

# AUSTRIA

## Edited by Andy Taylor

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## Editorial 146

By Andy Taylor

Readers of back numbers of "Austria" will know that issue 83 (Spring 1988) carried on the back cover an advert from J Kunz, Auctioneers, Vienna. It has been there ever since! But this issue sees a change; Dr O Pongratz-Lippitt has reached his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and decided to retire. We wish him well.

As the Committee will confirm, occasionally I receive something and place it carefully aside for attention later. If anyone feels their missive has a permanent home in my pending pile, a reminder might be a good idea...

Sigmund Friedl resigned from the Wiener Oesterreichischen Philatelisten-Club on 5.12.1895, when the official reports of various Expertising Committees were tabled concerning items he had sold. This is reported in full in the 1.1.1896 number of the Austria-Philatelist, which was published in Prague between Dec. 1893 and about 1900 and is a most interesting and largely unknown journal. I am most grateful to Alfred Weiner for making it available to me; I have had it rebound, and can now consult it without the corners breaking off.

Historic irrelevances: the newsletter published by the Chamber of Commerce for Oberösterreich in Linz on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1947 tells us that a supplier in Salzburg has plough shares in all sizes available for immediate delivery. It doesn't specify the source of raw materials. May 1 2004 marks an interesting development: the expansion of the EU means that it now has more official languages than the Austro-Hungarian Empire!

Little did I know, when a message arrived from "Brunckhorst@Oz" via the LAPS web site, what it would lead to! *"From deceased friends has come a collection of old letters still in their envelopes, postmarked mostly in Austria from about 1910 to 1938... what might they be worth?"* [Tell me more, I replied] *"Has taken 10 years to find anyone interested ... Magda and Karl Weinig left us all their personal papers. Much of the handwritten material is difficult to read, but there is also some typewritten material; and there are official documents such as old school reports, passports, visa papers, official papers ... embedded in a much larger collection of letters from other people to the Weinig family ... hundreds of handwritten postcards, some hundreds of letters in their original envelopes; and three small collections of handwritten poetry."*

You expect mainly "Grüß Aus" cards in such heaps, but as scans and lists followed in later emails, I began to realise that the material was of trivial philatelic value (OK, there's a revenue stamp on a passport, and at least one item from Kitzbühel), but of major significance to Austria's literary history. Finding anybody in Vienna prepared to agree with me was surprisingly difficult, but

eventually a professor at the Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek was tracked down; Austrian émigré literature is his speciality. The Brunckhorsts had offered to send the material to the Nationalbibliothek, but once Dr Hemecker saw the details he quickly flew to Australia to examine it, and conveyed the material by his own hand in the cabin of his Lauda flight back to Vienna.

A separate small box turned out to contain papers of an Anton Kuh, including his passport dated 17 August 1918. Kuh was born 12 July 1890 in Vienna and died 18 Jan 1941 in New York; the family originated from the German-speaking Jewish community of Prague. His father was a journalist at, later chief editor of, the *Neu Wiener Tageblatt*. In his fifty-one years, Kuh published over a thousand essays, many still famous for their language, wit and satire, and observations of political and theatrical matters. He is said to have been a wonderful extemporary speaker and many of his speeches were taken down in shorthand and later published. Kuh had married a close friend to enable her to get out of Austria to New York, but not long after marrying he suddenly died. His widow survived for a very long time, and in the 60s moved back to Europe and gave lectures on Kuh. Most of Kuh's papers were lost when her apartment block in New York was demolished in her absence, so anything found now is especially valuable. The box contains handwritten and typewritten drafts of a number of important long articles and books, as well as love letters, poems, school records, literary contracts, letters to and from his mother, etc, not to speak of drafts of articles in hand and typescript, a sketch of a stage layout for a play, and pencil sketches of friends. The box must have been left with the Weinigs, in the expectation that sometime in future he would pick it up.

Magdalena Schwarz was born on 26 April 1896. When she was 14 her well-to-do family moved to Vienna, where she studied piano with the renowned Eduard Steuermann. He had had a piano custom-built to his design by Bösendorfer in 1908; it was very different from most of its contemporaries, being smaller, with the wires leading down to the pedals exposed. [Contrast this with the piano shown on the Bösendorfer stamp issued 19 Nov 2003.] She and her teacher became such good friends that when he was forced to leave Europe in the late 1930s Magdalena became the owner of this custom-built Bösendorfer piano.

In Vienna after WWI Magdalena Schwarz continued her piano lessons with Steuermann and even with Busoni, but pursued other interests too, including learning Italian. It was outside the Italian classroom that she first met fellow-student Karl Weinig, from Przemyśl; soon they were married. Magdalena, her mother and Karl fled to London just before the outbreak of war and were lucky to get away in comparative luxury. They had a sponsor: Cherry Morris, daughter of the English painter and designer William Morris.

*[concluded on page 84]*

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## The Pneumatic Post in Vienna - part 4

By Colin Tobitt & Andy Taylor

This Part comprises a miscellany of aspects of the Pneumatic Post system: Pneumatic Railway-Station Correspondence; Items with additional franking; Botenlohn; Other markings; Depeschen-Aufgabsamt-Cancel; Centrale; Wien Börse; a handling difference; impressive airmails; and a final oddity.

### *Pneumatic Railway-Station Correspondence*

This was announced on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1883 and available from 1<sup>st</sup> July that year. It helped to ensure the viability of the system: everybody could now hand in pneumatic letters or cards at Viennese post or pneumatic offices, which were addressed to addressees outside Vienna. They received a boxed xx BAHNHOF cachet (xx = their office number) and were pneumatically transported to the appropriate office, then by express messengers to the station and directly to the waiting mail train. The item required both pneumatic (for the journey to the station) and normal (for the rest of the journey) franking, and had of course to be capable of pneumatic transmission. The supplementary franking produces the first occurrence of pneumatic post cancellations on postage stamps.



13.6.1890: Telegraphcentrale to Frankfurt via Westbahnhof.  
15Kr pneumatic + 5Kr letter post (inland rate)



25.3.1891 Fleischmarkt via Westbahnhof to Munich.  
 15Kr pneumatic + 5Kr letter post (inland rate)



14.11.1891 10Kr pneumatic + 2Kr post (inland rate) card from Station XVI  
 (Wien 71, Lazarethgasse) to Germany: "pneumatisch zur Westbahnhof" at top.

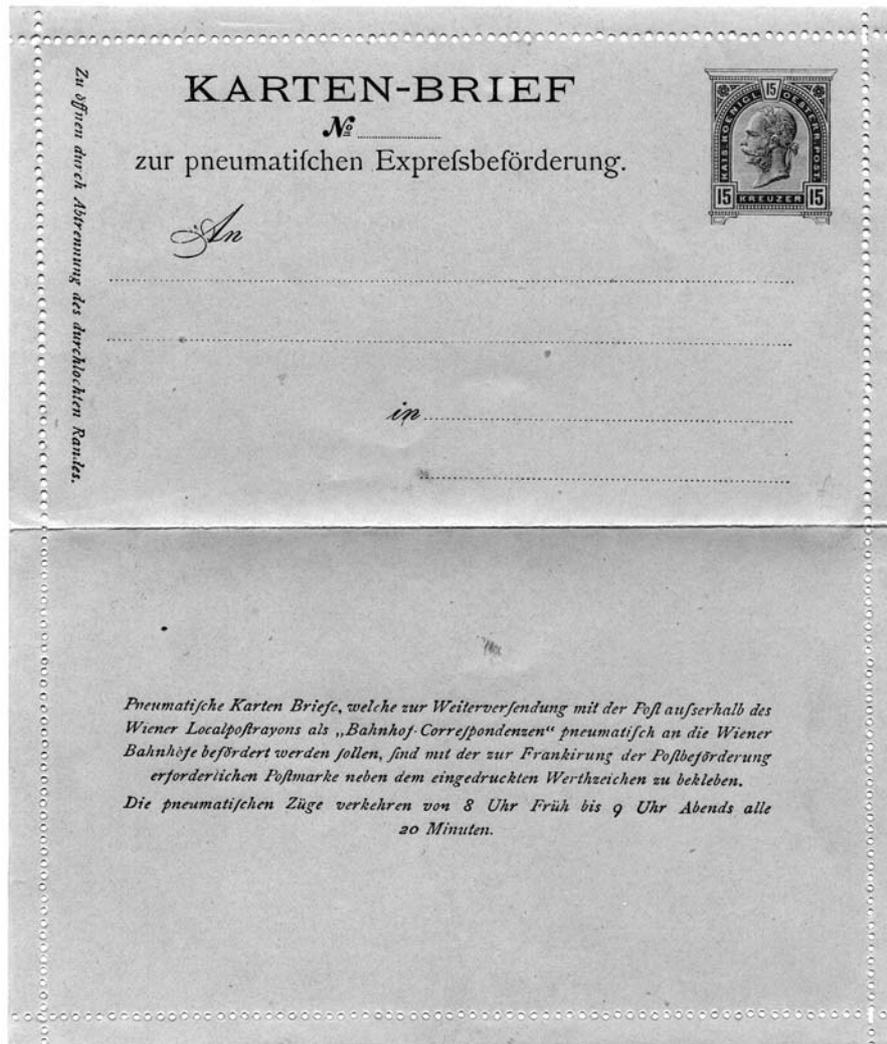


Imprint nicely cancelled WIEN 18/1 110r (Währing) at 8:10am on 21 Dec 1893; addressed to Aussig "Via Postamt Nordwestbahnhof"; 5Kr supplementary franking. The boxed **17 BAHNHOF 17** is the old Station 17 canceller for Railway-Station Correspondence from Währing, which had received the number WIEN 110 in 1892. And '24' is the new number for Nordwestbahnhof.



22 Sep 1898: 15Kr pneu + 5Kr letter post (inland rate) from Pneu Station 36 (alias Wien 2/4) via Station 101 (Westbahnhof) to Munich

The back of some letter-cards carries the instructions for Pneumatic Railway-Station Correspondence:



Pneumatic letter-cards, which for onward transmission by the Post outside Vienna's local postal district are forwarded as "Railway-Station Correspondence" to Vienna's railway stations, are to have the requisite franking applied by postage stamps affixed next to the imprinted value-indicator. The pneumatic trains depart every 20 minutes from 8am to 9pm.

The use of the pneumatic system to transfer mail speedily to a railway station continued until the demise of the system. This next example is an express letter sent by surface mail from Vienna to London on 9.9.1937, arriving 11.9.1937. Stupendously scruffy: probably ex- tomato box!



Carries  $60+60+45+12+3=180$  groschen. Stamps cancelled 1 WIEN 8. Blue 101 on front (ie Westbahnhof) plus blue vertical line plus boxed EXPRESS MAIL in English not German. Faint red mark which could be a 2- or 3-digit number. On back 1 WIEN 101 with time in minutes; T Z S T with ditto, London arrival. No trace of air mailing. Surface letter rate 60 groschen for 20 gram plus express surcharge 120gro makes 180gro. According to Hajec (Ref 4), WIEN 8 ceased pneumatic service in 1921. It is now office 1013, and is located at the corner of Werdertorgasse nearest to Börseplatz; from which it could easily have been

taken by messenger across to the Central Telegraph Office. There it was stamped T Z S T and despatched to Westbahnhof to catch the next mail train.

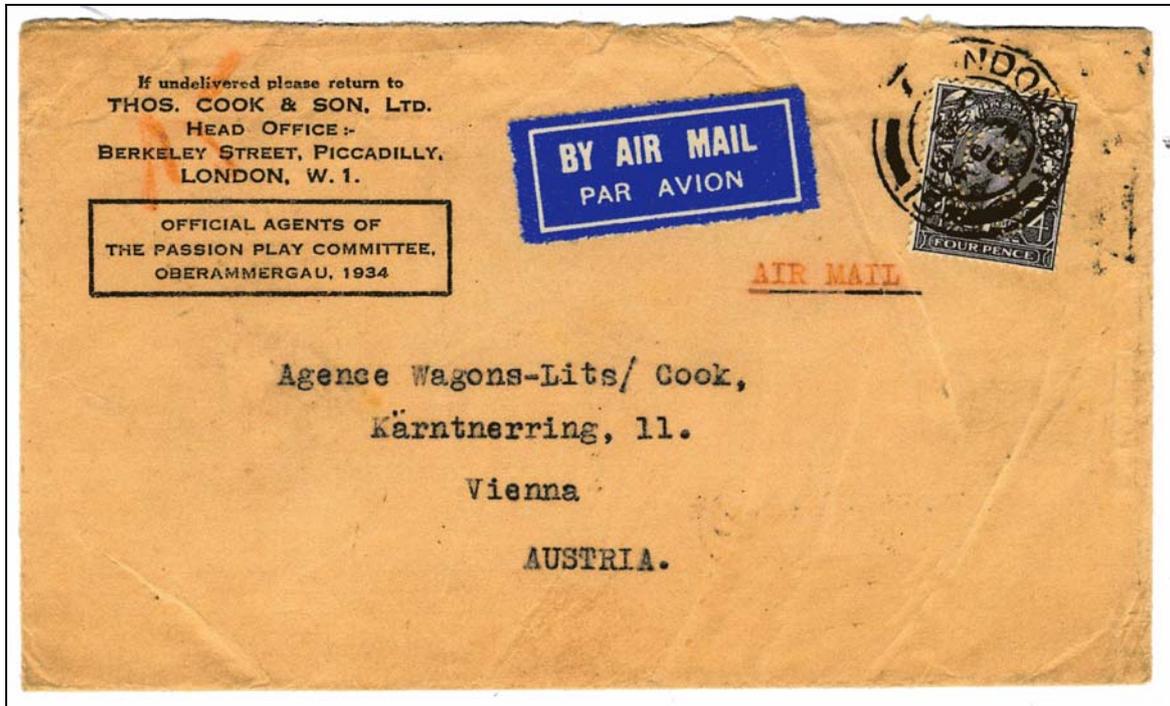
### *Pneumatic Air Mail Correspondence*

(A name we invented as it is the same idea as railway-station correspondence.) Air mail letters were treated as Express, and those posted in Vienna were sent pneumatically to the Central Telegraph Office, then taken by road to the airfield at Aspern. This is shown by the cancellations.



Sent by airmail from Vienna to London on 21 June 1937. Cancels show route from Vienna 27 pneumatically to Telegraphenamnt. Carries 100 groschen, making up the foreign letter rate of 60gro plus airmail surcharge of 40gro.

The same treatment was given to incoming mail: this example carries WIEN FLUGPOST, TELEGRAPHENAMT WIEN, & WIEN 1/1 15 - this is the Kärntnerring pneumatic office, and the letter is stamped there at 19:39pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1934 and also 8am on the 17<sup>th</sup>: perhaps there was no point in sending a messenger out as the Wagon-Lits office closed at 6pm?



This next card, airmailed to Baron Franckenstein in London on 27 May 1936, has curiously mixed cancels.



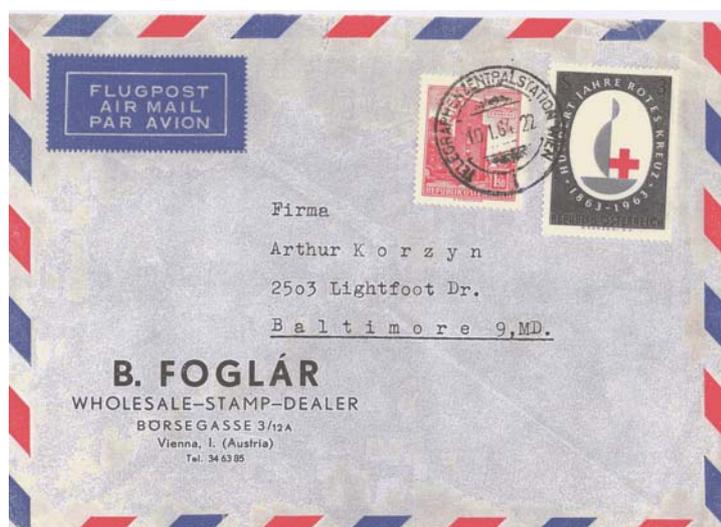
The block of four 35gro is cancelled 1 WIEN 9; the pair of 8 + 12 with T Z S T (without the year: this is common); and there is a WIEN FLUGPOST in the bottom corner. The red mark in the top left looks like 1/V.

Various Anschluss-period examples exist, but our next illustration is from 1950.



This letter was sent airmail (by Anton Kumpf von Mikuli!) on 15 Dec 1950 from Wien III to Amsterdam. The cancel is WIEN 40 which is Landstrasse-Hauptstrasse at Rasumofskygasse 29; although no minutes are given the 'counter letter' R/a denotes pneumatic transport. There is a faint censor mark in the bottom left; the violet 'k' is believed to be the censor's supervisor's mark.

The final example, however, is given only as a warning... Although it carries a TELEGRAPHENZENTRAL STATION WIEN cancel, showing the use of that office as an airmail collecting point, it is dated 1964 so cannot have been pneumatically transported.

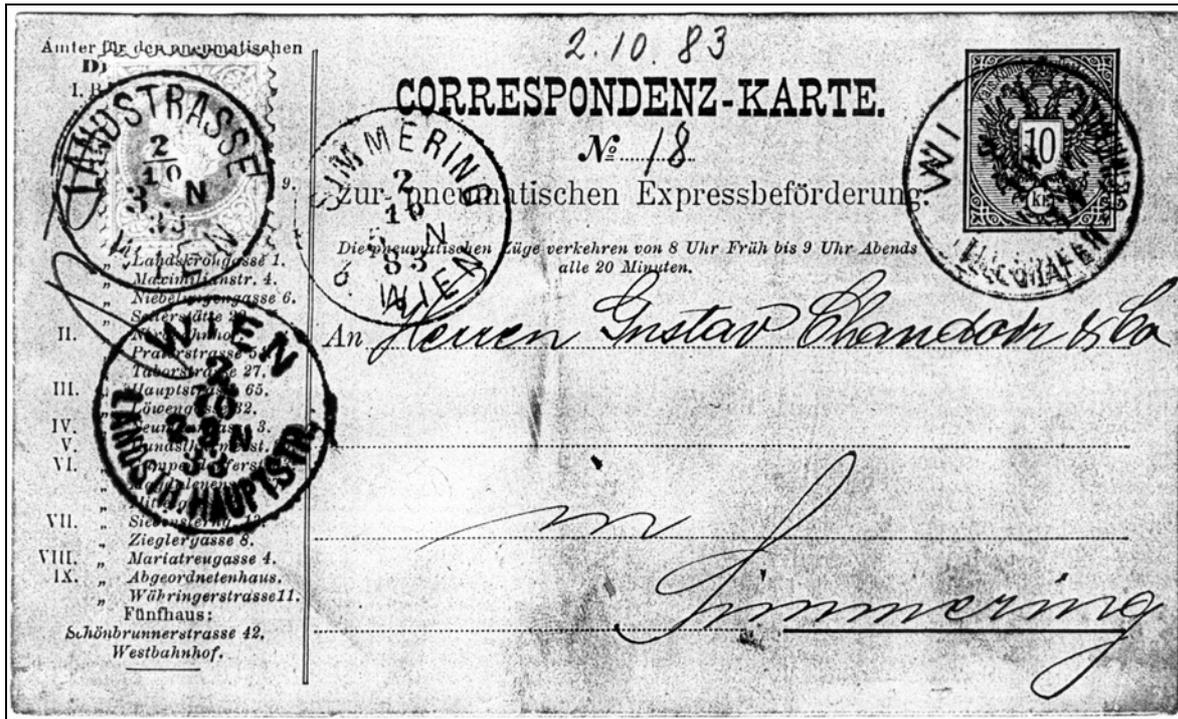


### *Additional franking for local delivery*

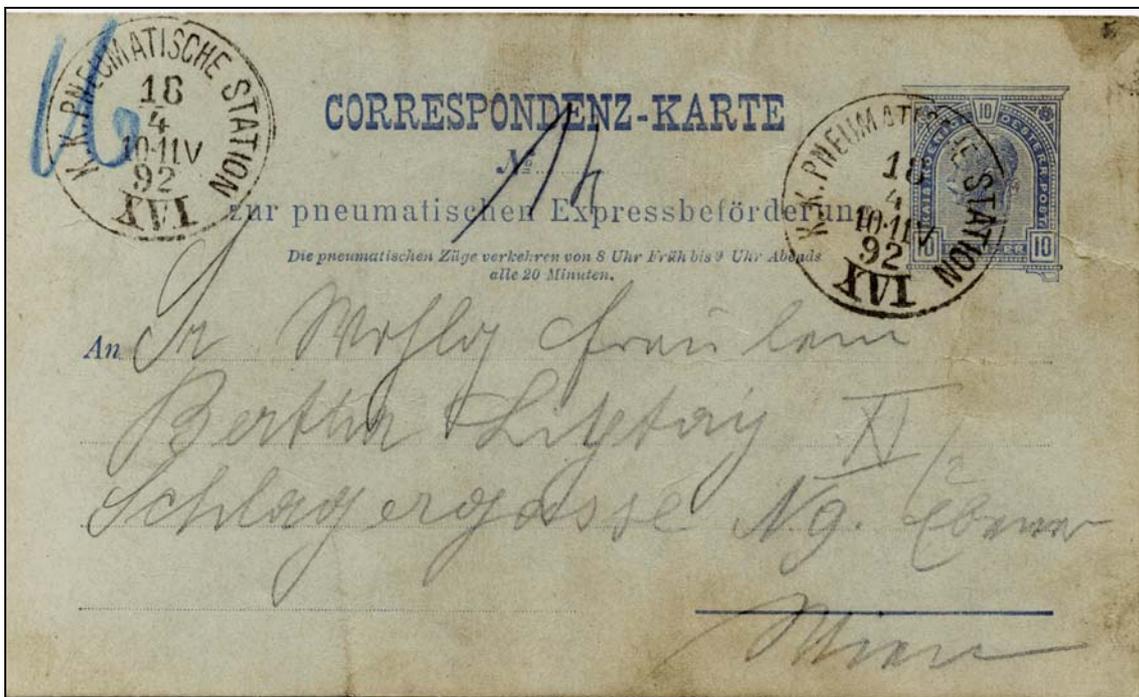
Other items occur with additional franking, but addressed within Vienna. These show the use of the pneumatic system for quick delivery to the nearest office, after which the item was put in the ordinary post. This was allowed from 1 March 1875. Since the delivery was prepaid and by the normal system, the Botenlohn did not apply. These are particularly common on items delivered from the Fünfhaus office to Gaudenzdorf.



Letter sheet with additional franking of 1887 issue 3Kr to cover carriage from the then limit of the pneumatic system to Hietzing, which is just to the west of Schonbrunn. The 4-digit numerical cancel on the telegraph imprint is from the Central Telegraph Office. [With permission, from Ferch2000 p893]

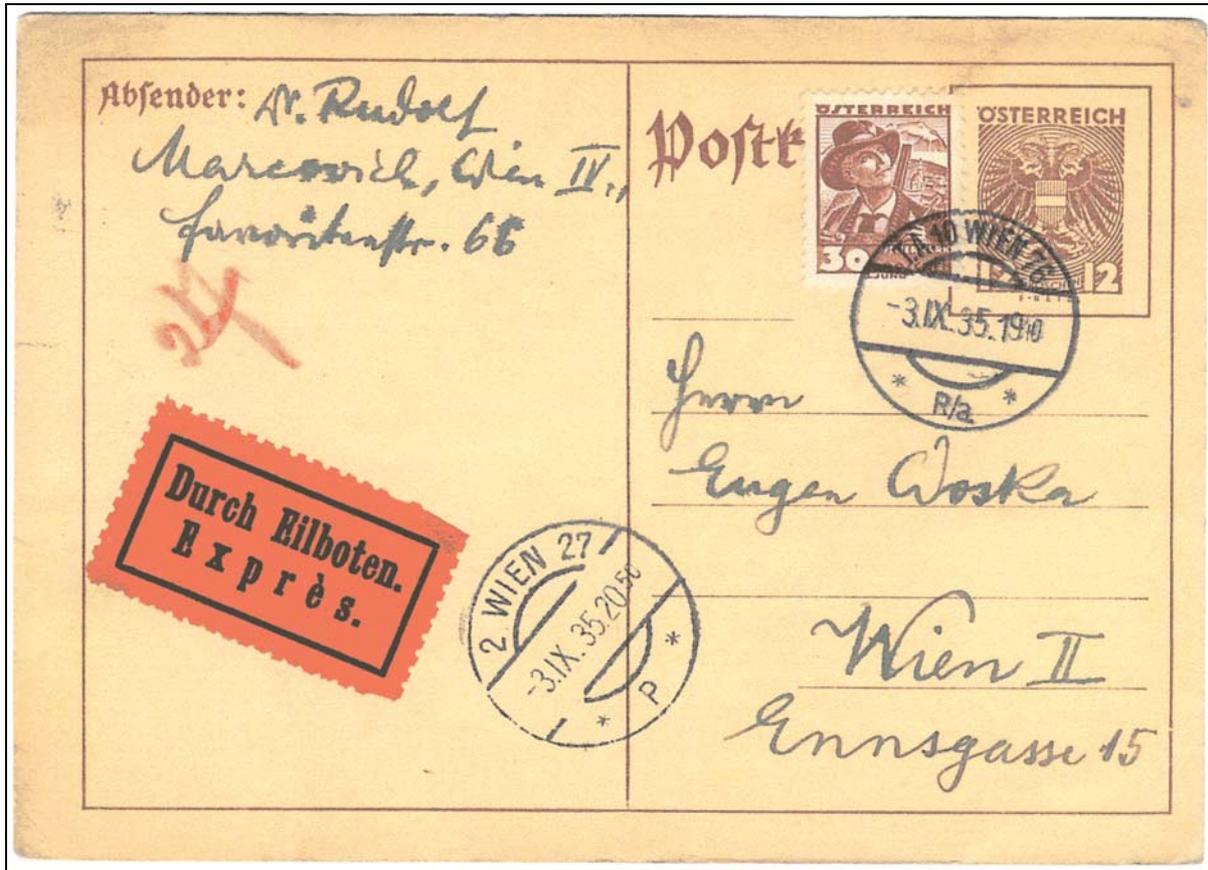


Card from 2 Oct 1883 with an additional 2 kreuzer 1867 stamp to take it from Landstrasse out to Simmering. Two different cancels from Landstrasse, one an arrival by Rohrpost and the other a cancellation of the additional 2 kreuzer (yellow, so reproduces badly) stamp for local delivery from Landstrasse to Simmering.



Posted at K. K. Pneumatische Station XVI (in Lazarethgasse) for speedy local delivery; bureaucracy has required it to be blue-pencilled with its own number!

The principle continued: the next example is dated 3.9.1935 and is a standard postal stationery card with 30 groschen added as express fee.



The example above is different: it was sent pneumatically to an address in Vienna [note the Central Telegraph Office number cancel (used March 1881 to January 1883: see part 3) on the 20Kr imprint] then re-addressed to Graz.

## *Botenlohn*

Initially, the delivery of pneumatic mail was restricted to Districts I to IX, excluding the Brigittenau but including limited parts of the Prater area; the costs of the delivery were included in the fee. (The first pneumatic postcard issued on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1879 bears the note "Delivery is free".) That changed from 1880, as the pneumatic network and the postal districts were expanded. While free delivery remained for certain parts of the urban area, for other more remote areas a Botenlohn (messenger fee) was levied by the delivery office.

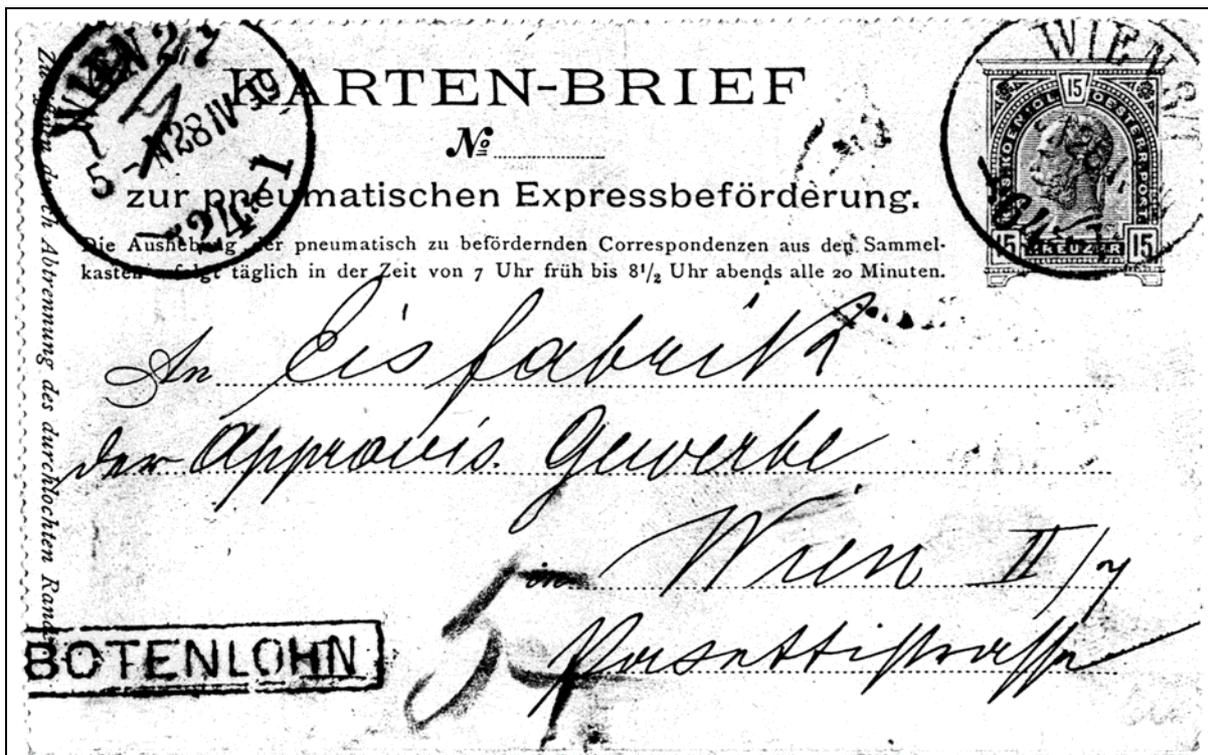
From Jan 1883 the item received a cancel in which a place was left for the amount of Botenlohn to be inserted. If payment of the Botenlohn was refused by the addressee, then the item was put in the ordinary post, with a label explaining that the addressee had refused to pay the fee. Four types of cancel are known: "**BOTENLOHN.....Xr**" in a box; "**BOTENLOHN.....Kr**" in a box, "**BOTENLOHN**" in a box with the amount next to it; and "**BOTENLOHN.....Kr**" unboxed. Occasionally the amount was simply written on the envelope.

Botenlöhne must in general have been determined locally, as the conditions, distances etc varied from place to place and time to time. The actual amounts marked on items of mail suggest that the Botenlohn varied according to the location, and was higher than otherwise in the colder season and in the later evening. Botenlöhne of 10, 15, 20 and a solitary example of 30 Kr are recorded in the literature - but the first examples below are 5 Kr and we show two of 30 Kr! Dr Kainz has found one formal Regulation prescribing what this fee should be: Verordnungen für die Oesterreichischen Telegraphen-Aemter Nr 9 dated 10 July 1880. Buried in this are explicit rates of 10Kr for delivery of pneumatic post from Fünfhaus to Gaudenzdorf, and 15Kr to Meidling.

A plausible explanation is given below for the two 30K Botenlöhne - which are thought to be the only two known. As explained later, both are to destinations which were at the time outside the city boundary of Vienna, and across the Danube. So-far unanswered questions are (i) was there a way of \*sending\* an item by messenger from a location or Post Office not on the Pneumatic network?; (ii) how did the messenger account for the cash he received? More Botenlöhne information is emerging. Research continues.



18 Nov 1897 from Station 13 to Station 129 arriving 20:50 with a Botenlohn of 5 Kr, a rate not recorded in the literature.



5Kr Botenlohn: Wien 64 to Wien 24: from the head office in Doblehofgasse to the factory in Brigittenau of the Provisions Industry Ice Works.



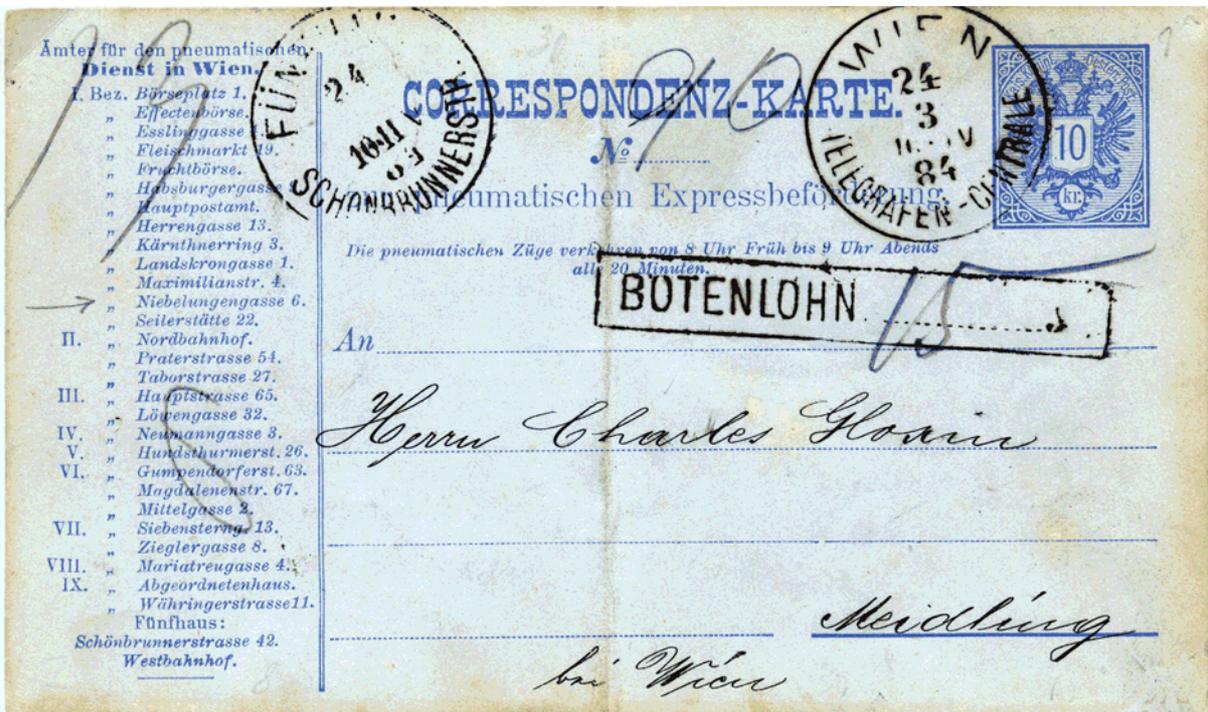
10Kr Botenlohn on 1884/85 card sent from Kärntnerring to Fünfhaus Schönbrunner Strasse for the messenger to take to Gaudensdorf.



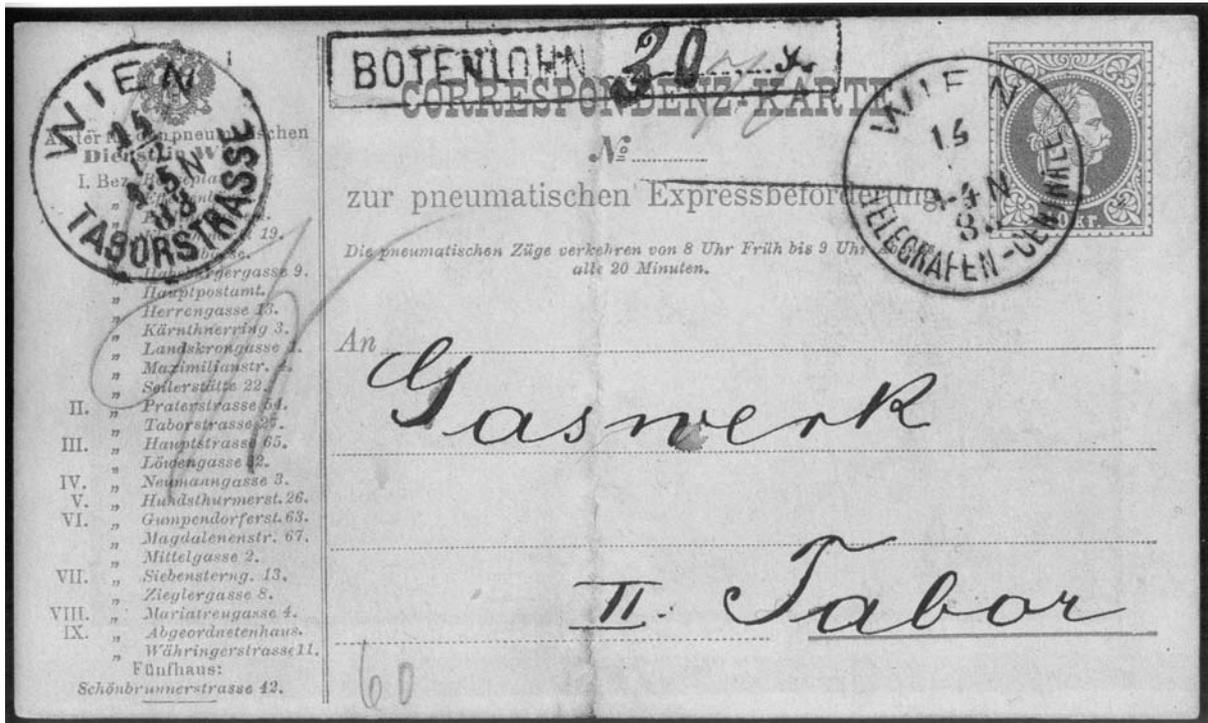
10Kr Botenlohn handwritten on card sent from KKPS No1 [Centrale] to, presumably, Fünfhaus Schönbrunner Strasse for the messenger to take to Gaudensdorf. Dated 25.1.1887 on back; off-centre fold.



11 Oct 1904 from Station 62 (Neubau II) to Station 74 (Favoriten), arriving 17:10. Botenlohn of 20 Heller



23 Aug 1884: Telegraf Central to Fünfhäuser Strasse, then to Meidling by messenger. Botenlohn of 15Kr.



(Ferchenbauer2000 p903) 14 Dec 1888 Central Telegraph Office to Taborstrasse office. Botenlohn apparently altered from 20Kr to 30Kr.



15 June 1883: 30Kr Botenlohn. Zieglergasse to Taborstrasse office, then by messenger to Kaisermühlen

There is a plausible explanation for these two 30K Botenlohns - which are thought to be the only two known. **Both are to destinations which were at the time outside the city boundary, and across the Danube.**

Taborstrasse is in Vienna II, near Augarten. In 1839, the Imperial Continental Gas Gesellschaft, founded in London, opened its first Viennese gas works in Fünfhaus. It prospered in spite of squabbles with Vienna's City Council, and in 1845 opened a works in Florisdorf, which lies across the Danube and wasn't a part of Vienna until 1904. There were no other gas works on that side of the Danube Canal then (or indeed since).

The destination of the 1883 example is Herrn J. A. Weber / Färbereibesitzer / II / Kaisermühlen / Stiftmühlenstrasse / Ecke der Berchtoldgasse / Wien. It's a card to Mr Weaver the Dyer, at his factory at the east end of Kaisermühlen, which is across the River Danube.

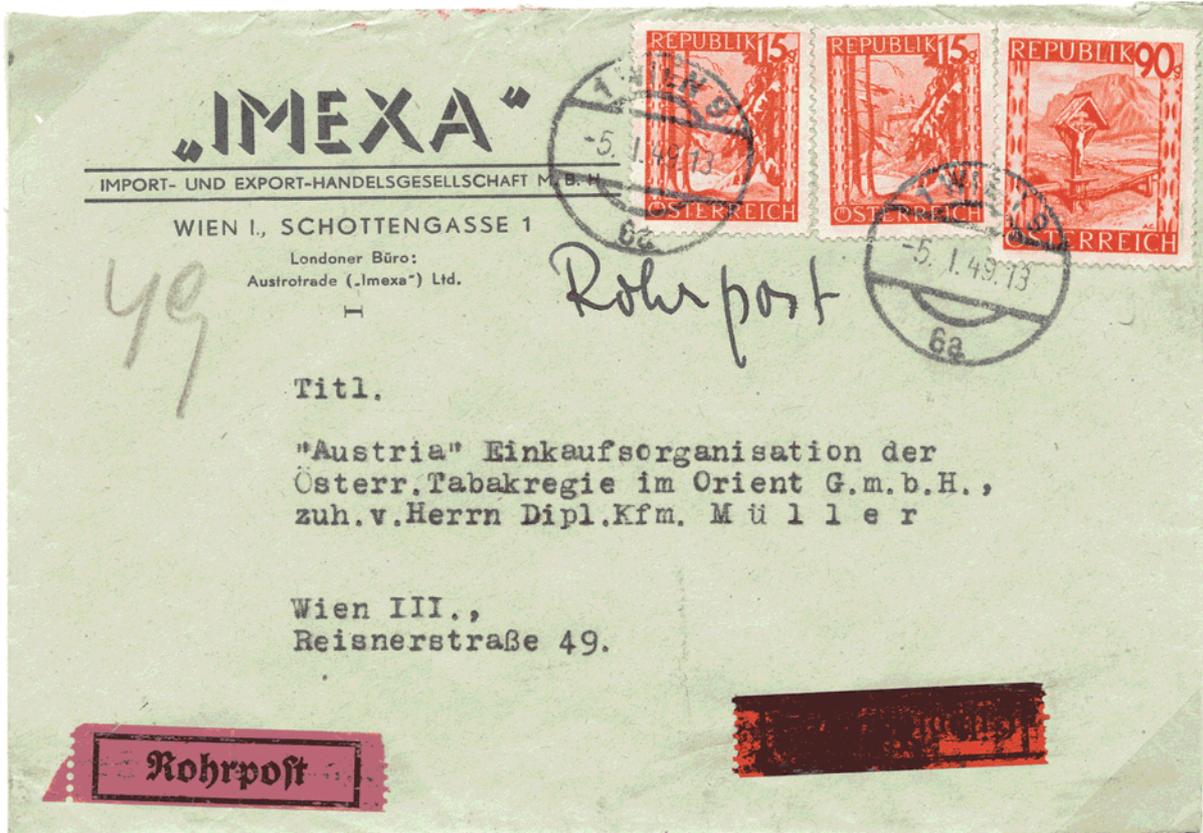
The Kaisersmühlen island was well known in the 18th century for its floating mills, all built of timber and drawing power from the current. When the French built a bridge across the Danube during the battle of Aspern (1805) the Austrians cut the mills adrift and set them on fire. They drifted downstream to the French bridge and successfully burnt it down. Kaisersmühlen now houses U N City, and the Austria Centre where WIPA2000 was held.

### *Other markings*

Several additional markings and handstamps were used, some authorized by the postal authorities, and some not. The Destination Marking at the top left has already been referred to in the section on Office Numbering.

After 1925, when regular postage stamps and cancellations were used, the sender would mark the item with "Rohrpost" or simply "R". If the proper postage had been paid, it would then be transmitted by the pneumatic system. The example at the top of the next page shows this; date 5 Jan 1949.

The example at the bottom of the next page (repeated from Part 1) is a Pneumatic letter-card with a cancel "**Aus dem Briefkasten / Postamt Wien 1, am....**", which means "found in a [normal yellow] letter box". It is addressed to England, cancelled 15 July 1901; the 30 Heller pre-printed stamp adequately paid the 25 Heller letter-postage. It didn't touch the pneumatic system; nor go Express.



The next example has a gummed label attached; it was posted on 14 July 1892 at 13:50 from Station 50 to Station 63, arriving 14:50. Delivery was impossible;

the label says "Adressat Schottenfeldgasse den Parteien und Hausbesorger unbekannt ... Bitte Polizei fragen", ie "The addressee in the Schottenfeldgasse is unknown to the parties and to the custodian ... Please ask the police" so it was returned: the label was cancelled at Station 63 at 15:30, Telegraf Central 16:00, and Station 50 at 18:30.



(Above: the label; below: with label turned back)



With this 1895 letter- to Germany, the 15Kr paid the (inland) postage of 5Kr plus the registration fee of 10Kr. No pneumatics!



**Depeschen-Aufgabsamt-Cancel**



K K DEPESCHEN-AUFGABSAMT WIEN No IV.

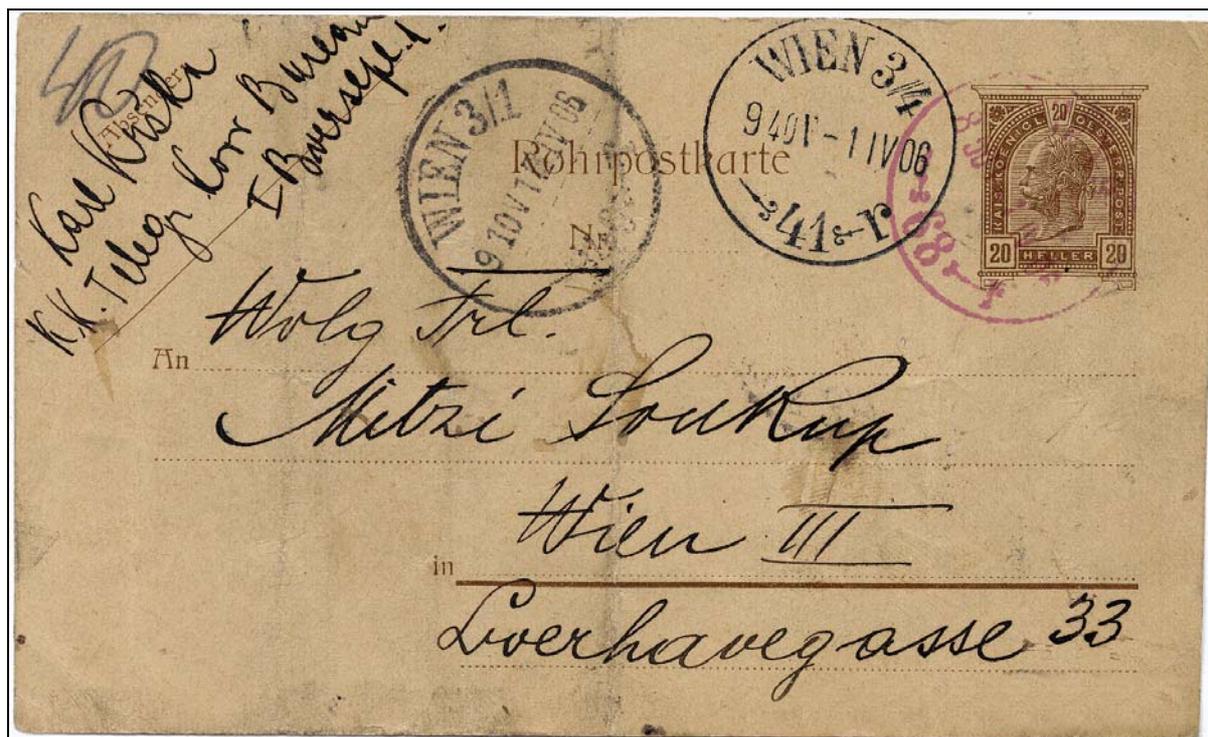
The item shown above has the cancellation used on telegrams in offices 1 - 11; it can be found, extremely rarely, used on pneumatic post stationery. It is a circular cancel with sanserif K K DEPESCHEN-AUFGABSAMT surrounding seriffed N° IV. This series of numbers is not the same one as that for pneumatic offices; what it \*is\* remains to be discovered.

### *Triple cancellations*

Some items can be found with three cancellations. There are various plausible explanations for this: put in the wrong container; sent to the wrong office; delivery office short of messengers; container forwarded instead of retained; etc.



Sent from office 60 (Zieglergasse) to office 66 (Porzellangasse). The most direct route between them is 60-52-Z-66 (see maps). To reach office 110 (Währing), the most likely explanation is that the container was sent onwards from 66 via 73 to 110, or that the item was put in the wrong container.

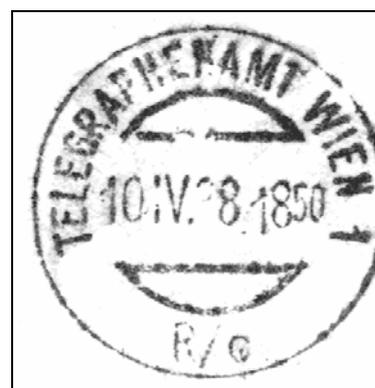


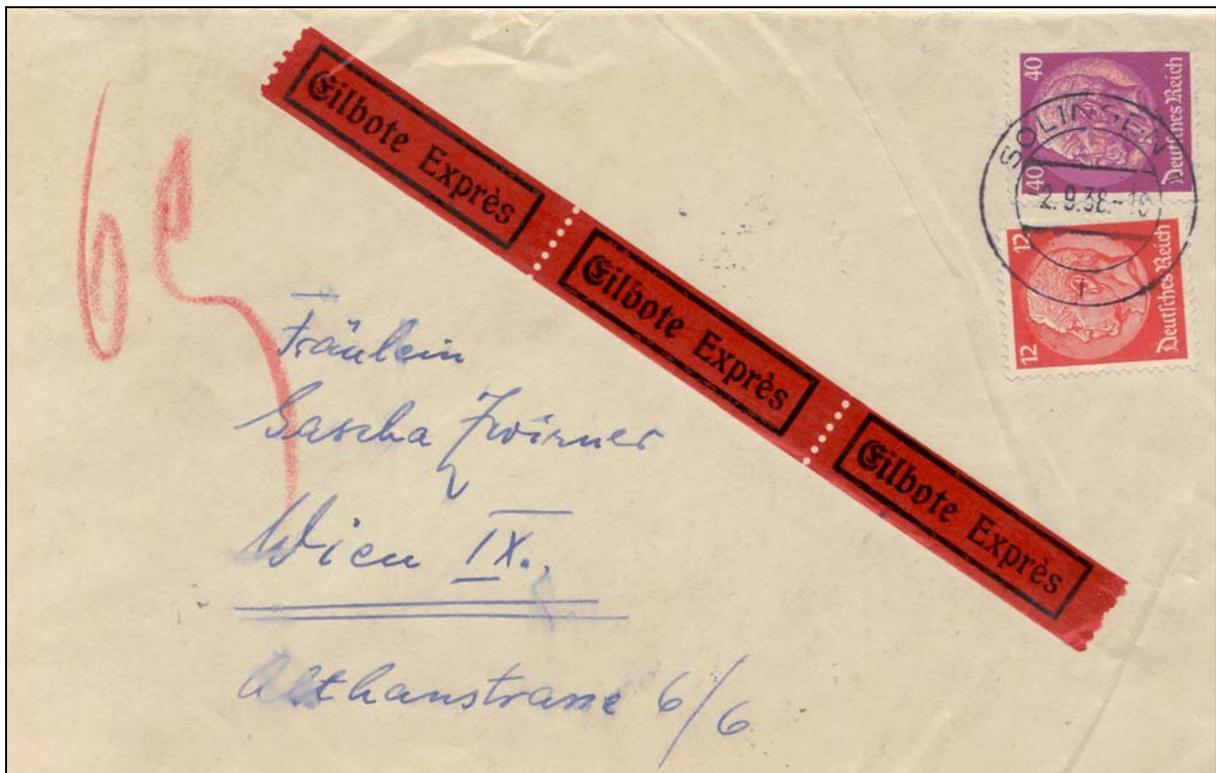
This item was sent from Wien 9/1 68 (Franz Josef Bahnhof) to Wien 3/1 40 (Rasumovskygasse) but passed through Wien 3/4 41 (Aspangbahnhof). Unusually, the despatch cancel is in red; the item has the normal three vertical creases. The correct and wrong delivery stations have no obvious linking whatsoever, and are a considerable distance apart!

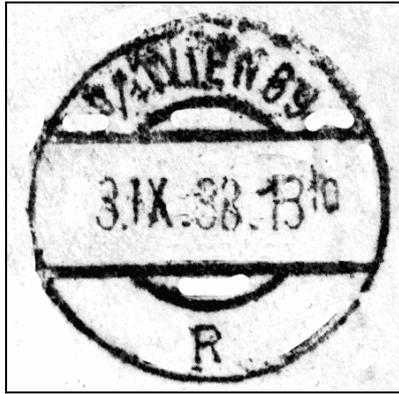
### *A difference in handling*

These two letters were sent from Solingen (in Germany near Dusseldorf) to the same address (Althanstrasse 6/6) in Vienna, yet were handled differently. Why?

The first is dated 9 April 1938; it arrived in Vienna the next day as shown by the indistinct Telegraph Office cancel on the back [illustrated right], and the red 68 on the front which matches the 9 WIEN 68 cancels on the back. Office 68 is at Franz Josef Bahnhof - indeed Althanstrasse passes its front door! The 10<sup>th</sup> of April, when this letter arrived, was a Sunday.







The second is dated 2 Sep 1938, and arrived in Vienna the next day. On the back is a very faint cancel, possibly the Telegraph Office (the counter letter is 'R/a'), a 1 WIEN 1 cancel, and a doubly-struck 9/4 WIEN 69 pneumatic cancel (counter letter 'R') [illustrated left] matching the red 69 on the front. Office 69 is at Ayrenhofgasse 4, a couple of streets from Althanstrasse. The 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1938 was a Saturday.

Why were the letters routed differently? Both offices were in service for all of 1938. The most likely explanation is that Office 69 was a local office and closed on Sundays, so the April letter, being express and (most unusually) franked with the extra 10Rpf pneumatic surcharge, had to be sent to Office 68 for immediate delivery instead of waiting until Monday. A second explanation is that on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1938 the postal staff had other priorities: it was Plebiscite Day! Perhaps there was only a skeleton staff on duty.

### Unusual covers

This Part describes some unusual covers, which were handled by the Pneumatic Post system on part of their journeys.



This is Catapult mail: the ship "Bremen" set off from Europe, and when it was within range catapulted off an aeroplane (with floats) which refuelled at Nantucket and brought the mail to New York. This item entered the postal system on 22 Aug 1935. There's an interesting mix of cancels: WIEN 110 ordinary; WIEN 110 pneumatic, TELEGRAPHENAMT WIEN 1, and Frankfurt. The routing was from Vienna 110 (Währing) by tube to the Central Telegraph Office, then by road to Aspern, plane to Köln (Cologne if you prefer); to Cherbourg by a special flight, then ship, then catapulted plane.

Rate: postcard 35 Groschen plus catapult surcharge of 60 Gro and Köln-Cherbourg surcharge of 10 Gro - total 105 Gro. The franking is only 96 Gro; perhaps the K-C surcharge had been overlooked.

Below and on the next page is a similarly-catapulted item from New York (the sender's address is faintly visible on the back) to Vienna; the catapulted aeroplane landed at Munich. [All these flights are extensively documented, down to the names of the crew.] WIEN 101 is Westbahnhof - perhaps it came from Munich by overnight train - and WIEN 28 is Nordbahnhof where it arrived at 8:40 am. The delivery address of Schwaigergasse is across the Danube in Florisdorf.



Front of New York - Vienna via catapult mail

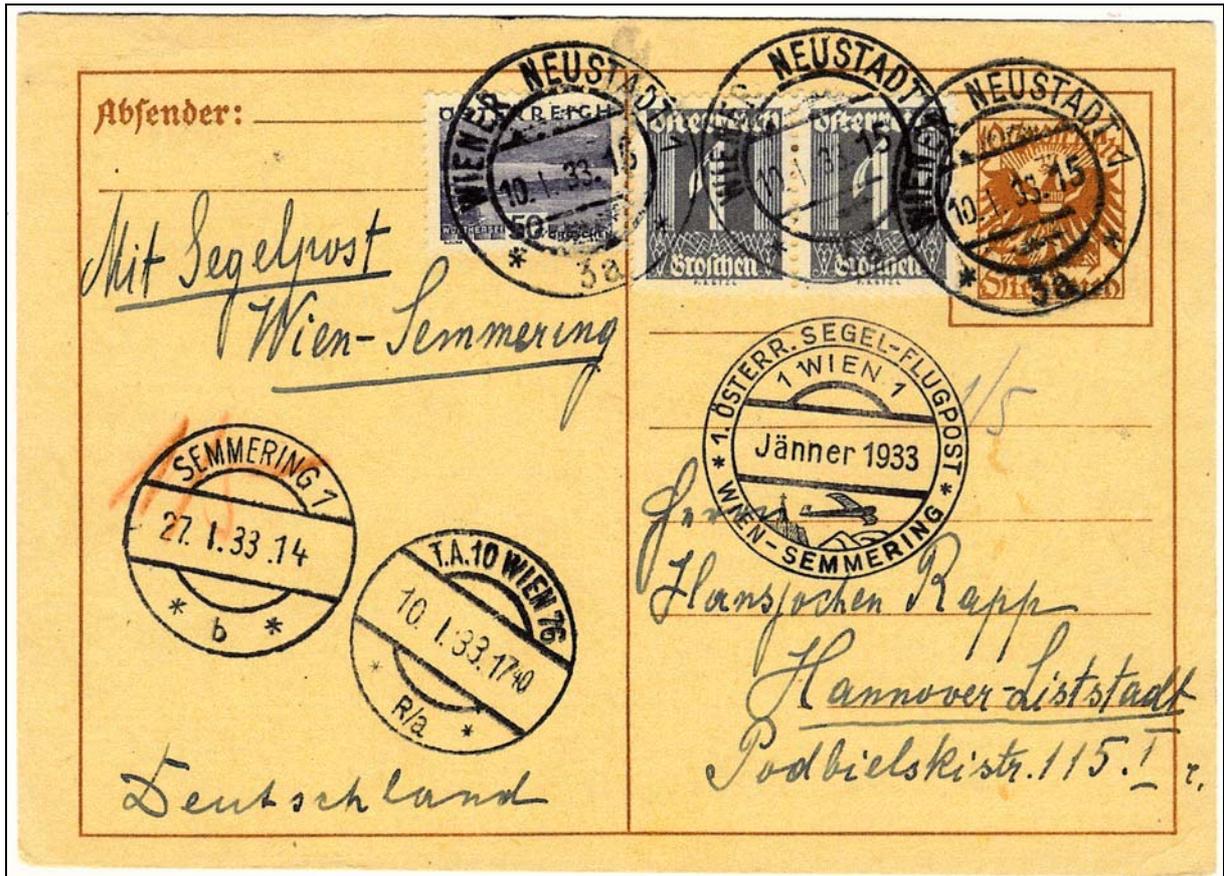


Back of New York - Vienna via catapult mail

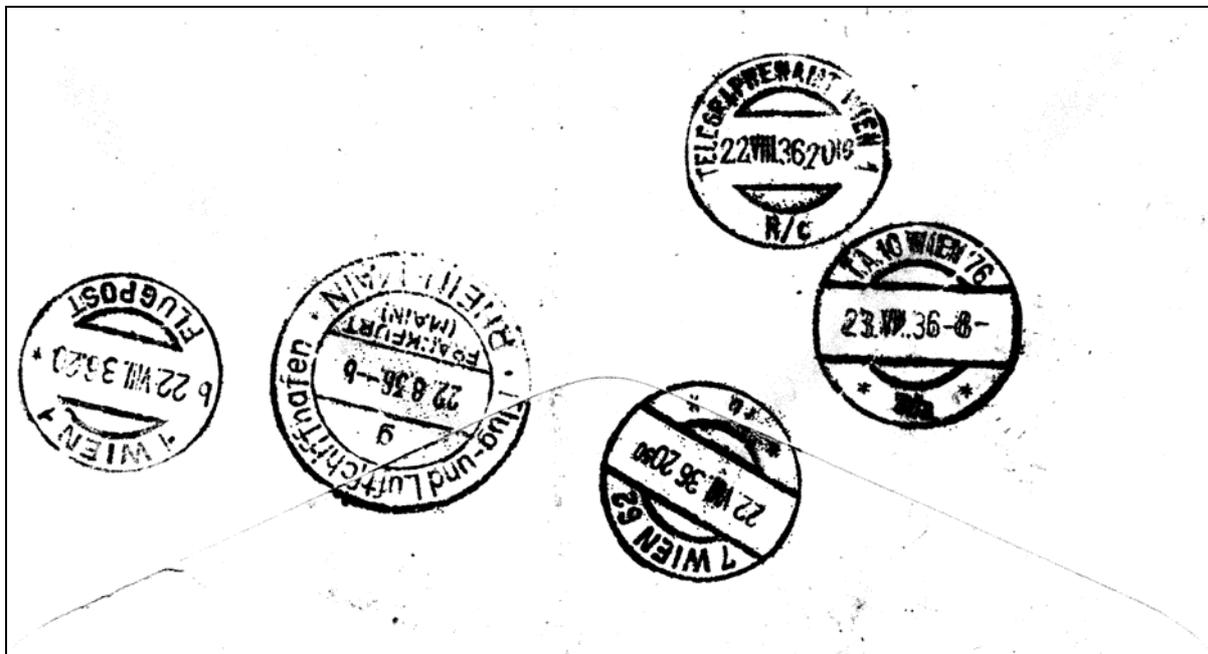
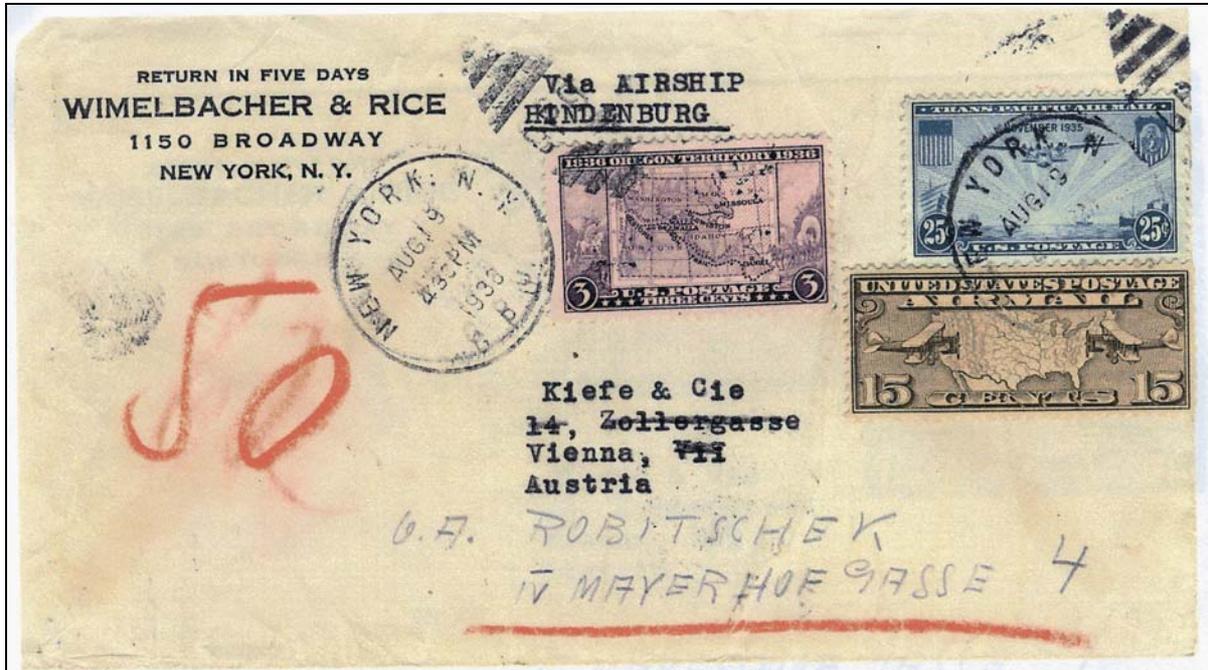
The first item on the next page is Glider Post, and travelled for some doubtless philatelic reason from Vienna by glider to Semmering, by road or train to Wiener Neustadt, then probably back to Vienna and onwards to Hanover in Germany. There is a beautiful Telegraphenamts cancel on the back and a WIEN 76 pneumatic cancel on the front; the Semmering cancel's date of 27.1.33 is rather odd!



Below it is a Zeppelin flight cover: the 1930 "Pan America" flight, although this card is one of 91 which were only carried from Friedrichshafen to Seville. Rate: printed paper 8 Groschen plus Zeppelin surcharge of 160Gr; total 168Gr; franked 170Gr. WIEN 101 and WIEN 55 pneumatic cancels.



Finally a Zeppelin letter from New York to Vienna: 7<sup>th</sup> North America flight of 1936 by LZ129 Hindenburg, Lakenhurst to Friedrichshafen. Posted New York 19 August 1936; arrived Frankfurt am Main 22 August; flown to Vienna; FLUGPOST WIEN and TELEGRAPHENAMT WIEN cancels; pneumatic cancels from WIEN 62 and WIEN 76 although there is a red 50 on the front.



*And a final oddity...*

This one seems to have baffled the bureaucracy! During the first few years of the pneumatic postal system, only the use of the specially produced stationery was permitted. In 1899 the use of ordinary stationery was allowed provided that it was properly franked. However, a few such items did pass through the system without being challenged years before they could officially do so. One such example, a normal 2 Kr stationery card of 1893, is shown above, having been sent in 1894. The card carries 8 Kr added franking to make up the 10 Kr rate.

This card is remarkable in that despite it being drawn to the attention of the postal authorities for carrying an invalid 5 Kreuzer Hungarian stamp, hence the manuscript "5Kr to pay - Hungarian stamp invalid", it still entered, and was transmitted by, the pneumatic system 5 years before this was officially allowed with normal stationery.

The card entered the pneumatic system at district 6, Wien 57 (Gumpendorf) at 3.40 pm and arrived at its final destination, district 9, Wien 66, Porzellangasse, nearly 3 hours later. This unusually long transit time was possibly because of queries over the invalid franking as well as over the destination. From the cancellations, it can be deduced that this initially might have been assumed to be Döbling, district 10 (from Döblingerstrasse) and then Währing (district 18 as per address, Wien XVIII). However, the manuscript '66', written twice, indicates district 9, Porzellangasse, at the southern end of Döblingerstrasse.

## New Issues - 2003 part 2

By Andy Taylor

All stamps are printed by the Oesterreichische Staatsdruckerei on "white postage stamp paper with cold glue gum" unless otherwise specified. The descriptions are taken from the Post.at website, press releases, and blackprints, translated where necessary from the original english. In issues, "M" = million. It's interesting how many apparently-different stamps can be printed from the same four inks: ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black!

### *Modern Art in Austria, 29<sup>th</sup> value: Kiki Kogelnik: "Prenez le temps d'aimer"*



Issue date: 3.7.2003; €0.55; Perf 14x14; Issue 700,000; Design Kiki Kogelnik; Engraving Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure turquoise-blue, purple red-lilac, greenish yellow, lilac-pink; Intaglio dark crimson-brown.

Kiki Kogelnik (1935-1997) is among the most important Austrian artists of the post-war period. Her artistic career began in 1954 when she began studying graphic and sculpture design at the Viennese College for Applied Arts. The following year Kogelnik moved to the Academy of Fine Arts where she took painting classes with Albert Paris-Gütersloh. Thanks to her early involvement among the galleries near St. Stevens, Otto Mauer granted her the first ever single exhibition of abstract works in Vienna (1961). From the early 1960s Kiki Kogelnik worked and lived in New York, Vienna and her hometown, Bleiburg.

Her first artistic creations reflect the abstract forms of Pop-Art which she adopted early on but are characterised by her own distinctive picture language. In 1962 she developed the first series of wrapping paper collages, portraying friends and colleagues. These silhouettes became a principal foundation of her artistic work, which included tableau paintings and graphics as well as sculptures and creative installations. In 1998 the prestigious Austrian Belvedere Gallery dedicated a large retrospective to her.

### *World Cultural Heritage UNESCO: Lake Neusiedlersee*

Issue date: 11.7.2003; €1.00; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 500,000; Design Peter Sinawehl; Engraving Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black; Intaglio dark orange-brown.

In 1972, the Unesco General Conference adopted a Convention on the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage. The objective was to select cultural and natural monuments with particular international significance for the whole of mankind and secure their survival for the future. Following Hallstatt, Salzburg, Schönbrunn and others, Neusiedlersee has been declared part of World Heritage, the result of a joint application by Austria and Hungary. The protection covers the entire shore area, the lakeside villages from Mörbisch to Illmitz, the listed old town of Rust surrounded by its town walls and parts of the Seewinkel National Park, as well as the Fertő-Haság National Park and Fertőd Castle in Hungary.



Neusiedlersee, the most westerly of Europe's steppe lakes with an unusual flora and fauna, is unique in many respects. It is 33.5 km long, 12 km wide but only 1.8 m deep and, together with the areas of reeds, occupies an area of 285km<sup>2</sup>, almost 80% of which is in Austria and the rest in Hungary. The reed belt on the Austrian side alone occupies roughly 100km<sup>2</sup>, and together with 45 ponds provides the ideal breeding grounds for 300 species of bird,

including rarities such as avocets, spoonbills and black-winged stilts. The lake's water level fluctuates considerably, and it is home to over 30 species of fish, mainly eel, zander (pike-perch), carp and pike. There are also exotic creatures on land such as the south Russian tarantula and the horned dung beetle.

### *Holidays in Austria: Wörthersee, Carinthia*

Issue date 18.7.2003; €0.20; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; Issue 20M; Design Adolf Tuma. Photogravure pale purple red, ultramarine, yellow, black.



Hardly any other stamp in this series comes closer to the topic of holidays than this one, since a freak of nature guarantees Lake Wörthersee clean water and a wonderful temperature of between 25° and 28° C, making it an ideal bathing lake attracting thousands of holidaymakers. The River Drau, which appears to be heading straight for the lake, changes direction two kilometres before what would be its point of entry into the lake, without any apparent cause in the terrain (naturally caused by geomorphological

factors). It flows in three meanders south-east and only then returns to its easterly course. This means that the lake is not cooled by cold mountain water.

Maria Wörth, the village located on the south shore and the source of the lake's name, is the most rewarding of all the villages around the lake in terms of cultural history, if one ignores Klagenfurt, whose town centre is not on the lake anyway. Maria Wörth's church is one of the oldest in Carinthia, and was the base for missionary activity originating from Freising. Until the 18th century, the church was on an island, which also protected it against destruction and plundering by the Turks. Today, the region around the 19.3 km long and 1.7 km wide lake, the product of an ice age glacier basin, can satisfy practically every holidaymaker's wishes in the form of accommodation of all categories and a wide range of facilities for all types of leisure activities

### ***Holidays in Austria: Mondsee, Upper Austria***

Issue date: 18.7.2003; €0.25, Perf 13¾x14; Issue 20M; Design Adolf Tuma. Photogravure pale purple red, ultramarine, yellow, black.



A rock rising out of the waters of the lake bears two crucifixes, for which no clear reason has yet been found. The lake, 11km long by 2km wide, is fed by the Wangauer Ache and the rivers which drain Fuschlsee and Irrsee. Mondsee itself drains into Attersee. During the bathing period, the temperature is between 20C and 24C, making it by far the warmest of the lakes in the Salzkammergut. In 1864, the remains of a lake dwelling village were found by the outlet from the lake, along with dug-out canoes and incrustated ceramics (ornamentation is engraved in vessels before firing, and then filled with chalk) from the Neolithic Age (the Mondsee Culture). Until 1950, fishermen on Mondsee continued to use dug-out canoes cut out of long tree trunks. Milestones and the foundations of villas from the Roman age are a further testimony to the past of this ancient settlement region.

Mondsee Monastery was founded by Duke Odilon of Bavaria in 748 and settled by monks from the island of Reichenau in Lake Constance, who adopted the Benedictine rule of "pray and work" around 800. They flourished until the monastery was abolished in 1791. Many trades and businesses were founded in the surrounding area; this continues today and has been further consolidated by the tourism business that developed after 1930. Devotees of "The Sound of Music" will recognise the interior of Mondsee church!

### ***Samurai and Geisha***

Issue date: 19.7.2003; €0.55; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 700,000; Design Peter Sinaweil. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



After five successful exhibitions in the field of art and history, the Leoben Kunsthalle, in collaboration with the Museum for Fine Arts in Vienna, presented the culture of Japan of the time of the Shoguns in an exhibition from April 12 to November 2, 2003. The opposing extremes of Samurai and Geisha, symbols of death and love, reflected the refined way of life of Japan in centuries past. The exhibition focused on two contradictory worlds: the warrior caste of the Samurai and the rich

urban merchant class. These two societies were displayed in all their facets and aspects through valuable exhibits from renowned international museums. Impressive Samurai armour, swords, helmets, lances and firearms showed Japan's past from the warrior point of view. Brilliant woodcuts, sumptuous clothing and musical instruments documented the "floating world" of the Ukiyo. Alongside the remarkable exhibits from Japan's past, a reproduction Japanese teahouse and a rock garden made the exhibition a special event.

## *Turandot*

Issue date: 24.7.2003; €0.55; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; Issue 700,000; Design Renate Gruber. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



The Roman Quarry at St. Margarethen was, as the name suggests, in use as early as the Roman period. It was the quarry that supplied the materials for St. Steven's cathedral and the buildings of the Ringstrasse in Vienna, as well as for the viaducts and support walls of the Semmering Railway. For the first time in 1926, and every five years since 1961, the quarry has been the venue for

passion plays, attracting an audience of 72,000 in 2001. It was therefore a logical step to use the magnificent natural stage created by the quarrying of the rocks, with its 40 metre high steep walls, for an opera festival.

Following Nabucco, Carmen and Otello, the programme for 2003 presented Puccini's opera Turandot from July 24 to August 24. Stage designer Manfred Waba used the enchanting atmosphere of the quarry in order to recreate ancient Peking before an audience of 100,000 opera fans. Guanfranco de Bosio, the former director of the Arena di Verona, planned a monumental event with 400 performers and an international ensemble from 11 countries, using many

commedia dell'arte effects, impressive acrobatic and ballet interludes, daredevil stunts and a wide range of stage effects.

In a smaller quarry nearby, Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" was once again performed for children. And from July 14 to August 22, 2004, Giuseppe Verdi's Aida featured on the programme.

### *Children's Stamp*

Issue date: 12.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; Issue 700,000; Design Eva Wallner. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



For 90 years, the Youth Welfare Offices in Austria have been concerned with the well-being of young people. The proposal was to commemorate the anniversary with a stamp, but there was doubt whether the topic of "Young people's welfare" would encounter much interest amongst the public. It was therefore resolved instead to issue a "Children's Stamp".

The Austrian Post Office held a drawing competition for children in Austria under the age of 14 on the topic of "Child and family" or "Young people and family". No limits were set to style, technique and choice of colours, although the DIN A5 format was prescribed. Although the final date for submissions, March 31, 2003, gave the children very little time, over 5,000 drawings were received. A preliminary selection of 30 drawings was made by an internal jury, and an extended jury selected the final prize-winner, a drawing by Eva Wallner, an eight-year old girl from Salzburg. It was planned to display the drawings in a travelling exhibition, which would include the presentation of the Children's Stamp in the Vienna City Hall.

### *50th Austrian Local Government Conference*

Issue date: 18.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 700,000; Design Maria Siegl. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black, blue-grey, dark pink-lilac.

The stamp shows one of Wiener Neustadt's landmarks, the water tower, constructed in 1909-10 according to plans by the Viennese architects Theiss and Jaksch, and, alongside the cathedral and the Reck Tower, without doubt one of the most important buildings of the conference venue. Possibly inspired by the famous "Cup of Matthias Corvinus", a treasure in the possession of the town of

Wiener Neustadt, the architects gave the water tower the shape of a stylised chalice with lid.



The Local Government Conference is the voice of local government authorities in a larger Europe. The Austrian Local Government Conference is the largest local government event in Austria, with local government officials gathering each year in order to underline the political demands of the nation-wide body that represents their interests, the Austrian Federation of Local Government Authorities. The 50th Austrian Local Government Conference was held on September 18th and 19th, 2003, and was dominated by the expansion of the EU. Local government representatives

from Austria's neighbouring countries about to join the Community were invited, enabling the Conference to serve as a common voice for the European interests of the local government authorities. Under the motto "Peace, Freedom, Citizen Proximity - for a Europe of Local Government Authorities", this major event on the eve of the EU expansion took place in Wiener Neustadt, a traditional interface between east and west.

### *Thank you*

Issue date: 19.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x14; Issue 2M; Design Thomas Kostron. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



For some time now, the Austrian Post Office, alongside the usual commemoratives issued on the occasion of anniversaries, has been producing stamps known as "Message Stamps", relating to periods or situations in human life, such as marriage, Christmas, love, sadness or joy. Despite the modern communication media, messages on such occasions are still always sent by post. It is now possible to make such a message visible from the outside by means of a Message Stamp.

Last year, a Message Stamp showing a "Bouquet of flowers" was issued, to be used for general kinds of congratulations. This year, the "Token of thanks" stamp allows the sender to express gratitude and to show it by means of the stamp. The stamp is in this way a genuine Message Stamp. The bouquet of flowers expressing thanks is delivered by TomTom, the friendly and equable little man in a hat and bow tie. The charming drawings by Thomas Kostron are

well known from post cards and cartoons. In this way, the stamp is intended to help improve relationships with our fellow human beings.

### ***Mail-Order Trade***

Issue date: 24.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 700,000; Design Thomas Kostron. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



With over 500,000 employees in 20 different sectors, the Austrian retail trade is continuously growing as an important factor of the economy, and is becoming a major factor in the creation of wealth in the economy as a whole, a result of the change from an industrial to a service society. While the creation of wealth used to be regarded as only the production of goods, we are aware today that trade with its innovative ideas makes products more valuable, creating substantial wealth.

The Austrian retail trade, accounting for roughly 14% of the creation of wealth in the country, is well above the European average. While small retail businesses, due to the need for large investments, can only contribute little to the creation of wealth, the large retail chains account for over 20% of turnover. A major factor is mail-order trade, of which roughly 45% of adults above the age of 15 (3.5 million individuals) are customers. There is a huge difference between male and female customers, with 53% of all Austrian women but only 37% of men buying from mail-order companies.

### ***Werner Schlager, Table Tennis World Champion 2003***

Issue date: 25.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; Issue 700,000; Design Renate Gruber. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.

For the first time, the world table tennis champion is an Austrian! It is true that Richard Bergmann won gold in the men's singles in 1937, but in that competition the Asian nations were conspicuous by their absence. Werner Schlager is also the first non-Asian to win gold since the Swede Jan-Ove Waldner won the World Championships in 1997.

Werner Schlager has been the Austrian table tennis champion nine times, a record in the Austrian Table Tennis Federation's history. He had already won bronze in the 1999 World Championships and the 2002 European Championships. In the European Top 12 competition, he won in 2000 and reached the semi-finals in 2003.



In the Olympic Games in Sydney, he reached the quarter finals in both the singles and the doubles. In the mixed doubles, Schlager was European champion in 2003 together with Krisztina Toth from Hungary. In total, Werner Schlager has won nine World Championship and European Championship medals. He was born in Wiener Neustadt on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1972, and today lives in Sollenau. A volunteer soldier, his hobbies are computers and music. The commemorative stamp appeared on the occasion of the Lower Austrian's 31<sup>st</sup> birthday. Schlager is the first living sportsman to appear on an Austrian stamp.

### *Jugend-Phila Graz '03*

Issue date: 26.9.2003; €0.55; Perf 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; Issue 1M; Design Cornelia Zell. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



"Jugend-Phila Graz '03" is the largest stamp exhibition for young people in Europe this year. It is being held from September 25 to 28, 2003, organised by the Philatelic Society of Graz in collaboration with the stamp collector clubs in Graz and surroundings and with the Youth Department of the Austrian Association of Philatelist Clubs (VÖPH). The venue is the Raiffeisenhof Training Centre at the Styrian Provincial Chamber for Agriculture and Forestry. The aim is to encourage philately amongst young people. The Category II exhibition with international participation is accompanied by the congress of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, the FEPA, as well as a symposium for young FEPA officials and an international young philatelists meeting.

The stamp, like the Children's Stamp already released, is the result of a drawing competition for Austrian children up to the age of 14 on the topic of "Child and Family". Out of over 5000 drawings, an internal Post Office jury made a pre-selection of 30 drawings, from which an extended jury selected the present design by Cornelia Zell, a 13-year old girl from Niederabsdorf.

## ***Elisabeth - The Musical***

Issue date: 1.10.2003; €0.55; Perf 13¾x14; Issue 700,000; Design Constanze Nečas. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



The most successful German-language musical, attracting an audience of more than 4 million in seven productions in Europe and Japan since its first performance in 1992, returned to the Theater an der Wien on October 1, 2003. The play, in the spectacular production by Harry Kupfer and Hans Schavernoeh, is just as much a part of Vienna as the Vienna Boy's choir or

the Spanish Riding School, based as it is on the "Lady Di" of the 19th century, "Sisi". However, the author Michael Kunze here presents a much more modern image stripped of all kitsch. He shows Elisabeth's life at and in conflict with the Viennese court from the point of view of her assassin, Luigi Lucheni. The latter, in turn, is only a tool of death (who appears in the musical as an attractive young man), who has been in a passionate love relationship with Elisabeth since her earliest youth. The historical facts of Elisabeth's biography are presented truthfully, but are expanded into an unforgettable musical and theatrical experience through the emotionality of Sylvester Levay's music and the dramatic fiction.

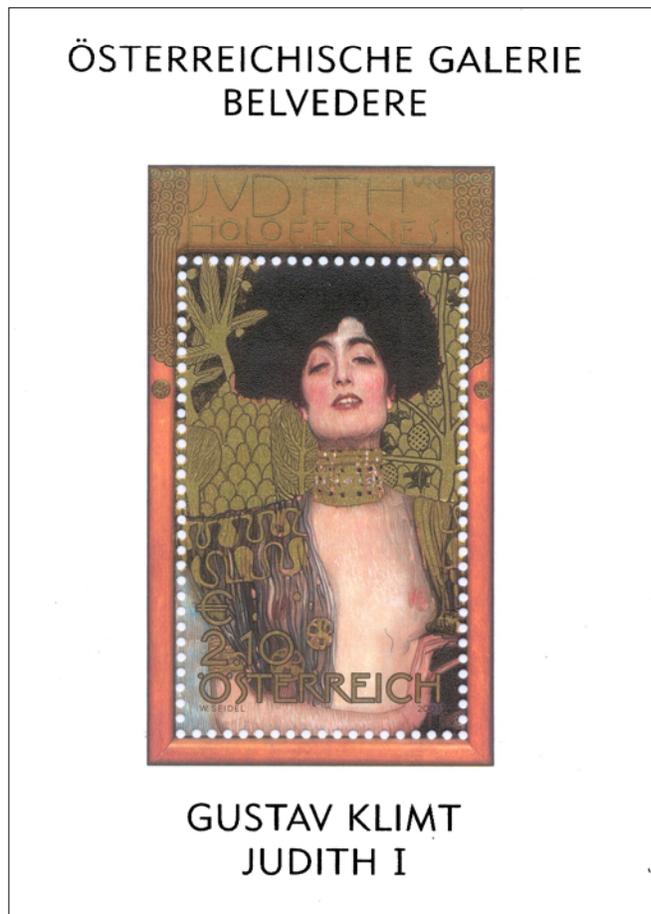
## ***Famous Paintings of Austrian Collections: 1st value: Klimt***

Issue date: 10.10.2003; €2.10; Block; Perf 13½x13¾; Issue 500,000; Design & Engraving Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, orange-brown, gold; Intaglio ochre-brown.

The painter Gustav Klimt was born on July 14, 1862, the son of a gold engraver. He was one of the founder members of the Secession, and from 1897 to 1899 was its first President. However, differences arose at the beginning of 1905, and the "Klimt Group" withdrew from the Secession.

Klimt is the main representative of the Viennese Jugendstil (art nouveau). His influence extended not only to the Secession and the Vienna School of Applied Arts, but also to the Wiener Werkstätte, and Austrian painting at the turn of the century was decisively influenced by his art. His personal style is marked by patterns and an abundance of gold; the subjects were usually women and his representation often greatly offended the Viennese! Klimt was an honorary member of the Academies of Fine Arts in Vienna and Munich. One of his most

famous paintings is "The Kiss", already shown on a stamp in 1964 [ANK1184]. Gustav Klimt died on February 6, 1918 in Vienna, and is buried in Hietzing cemetery. [Further reading: "Essential Klimt" by L. Payne and "Vienna Art & Architecture" pub. Könemann, both available from the Editor.]



Klimt's "Judith and Holoferne" is based on a story from the Deuterocanonical Book of Judith. The Jewish widow Judith saved her home town of Bethulia during a siege by beguiling Nebuchadnezzar's general Holofernes with her beauty. Having made him drunk, she cut off his head with his own sword; the severed head is just visible at the bottom right. The painting hangs in the Austrian Gallery in the Belvedere Palace. "Judith II" is an almost-identical version, now in Ostrava; both were painted in 1901. The model was Adele Bloch-Bauer, wife of a wealthy banker. The stamp was issued as a block, 3.3" wide by 4" high, with a Jugendstil special cancel; the top and bottom inscriptions are in gold ink, printed

here in black for visibility. The stamp was also issued as a special sheet, was featured on the cover of the 2003 yearbook; and was voted "best of 2003" in the "Die Briefmarke" poll.

### ***Licht ins Dunkel (Bringing Light into the Darkness)***

Issue date: 11(14?).11.2003; €0.55; Perf 13¾x13¾; Issue 1,500,000; Design ORF Design. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.

"Licht ins Dunkel" (Bringing Light into the Darkness) has existed since 1973, and is today the largest and most popular fund-raising campaign in Austria. It originated in a half-hour radio programme broadcast by the ORF local station for Lower Austria. The breakthrough was achieved in 1978, when the good cause was adopted by television. Since then, it has become the largest fund-raising campaign for handicapped persons and persons in need in Austria.



The money raised on Christmas Eve 1973 amounted to €2500, while the 30th campaign in 2002 proved to be the most successful in the history of "Licht ins Dunkel", raising a grand total of €12.5 million. All in all, over €100 million has been donated to date. The founder of the campaign, Kurt Bergmann, led operations for 30 years, but has now handed over the reins to Jörg Ruminak. The campaign has even become a Christmas tradition. A

major contribution has also been made by the "Light of Peace from Bethlehem". The "Licht ins Dunkel" campaign is active not only at Christmas time; the emergency fund provides rapid and unbureaucratic assistance to people who have run into need through no fault of their own. Last year alone, 3,523 families with a total of 8,856 children were given assistance.

### ***Bösendorfer's 175 th Anniversary***

Issue date: 19.11.2003; €0.75; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 700,000; Design Peter Sinawehl; Engraving Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Photogravure grey, yellow, lilac-brown; Intaglio olive-brown.



This stamp celebrates a company that carries Austria's reputation out into the whole world. On July 25, 1828, Ignaz Bösendorfer was given a trade licence as master piano-maker. His aim was to make pianos of the very highest quality. When he died in 1859, his son Ludwig Bösendorfer took over the business and became one of the greatest patrons of Viennese musical life. In 1970, the business was transferred to the premises at Graf-Starhemberg-Gasse 14, still in use today. In 1872, at Herrengasse 6, where today stands a

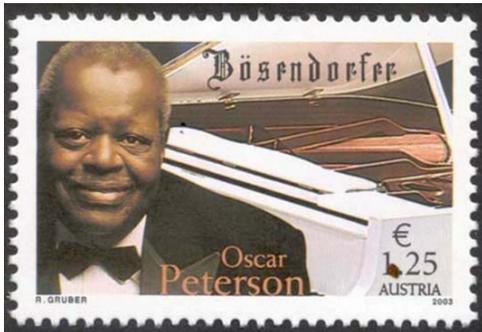
high-rise building, Bösendorfer had the Prince of Liechtenstein's riding school converted into what was to become the most famous concert hall in Vienna in the years up to 1913.

Since Ludwig Bösendorfer had no direct descendents, he transferred the business in 1909 to his friend, the pianist and composer Carl Hutterstrasser. The wood store and the factory suffered serious damage during the Second World War. In 1966, the business was sold to Arnold Habig of Jasper, USA. Production was transferred to Wiener Neustadt, although the administration

remained at Starhembergasse. On 7 Jan 2002, Bösendorfer was acquired by BAWAG-PSK, thereby returning the Bösendorfer piano factory to Austrian hands again after 35 years. 

## ***Oscar Peterson - Bösendorfer***

Issue date: 19.11.2003; €1.25; Perf 12¾x13½; Issue 700,000; Design Renate Gruber. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, black.



Oscar Emmanuel Peterson is regarded as the most brilliant jazz pianist alive today. He was born in Montreal (Canada) in 1925, and began taking trumpet and piano lessons at the early age of five. He founded his first trio in 1947, performing in a weekly radio programme in the Alberta Lounge in Montreal. It was there that Peterson met the impresario Norman Granz in 1949, who ultimately became his manager. In 1953, Peterson founded a new trio with the bassist Ray Brown and the guitarist Herb Ellis. The trio made a number of records that were successful with both the public and the critics. Between 1967 and 1972, Peterson produced a series of 15 albums, including a number of solo piano recordings that are regarded as amongst his best. Starting in the mid 1950s, Peterson frequently performed with the singer Ella Fitzgerald. He made countless records with all the jazz scene greats. His phenomenal technical skills combined the influences of all the great pianists of early jazz to create an unmistakable style. Peterson won seven Grammys, in 1974, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1990 (twice) and 1991. The photo of Oscar Peterson used for the stamp was taken by Edward Gajdel, Toronto, Canada.

## ***Christmas 2003***

Issue date: 28.11.2003; €0.55; Perf 13¾x14; Issue 10M; Design & Engraving Prof. Werner Pfeiler. Photogravure ultramarine, pale purple red, yellow, chamois; Intaglio black.

The 2003 Christmas stamp shows the "The Birth of Christ" glass window created by Fritz Krcal in the Hohenems Parish Church in 1951. The baby Jesus is lying in the crib, a sheep at each side. Mary and Joseph are praying behind the crib, and a donkey is looking out from between them. Above them are three angels hovering beneath the star, two of them bearing a banner.



The town parish church of St. Charles Borromeus is an attractive parish church with a carved altar. Built in 1796-7, it is dedicated to St. Charles Borromeus, a relative of the local noble family. The carved high altar is the most important Renaissance work in Vorarlberg, and was probably created by the Feldkirch sculptor Heinrich Dieffolt around 1580. The historic town of Hohenems with a population of roughly 14,000 is in the heart of the Rhine Valley in Vorarlberg, in close proximity to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. The development of Hohenems is closely connected with the history of the aristocratic lords of Hohenems. The town first stepped into the limelight of history at the end of the 12th century, and later became famous as the place where manuscripts A and C of the Nibelungenlied were found.

### ***Holidays in Austria: Kleinwalsertal***

Issue date: 5.12.2003; €0.45; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x14; Issue 1,500,000; Design Adolf Tuma. Photogravure pale purple red, ultramarine, yellow, black.



The Kleinwalsertal Valley and the village of Jungholz in Tyrol are customs enclaves. While the districts are Austrian territory, they are very difficult to reach from the Austrian side. Consequently, they are part of the economic territory of Germany and, until the Euro was introduced, also used German currency. The (Austrian) post offices in the Kleinwalsertal Valley, at Riezlern, Hirschegg and the offices at Jungholz in Tyrol, charge German internal rates for postage to Germany. This special rate and other exceptions were agreed in a number of treaties. The post offices have both Austrian and German post codes. This special position has given Kleinwalsertal a certain degree of fame, which is very beneficial for the tourist industry. The first documentary mention of the valley dates from 1059, when Emperor Heinrich IV donated the territory to Bishop Heinrich von Augsburg. Migration from the Swiss Upper Valais region (in German Wallis, the home of the "Walser") began around 1270. The first houses were built at Mittelberg, at the foot of the Zwölferkopf mountain. The first track to Oberstdorf was built in 1423. [For more information see 'Austria' 131 pp15-39]

## *My Stamp (personalised stamp)*

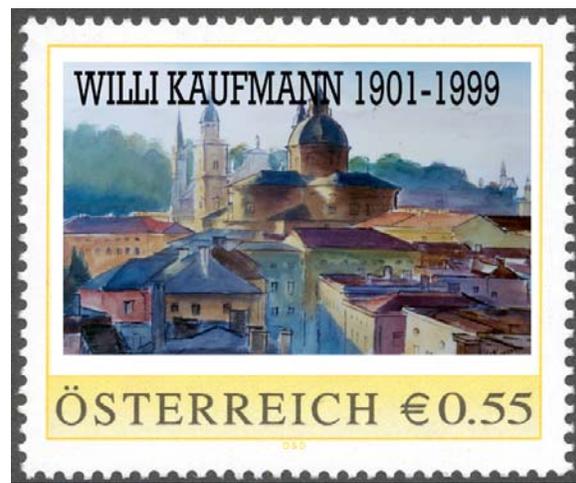
Issue date: 5.12.2003; €0.55; Perf 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; Issue 500,000; Design ÖSD. Photogravure black, irodin, yellow.

Technical progress will soon mean that every post customer will be able to have his or her own personal stamp. This stamp is the prototype. For some time now, various countries have been producing stamps in which an adjoining empty space can be designed individually. Photos, portraits, drawings, texts and the like can be provided by the customer and are printed into the space. The



resulting stamp together with the ornamental field then constitutes a single unit.

In a number of cases, the space for individual design is integrated in the stamp. The Austrian Post Office is pursuing this latter approach. The Austrian stamps only have a graphic design frame stating the denomination of the stamp. The inner part of the stamp is empty, and can be designed individually by the customer. They are available in portrait or landscape format. The frame contains a number of security features as are currently standard on Austrian stamps. The basic stamp alone, with the inner area left empty, is still a fully valid stamp. This stamp fulfils the wishes of the Post Office's customers who have long been wanting appropriate stamps for specific personal occasions. Thus, for instance, invitations to a wedding party can be sent with a portrait of the happy couple on the stamp.



## NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

### *Die Briefmarke:*

**Issue 2/2004:** the Ur-personalised stamp? (31 July 2003, for the retirement of the Staatsdruckerei Generaldirektor); House-Post-Offices (implants in large companies); let's collect banana-labels?; Friedrich Schmiedl's Rocket Post (2); blocks in black-print and in changed colours; the Austrian and German versions of the Salzachbrücke stamp differ; new stamps; Michel on a CD; etc etc.

**Issue 3/2004:** new stamps including Block of the month? (10x€0.55 Football); thematic: Vienna Exhibition venues; Rocket Post (3); thematic: amethysts; Baltics (7); Polar philately; an Austrian postal museum???.; etc etc

**Issue 4/2003:** more blocks; overprinted definitives?; tentative 2005 issues list; complete-so-far list of personalised stamps (there are 32 so far); Rocket Post (4); 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sissi - Franz Josef marriage (including the Kùb Post Office!); stamps-of-the-year for 2003; Baltics (8); etc etc

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Militaria Austriaca Philatelia*

**Issue 209:** Advert re Innsbruck Kaiserjäger museum's summer exhibition; subscribe now to "50 Years of the Austrian Army" special series; info sought on A. Clement's works; yet more 'personalised stamps', including partial list with tentative prices; UNO etc operations; sales and auction lists; etc etc

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost*

**Issue 76:** greetings & meetings; interesting additions to library; Qs & illustrated As; "P I" censor marks from POW camps in Italy; on the Italian campaign; supplement to catalogue of military medical arrangements 1914-18; the KuK Marine Academy; Postanweisungscontrollestempel in Bosnia-Herzegovina; auction report; book reviews; etc etc etc. With 16pp auction list.

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.*

**Issue 65:** Plate faults in overprint of B-H ANK120?; review of "Przemsyl" by G Schenk; list of the Rulers of Austria, 960-1992; personalised stamps; "postal history needn't be expensive"; wants; Qs&As; etc.

## ***Czechout***

**Issue 1/2004:** meeting notes and book reviews; "how accurate are historic records of perfs?"; review of "Rainer II"; reviews of vols 1 & 3 of "Cinderella Stamps of Bohemia & Czechoslovakia" much of post-WWI interest including a long article on pictures allegedly hidden in stamp designs; the German Enclave of Southern Moravia (by Sal Rizza); Q&A; new issues; etc. With 2003's index.

## ***Stamps of Hungary***

**Issue 156 March 2004:** review of "Rainer II"; collecting through the Internet (the APS site is mentioned); Hohe Rinne local post; etc

## ***Südost Philatelie***

**Issue 84/2004:** Bosnia-Herzegovina Fieldpost card in 1878/79 (reprint was known; original now discovered) - *by our member Dr O Pongratz-Lippit, to whom they send 75<sup>th</sup> birthday greetings.*

## ***Germania***

**Feb 2004 vol 40 no 1:** the Pinguin; Königsberg/Kaliningrad 1945-49; I'm-alive cards from Dresden; Gydnia; group reports; Q&A; letters; etc etc.

## ***Phila Graz***

**Issue 1/2004:** the first 1-Groschen stamp (1 June 1925); etc

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

**Issue 1/2004:** A rare pneumatic item [*but see 'Austria' 143 p76 for another with the same cancel*]; Airmail surcharge to Ecuador, 1946-9 (by H Pollak); on the existence or not of Pneumatic Office Wien 25.

## ***Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale***

**Issue 126:** (i) Mixed Italian-English and French-English frankings originating in Beirut, by Umberto Del Bianco (Interesting article with some references to the Austrian Post in Beirut); (ii) Papal States Postal History - Domestic Rules, Routes and Rates 1852-1870 *by Thomas Mathà*; (iii) Trieste: Special Services *by Michele Amorosi* (A fascinating short article on some of the special services offered by the Austrian Post Office in Trieste, including registration, insurance,

ship mail, newspapers, small packets, poste restante, express and postal inspections. With 34 illustrations!); (iv) Two newly discovered Sicilian pre-philatelic handstamps, *by Leonardo Di Bella*; (v) Charges for post boxes - use of the letter "C", *by Franco Obizzi* (An interesting article concerning the mysterious "C" found on mail into Austrian Italy in the 1850s and 60s. Previously thought to be inspector's endorsements, but was apparently a local mark indicating that the letter was placed in a "PO Box", the postal box charge often appearing in ink on the reverse. With 5 illustrations.); (vi) The "Inverted Grille" lozenge in the Papal States, *by Carlo Ciullo*; (vii) "Goodbye Darling I am off to Vienna" - the text of a letter of 1 May 1841 from Vienna to Venice describing the quite remarkable ups and down of a journey by stagecoach from Venice to the capital.; (viii) Book reviews, including Vollmeier's new edition of his remarkable work on the Republic of Venice; (ix) Small ads and the usual most useful dealer advertisements.

### *The Cinderella Philatelist*

**Vol 44 No 2:** Publicity Manager wanted; Franz Josef Land seals; Vol 43's index; etc

### *Additions to the Library*

| Ref        | Title  | Comment   | Pp        | Author                                     | Pub  | Txt |
|------------|--|---|-----------|--|------|-----|
| 193<br>A-1 | Ukrainian Legion<br>Postcards Types<br>1-6 and 7-17  | Expansion of pages<br>29-46 of "KuK<br>Ukransische Legion<br>1914-1918" | 80+<br>80 | Roman<br>Dubyniak<br>and Peter<br>Cybaniak | 2004 | E   |
| 382        | Die Post in Triest<br>und ihre<br>historische<br>Entwicklung   | by a local historian  |           | Dr. Petrus<br>Tomasin                      | 1894 | G   |
| 383        | Tiroler<br>Sonderstempel<br>1885-2003  | (Philatelistenklub<br>Merkur Innsbruck<br>series no 9)                  | 146       | K Ploner &<br>H Moser                      | 2004 | G   |
|            | A tabulation, with valuations and illustrations, of all the special cancellations used in the Tirol. Also has newspaper and decree notices up to 1945, and indexes by designer and by place. |   |           |  |      |     |
| 384        | Österreich nach 1945 Band 1:<br>Postgebühren, Flugpostgebühren,<br>Postgeschichte  |   | 192       | Hellwig<br>Heinzel                         | 2004 | G   |

## ***Book reviews***

**"Tiroler Sonderstempel 1885-2003 (Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck Schriftenreihe series no 9)"** by K Ploner & H Moser. This provides an authoritative list of the special cancels used in Tirol. Much additional information on the cancels is included, partly from "Postverordnungen", but also from articles in newspapers and from correspondence. The hardest part of the work was to discover the name of the designer, which has been accomplished for nearly half of them. Indexes of all Sonder-postoffices (villages and towns), of the themes and of the artists are also included.

**"Österreich nach 1945 Band 1: Postgebühren, Flugpostgebühren, Postgeschichte"** by Hellwig Heinzl (plus short sections by others including Henry Pollak) is a treasury of information on the murky subject of Austrian postal rates in the immediate post-WWII period, although it gives details up to the 1970s and a summary to today. The first section (42pp) is surface mail; the second (70pp) is airmail; shorter sections follow on special aspects. Nine pages cover "dates and facts" for 1945-47. There are many references, and 25 pages of colour illustrations, some are reproduced from photocopies but many are items on the unique side of rare. The book is packed with detail, enviably free of misprints, and repays more than one read-through.

## ***G&CPS Third Reich Study Group***

**News Sheet 116:** Transition to Reichspost part 5; Heligoland; Horst Wessel.

## ***APSUS Journal***

**Vol 4 Nr 1:** VOePh awards for Richard Kruger; Rupert von Trapp in Graz; B&H 1906 stamps with holes; Proofs and Forgeries (Ferchenbauer2000 pp281-284); Galatz Harbour postmarks; Private Essays (Ferchenbauer2000 pp763-5).

**Vol 4 Nr 2:** Premium, Registration, 7-cent & Ergänzungsmarken; The 1858 Issue (Ferchenbauer2000 pp301-5,9-15); sale of items from Vienna-Kyiv flights (some were those illustrated in Ferchenbauer) with realisations (some big; the highest was €2100 plus about 20% assorted charges).

## ***Ukranian Legion Postcards***

Some members may possess "KuK Ukranische Legion 1914-1918" (APS Library item 193A) produced in 1990 by Roman Dubyniak and Peter Cybaniak. Under the auspices of the Roman Dubyniak Ukranian Museum Foundation (which is in Leeds), the same authors have just produced "Ukrainian Legion

Postcards Types 1-6" and "7-17", each some 80 pages spiral bound; and have donated a copy of each to our library. These replace pages 29-46 of KuK Uk. Leg. - but this is 'replace' as in 'Concorde replaced the Tiger Moth'. The works are enormous enhancements: many more types and subtypes have been found, classified and recorded; the illustrations whether colour, sepia or black/white are of high quality, and the text is easy to follow. The dedication is now only in Ukrainian, but this is offset by the colour picture of the production team. These volumes have not been produced for sale, but will be given to anyone who donates Ukrainian material of sufficient rarity to the Foundation. Our library copies have been numbered 193A-1 (if you want one you'll want both..)

## From The Officers

We regret to report the death in Vienna at the end of last year of Truda, wife of Clive Murray. She regularly attended the Fests.

We also regret the death of long-standing member Geoffrey Cantrell.

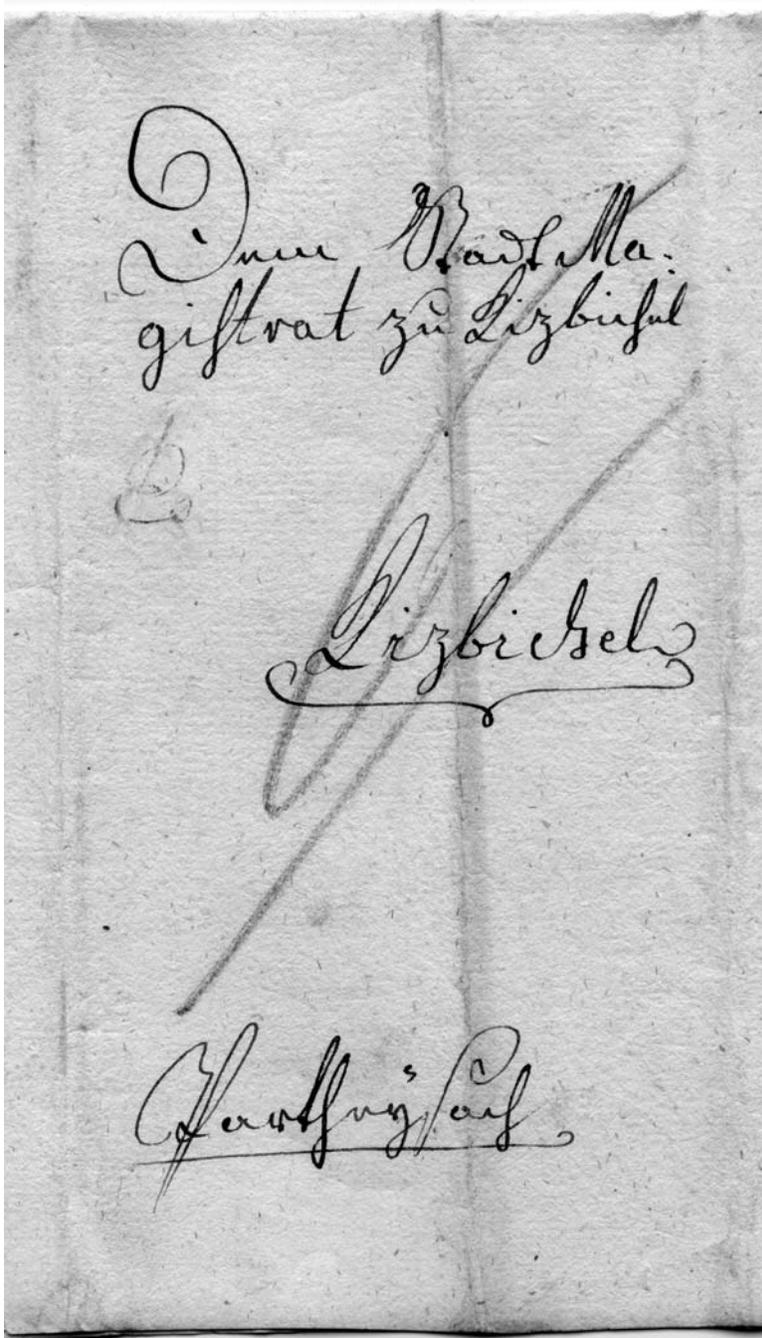
- ❖ Notice of the next AGM of the APS is hereby given: it will be held at 10.45 on Sunday 10 October 2004 at the Honiley Court Hotel.
- ❖ Packet Members are asked to note that Packet Secretary will be on a tour of the old Empire between 28 May & 19th June. If you have a packet to return between 24 May and 19 June please keep it till the 20<sup>th</sup>. Refer all other problems to the Hon Editor.

We would like to welcome the following new members: K Pitt, Frome, Somerset; R Harper, Stockport; R Clegg, Worcester; T Morovics, Czech Republic; M Bridgefoot, High Wycombe.

## My Souvenir from Innsbruck

By Andy Taylor

At the "Tirol 2003 Philatelistischer Salon" held by Innsbruck Merkur on September 5-7, the club members followed the normal Austrian practice of bringing items to sell to each other - and to us. "Look at this", said Joyce, "it's Kitzbühel and might interest you." So I bought it... and it does!

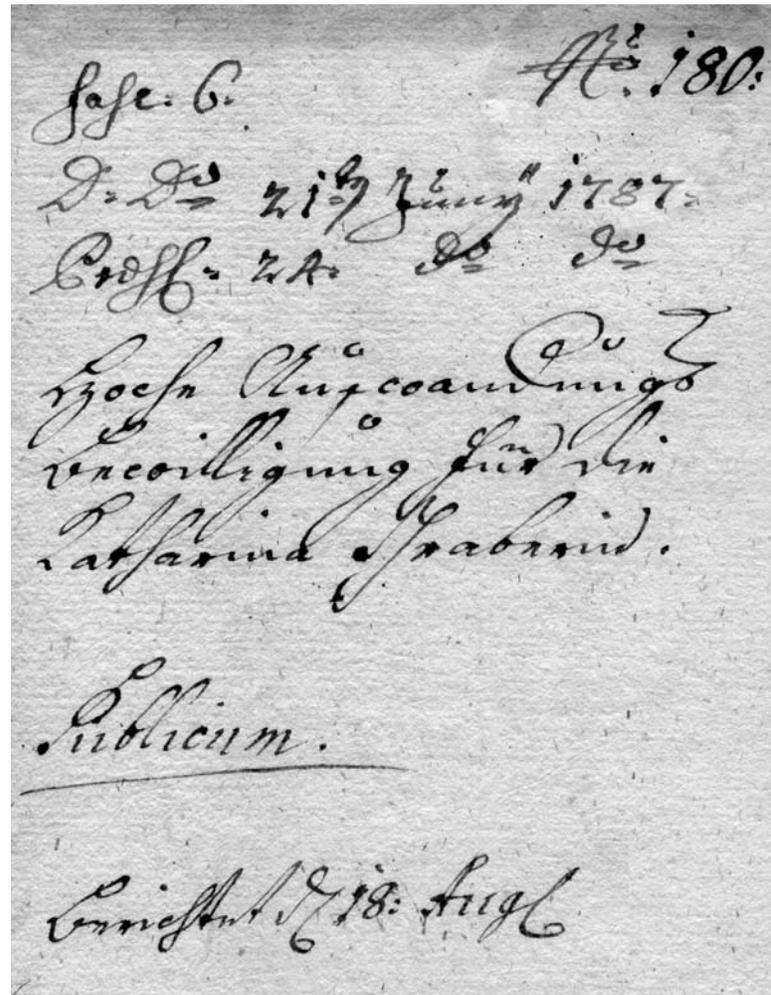


It is addressed to "**Dem Stadt Magistrat zu Kitzbühel / Kitzbühel / Partheysach**" ie "To the local government office of Kitzbühel, at Kitzbühel [a] Partheysach". It was sent in **1787** from the Kreisamt in Schwaz. It's a double sheet of cartridge paper, 445mm x 350mm when opened, and weighs 12±1 grams. If I assume the Vienna system, the Viennese Pound weighed 560 grams and contained 32 Wiener-Loth each of 17.5 grams; so 12 grams = 0.686 Loth which counted as 0.7 and fell into the "1 Loth band". The rate (confirmed by "Über alte Tiroler Briefe", p18: APS Library item 352) for this date for letters within Tirol is "6Kr + 6Kr for 1 Loth". The document has a diagonal red line and the figure 6, which implies that the sender has paid half the rate, leaving the recipient to pay the other half. (The vertical line is

dirt on an old paper fold!) There is no visible mark indicating arrival or payment, which is normal. Anyway, there was no post office at Kitzbühel in 1787; it opened on 1st May 1840. In 1850 the main postal route ran from Wörgl via Söll to St Johann, then to Waidring and onwards to Lofer & Salzburg.

Kitzbüchel was served by a by-post from St Johann and seems to have sent its outgoing mail by a messenger to St Johann, 3 times per week. There may have been a messenger fee, but there is no marking indicating this. See Refs.

On opening it out, further wonders are revealed! The document has a filing note on the back in a different ink (shown here), saying "Hoche Auswand[er]ungs Bewilligung für die Katherina Graberin Berichtet d. 18. Aug." which means "Official emigration permission for Katherina Graber, 18 Aug." [plus assorted file numbers.]



The other half is dated 21 June 1787, with a 10Kr revenue stamp (shown below). The document was sealed with either red paper or very thin wax, with an imprinted seal, and cut around that to open it. The paper has a large Makers Watermark: two outward-looking single-headed eagles supporting a crowned shield with the letters CI / N / II.

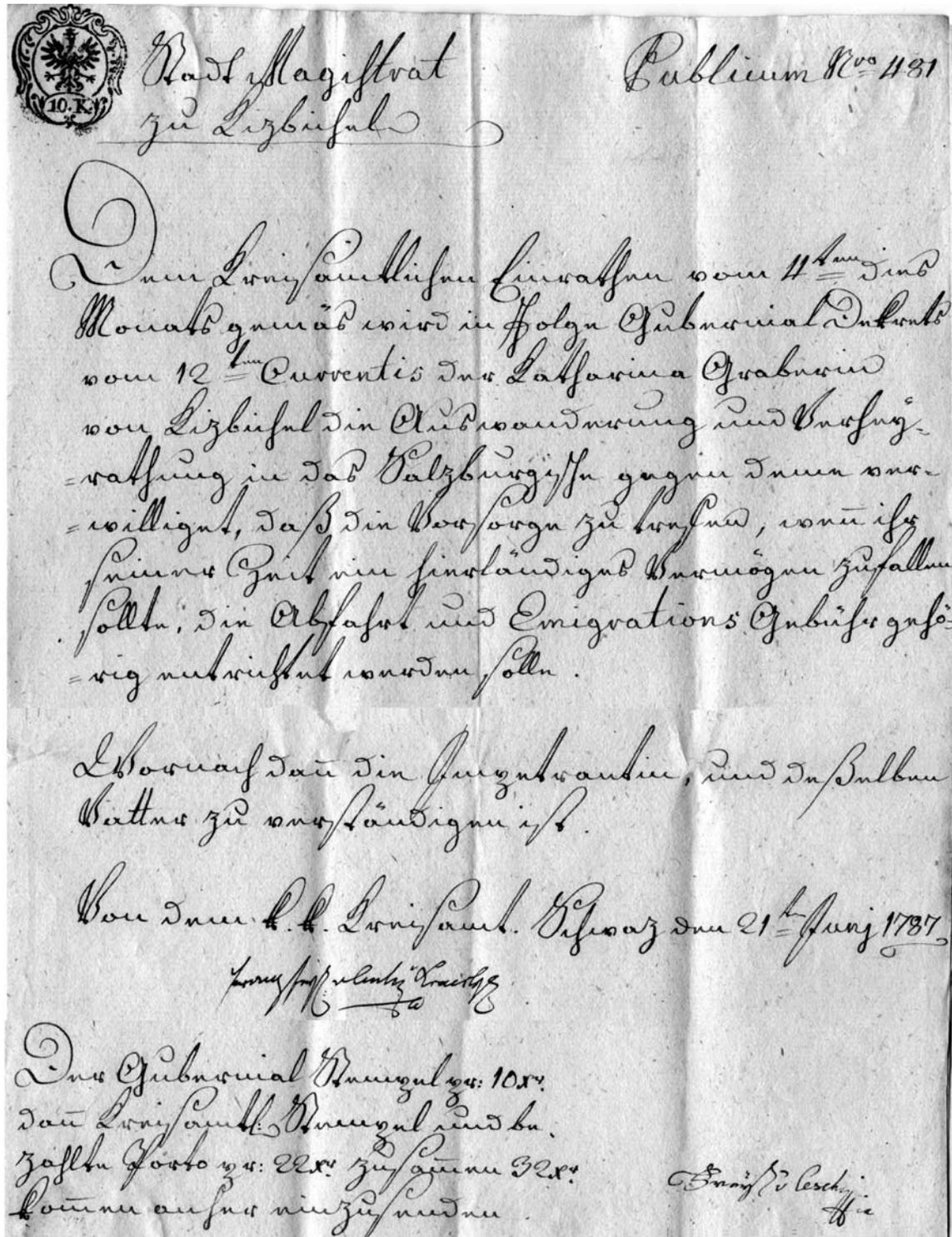
APS library item 377, "Stempelsignetten Katalog von Österreich-Ungarn I.Band: Die Urkundenstempel" by L Hanus, describes documentary stamp tax



imprints up to the introduction of revenue stamps in 1854. It seems that until Josef II's reign the stamp tax was rather chaotic, with different parts of the Empire paying different rates (or none!) all indicated by different imprints. Such untidiness offended him, and he introduced a simpler system, the "Neues Stempelpatente", on 5 June 1784. The Tirol was granted reduced rates, paying 10Kr for documents concerning sums over 100 but not over 500 Gulden; most of the rest of the Empire paid

15Kr for these. The special Tirolean rate was shown by a special imprint; the

10Kr is a rococo frame containing 'a lean eagle'. These rates applied until 1 May 1792, when they were abolished. See Hanus pages 43-44.



### So what is it about?

The document is an official permission to Katherina Graber of Kizbühel to emigrate to Salzburg [NB: in 1787 a separate country from Austria, ruled by the Prince-Archbishop Colloredo] when 32 kreuzer have been paid, and some

arrangement has been made for when she receives property in the Tirol. Incidentally, Decrees of Josef II between 1781 & 1785 abolished the requirement to seek the Feudal Lord's permission before leaving or marrying. Transcribing & translating (with the patient assistance of John Whiteside and Henry Pollak: my thanks to both)...

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Stadt Magistrat zu Kitzbühel Publium Nr 481   | [ <i>Signette</i> ] The Local Government Office of Kitzbühel, Nr 481  |
| Dem Kreisamtlichen Einrathen vom 11ten dieses Monats gemäss wird in Folge Gubernialdekrets vom 12ten Currentis der Katherina Graberin von Kitzbühel die Auswanderung und Verheirathung in das Salzburgische gegen deme verwilliget, daß die Vorsorge zu treffen, wenn ihr seiner Zeit ein hierländiges Vermögen <sup>1</sup> zufallen sollte, die Abfahrt und Emigrations Gebühr gehörig entrichten werden solle. | There follows in accordance with the Kreisamt Council Meeting of the 11 <sup>th</sup> of this month, an Official Decree of the 12 <sup>th</sup> to Katherina Graber of Kitzbühel [ <i>giving her permission to</i> ] emigrate and marry in Salzburg, in accordance with [ <i>the</i> ] full agreement to take precautions for when in due course property <sup>1</sup> devolves upon her in this country; the appropriate leaving and emigration taxes shall be paid. |
| <i>1: Vermögen means especially money - is this her future inheritance?</i>   |   |
| Vornach dann die Impetrantin <sup>2</sup> , und daßelben Vatter zu verständigen ist.  | The petitioner and the father thereof are to be informed of this.   |
| <i>2: derived from the latin 'impetro', meaning "to procure by entreating"?</i>   |   |
| Vor den k.k. Kreisamt Schwaz 21 Juni 1787   | [ <i>done by</i> ] the k.k. Kreisamt at Schwaz 21 June 1787   |
| <i>Signature</i>  |   |
| Der Gubernial Stempel zu 10 kr dann Kreisamth Stempel und bezahlte Porto zu 22kr zusammen 32 kr kommen anher einzusenden.   | The Official Stamp for 10Kr with the Kreisamt Tax and postage [ <i>already</i> ] paid of 22Kr totalling 32Kr require paying.  |
| <i>The same signature</i>   |   |

### ***Further reading***

1. "Der k.k. Post-Direktionsbereich Innsbruck vor 150 Jahren" by Jungwirth & Klieber, in the PKMI Festschrift, APS Library 380.
2. "Ergänzungen zur Postgeschichte 1850-1900 Auszüge aus Amtsbüchern der K.k. Post- und Telegraphen-Direction für Tirol und Vorarlberg", APS Library item 381
3. "Über alte Tiroler Briefe", APS Library item 352

# **THE LAST CRUISE OF SMS KAISERIN ELISABETH: Part IVa**

## **The sailors of the cruiser SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in China**

By Fred Pirotte

### **IV-1 Foreword**

As described in Part II of this article, (*Austria 139, pp86-95*) after the Heir to the throne was murdered at Sarajevo, Freg.Kpt. Makowiz returned with his cruiser to Chefoo Harbour. On 21.07.14, he was ordered to proceed to the roadstead of Tsingtao, where he and the cruiser arrived the day after. On 28.07.14, the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia. The cruiser was prepared for action and the same day the 38 sailors, who had reinforced the Marine Detachments of Peking and Tientsin in October 1913, were recalled to Tsingtao by telegram. Reassembled at Tientsin, they left the Concession by train on 29.07.14 at 9:40 am, accompanied by LSchLt. von Mariasevic, Commandant of the Tientsin Marine Detachment. The sailors embarked on board SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth at Tsingtao on 30.07.14. LSchLt. von Mariasevic left Tsingtao on 01.08.14 and reached Tientsin the day after. On 01.08.14, Vienna ordered Freg.Kpt. Makowiz to send 7 officers and 2 Engineer officers back to Austria. Fig 4-1a&b (below) show the travel-warrant for LSchLt von Mariasevic and the 38 sailors who returned on board SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth.

On 24.08.14, an unsigned message gave the order to lay up the cruiser and send the crew and officers to Tientsin. Only 2 officers (Freg.Kpt. Makowiz and LSchLt. Frölich) and 16 sailors remained on board, and 394 sailors and officers, under the command of Korv.Kpt. Pausperl von Drachenthal, were transported by train to Tientsin, where they arrived on the 26th.

A state of war between Japan and the Central Powers became effective on August 25 and Vienna sent a telegram pointing out that Germans and Austro-Hungarians had to fight "shoulder to shoulder". All the men of the cruiser had to return from Tientsin to Tsingtao as soon as possible. In the meantime, China had declared its neutrality and forbade the return of the sailors. The only solution was to return in small groups, unarmed, dressed like civilians, buying the collusion of the Chinese authorities with bribes. Nevertheless, 2 officers (LSchLt. Gayer, badly ill, and Marinekommissär Skusek) and 96 sailors remained in Tientsin.

K. U. K. Marinedetachment in Peking

K. u. k. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nr. 1



# Marschroute.

I. Teil.

|   |                         |  |   |                              |  |
|---|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Inhaber der Marschroute | <i>Der Detachementkommandant</i>                     |   |                              |  |
| 2 | Reiseweck, Auftrag      | <i>Bombardierung auf S. M. S. Kaiserin Elisabeth</i> |   |                              |  |
|   | Gattung der Reise       | <i>Wanderung</i>                                     |   |                              |  |
| 3 | P e r s o n e n         |  |   |                              |  |
|   | Flagenoffiziere         | Offiziere  | Gagisten der XII. Rangklasse                | Gagisten ohne Rangklasse     | Höhere Unteroffiziere  |
|   | Stabs-                  | Ober-  | Unteroffiziere und Matrosen                 |                              |  |
|   | und Gleichgestellte     |  | Frauen                                      |                              |  |
|   |                         |  | Kinder unter 10 Jahren, u. zw. im Alter von | Kinder über 10 bzw. 12 Jahre | Dienstpersonen (Offiziersdiener und Pferdewärter eingerechnet) |
|   |                         |  | Summe der Personen                          |                              |  |
|   |                         |  | Reisegepäck in kg                           |                              | Übersiedlungsgepäck in kg                                      |
|   |                         |  | persönliches                                | dienstliches                 | Gewicht laut Gebührenschrift                                   |
|   |                         |  |   |                              | Beiläufiges Übergewicht  |
|   |                         |  |   |                              | Gesamtgewicht  |
| 4 | Reiseantrittstag        | <i>29. Juli 1914</i>                                 |   |                              |  |

Der Detachementkommandant  
*Trübholz*  
 in Vertretung

II. Teil. M. R. Prot. Nr. \_\_\_\_\_

|   |   |   |                       |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| Reiseantrittstation   | Zwischenstation auf der gebührrmäßigen Reiseroute   | zur rascheren Erreichung des Reisezieles günstigeren Reiseroute | Reisestation          |
| <i>Hankow</i>   | <i>via Hsinanpi</i>   |   | <i>Wongtan</i>        |
|   |   |   | und zurück nach _____ |
| Transportmittel   |   |   |                       |
| <i>1</i> Eisenbahnfahrkarte <i>1.</i> Klasse                                    |   |   |                       |
| <i>38</i> " " " " " "   |   |   |                       |
| Als Reisevorschuß wurde erfolgt:  |   |   |                       |
| 6   | <i>217 K. 7</i> sage! <i>Zwei hundert siebenundzwanzig Mark</i>                           | Der Zahlmeister:  | Der Kontrollor:       |
| aus der <i>Deutschen</i> Kassa <i>Abzug</i> unter Journalartikel <i>N.º 181</i> |   | <i>Trübholz</i>   | <i>Trübholz</i>       |
| 7   | Die Eisenbahn-(Dampfschiff-)gebühren sind bar zu bezahlen (dem Marineetat zu kreditieren) |   |                       |

*Hankow*, am *28. Juli* 1914.

*Der Reichsgerichtspräsident des Deutschen Reiches*  
*18 = 217 K.*

*Der Reichsgerichtspräsident*  
*Trübholz*

XIX—32. (N. V. Abt. VIII/M. S. Nr. 6884, Nr. 77 ex 1909.)

Raum für Visum und sonstige Bestätigungen.

K. u. k. Marinedetachment Tientsin.

*Japan, im Hafen  
Tientsin am 29. Juli 1914*



Der Detachementkommandant

*Mariasevic*

B. M. S. Kais. Elisabeth

*Gesehen beim Eintreffen!  
Tientsin, am 30. Juli 1914 p.m.*

Der Detachementkommandant

*Der Detailoffice*



B. M. S. Kais. Elisabeth

*Gesehen beim Abgehen!  
Tientsin, am 1. August 1914 a.m.*

*Der Detailoffice*



K. u. k. Marinedetachment Tientsin.

*Gesehen, beim Eintreffen!*

*Tientsin, am 1. August 1914 p.m.*

Der Detachementkommandant

Anmerkung

Bezüglich der Eintragungen in die Rubriken der Marschroute habe ich die Bestimmungen des Anhangs zum Dienstbuche XX-b-3 maßgebend zu sein. In der Rubrik 5 ist die Eisenbahnfahrkarte beziehungsweise der Dampfschifffahrplatz zu bezeichnen anzugeben. — In dieser Rubrik ist auch die eventuelle Benützung von Schnellzügen seitens Gagnisten ohne Rangklasse oder Mannschaftspersonen durch nachstehende Klausel vorzuschreiben: Die Benützung des Schnellzuges ist mit Rücksicht auf die Dringlichkeit der Reise bewilligt.

Die für den Transport für Pferde und Wagen bestrittenen Auslagen sind durch die Bestätigung der Verkehrsanstalt über die geleistete Zahlung (bei Eisenbahntransporten durch den Transportschein) zu begründen. — Die gleiche Bestätigung ist beizubringen, wenn andere als die normalmäßig zukommenden Fahrgebühren aufgerechnet werden; sie hat sich auf den ganzen gezahlten Betrag zu erstrecken.

Ein dienstliches Reisegepäck geringen Gewichtes und Volumens darf in die Marschroute nicht aufgenommen werden.



*Mariasevic*

During the night SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth was scuttled, and it became evident that Tsingtao could not resist. Furthermore, the Austro-Hungarian Legation had pointed out that the Marine Detachments had no artillery abilities. Two days before surrender, Freg.Kpt. Makowiz ordered Franke Alexander, artillery instructor on board of the cruiser, to try to escape from Tsingtao with 11 sailors skilled in artillery, and reach Tientsin. The small group, surviving an eventful journey, succeeded in returning to Tientsin. After Tsingtao forces surrendered on 07.08.14, the 2 officers and 108 sailors were distributed between the Marine Detachments in Peking and Tientsin.

The postal history of the sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in China is presented in these sections:

IV-2 Postal facilities available to the sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in China.

IV-3 The reinforced Detachment: October 1913 to July 1914

IV-4 The sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in the Marine Detachments in Peking and Tientsin: November 1914 to August 1917

IV-5 The sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in the Chinese internment camps: August 1917 to January 1920.

## **IV-2 Postal facilities available to the sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in China.**

After the Boxer war, mail of the members of the Legation Guard Detachment in Peking and of the Guard Detachment in the Etape of Tientsin was gathered in dépêches and handled by the postal facilities on board the Austro-Hungarian station-ships in the Far East. Because of the many difficulties involved in this arrangement, it was decided to put a postal facility inside the premises of the Peking Legation for use by members of both Detachments. By November 1903 this postal facility was operational.

This postal facility had to comply with the rules applicable to a postal facility on board a warship (see Part I, Austria 138, p46). Postal access was limited to mail to and from officers and sailors of the Detachments. Only ordinary and registered letters and cards, printed matter and samples were accepted. Private mail had to be franked with Austrian or Hungarian stamps for addressees residing in the respective country. Stamps were cancelled with the dated postmark of this particular PO. Mail had to be franked at the rate that applied to inland postal traffic. A stock of Austrian and Hungarian stamps was available to the members of the Detachments.

As there was no postal facility at the Austro-Hungarian Tientsin Concession, a post-officer of this Marine Detachment was responsible for collecting postal items, gathering them periodically in parcels and sending them to the Legation postal facility. Conversely, this post-officer received the parcels coming from the Legation postal facility and had to deliver the postal items to the addressees. The despatch of parcels between Tientsin and Peking was effected by the corresponding German Post Offices.

For mail from China to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the dépêches were made up at the postal facility and address to the dedicated sorting PO at Vienna. Conversely, mail destined for members of the Marine Detachments had to be addressed to the dedicated Viennese sorting office WIEN 76 where the dépêches were made up and despatched to Peking.

In both directions, the land postal route using the Trans-Siberian railway was preferred. Dépêches were despatched by the Viennese sorting office to the German PO in Berlin, which despatched them twice a week to the German post agency in Peking. The routes were: Berlin - Moscow - the Trans-Siberian railway - Charbin in Manchouria - Changchun - Tientsin - Peking - Shanghai and, once a week, Berlin - Saint Petersburg - the Trans-Siberian railway - Charbin - Changchun - Tientsin - Peking - Tsingtao.

Delivery took 12 to 13 days, depending on processing delays in China and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Fig. 4-2 Dated postmark of the postal facility. Used until 13.08.1917



**K. U. K. Marinedetachment in Peking.**  
**K. u. K. MARINEDETACHEMENT IN PEKING**



Fig. 4-3 Service handstamps used by the Marine Detachment in Peking. Used until 28.03.1920. From the top:

Type 3, 78x4mm

Type 4, 96x4.5mm

Type 6, 36/24mm dia

Type 7, 35/24mm; violet

Fig. 4-4 Service handstamps used at the Marine Detachment in Tientsin. Used until 13.08.1917. From the top:

Type 5, 83x4.5mm

Type 6, 81x4mm (found in red, blue & black)

Type 8, 36/24mm dia (ditto)

~~K. u. K. Marinedetachment Tientsin~~

K. u. k. Marinedetachment Tientsin.



## **IV-3 Period from October 1913 to July 1914**

### ***Mail to Europe from the reinforced Detachment***

Being integrated in the Peking and Tientsin Marine Detachments, the 38 sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth were granted access to the postal services available at the Legation postal facility. Their mail carried no particular identifying marks, therefore senders names on the back flap have to be compared with the cruiser's crew listing. [NB: the surname comes first! Ed]



Fig. 4-5 Letter sent by Matrose I Kl. Agocs Andreas, of the reinforced Detachment. Postmark Type IV of the postal facility in Peking 22.VI.14. Arrival postmark at Budapest 14 Jun 914.



Fig. 4-6 Letter sent by Steuermatrose I Kl. Petko Andreas, of the reinforced Detachment. Postmark Type IV of the postal facility in Peking, 22.VI.14. Arrival postmark at Orsova 22 Jun 914.

***October 1913 - July 1914 - Trans-Siberian route no longer available.***

Mail bags despatched from Peking on 18.07.14 reached Moscow on 28.07.14 and Berlin on 31.07.14. On 01.08.14, Germany and Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia. The Trans-Siberian route ceased to operate. Mail bags despatched from Peking on 21.07.14 reached Moscow on 31.07.14. Because of the state of war, the mail bags were retained by the Russian PO. Mail bags sent on 22, 25, 28 and 29.07.1914 were stopped in Manchouria, received a Russian censor strike and were returned to the sending agencies in China.



Fig. 4 .7 Envelope sent by Matrose Csanyi Josef of the reinforced Detachment. 10 filler stamp cancelled at the Legation postal facility on 27.07.14. Sent to Europe via the Trans-Siberian route. The envelope received the 3 lines red Russian censor handstamp (Authorised by censorship / Military censorship / Rank and printed signature of the censor) and was returned to Peking where it received a second strike of the postmark dated 22.10.14 and was redirected to Shanghai, thence to Austria via neutral countries. On the back, arrival postmark at Kispet (Hungary) on 18.12.14.

## IV-4 Period November 1914 - August 1917

### *Mail to and from Europe*

At the outbreak of WWI, the Trans-Siberian route was unavailable, the Japanese became enemies, but China remained neutral. To enable the despatch of the Austro-Hungarian and German dépêches for Europe, the German post office in Shanghai used two seamail routes, the choice of which depended on the opportunities:

- ❖ The route Shanghai - Brindisi/Naples. Italy was a neutral state having a common frontier with Austria.
- ❖ The route Shanghai - USA - Amsterdam. The Netherlands was also a neutral state having a common frontier with Germany.

The method used by the German post office was to put the dépêches inside a double packaging, anticipating an inspection. On the external package was written the address of the general post office at Brindisi/Naples or Amsterdam, depending of the route selected. After opening by the neutral PO the internal package was forwarded to the Austrian PO: Wien 76.

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

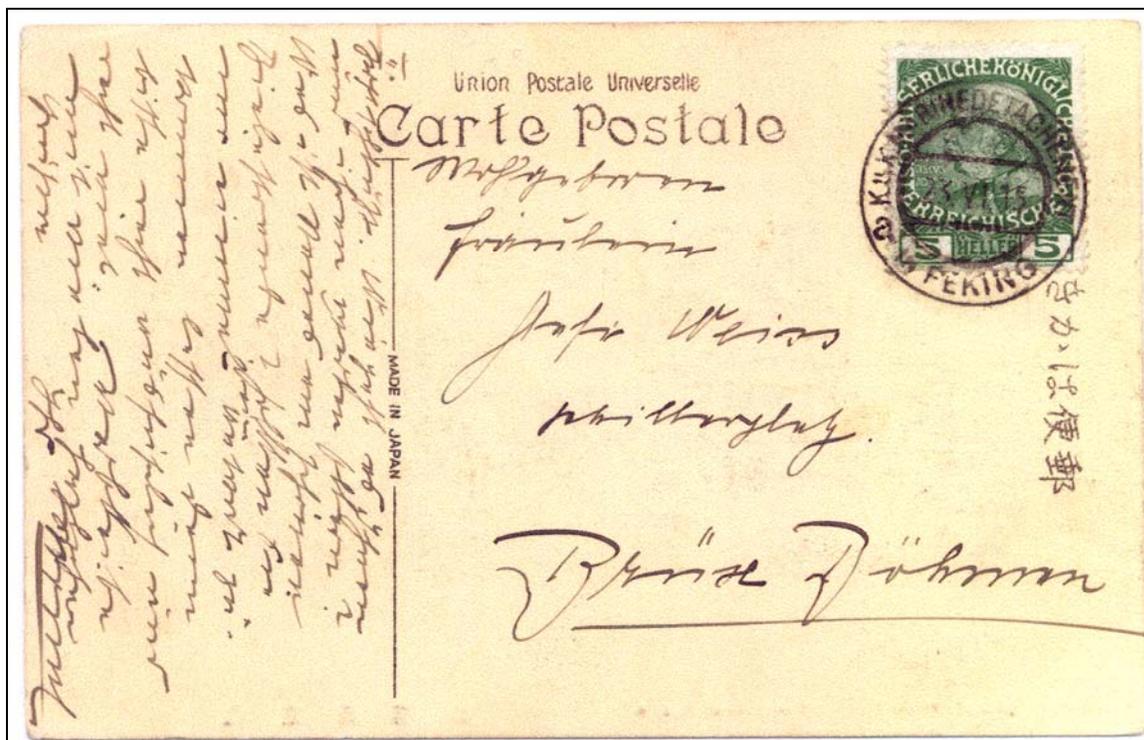


Fig. 4-8 Illustrated postcard sent to Bohemia by an ex-sailor of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth. Dated postmark Type IV of the Legation postal facility.23.06.15.

## *Mail exchanged between China and Japan*

On 20 November 1914, the Japanese postal agencies in China pointed out that ordinary and registered letters and cards, parcels and money orders, would be despatched, free of port, by all Japanese postal agencies in China, to the German and Austro-Hungarian POW in Japanese camps. This was an efficient and rapid means of communication. The average delivery time was 4 to 7 days.

At the beginning of November 1914, there were, in the Peking and Tientsin Detachments, 2 officers and 108 sailors of the Kaiserin Elisabeth. 7 officers and 296 sailors of the Kaiserin Elisabeth were interned in 5 Japanese POW camps. Because of the postal facilities granted by the Japanese Administration, traffic between officers and sailors in China and Japan was significant.

### **Mail from Peking Detachment to Japanese camp**



Fig. 4-9 Illustrated postcard sent by Matrose Szabo Georg (ex-Kaiserin Elisabeth) of the Peking Marine Detachment to Pavel Sandru (ex- Kaiserin Elisabeth) in the Japanese Himeji camp. Postmark of I.J.P.O. in Peking dated 05.12.14. On view side, arrival posmark of the Himeji PO 09.12.14. At the Himeji camp, orange Furyoyubin handstamp. It was normally prohibited to write in Rumanian because the Japanese censor could only read German.

### Mail from Tientsin Detachment to Japanese camp



Fig. 4.10 Illustrated postcard sent by Matrose Kazan Nicolaus (ex-Kaiserin Elisabeth) of the Tientsin Marine Detachment to Pavel Sandru in the Himeji camp. Dated postmark of I.J.P.O in Tientsin 07.12.14. Arrival postmark of the Himeji PO 12.12.14. In the camp of Himeji, orange 'Furyoyubin' handstamp. Written in Rumanian.

### Mail from Japanese camp to Peking Detachment

Fig. 4-11 (top illustration, next page) shows a propaganda postcard sent by Steurgast Jeschke Josef (ex-Kaiserin Elisabeth) in Japanese Himeji camp to Maschinen Maat Stecura Adam in the Peking Marine Detachment. Postmark of the Himeji PO 04.02.15. In the Himeji camp 'Furyoyubin' and 'Kenetsuzumi' handstamp. Han handstamp of the Inada censor. Direction China - Peking in Japanese black script. Arrival dated postmark Peking / Deutsche Post 12.02.15.

### Rupture of diplomatic relations

On 14 March, resulting from diplomatic pressures of UK, France and USA, China broke off diplomatic relations with the Central Powers. One consequence was the immediate closure of all the German postal agencies in China.



Fig. 4-11 Steuergast Jeschke Josef's postcard



Fig. 4-12 Last invoice delivered by the German postal agency in Tientsin to the Austro-Hungarian Detachment. Postmark of the German post agency in Tientsin 12.03.17. Signed by LSchLt Topil, commandant of the Detachment and a strike of the red service handstamp: KuK Marine Detachment Tientsin.

## **IV-5 Period from 14 August 1917 to 23 January 1920**

### ***IV-5-1 China declared war on the Central Powers***

In the Chinese Presidential declaration, dated August 14, 1917, is written:

“It is hereby declared, against Germany as well as Austria-Hungary, that a state of war exists, commencing from 10 o'clock of this 14th day of the 8th month of the 6th year of the Republic of China”

As a consequence, the same day at 9 am, three armed Dutch soldiers carrying 3 Dutch flags went to the main gate of the Austro-Hungarian Legation. They notified the state of war. The Austro-Hungarian flags were removed and replaced by the Dutch flags.

A unit of 30 Dutch soldiers replaced the Austro-Hungarian sentries. The 3 officers and 119 sailors of the Marine Detachment in Peking were considered as being interned in the Legation area.

On 17 August 1917, 2 officers and 48 sailors of the Marine Detachment in Tientsin arrived at the Peking Legation.

On 13 September 1917, the internees were notified that they would leave Peking the following day at 5am to be transferred to an internment camp. Throughout the night, material and luggage was loaded onto 75 Chinese carts.

Two officers, Linienschiffsleutnant Gayer and Marinekommissär Skusek, and two non-commissioned officers, were considered to be neutral foreigners and remained at the Dutch Legation.

The remaining 3 officers and 165 sailors walked to the Peking Central Railway station, and were conveyed on a special train. After 45 minutes, they reached Tsing Hu Yuan station. The officers were welcomed by Chinese officers and politely transported by car to the internment camp of Hsi Yuan. After a two hour walk, the 165 sailors reached the camp of Hsi Yuan.

### ***IV-5-2 Internment Camp Hsi Yuan: 14 September 1917 - 10 April 1918***

Hsi Yuan camp was in the middle of a large barrack complex of 95 buildings named Hsi Yuan Sao Yin Su.

## Postal services in the camp

During their detention in the camp of Hsi Yuan, the Austro-Hungarian internees never received mail from Europe. They only received mail from friends living in China and from the sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in the POW camps in Japan. From 17 October 1917, they were allowed to send one letter per week to their relatives in Europe, to friends in China or to prisoners in the Japanese camps. Mail to Europe was handled by the Dutch Legation in Peking and forwarded through the Dutch Red Cross. Mail to and from the POW camp in Japan was despatched by the I.J.P.O. in China. Mail to or from China was despatched by the Chinese Peking PO.

The Hsi Yuan postal facility used:

- ❖ A violet handstamp with SdPdG in French and in Chinese characters. There were two types. Type 1, where the SdPdG words were printed for each language on one line. Type 2, where the French SdPdG words were printed on two lines and the Chinese characters on only one line. Mainly used on outgoing mail,
- ❖ A violet double oval censor handstamp. The outer oval line was jagged. On the lower part, between both ovals was the name of the camp. This handstamp was printed on outgoing and incoming mail.

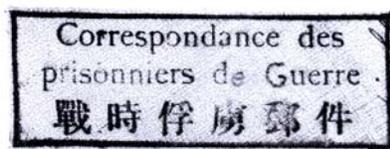


Fig. 4-13 Handstamps used in the camp of Hsi Yuan. From the top:

Type 1 Frame handstamp 105x14mm

Type 2 Frame handstamp 53x18mm

Type 3 Double oval handstamp

### Mail from POW camp in Japan to Hsi Yuan camp



Fig. 4-14 Postcard sent by Matrose Orescanin Milan (Banjaluka-Bosnia), in Aonogahara camp, to Adam Stecura. Orescanin used the name of the complex, not that of the camp. Combined handstamp of Aonogahara and destination handstamp "China - Peking". Arrival postmark Peking 17.12.17. Oval censor handstamp of Hsi Yuan.

### Mail from Peking to Hsi Yuan camp

Fig. 4-15 (next page, top) shows a Chinese stationery postcard with greetings for New Year 1918 sent by Kolar Karl (ex-Kaiserin Elisabeth) to Stecura Adam from Peking. Cancelled by the postmark of Peking. On arrival, SdPdG Type 1 and oval censor handstamps of the camp.

### Mail from Hsi Yuan camp to Austria

Fig. 4-16 (below) Letter sent by Artillery Instructor Franke Alexander (ex-Kaiserin Elisabeth), with the assistance of the Austrian Administrative team near the Dutch Legation. It received SdPdG handstamp Type 2 and, on the reverse, the oval censor handstamp. The letter was controlled by a British censor. On the flap of the envelope, the number 42 after the name is the registration number of Franke allocated on his arrival at the camp. Alexander Franke was the leader of the small group of sailors who escaped from Tsingtao on 5 November 1914 and succeeded in getting to Tientsin. His daily reports from October 1913 to January 1920, now in the War Archive in Vienna, provide a wealth of information on this critical period.

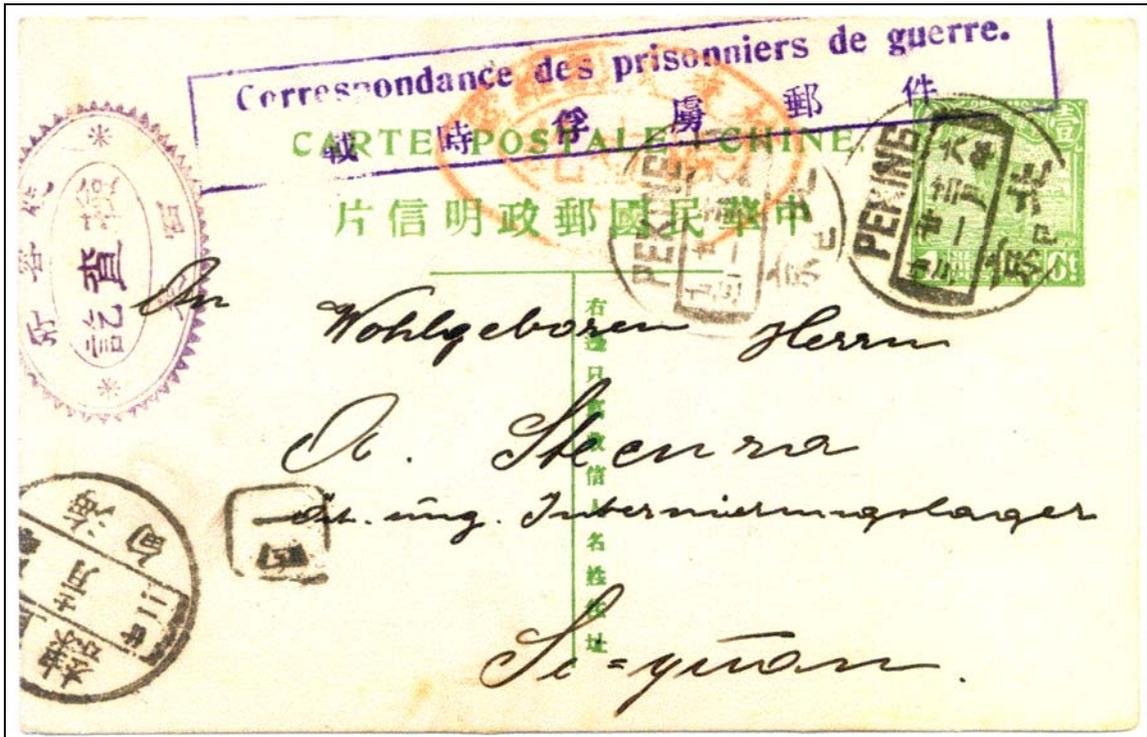


Fig. 4-15.

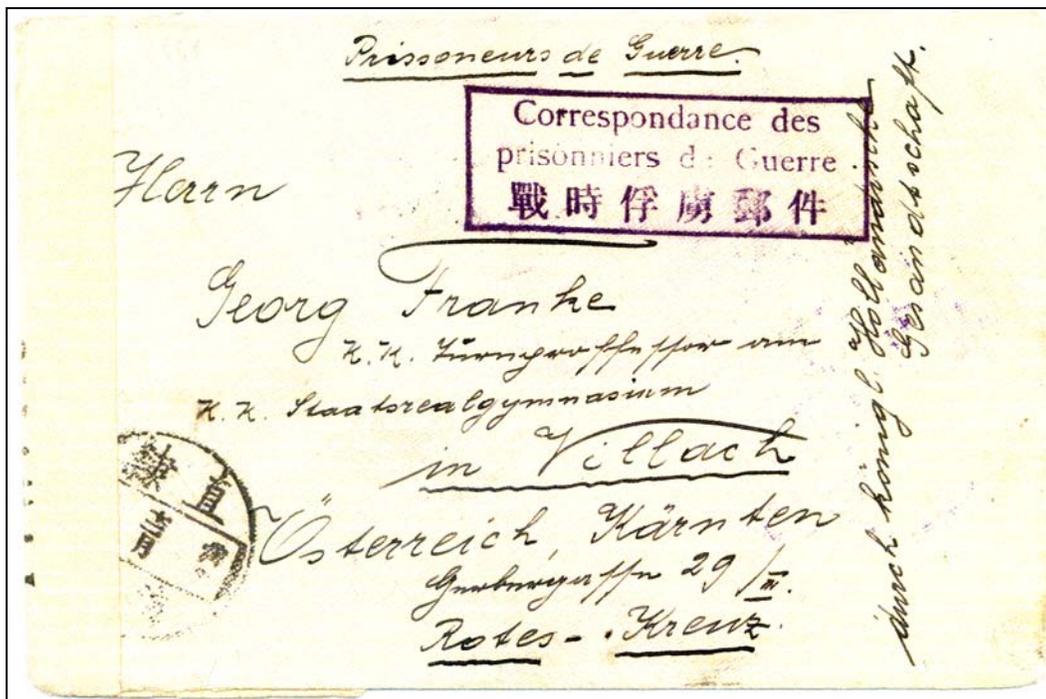


Fig. 4-16, front

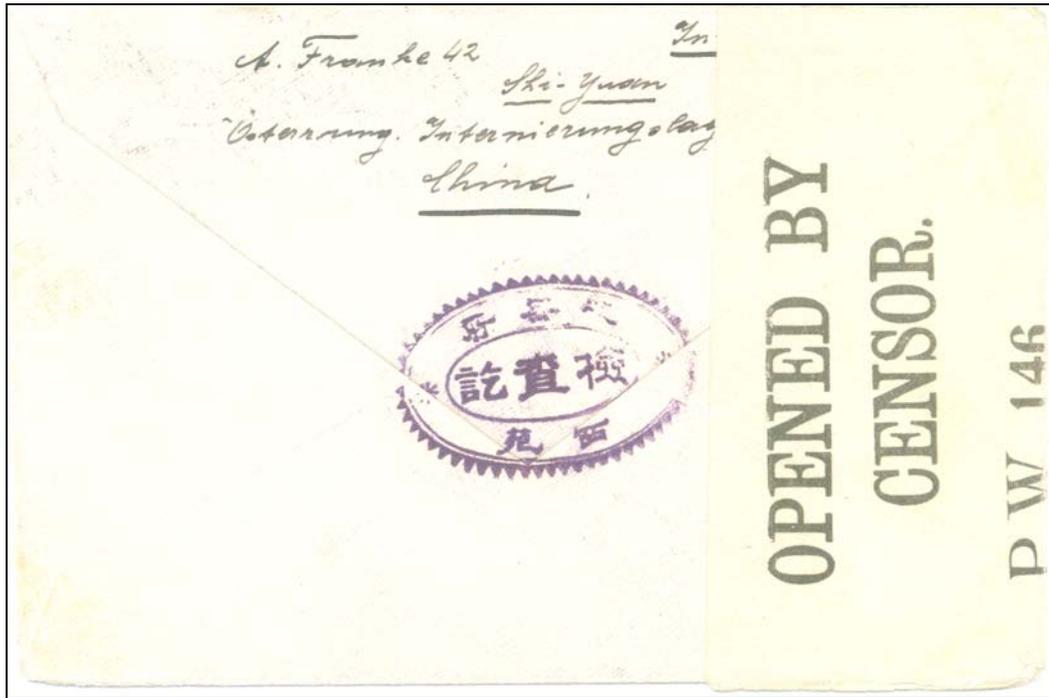


Fig 4-16, back

### Mail from Hsi Yuan camp to Peking

At Hsi Yuan camp, water delivered by the fountains was infested by the typhus bacillus. Three weeks after their arrival in the camp, 3 prisoners were contaminated and had to be carried to the German hospital in Peking. The number of contaminated prisoners increased dramatically. There were several representations on behalf of Austro-Hungarian internees to find a healthier detention camp. It was only on 8 April 1918 that it was officially declared that the internees were to be transferred, two days later, to the site of Wan Shou Sze.

Fig. 4-17 (top of next page) shows a postcard sent by an internee in Hsi Yuan to Franz Röhler (ex-Kaiserin Elisabeth), receiving treatment in the German hospital in Peking. SdPdG Type 2 and oval censor handstamps of the camp. Postmark of the Chinese PO in Peking 29.12.17.



Fig. 4-17 Postcard sent to Franz Röhler

***Part IVb, planned to appear in the next issue of "Austria", will contain:***

IV-5 The sailors of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth in the Chinese internment camps: August 1917 to January 1920 - continued

IV-6 Return to the Legation barracks at Peking,

IV-7 The return to Europe.

spacer page

## Signets as Newspaper Tax Stamp cancellers

By A Taylor

This note is based on information from J L Whiteside FRPSL, who has had to explain it to the Editor on more than one occasion ☺, for which I thank him.

Newspaper Tax Stamps were introduced on 1 March 1853; signets (or signettes) were not used between 1.11.1854 & 1.1.1858; Newspaper Tax was abolished from 1.1.1900. Hence this article concerns itself only with the period **1.1.1858-31.12.1899**. The quite different Signets used before then are not found as Tax Stamp cancellers. Consideration of these, & Newspaper Tax Stamps in general, have appeared in this Journal in the past, and may well do so in the future.

*Newspaper Tax Signets in this period come in three types only:*



The left-hand one was used 1858-1885; it is a double eagle in a 19½ mm single circle, with no inscription value or date. It has a number at the bottom, which is that of the stamping machine, which normally was an integral part of the newspaper printing press. In theory it was struck in black ink for normal papers, red for evening editions, and blue for extra editions; in practice black was usually used for all. The value was 1, or occasionally 2, Kreuzer.

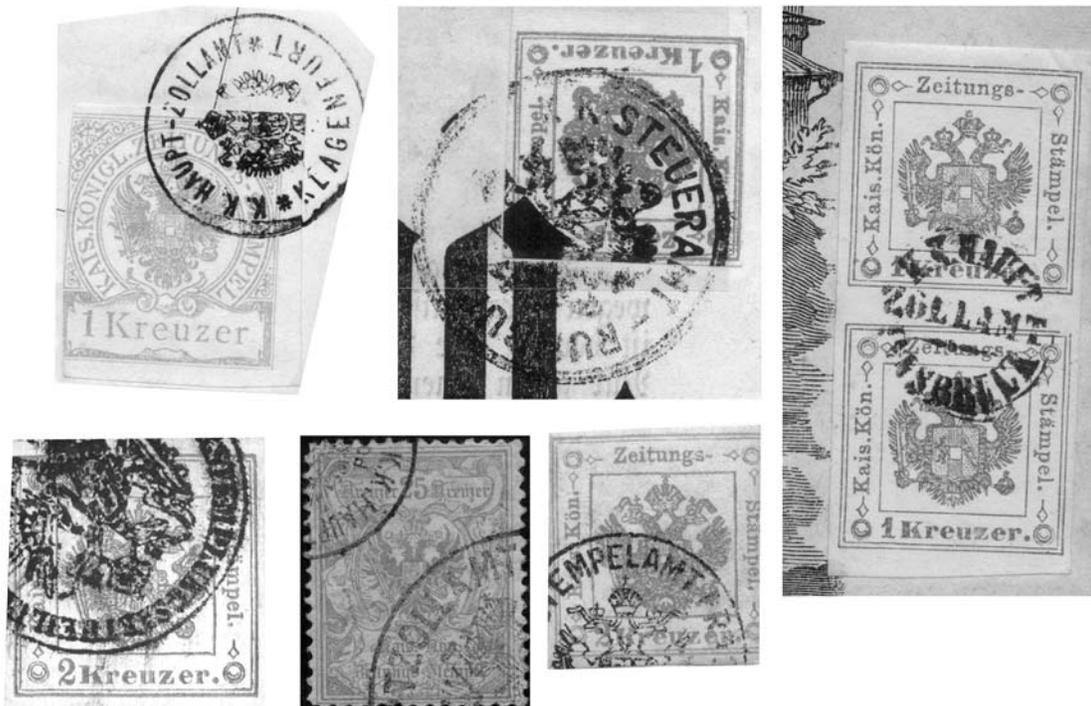
The centre one was used 1885-1899; it is a double eagle in a 21½ mm double circle, with no inscription value or date. The stamping machine number is at the bottom; the value 1Kr. Again, black, red, and blue were prescribed and black used. A variety with 19½ mm dia & the number 150 was used by the Fremdenblatt in Vienna. Another variety was worth 2Kr and has a '2' in the centre; this with machine number 17 was used in Lemberg from 1887-1899; with machines 4, 7 & 11 in Vienna; and with machine 10 at an unknown place.

The right hand one was used 1898-1899, and is inscribed in Czech for use in Bohemia & Moravia. The outer circle can be heavy or light; the value is 1Kr. It is somewhat rare!

The Signet has an intrinsic value; so if found "cancelling" a tax stamp their value has to be added to that of the tax stamp. This is a most unusual usage, as Signets and Newspaper Tax Stamps were applied by different organisations in different places. However it is not unknown: this is Signet number 2 on an 1859 tax stamp, ANK2, and a few others are recorded in the literature.



All other cancellers are just that - ie, they show that the stamp has been used. This applies to all Zollamt, Zeitungsamt, Steueramt and similar types. For the future avoidance of doubt (not least that of the Editor), **NONE** of the following motley collection are Signet cancels!



## Questions, Answers, Letters...

### *Korrekctions (now a regular feature @...)*

Austria 140 p60 Fig.III-5 - see letter below from Fred Pirotte.

Austria 144 p34: the review is by Joyce Boyer, the book is by Gerhard Bock.

Austria 145 p20: Type VIII-112 is Office 64 not 664

### *Dear Editor,*

Having just received "Austria" No.145 and read it with interest I feel that it would not perhaps come amiss if I were to comment on the registered item from Olmütz to Billin on page 31. There certainly was a through service from Böhmisches Trubau to Aussig, and it did convey a TPO, one of the earliest ones to be set up. The actual course was Wien-Bodenbach, it called at Böhmisches Trubau and connected with service from Olmutz which also conveyed post, this train called at Aussig just short of Bodenbach.

The timings at the time of the item under consideration I cannot confirm, but just before WW I they were as follows: Olmütz dep. 09:43; B. Trubau arr 11:52; dep 12:06; Prag arr 14:47 dep 14:56; Aussig Staatsbf arr 16:40 dep 17:20; Aussig Teplitzbf arr 17:23 dep 18:50; Billin arr 20:20

Obviously these timings may not have been the same when this letter was on its way, but it does show that such a rapid transit was possible, I bet you can't achieve such a rapid connection today although of course these days there are regular through trains from Olomouc to Praha obviating the change at Ceska Trebova, but then the post no doubt goes by road anyway.

*Tom Marsh*

☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

### *Dear Editor,*

**SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth.**

Further to Professor Zimmerl's comments in 'Austria 145' p.43 on my article in 'Austria 140', I should firstly take this opportunity to correct an error in the description of Fig.III-5 (illustrated on p.60). This postcard had been sent previously to sailor Hlavica of SMS KE, not Iglseider as stated. Sailors often sent mail to themselves when visiting a port of call. On 8.11.13 Hlavica sent the card from Nagasaki, where SMS KE was docked from 4.11 to 15.12.1913 for

repairs. He sent this same card to Iglseider in Brunn in 1919 after scratching out the existing comments (and his own address), but leaving the stamp on the picture side.

Secondly, regarding Prof. Zimmerl's suggestion that the cards look philatelically inspired, it is worthy of note that Hlavica and Iglseider were friends and both were from Brunn (confirmed in the former's case by the Japanese Administration's POW listing), increasing the probability of a legitimate, normal correspondence. Furthermore, the three cards sent to Iglseider by Hlavica from different POW camps have been normally processed and carry markings common to many other items present in my collection, in other major collections and offered by leading auction houses. Would Professor Zimmerl please clarify his comment to the effect that "somehow the cards ... look philatelically inspired"?

## ***Fred Pirotte***

### ***What is this?***



A pair of stamps? labels? They show a typical Tirol mountain village house complete with background alp; AUSTRIA at the top; "10 Schillings" at the bottom; coarse-screen printed; with one large side perf as on current GB definitives.



## ***News: Display at the Germany & Colonies P.S.***

On the 6th March 3 members of the APS were enthusiastically thanked for their displays at the Civil Service Club London. Brian Madley commenced the proceedings with his display of 98 sheets of the Anschluss period showing the majority of the commemorative issues on commercial covers; many of these stamps were printed by the Austrian State Printing Works.

Geoff Richardson displayed 45 sheets of the German slogan cancels used on mail originating from former Austria during 1938-1945.

Colin Tobitt started his display of 45 sheets with 15 sheets of the 1945 Provisional Issues for Vienna and Graz. The next 15 sheets showed locally overprinted Hitler Heads from a selection of towns, some of which were official whereas others were sold to raise money for rebuilding etc. The final sheets covered the 1945/55 period of censorship in the French Zone of Austria (Vorarlberg & Tirol).

***The Royal Philatelic Society London: Minutes of Meeting***  
***No.7: Thursday, 8 January 2004 at 1pm:***  
**The Austrian Philatelic Society (APS)**

By Keith B Fitton FRPSL, Hon Secretary

The President, David Beech, welcomed 56 Fellows and Members and no fewer than 24 Guests to this display and extended a special welcome to recently joined Member, Dickson Preston from Seattle, USA. He noted that 24 guests was a very high number and offered scope for increasing the membership of the Royal!

The Austrian Philatelic Society was founded in 1948 and today has some 250 members, one third of whom live outside the UK. The displays covered a long period of time, from pre-stamp years to the 1950s. Twenty members had mounted the 31 exhibits, each of one or two frames. These included:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| M Brumby:       | Prephilately of Dalmatia; and Revenues;   |
| P Taylor:       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Issue 1850 - 1858; and 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Issues 1860 - 1868;                      |
| C Tobitt:       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Issue 1858 - 1860; and French Censorship of Austrian Civil Mail, 1945 - 1953; and Pneumatic Mail; |
| J Cottrell:     | 6 <sup>th</sup> Issue 1868 - 1883; and Exotic Air Mails;  |
| G Richardson:   | Postal Stationery Postcards; and Trieste Cancellations;   |
| A Taylor:       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Republic Charity Issues; and Postablagen;   |
| J Hooper:       | Inflation; and WWI Civil Censorship;  |
| R Dixon:        | Anschluss;  |
| E Oberthaler:   | Levant;   |
| B Madeley:      | Bosnia;   |
| Mrs J Boyer:    | Ötztal Postal History; and Innsbruck Winter Olympics;   |
| H White:        | Vienna combined Town and Registration Marks;  |
| J Pitts:        | Air Mails; and The Austrian Telephone Service;  |
| H A Smith:      | Stamped Telegraph Receipts; and The Danube Steam Navigation Co.;  |
| J Whiteside:    | The Genesis of Parcel Cards in the Austrian Empire;   |
| W Sandrik:      | The Austro-Americana Shipping Line;   |
| Mrs L Bosworth: | Naval Mail: The Danube Flotilla;  |
| F Pirotte:      | Naval Mail: The Bug, Styr and Vistula Flotillas; and The last voyage of the SMS Kaiserin Elizabeth;               |
| B Presland:     | WW I Medical Units;   |

From this list can be seen the wide range of subjects covered in the display. Of the many especially attractive items on show, one can identify only a few of the treasures; among them: the pre-adhesive items in frame 1 including the 1818

letter and the 1842 wrapper from Lesina to Cattaro and the 1844 letter and 1848 wrapper from Curzola to Lesina and Zara respectively.

The Austro-Americana Shipping Line was established in 1903 at Trieste and maritime mail posted on board its vessels is not readily found. There were 2 items posted on board the SS Oceania with differing ships cancellations and cachets, one, a picture post card sent to Perugia in 1908 with the only known example of the ship's cancellation on the stamp and the other, also a picture post card, mailed in 1910 and addressed to Trieste.

There was also riverine mail in the form of cards sent between 1916-1918 with the free frank privilege from Austrian Naval Flotillas on the rivers Vistula, the Bug and the Styr - the latter two rivers enjoying a small flotilla comprising only 4 motorboats.

Austria was the first country to issue adhesive documentary revenue stamps in 1854 and these were on show in some quantity with others issued over the following 150 years. Another first was mail carried on the 1<sup>st</sup> International Air Mail Service in 1918 which operated between Vienna and Kiev. Initially only military mail was carried along this route but civilian mail was allowed from March 1918 but only as far as Lemberg while a side route was opened in July of that year between Vienna and Budapest.

Before thanking the visitors, The President, David Beech, wished everyone a Happy New Year. He went on to congratulate the APS on its excellent range of displays which reflected the history of the country and the result of political developments and inflation. It was very well balanced show and there was something in it for everyone. He also expressed his thanks for the illustrated brochure which also listed all the subjects which it had not proved possible to include in the display - the list ran to 26 subjects! David further thanked the APS for providing copies of recent issues of their Society Journal to those present, noting that the Society's Library fortunately contains a complete run.

In particular David thanked the President, Martin Brumby, for the splendid show, and Hans Smith who had master minded the event, and then presented Martin with the Society's plaque.

In reply, Martin extended warm thanks to the Royal for their kind invitation to display. He likened it to an amateur rugby player appearing at Twickenham, or closer to philatelic home, a red letter day! He also wished to thank all his members for their exhibits and the staff of the Royal for looking after them so well.

The President then closed the meeting while observing that all present were invited to wine and nibbles at 5.15pm, courtesy of the Austrian Philatelic Society.



**Festschrift produced in 1907 for the Central  
Telegraph Office in Borseplatz, Vienna.**

A wonderful example of Jugendstil, the Austrian version of Art Deco.  
Compare it with the 1908/13 Postage Due stamps.

### ***Forthcoming attractions...***

Here are some of the topics which may become articles in future: your Editor is omnivorous but not omniscient, and many have been or will have to be written by others! Offers of assistance gratefully received.

A-H army in Ukraine; A-H forces in Fiume in WWI; Angelika Kaufmann; Austria TPO timetable for 2002; Austrian postal labels; Bonusbriefs; Bosnia & Herzgowina Red Cross "stamps"; British Troops in Austria; Bukowina office list (up to 1950); Romanian TPOs in Bukowina; Fieldpost in Turkey; First Republic charity issues surcharges; German Postal Stat cards used after Anschluss; Introduction of the Schilling; Dirigibles; Kaprunental; Lake Garda in WWI; Meter Marks & similar; Newspaper TAX stamps; Parcel Cards from Serbia in 1917; Postage Dues; Postal Forms as used in Austria; Postal History of Solbad Hall; Poste Restante rates & practices; Registration Rates pre-1850; Reintroduction of postal service in 1945 in Russian Zone; Salzburg - Bad Ischl-Bahn Bummel; Stamp booklets and wallets; Stamp Protokoll Books; Tarnstempels in WWI; Taxquadrats; The Austrian Navy in WWI; The German Enclave of Southern Moravia; Tirol emergency post; Verrechnungsmarken; the "Violet Mercury" 1867 Newspaper stamp; and Wertkarten.



*[Editorial, continued from page 3]* So although the Weinig's escape from the Nazis was late, they were able to take with them a considerable quantity of personal belongings, chief of which was Steuermann's Bösendorfer piano. In England Karl was interned on the Isle of Man at the outbreak of the war, then joined the British Army, which renamed him Charles Wing.

In 1948 Magdalena and the piano moved to New South Wales, Australia, soon joined by Charles. Although she still gave recitals and chamber music performances, most of her musical energy was now directed towards teaching. She used the Busoni method, which she had been taught by Steuermann, who had learned it from the master himself. One of her adult students in Australia, who became a very close personal friend, was Einir Brunckhorst (born in Old North Wales!): and it is she and her husband Lee (born in USA) whom I have been proud to assist in restoring the Kuh and Weinig material to Austria. The Austrian Government Museums are also seeking to purchase and repatriate the Bösendorfer piano!