Modern Austrian sheetlets</i>
Martin Brumby	<i>Split; KuK base POs in Poland</i>
Bernard Lucas	<i>Prague pneumatic post</i>
Alan Berrisford	<i>Russian Poland</i>
Derek Waugh	<i>Sudeten hand-overprints</i>
Andy Taylor	<i>Old letters</i>
Stephen Holder	<i>Trieste on 5th issue of Austria</i>
John Whiteside	<i>Austrian fiscals</i>
Reg Hounsell	<i>Czech airmails</i>
Pat Rothnie	<i>Disintegration of Czechoslovakia 1938–39</i>
Rex Dixon	<i>Bohemia and Moravia – transition of stamps and rates</i>

Tea and cakes were served after the last round, at around 5pm. There were warm votes of thanks to Yvonne Wheatley, for organising and leading the day; to Stephen Holder, for hosting the meeting; and to Judith Holder, Kathy Hounsell and Morag Rothnie as "the three ladies in the kitchen".

"Express Delivery of pneumatic correspondence outside the pneumatic area in the Viennese Postal Area" (in 1887)

by Andy Taylor



[etc: the full text is available on request; it translates as:]

Circular-Ordinance of the k.k. Post- and Telegraph-Direction for Austria under the Enns, No 6: Vienna, 8. June 1887 [No 24320 of 1887]: Express Delivery of pneumatic correspondence outside the pneumatic area in the Viennese Postal Area.

From 1st June 1887, consequent upon §2444 of the gracious Decree of the k.k. Minister of Trade dated 6th May 1887, pneumatic correspondence which is handed in to the pneumatic system for an address outside the area of the pneumatic network, but within the Vienna Local Postal Area *[see below]*, shall be placed in a cover (Post Office Ref 776 ¹) and entrusted to a Post Office for conveyance as an express letter and delivery as such by a delivery office within the Vienna Local Postal Area, provided the delivery address lies within that office's delivery area. For addresses outwith the office's delivery area the item is to be delivered as for ordinary letters.

¹ A study of the official forms of the Austrian Post Office would be extremely interesting. Some information exists, mostly in Vienna. Any volunteers?

With the introduction of the above-mentioned Decree, ärarisch ⁽²⁾ Offices, which deliver telegrams for a standard fee of 4kr each, shall receive the same fee for the express delivery of this correspondence; non-ärarisch ⁽³⁾ Offices shall receive a fee of 6kr.

The settlement of these fees takes place "zur R.XVI", ⁽⁴⁾ that is, by the ärarisch Office in the same way as for telegrams; but for the non-ärarisch Offices by means of a Consignation (Post Office Form 170) [see below], which is to be accompanied by the delivery note from the pneumatic Office (Post Office Form 169) listing the items handed over.

Vienna, 26th May 1887.

=====

A Consignation from the Telegram service looks like this:

Consignation			
über verausgabte Expresßgebühren.			
Fortlaufende Nummer	Laut Beilage	Betrag	
		fl.	kr.
1	Begleitschein Groß.....	—	15
2	" Bogl.....	—	50
3	" Herz.....	1	—
	u. f. w.		
	Zusammen...		
K. k. Postamt			
... am ... 18 ...			
N. N.			

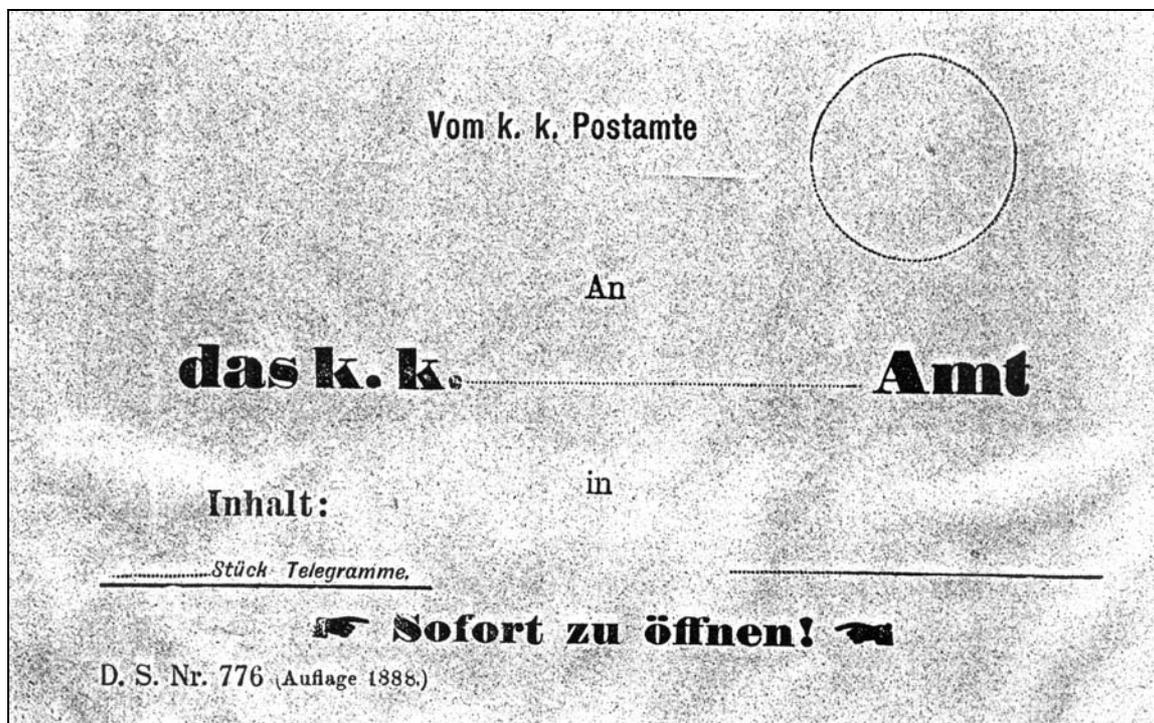
However the 1888 edition of Post Office Form 170 has been found, and is for German-Slovenian money-order-by-telegram! It does seem that forms were frequently renumbered, as well as changed.

² Ärarisch Offices were owned by the state and run by its employees.

³ Non-ärarisch Offices were owned by a private person (often hereditary) who employed the staff.

⁴ I think this is a reference to the form on which the invoice was submitted: the Post Office were carrying out a service for the Telegraph Office and required paying by them for it! It does not seem that the original poster had to pay this fee; indeed as he could post his missive in the recently-introduced red letter box, there is no mechanism for such payment. "R" may stand for "Rechnungswesen", the accounts and bills Department.

A specimen of the 1888 edition of the envelope "Post Office Form 776" has been discovered by Dr Kainz (in a "monstrous book!"); it is middle-green. Note that it is *from* a Post Office, so must have been used at the transition from the Telegraph system to the separate (and fiercely independent) Postal system.



Vienna Local Postal Area

There is a booklet entitled "Post-, Telegraphen-, Telephon- und Rohrpostdienst im Localpost-Rayon von Wien, April 1891". The front cover is shown below. This booklet lists on page 1 the Offices within the Vienna Local Postal Area, in two tables: (A) Die Stadtbezirke I-X [the City Districts I to X], and (B) Die Ortschaften [the suburbs; some have Bezirk numbers, some do not - Bezirke 11-19 were incorporated into Vienna on 19.12.1890].

A: Die Stadtbezirke I-X (the City Districts I to X):

I. Innere Stadt	II. Leopoldstadt	III. Landstrasse
IV. Wieden	V. Margarethen	VI. Mariahilf
VII. Neubau	VIII. Josefstadt	IX. Alsergrund
X. Favoriten		

Der

Post-, Telegraphen-, Telephon- und Rohrpostdienst

im

Localpost-Rayon

von

Wien.

April 1891.





Inventarnummer: 41070

Wien, 1891.

Aus der kaiserlich-königlichen Hof- und Staatsdruckerei.

B: Die Ortschaften (the suburbs).

Altmannsdorf [XII. Stadtbezirk.]	Baumgarten a. d. Wien [XIII.]
Breitenlee	Breitensee [XIII.]
Döbling (Ober- und Unter-) [XIX.]	Donaufeld
Dornbach [XVII.]	Erlaa (Neu-)

Floridsdorf	Fünfhaus [XV.]
Gaudenzdorf [XII.]	Gersthof [XVIII.]
Grinzing [XIX.]	Hacking [XIII.]
Heiligenstadt [XIX.]	Hernals [XVII.]
Hetzendorf [XII.]	Hietzing [XIII.]
Hirschstetten	Hütteldorf [XIII.]
Inzersdorf a. Wienerberge	Jedlersdorf (Gross-)
Jedlesee	Josephsdorf am Kahlenberge [XIX.]
Kagran	Kahlenbergerdorf [XIX.]
Laa (Ober- u. Unter-)	Lainz [XIII.]
Leopoldau (Alt-)	Lerchenfeld (Neu-) [XVI.]
Meidling (Ober- u. Unter-) [XII.]	Neusteinhof
Neustift a. Walde [XVIII.]	Neuwaldegg [XVII.]
Nussdorf bei Wien [XIX.]	Ottakring [XVI.]
Penzing [XIII.]	Pötzleinsdorf [XVIII.]
Roth-Neusiedl	Rudolfsheim [XIV.]
St. Veit (Ober- u. Unter-) [XIII.]	Salmannsdorf [XVIII.]
Schönbrunn [XIII.]	Sechshaus [XIV.]
Sievering (Ober- u. Unter-) [XIX.]	Simmering [XI.]
Speising [XIII.]	Stadlau
Währing [XVIII.]	Weinhaus [XVIII.]

From the Membership Secretary

Welcome to the following new or rejoined members:

1087 D Malyon, Herne Bay

1123 C Elliot, France

1213 A Payne, Australia

1214 J Woolam, Devon

1215 Rev J Tollan, Australia

1216 M Bridgefoot, High Wycombe

The Postal Service of the Thurn and Taxis Princes, Descendants of the Tasso Family

The agreement between the Imperial-Royal government of Austria and the general postal administration of the Princes of Torre and Tasso, dated 30 January 1843

By Adriano Cattani ⁽¹⁾

After harsh wars, Charles V acquired vast territory, gaining the title of Holy Roman Emperor in the year 1519. The Tasso family, originally from Bergamo, had for some time specialised in the delivery of letters, mainly in the Republic of Venice. It had contributed financially to the wars of Charles V, and had thus acquired the good-will of the Emperor, ensuring for future centuries their exclusive rights to the postal organisation of the imperial territories. The Tasso postal organisation extended their activities throughout the empire - and were created Princes of Thurn and Taxis in 1650.

By the 19th century, conditions were very much changed. The Empire no longer existed: the advent of the nation-states had fractured the imperial territory into many autonomous states, with many of them bound together through collaborative ties under the aegis of the German Confederation. This fact had not obstructed the postal activities of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis, even though every single German State had its own postal service.

The rights acquired by the Princely House during the course of centuries guaranteed the continuation of their activities, at least in lands not very dissimilar to the ancient territories. In fact, the Torre and Tasso (or Thurn and Taxis) were able to run the postal service in many of the States pertaining to the German Confederation.

To facilitate the correct recognition of the postal service territories of the Princely House, I list on the following pages the Roman numerals used to denote the various States on a postal map published in Vienna in 1850.

The Editor regrets that the map is extremely impressive, but is so detailed that it would occupy about 40 pages. One follows; the Librarian will happily lend you the journal containing the rest - and the text of the Agreement mentioned below, which is not of reproducible quality.

¹ Originally published in Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale issue 124. Translated by Salvatore J. Rizza and adapted by A Taylor.



German states served: position on the Torre and Tasso postal map.

1	Kingdom of Wuerttemberg	V
2	Electorate of Hesse	X
3	Grand Duchy of Hesse	XI
4	Grand Duchy of Saxony Weimar-Eisenach	XVII
5	Grand Duchy of Nassau	XV

German states served: position on the Torre and Tasso postal map.		
6	Grand Duchy of Saxony Coburg-Gotha	XIX
7	Grand Duchy of Saxony Meiningen-Hildburghausen	XVIII
8	Grand Duchy of Saxony-Altenburg	XX
9	Principality of Hohenzollern-Hechingen	XXV
10	Principality of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen	XXV
11	Principality of Reuss-Ebrsdorf	
12	Principality of Reuss-Greits	XXIII
13	Principality of Reuss-Lohenstein	
14	Principality of Reuss-Schleitz	XXIII
15	Principality of Lippe Detmond	XXII
16	Principality of Lippe Schaumberg-Buecheburg	XXII
17	Principality of Schwarzburg-Rodolstadt (except the City of Franckenhausen and environs)	XXIV
18	Landgrave of Hesse-Homburg	XXVIII
19	Earldom of Meisenheim	
20	District of Arnstadt in the Principality of Schwarzburg-Londerhausen	XXIV
21	The Free Cities of Frankfurt-am-Main, Bremen, Hamburg, and Luebeck	XXIX
22	The Swiss Canton of Schaffhausen (which naturally was not a part of the German Confederation)	

As can be seen, it was a vast territory, even if it was not that of the empire of past centuries. The Princes of Thurn and Taxis functioned with full rights in this territory, as a supranational private entity, just as it had done in its ancient postal activities. The General Postal Administration of the Princes made agreements and took on obligations with the national States with which it came into contact.

In this connection, one must consider a very important Agreement which the General Postal Administration concluded on 30 January 1843 with the Imperial Royal and Aulic Chamber General of Austria with the purpose of establishing new and more profitable postal relations between the two parties, and in particular to cease the obligation to pre-frank letters, and, above all, for the application of common tariffs for the transport of correspondence between the Austrian Empire and the States covered by the postal service of the Princes.

The Agreement was signed on 30 January 1843, and the agreed-upon accords entered into force on 1 May of the same year, based upon a publication of a notification dated 30 April 1843, informing the post offices and the public of the changes provided for in the Agreement. It established the following:

1) As of 10 May 1843, it would no longer be necessary for the sender to "frank" (that is, to pay the entire amount of postage for a letter to its destination) upon departure. This procedure applied to all letters sent from Imperial Austria to the States served by the postal service of Thurn and Taxis, except for a packet in a wrapper tied with twine, such as newspapers, books, brochures, printed price lists, music, catalogues, and samples of merchandise, for which the transport fee was to be paid in advance.

The fee for this type of dispatch was to be equal to a third of the tariff due for a letter (according to weight) and with a postage fee minimum of half that of a letter. For example, if a letter, because of its weight, had to pay 12 Kreuzer, a bundled sending of the same weight was subject to a tariff of one-third of the letter (that is, 4 Kreuzer). Nevertheless, since a half of the cost to send the letter with that weight was 6 Kreuzer, the sender of the packet would have paid 6 Kreuzer, instead of 4 Kreuzer. At the same time, the obligatory payment for the registration and the return receipt fee was also added.

The payment of postage fees was obligatory at the time of mailing for the transport of the letters sent by private citizens addressed to the authorities or public offices, and the same for letters from authorities and public offices that did not have the free mailing privilege.

2) In all other occasions the franking for the transport could be made as follows:

- Either the senders would pay, whenever they desired that the letter be delivered free to its destination;
- Or the addressee would pay, when the letter was not franked entirely by the sender, if it was addressed to one of the States adherent to the postal organisation of the Princes;
- Or the sender would pay to the borders of these States, if the letter was consigned to Thurn and Taxis but was addressed as an ultimate destination to one of the following States: Kingdom of Denmark, Island of Heligoland, Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Duchy of Holstein and Lauvemburg, and the Principality of Eutin.

The Agreement fixed, in other words, a common transport fee for all the reciprocal correspondence between Austria and the States adherent to the Thurn and Taxis organisation, "without regard to the borders of the respective postal territories," with the fee sub-divided by distance, as follows: for a distance up to 10 German miles, 6 Kreuzer CM; for a greater distance 12 Kreuzer CM.

Tables A and B of the Agreement listed the Austrian localities and those under the competence of the Princes, for which the 6 Kreuzer fee was valid. The Agreement stated that for the transport to all the localities not included in the two tables, the fee was 12 Kreuzer for a simple letter.

This agreement had effect, naturally, only for the postal relations between Austria and Territories served by Thurn and Taxis. Therefore, if the letters, in order to reach the locality covered by the Agreement, had to traverse the territory of German States not adherent to the Agreement, they were subject, on top of the costs already indicated, to a transit fee payable to those States, as had been established in the postal relations between these other States by virtue of other Agreements.

The Agreement also covers these situations, and divides the transit fees into three classes according to distance ⁽²⁾ of 4, 8, and 12 Kreuzer. I will try to simplify to the maximum possible the sub-divisions within the three classes, knowing that the resulting exposition could seem somewhat complicated.

The transit fee of 4 Kreuzer was applied to letters:

1) Coming from the Grand Duchy of Hesse, from the Duchy of Nassau, from the Landgrave of Hesse, from the Earldom of Meisenheim, and the Free Cities of Frankfurt-am-Main and Hanau, and addressed to the Kingdom of Bohemia, and vice versa;

2) Coming from the Electorate of Hesse (except those letters coming from Brotterode, Herrenbretungen, Smalcalda, and Hanau) and from the two Principalities of Lippe, and addressed to all the Austrian States, except the Tirol and Voralberg, the Austrian Littoral (Triest and Istria), Dalmatia, and the Kingdom of Lombardy-Veneto, and excepting the Free City of Cracow, and vice versa;

3) Coming from the Grand Duchy of Saxony-Weimar-Eisenach, from the Duchy of Saxony-Altemburg, Saxony Coburg-Gotha, and Saxony-Meining, from the Principalities of Reuss and of Schwarzburg, and the Localities of Brotterode, Herrenbreitungen and Smalcalda in the Electorate of Hesse, and addressed to the Tirol and Voralberg, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Austrian Littoral, and the Kingdom of Lombardy-Veneto, and vice versa;

4) Coming from the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg and the Principalities of Hohenzollern, and addressed to all the Austrian States and to the Free City of Cracow, except the Tirol and Voralberg, the Austrian Littoral, Dalmatia, and the Kingdom of Lombardy-Veneto.

² *In the original they are also called First, Second and Third Class, but this has been deleted to avoid any confusion with quality or speed of service. Ed.*

The transport fee of 8 Kreuzer was applied to letters:

- 1) Coming from the Grand Duchy of Hesse, the Duchy of Nassau, the Landgrave of Hesse Homburg with the Earldom of Meisenheim, the Free Cities of Frankfurt-am-Main and Hanau, and addressed to all the Austrian States except Bohemia, and to the Principality of Liechtenstein, and the Free City of Cracow, and vice versa;
- 2) Coming from the Electorate of Hesse, except Brotterode, Herrenbretungen and Smalcalda, and the Principality of Lippe, and addressed to the Tirol and Voralberg, the Austrian Littoral, Dalmatia, the Kingdom of Lombardy-Veneto, and the Principality of Liechtenstein, and vice versa;
- 3) Coming from the Free Cities of Hamburg, Bremen and Luebeck, and addressed to all the Austrian States and the Free City of Cracow, and vice versa, except the Provinces that are included in the next class.

The fee of 12 Kreuzer was applied to letters:

- 1) Coming from the Free Cities of Hamburg, Bremen and Luebeck, and addressed to the Tirol and Voralberg, to the Austrian Littoral, the Kingdom of Lombardy-Veneto, to the Principality of Liechtenstein, and vice versa.

Honestly, I do not know what the mental condition of the poor postal employees was at night, after having to calculate all these tariffs on the basis of distance, weight, the place of origin, the destination, the transit points, and with the addition of the different monetary rates. It is then understandable how the reforms introduced by Rowland Hill, including the invention of the postage stamp and the establishment of a single postal tariff for the entire English territory, which latter reform was later exported slowly to the whole continent of Europe with great success, brought a sigh of relief to everyone connected with the postal service.

We must keep in mind that this Agreement, which facilitated the postal relations between the Austrian States and the German lands under the jurisdiction of Thurn and Taxis, had effect solely on these territories. For the other States there still existed the old method of the fee calculation determined by the distance, as is demonstrated by the transport fees where "third party" States were involved.

It is interesting and relevant how provision is made for trans-Atlantic letters, that is, those letters from the USA, or those letters that were sent there by way of ships departing from the Port of Hamburg, a city postally administered by Thurn and Taxis. The 7th clause of the Agreement provides that this correspondence, if directed to the USA, had to be submitted to the postal office of the Princes in Hamburg, and beyond the normal internal fee to the frontier (6 or 12 Kr, as we have seen above), there was even a transit fee of 18 Kr at the time of posting, for a simple letter, paid to Thurn and Taxis; while if the letters arrived there, the transit fee was 24 Kr.