

# AUSTRIA

**Edited by Andy Taylor**

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## Editorial 151

By Andy Taylor

# More articles urgently wanted.

Welcome to “Austria Lite”. Herzlichen Dank, Freunde... merci, mon ami... transatlantic thanks... and also to the four UK members who have contributed to 2005’s issues. To the rest of the UK readership: if you don’t write it then sooner rather than later you’ll not read it. However, the years pass by and I’m ageing gracelessly (as a tactful friend put it) so perhaps I should adopt the Straussian attitude: *Glücklich ist, wer vergißt, was doch nicht zu ändern ist* - or as the apocryphal nun put it, Dear Lord, give me the strength to change what I can, the patience to accept what I can't change, and the wisdom to tell the difference."

Many of you will know of the Bakewell Pudding, and some may have visited the eponymous village in the Derbyshire Dales. I did, in May, and was astounded to discover the “Tiroler Stüberl” next to the chief pudding shop – it sells a wide range of imported Austrian sausages and other such delicacies. “Worth a detour”, as Michelin says.

Check your “Round Tuit” boxes! Corinphila of Zürich have recently sold for 300,000 Euro a specimen on cover of the 1867 3-Kreuzer error of colour (red instead of green; a 3-Kr cliché was included when assembling a forme of 5-Kr clichés). There are six examples of this error known: two on cover, one on a piece and three loose. According to Ferchenbauer2000 (p455) they were all sold in the south of Hungary; the loose stamps typically fetch 45,000 Euro at auction and the other cover was sold in 1997 for 210,000 U S Dollars.

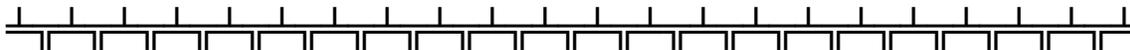
*E* *incomium for Mag. Klaus Schöpfer, on the occasion of the presentation of the Ehrennadel for his services to Austrian philately at the Verbandstag in Salzburg (21 May 2005). Delivered by Dr. Hans Moser, Obmann PhK Merkur Innsbruck*

**M**ag. Klaus Schöpfer has been active in international philately for decades, and he regularly and at his own expense visits international exhibitions, where the personal contacts he makes are essential to the good reputation of Austrian philately. His exhibits have achieved recognition at for example Sindelfingen and in Belgium. He has published new knowledge on Austrian postal history in Germany, Austria and Italy in the Swiss “Postgeschichte”, in the WIPA-2000 Festschrift, and in the Schriftenreihe [*the*

*handbook series*] of the PKMI; as well as disseminating his knowledge through lectures. By virtue of his sound knowledge of many areas of philately, his advice and his opinion are in great demand not only at the weekly discussion evenings of PKMI but also internationally. It is no secret if I say that some other associations envy this, because he is a very active member of our association, and despite professional obligations maintains a close contact with our meetings.



**W**hen Mag. Klaus Schöpfer succeeded the long-serving Obmann Heribert Hartmair he revitalised the activities of the Association. The first-ever Philatelic Salon was organized in Innsbruck, and also the activities were moved away from “Presentations” to increased study of Postal History. He supported the establishment of the “Schriftenreihe” of the PKMI (*booklet series; most are in the APS library*); also during his tenure as Obmann the decision was made and the large financial implication accepted that PKMI should acquire their own easy-to-use exhibition frames. He has participated in the organisation of a series of further events such as exhibitions, Salons and presentations. Likewise he has been an enthusiastic organizer of philatelic symposia on such themes as Bosnia; Tirol-Philately and the Levant. In international philately he is active as secretary of the AIEP [=Association Internationale des Experts en Philatelie], and he is recognised as an expertiser for Austrian and Bosnian postal history.



And our congratulations to five members of Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck who displayed at the Rang I Exhibition in Graz “Marke und Münze” held 10-12 June 2005. Klaus Schöpfer showed “Postal traffic from Austria to Italy during the Risorgimento 1848-1870” for which he was awarded a Large Gold (92 Points) and the Prize of Honour; Robert Egger showed “The Postal District of Kufstein” and got a Gold (86 Points); Johannes and Dorothea Haslauer obtained a Large Vermeil with Commendation (83 points) for “The world’s first postcard”; and Nikolaus Fuchs of Kitzbühel displayed “Postally-correct frankings from Austria in 1945” in the Court of Honour.

**More articles urgently wanted.**

# POSTAL HISTORY OF THE AUSTRO- HUNGARIAN EMPIRE IN THE FAR EAST, 1898 - 1920

By Fred Pirotte

*Editorial note: The complete work is in six major chapters:*

- I First contacts with China*
- II The Boxer War (June 1900 - July 1901)*
- III The Marine detachments in Peking and Tientsin (August 1901 - August 1917)*
- IV Stations ships in the Far East (August 1901 - October 1913)*
- V The last cruise of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth (October 1913 - November 1914)*
- VI The POW camps in Japan (November 1914 - March 1920)*
- VII The internment camps in China (August 1917 - April 1920)*

*Chapters V to VII have already been published in 'Austria' issues 138-140 & 145-147; this article is the first instalment of chapters I & II; chapters III & IV are under way and are expected to be complete next year.*

## I - FIRST CONTACTS WITH CHINA

### *1 FIRST TRADING CONTACTS*

Under the Treaty of Rastatt (17 March 1714) at the end of the War of Spanish succession, Austria received the Spanish Netherlands (present day Belgium and Luxembourg). In 1715, the trading ships 'Charles' and 'Empereur Charles III', sailing under the Austrian flag, left Ostend harbour and reached China at Canton. They returned to Ostend laden with porcelain, silk and tea. Having been educated at the Spanish court, Austrian Emperor Charles VI realised the commercial potential of such expeditions and their implications for the Austrian Treasury.

In 1722, Charles VI granted a 30-year trading charter to an Ostend-based company, the 'Compagnie Imperiale et Royale établie dans les Pays Bas Autrichiens', to trade with the West Indies and China. This 'Ostender

Kompanie', a rival of the English and Dutch East Indies Companies, made a large profit, a significant part of which was given up to the Austrian Treasury.

Because of the political problems between England and the Netherlands, in 1731, under the terms of the Treaty of Vienna, the Ostender Kompanie was dissolved in return for the recognition of the Pragmatic Sanction. During the reign of Kaiserin Maria Theresia, the daughter of Charles VI, a second attempt to trade with China was made by Wilhem Bolt and the Antwerp banker Graf Poli, with the foundation in 1775 of the 'Triester Ostindische Handelkompanie'. This second attempt failed in 1785, after the end of the American War of Independence and the resumption of fierce competition between England and France in international trading in the East. Furthermore, because of piracy, trading in Adriatic and Mediterranean waters during the 18th century was only feasible with the protection of a war navy.

It was only after the end of the Napoleonic war that a government initiative was made to establish trading contacts with China. In the meantime, Austria had clearly understood the necessity to deploy a war navy to support the expansion of international trading.

Corvette 'Carolina' was the first Austrian warship to officially visit China and establish diplomatic contacts. She left Venice on 11 September 1820, sailing firstly to Rio de Janeiro, to drop off the Austrian ambassador to Brazil. Leaving Rio in December 1820, she sailed to China, arriving in September 1821, there to drop off the Austrian General Consul at Canton.

## ***2 THE 19th CENTURY CONQUEST OF THE CHINESE MARKET***

In the 16th century, the Portuguese had established a trading position in China. They were allowed to remain in Macao Island. At the beginning of the 19th century, British, French, Dutch and U.S. ships took advantage of the harbour at Macao to trade at Canton, but there were many restrictions. The industrial revolution in European countries resulted in a drive to find and establish new markets; the conquest of the Chinese market was given the highest priority. This led to the first war between Great Britain and China (1839-1842). China was defeated and was obliged to sign the Treaty of Nanking which granted important concessions, especially the ceding of Hong-Kong to Great Britain and the opening up of five harbours to foreign residents and trade, namely Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ning-Po and Shanghai. Treaties were also signed with the U.S. and France. In the case of the latter, the treaty provided for toleration of catholic Christianity and the restoration of the churches.

Foreign governments complained that the treaty did not go far enough, whereas the Chinese thought that it granted too much. After several incidents, a new war between China and Great Britain allied with France broke out in 1856. It was only in 1860, again after the defeat of China and the occupation of Peking, that a new treaty detailed the legal basis on which intercourse between the Occident and China was to be conducted. With minor modifications, this defined the legal status of foreigners in China until its collapse in 1943.

After the defeat of China by Japan in the war of 1894-1895, Great Britain, France, Russia and Japan claimed exclusive trading rights to certain parts of China. They divided China into spheres of influence and laid claim to territories within them. Thus Russia took the Northern Provinces, and German forces in the Shantung seized Tsingtao and the surrounding land. America acquired the Philippine Islands, hoping to exploit China's potential market. The secretary of state, John Hay suggested the "Open Door" policy which gave equal rights to all the countries. The European nations did not support or enforce this proposal.

After the war against Japan, the Chinese tried to introduce reforms to organize their state on Occidental lines. Following the Japanese example, they tried to find a compromise between reforms and the necessity of not losing the best of its heritage. The young Emperor introduced numerous decrees to found a modern China, but in September 1898, the Empress Dowager intervened and imposed a return to the 'status quo'. The Emperor was imprisoned, many reformers executed, and most of the new decrees annulled.

The conservative attitude of the Empress Dowager Tsu-Hsi, and the constant pressures of Occidental powers to gain new privileges in China, provided encouragement to extremists to oust the 'foreign devils'. As a result, during the years 1898-1899, unrest was widespread, particularly in the Northern Provinces. Many secret societies were created, one of which, the 'Fist of Righteous Harmony', attracted thousands of followers. They practised martial arts and believed a magical power protected them against foreign bullets. Because of the 'Fist', foreigners gave them the nickname of "Boxers".

### ***3 AUSTRIAN ENGAGEMENT IN THE FAR EAST***

#### ***3 - 1 Austrian policy in China from 1868 to the Boxer War***

For 50 years after the exploratory cruise of the corvette 'Carolina', the Austrian Monarchy showed little interest in China. After the Napoleonic wars, the search for new markets became increasingly important, the impetus being provided by the industrial revolution which had reached Austria.

At first, commercial interest was focussed on the Turkish Empire. Commercial exchanges became very important and these were facilitated by common frontiers and, in 1839, the opening of shipping lines of the Lloyd Austriaco company to some Turkish ports. Consular post offices were opened in many cities and ports of the Turkish Empire. Because of the high quality of their service, they acquired the major part of international postal traffic, so important for trading activities.

It was only in 1868 that Austria renewed its interest in China. Unlike the other Occidental powers and Japan, the Austrian Monarchy did not attempt to develop spheres of influence to acquire harbour facilities in China. The Monarchy used only Austrian traders living in the Far East, mainly in Japan, and founded small commercial and industrial facilities. For instance, in 1898, there were about 17,000 foreigners living in China, of which only 90 were Austro-Hungarians.

In 1868 Austria began to have more frequent warship representations in the Far East. There were cruises by the frigate 'Donau', corvette 'Erzh Friedrich' (1868-1871), corvette 'Fasana' (1871-1873), corvette 'Erzh Friedrich' (1874-1875), and gunboat 'Nautilus' (1884-1887). These cruises were accompanied by diplomatic missions. Starting in 1869, the same chargé d'affaire, later an ambassador, was responsible for Japan and China, but the legation was established in Tokyo. After the Sino-Japanese war (1894), it was not possible to have the same diplomatic representation for two enemy countries. Furthermore, the terms of the treaty of 1869 permitted the establishment of foreign legations in Peking.

On 5 August 1895, Emperor Francis Josef I signed a decree which created a permanent Austro-Hungarian representation in Peking. The first ambassador appointed to China, Baron Czikann, reached Peking on 22 April 1897. He was replaced in 1906 by Ambassador Ritter von Kuczynskis.

In 1890, the Austrian Lloyd Company set up regular shipping lines, first to India, then to Shanghai and Kobe.

### ***3 - 2 Austro-Hungarian ships on station in the Far East from 1895 to May 1900***

In 1895, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, emulating other powers, decided to maintain permanently a number of warships, or 'station-ships' in the Far East. These station-ships and their dates of passage through the Malacca Straits into/out of the South China Sea were:

- ❖ Corvette 'Aurora', from 7 July 1895 to 6 January 1896
- ❖ Cruiser 'Panther', from 4 July 1896 to 21 November 1897

- ❖ Corvette 'Frunndsberg', from 26 June 1898 to 3 February 1899
- ❖ Cruiser 'Kaiserin Elisabeth', from 3 March 1899 to 8 November 1899
- ❖ Cruiser 'Zenta', from 16 January 1900 to 31 May 1900 (commencement of the Boxer War).

### **3 - 3 First Austro-Hungarian guard detachment at Peking**

#### **3 - 3 - 1 The political situation**

After the Dowager reassumed control of the government and annulled most reform decrees, she attempted to oust foreign encroachments. As a consequence of this policy, unrest became widespread. The favourite motto of the Boxers was "Protect the country and destroy the foreigners". The Austrian Ambassador, like other Ambassadors, requested a protective military force at the legation.

On 29 October 1898, SMS Frunndsberg arrived at Chefoo. A ciphered telegram ordered SMS Frunndsberg to join the raid of Taku and land a detachment of sailors. The first secretary of the legation, Dr von Rosthorn, met the detachment at Taku and accompanied it, by train, from Tongku via Tientsin to Peking. The detachment reached Peking at the end of the afternoon of 3 November, before the doors of Peking were closed. The detachment was made up of thirty sailors and two Seekadetten (SKdt) under the command of Linienschiffsleutnant (LSchLt) Carl Prica. This constituted the first Austro-Hungarian guard detachment at the Peking legation.

The station-ship SMS Frunndsberg returned to Europe and was replaced by station-ship SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth which reached Chefoo on 1 April 1899. Several days later, the Austrian Foreign Office considered that the political situation in China did not necessitate a guard detachment in Peking and ordered the commander of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth to go to the Austrian legation at Peking and return to Chefoo with the detachment. SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth left Chefoo on 15 April 1899 and returned to Europe in November 1899.

#### **3 - 3 - 2 Postal activity of the detachment**

A dedicated postal facility was not available to the members of the detachment, as had been the case on board the SMS Frunndsberg. They had to use the Chinese and foreign postal facilities and pay postal fees at the international rate. A Chinese Imperial post had been set up in February 1897 and an Imperial Post Office (IPO) was opened at Peking. The sender had two possibilities:

- ❖ to prepay in cash at the UPU rate of 10 Chinese cents for a half ounce letter or 4 Chinese cents for a postcard, or

- ❖ to prepay with Chinese adhesives of the IPO. In this case the adhesives were cancelled by the large local date-stamp of Peking.

The Peking post office sent the letter to the local Chinese post office of Shanghai where Hongkong, French or other foreign adhesives to the UPU rate were affixed but not cancelled. The IPO of Shanghai handed the mail to the appropriate foreign post office which cancelled the adhesives and despatched the mail. On 1 January 1899, the postal rate was reduced to 4 cents for letters and remained unchanged for postcards.

It should be noted that whereas the Chinese Imperial post was not allowed to cancel the foreign adhesives themselves, they affixed them at their own expense and without reimbursement, thereby demonstrating their ability to handle the mail. The IPO also accepted incoming mail which it distributed free of charge.

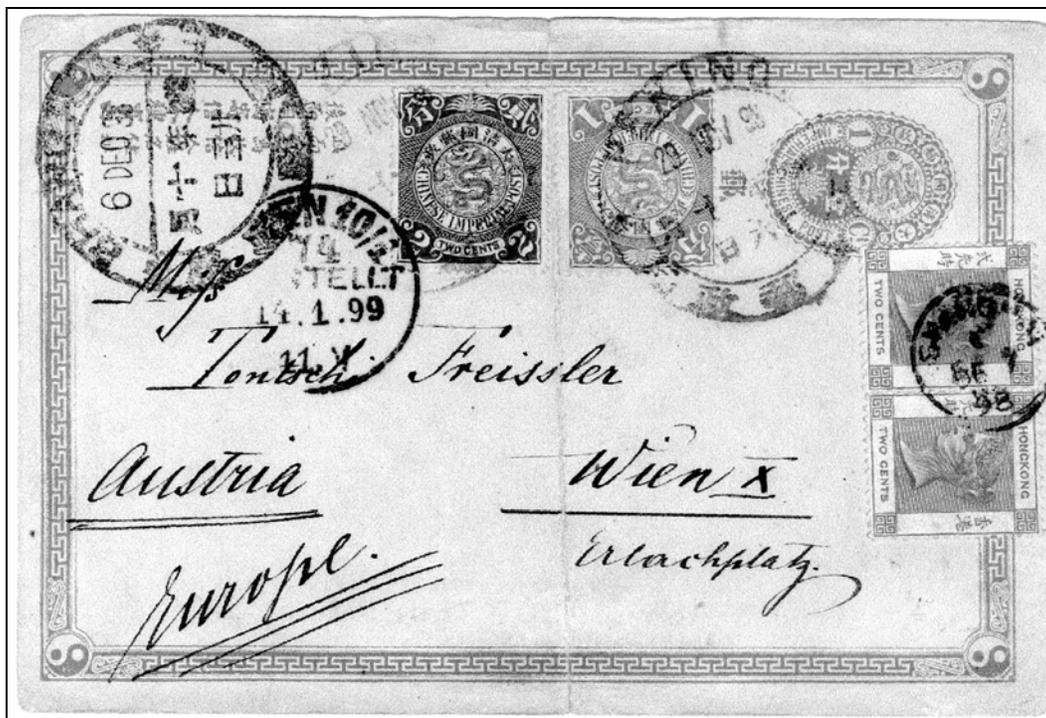


Fig.1. Chinese postal stationery card, Peking, 28.XI.98, from Carl Prica, Commander of the guard detachment, addressed to Wien. Prica wrote: “*I am wintering in Peking, in command of the protective detachment of our legation*”.

The one cent card received two additional Chinese adhesives to make up the UPU rate of 4 cents. The card was cancelled by the large bilingual IPO postmark of Peking dated 29 NOV. 98 and sent to the IPO of Shanghai where it received the large bilingual IPO postmark of Shanghai dated 6 DEC. 98 and where two Hongkong adhesives of two cents were affixed. The card was then forwarded to the British PO of Shanghai, where the adhesives were cancelled the same day and the postcard sent to Europe, arriving Wien 10/1 on 14.1.99.

## II - THE BOXER WAR

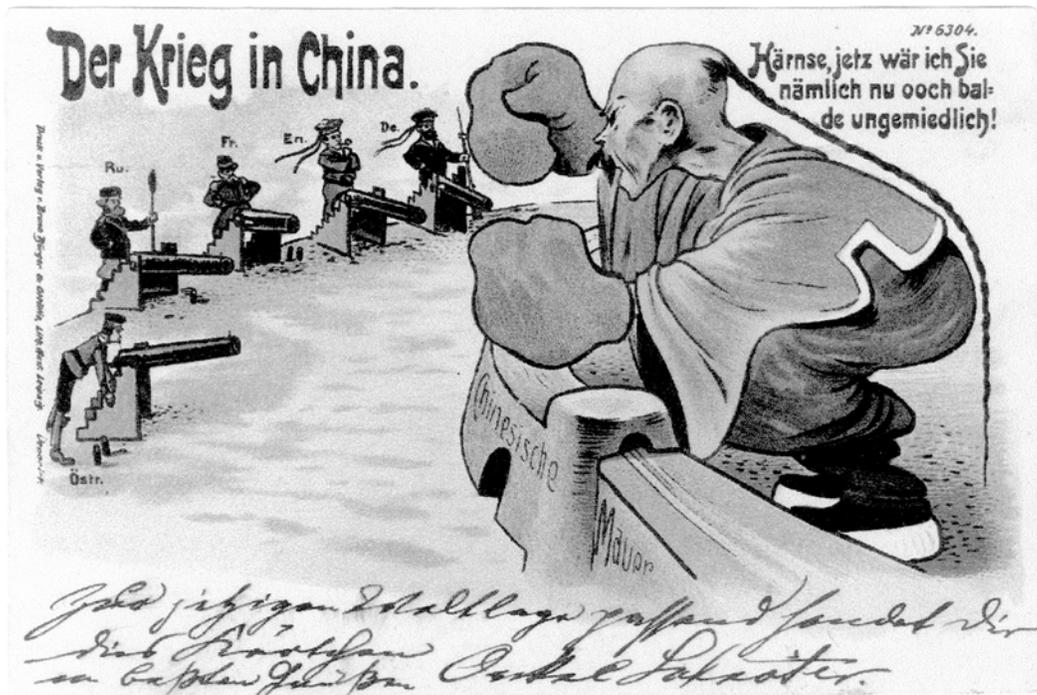


Fig 1 German illustrated propaganda postcard

### ***1 MILITARY OPERATIONS***

#### ***1 - 1 The siege of Peking***

Unrest in China grew as a result of increasing political aggression of the European countries in their efforts to establish a presence there. The talk of reforms was formally rejected by the conservatives in China and attacks against missionaries and Chinese Christians began. Foreigners were in grave danger. The Empress Dowager played a subtle game, promising the foreign Powers that the persecutions would stop, but simultaneously encouraging the conservative Chinese ministers.

Following a devastating drought in the Northern Provinces in the first half of 1900, the Boxers converged on Peking and Tientsin. In May 1900, aware of the increasing danger, all foreign diplomats requested additional troops to protect their staff and families who lived in the legations grouped in a compound just outside the Forbidden City.

The Austro-Hungarian cruiser Zenta was at Sansebo in Japan when her commander received the order to join the raid of Taku and land a detachment. On 2 June 1900, the Zenta was off Taku and landed 2 SKdt and 30 men under the command of LSchLt Josef Kollar. The detachment was accompanied by the Commander of SMS Zenta, FK Thomann von Montalmar and LSchLt Winterhalder, there to confer with the first secretary of the legation, von Rosthorn. They reached Peking by train on 3 June 1900. On 4 June 1900, the railway link between Peking and Tientsin was cut by the Boxers and FK Thomann von Montalmar and LSchLt Winterhalder could not return to SMS Zenta. On 10 June, the telegraphic line with Tientsin was destroyed.

Support forces drawn from the other foreign warships anchored off Taku reached the Peking legations by the end of May. These forces were made up as follows :

United States	3 officers and 55 men
France	3 officers and 75 men
Great Britain	3 officers and 79 men
Japan	2 officers and 27 men
Italy	3 officers and 39 men
Germany	1 officer and 50 men
Russia	2 officers and 79 men
Austria-Hungary	5 officers and 30 men (including Montalmar and Winterhalder)

The support forces totalled 22 officers and 434 men. Two officers and 41 men were assigned to the Peitang Catholic mission; the other forces were assigned to their respective legations.

The legations were encircled by the Boxers and the first exchange of gunfire took place on 13 June. Following attacks on 20 June it was decided to evacuate the more remote Belgian, Dutch, Austro-Hungarian and Italian legations. The Austro-Hungarian detachment was assigned to the French legation and FK Thomann von Montalmar became the military leader of the legation forces.

At the Peitang mission were concentrated 2 officers and 41 sailors, 70 Europeans, 1000 Chinese Christians (500 of them were armed with pikes) and 2200 Chinese women and children.

On 20 June the German Ambassador, von Ketteler, decided to hold talks with the Tsong-Li-Yamen, of the Chinese Foreign Office. He was killed along the road, not by Boxers, but by soldiers of the Chinese Army.

On 22 June, a general Boxer attack was repelled with difficulties. The Boxers then attacked daily on several points of the compound. At the end of June, Boxers, assisted by the Chinese Army, began using more destructive canons. Many officers, men and civilians were killed and wounded.

Following the liberation of Tientsin, 13/17 July 1900, it seemed that the political situation was changing. On 17 July, the Empress Dowager gave the order to stop attacks against the legations. However, sporadic gunfire continued which further increased the number of dead and wounded in the legations.

On 9 August a Japanese messenger reached the legations with the information that the Japanese General Yamaguschi hoped to reach Peking on the 14 August. On that date, at about 2pm, the first detachments of the Indian infantry reached the British Embassy followed closely by the Japanese. Peitang was relieved on 16 August. Of a total of 456 men and officers, 44% were killed or wounded. In Peitang several hundred Chinese Christians were killed.

### ***1 - 2 Austro-Hungarian operations before the liberation of the legations***

After having landed the first detachment which was conveyed to Peking, a second was landed on 7 June from SMS Zenta. Made up of 2 SKdt and 73 men under the command of LSchLt Indrak, they were conveyed to Tientsin to defend the international concession.

From this detachment, 25 men under the command of SKdt Prohaska were included in the Seymour column which tried to reach Peking to relieve the legations. The column, composed of 2,000 men, left Tientsin by train on 10 June. However, the railway link had been destroyed by the Boxers and the column was unable to reach Peking. Threatened by encirclement by the Boxers and the Chinese Army, the column retreated to Tientsin which was reached on 26 June with 75 men killed and 240 wounded.

Tientsin was surrounded by the Boxers. To secure the land link from Tientsin to Taku/Tongku where reinforcements and supplies were landed, a third detachment was drawn from SMS Zenta, made up of 20 men and one SKdt under the command of LSchLt Stenner. This detachment joined with the international forces to attack and storm the Taku forts on 17 June 1900. Up to 14 July, both detachments fought together with the allied forces to break the

Chinese pressure on Tientsin, storm the Tientsin forts and fully secure the Tientsin to Tongku/Taku link.

On 9 August, the detachment from SMS Zenta under the command of SKdt Leschanowsky, together with the allied forces, delivered the legations in Peking. They entered Peking on 18 August and were warmly welcomed by their friends at the French legation.

On 7 August SMS Maria Theresia anchored off Taku. On 8 August, 7 officers and 153 men under the command of LSchLt Wickerhauser were landed and transported to Tientsin. On 13 August they left Tientsin and reached Peking one week later.

### ***1 - 3 Austro-Hungarian military operations after 20 August 1900***

On 7 September 1900, SMS Aspern and SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth joined the "Escadrekommando in Ostasien" at Taku to provide detachment reinforcements and supplies of food and ammunition. The Austro-Hungarian detachments took part in the following operations:

17 September 1900, 92 men under the command of LSchLt Wickerhauser directed to Ba-Da-Chou, 20km west of Peking.

From 19 to 22 September to the north of Tongku, attack and assault of the Peitang forts which controlled the Tientsin-Tongku railway link to Manchouria and a part of the seacoast. 44 men and 3 Skdt under the command of LSchLt Schusternitz came from Tientsin and Tongku, 50 men under the command of LSchLt Demeter were landed from SMS Maria Theresia and 10 men under the command of SKdt Pap were landed from SMS Aspern. SKdt Pap was killed and 15 men wounded by a land mine.

During winter the harbour of Taku was often blocked by ice. The best ice-free harbour for the International Fleet was at Shanhaikuan, also a station on the railway link Tientsin-Tongku to Manchouria. Its occupation would secure the East part of the Tchili province. On 1 October 1900, an international fleet sailed to seize Shanhaikuan. All the strategic objectives were rapidly achieved. 120 men were landed from SMS Maria Theresia and 52 from SMS Aspern. Such a large detachment was not necessary; only three small detachments remained at Shanhaikuan: SKdt Heiss with 8 men at Fort 1, LSchLt Mayer with 25 men at Fort 2, and SKdt Freiherr von Aichelberg with 7 men at the railway station.

Changchiakou (in Mongolian Kalgan) is a large town on the Chinese Great Wall about 400 km north-west from Peking. At the beginning of November 1900, disorder and persecution of Chinese Christians was reported. It was decided to

send an international expedition made up of 1310 men, 90 cavalymen and 6 guns. An Austro-Hungarian detachment, made up of 3 officers, 2 midshipmen and 105 men under the command of LSchLt Sajiz participated in this expedition which left Peking on 12 November, reached Kalgan on the 18th, left Kalgan on the 23rd and reached Peking on 4 December 1900.

### ***1 - 4 K.u.K Detachment in Peking after the end of the siege***

On 21 July 1900, the Boxers burned down the Austro-Hungarian Embassy which had been evacuated by its defenders the day before. After the liberation of the legations, the military members of the detachment were assigned to Peking. On 17 August in north-east Peking, the first secretary von Rosthorn and LSchLt Winterhalder found an empty palace, the former residence of the military governor of Peking, a strong supporter of the Boxers. It was immediately occupied by a SKdt and 7 sailors and an Austro-Hungarian flag was raised at the palace's main entrance. The building was named Chongzilai and received the detachment of 200 men under the command of LSchLt von Gassermayer who had been engaged in the battle of Peking.

In addition to the fighting unit, reinforcements were sent to Peking to strengthen the Austro-Hungarian guard Detachment of the legation. It was necessary not only to rebuild the Embassy for the Ambassador, his staff and families but also to build barracks to house 4 officers, 15 midshipmen and 185 men. These barracks had to have all the necessary facilities. They were intended to occupy 2800 square meters; work started in September 1901 and was finished by the end of autumn 1902.

The Commander of the Guard detachment on 1 September 1900 was LSchLt Wickerhauser. On 9 September he was promoted to a higher rank and was replaced by LSchLt Gassenmayer, who in turn was replaced on 15 September by LSchKpt Victor Ritter Bless von Sambuchi, the former Commander of SMS Maria Theresia.

### ***1 - 5 Austro-Hungarian military landbases ("Etappen")***

#### ***1 - 5 - 1 Tientsin main landbase***

This was the most important Austro-Hungarian base in Tchili province. On 14 September 1900, the base comprised a military unit and a field hospital staffed by 1 officer, 3 midshipmen, 1 doctor and 59 men under the command of LSchLt Shusterschitz. The main task of the base was to maintain supplies of food and ammunition to the detachments in Peking, Peitang and Shanhaikuan. Taku and Tongku were not deep water harbours, consequently the high seas steamers had

to stand off at sea. Food and ammunition was shuttled from the steamers by small boats similar to Chinese sampans. To improve the situation, the Commander of the “Escadre in Ostaſien” acquired the small steamer “SMS Shun Yuen”, able to sail on the high seas but also to off-load at Tongku and even Tientsin.

From 1860, Great Britain and France had concessions in Tientsin. In 1901, Russia decided to occupy permanently (claiming “Right of Conquest”), the area where the Chinese Military School was previously located. Finally, on 11 February 1901, the Austro-Hungarian monarchy took possession of a field of about 0.6 square kilometer along the Peiho river which was designated “Austro-Hungarian Concession in Tientsin”. An Austro-Hungarian guard detachment was created to protect this Concession.

### ***1 - 5 - 2 Tongku landbase***

Tongku was the main harbour for resupplying the troops of all the co-operating powers in the Tchili. The small Austro-Hungarian detachment at the Tongku landbase ceased operations on 19 November 1900.

### ***1 - 5 - 3 Shanhaikuan landbase***

After the conquest of Shanhaikuan, 43 officers and men stayed on to supervise forts I and II and the railway station. Shanhaikuan was the wintering place for the warships, but during the winter of 1900-1901, only SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth stayed there. The other 3 warships were visiting Japanese harbours.

## ***1 - 6 Strength of the landing detachments and their evolution***

### **To 10 September 1900**

At Peking: 9 officers, 5 midshipmen, 257 men, and 1 doctor and 15 military nurses in the hospital; at Tientsin: 2 officers, 4 midshipmen, 72 men and 2 doctors and 19 military nurses at the field hospital; at Taku: 1 midshipman and 8 men.

### **From 10 September to 15 October**

At Peking: 10 officers, 7 midshipmen, 289 men and 1 doctor and 15 military nurses at the hospital; at Tientsin: 1 officer, 2 midshipmen, 40 men and 2 doctors and 19 military nurses at the field hospital; at Taku: 1 midshipman and 8 men.

### **From 16 October 1900 to mid April 1901**

At Peking: 9 officers, 6 midshipmen, 213 men and 1 doctor and 12 military nurses at the hospital; at Tientsin: 1 officer, 2 midshipmen, 40 men and 2 doctors and 14 military nurses in the field hospital; at Taku: 1 midshipman and 8 men; at Peitang: 1 midshipman and 8 men; at Shanhaikuan: 1 officer, 2 midshipmen and 40 men.

### **From mid April 1901 to end of May 1901**

At Peking: 6 officers, 5 midshipmen, 192 men and 1 doctor and 8 military nurses at the hospital; at Tientsin: 1 officer, 2 midshipmen and 30 men; at Taku: 1 midshipman and 8 men; at Shanhaikuan: 1 officer, 2 midshipmen and 42 men.

### **End of 1901**

The detachments of Peking and Tientsin remained with a total of 218 officers and men.

### ***1 - 7 The Protocol***

Although the Powers had not declared war on China, they deemed a formal settlement necessary to define exact reparations and to guard against the possibility of another outbreak. A final Protocol was signed between the Powers and China on 7 September 1901. Two of its 12 points are noteworthy:

- ❖ An indemnity of 450,000,000 Taels had to be paid to the members of the Powers in 39 years; Austria-Hungary's share was 4,300,000 Taels (*which I calculate to be 29.2 million Kronen. Ed*).
- ❖ On-going fortification and policing of legation quarters and concessions, and the military occupation by foreign troops of the railway link between Peking and the sea.

The second point was the justification for the presence of Austro-Hungarian guard detachments in Peking and Tientsin and the permanent presence in the Chinese sea of Austro-Hungarian station warships.

### ***To Be Continued***

The next instalment will discuss postal services on board station ships in the far east during peace time; and postal services during the boxer war

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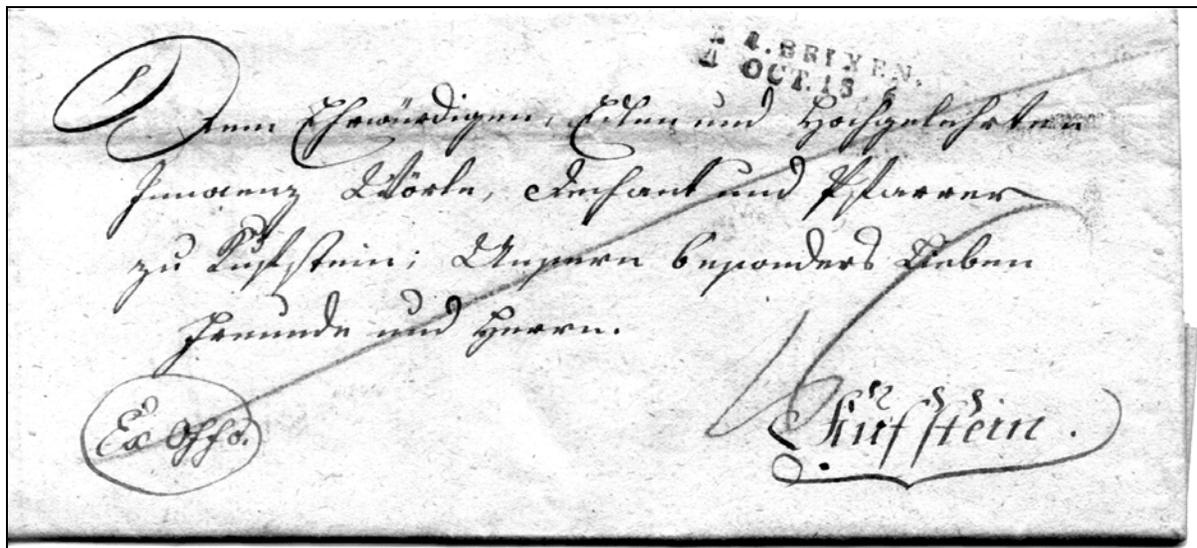
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## A LETTER FROM BRIXEN TO KUFSTEIN IN 1816

By A Taylor & friends

This letter was sent from Brixen to Kufstein from a senior priest to another, and is clearly dated in the text “1816”. It weighs 12 grams, which is in the “half to one Loth” range, so it would be charged twice the lowest rate. It is clearly marked 16 in red crayon, has a red diagonal line and a circled “Ex Offo”. The cancel is **R4 BRIXEN / 4 OCT 16** in red; this is Müller 172c which is known used from 1813 until 1817.



The document is written by a scribe, signed by the Secretary of the Consistory of Brixen, and dated 26 September 1816. It is addressed to “Dem Ehrwürdigen, Edlen und Hochwohlgelehrten Innocenz Wörle, Dechant und Pfarrer zu Kufstein; Unsere besonders Lieben Freunde und Herrn.”! [A “Dechant” is a Dean, responsible to his Bishop for a part of the diocese; in 1816 the diocese of Brixen covered the Tirol.] It informs the most praiseworthy, noble and learned Dean & Priest of Kufstein of the appointment of a Commissioner, who is to enquire into a dispute between the ecclesiastical and civil authorities at Wörgl.

In 1824, there were 11 Post Stations between Brixen and Kufstein, viz. Mittewald (now Mezzaselva), Sterzing (now Vipiteno), Brenner (now Brennero), Steinach, Schonberg, Innsbruck, Volders, Schwatz, Rattenberg, Worgl and Kufstein. The distance was 12½ Posten, or 25 Austrian miles (or about 190km). In 1816 the disposition must have been much the same; in any case the rate band was certainly “over 4 Posten”.

**So what postal rates did it pay?**

The answer is unusually complex, and its understanding requires a digression into the politics and economics of the Napoleonic era. By the Peace of Pressburg (1805) Bavaria acquired the north Tirol (ie down to Bozen; the remainder became part of Illyria). This was confirmed by the Treaty of Schönbrunn in Oct 1809. The Congress of Vienna and the Treaties of Paris returned the Tirol to Austria from 1814; but it wasn't fully reabsorbed into Austria in administrative and monetary terms until late 1818.

I am relying principally on the work of Hubert Jungwirth (PKMI) which he has kindly communicated directly & indirectly to me. Hubert Jungwirth has for some years been researching into the Tirol in the period 1806-1818. He has found new sources for the political situation, and the schedules and currencies; however he's still "nibbling at some obscurities"! Thus he has an unfinished exhibition-display of examples, which he plans to publish eventually: at present it's some 50 pages. From it he sent me the most important data for the ex-Bavarian part of the Tirol from 1814. Advice on currencies is mostly from John Whiteside; on translation from Martin Brumby. Misunderstandings and errors are mine. And the letter is Ernst Oberthaler's!

## **Currencies in Austria and the Tirol**

In 1753 Austria introduced "Conventions-Money" (Conventions-Münze) as agreed by the Convention of that year concluded between many European states. The Austrian currency was the Gulden (abbreviation fl) each subdivided into 60 Kreuzer (x, Xer, Xr or kr) which by the Convention of 1753 as adopted in Austria was defined thus: 20 Gulden were made from one Vienna Mark (this is a weight standard, of 280.644 gram) of "833 fine" (83⅓% pure) silver; it is called Conventionsmünze, abbreviated C.M. This currency standard is also referred to as the "20-Gulden-Fuß" and the currency as Kaiserwährung (Kw). Under it, 1fl contained 11.6935 gram of silver; 1kr contained 0.1949 gram.

The Bavarian Conventions-Money equivalent was Reichswährung (or RW; abbreviation rh for rheinische) currency which used a South German Gulden (SGG). The Cologne Mark of 233.77 gram of silver was originally made into 20 SGG, but soon into 24 SGG and starting in 1819 & complete by 1841 into 24½ SGG. In 1816, 24 was in use, a standard referred to as the "24-Gulden-Fuß", and 1 fl rh contained 9.7404 gram, 1 kr rh 0.1623 gram.

**In 1806 the Bavarians introduced their Reichswährung currency of 24-Gulden-Fuß standard into the north Tirol. It, and only it, was the official currency of the north Tirol until 1 August 1818; postage rates were expressed and paid in it.**

The growth in the economy (according to one source) or the problems created by Austria's propensity for fighting but losing wars (according to another) led to the issue on 15 June 1762 by the Bank of Austria of 12 million Gulden in paper money called Bankozettel. Initially these notes were only valid in parts of the Empire, excluding the Tirol; the area of validity was extended and other issues followed (eg on 1 June 1785 notes issued in 1771 were replaced by new ones "on blue paper"). Until 1796 the Bankozettel were valued (by the foreign exchanges) at 100/100, ie face value, relative to the Conventions-Münze. The value then began a decline, being 125/100 in 1804, 175/100 in 1807, and 1200/100 in 1811. Physical Conventions-Münze was withdrawn by about 1797.

On 15 March 1811 the Bankozettel were called in <sup>(1)</sup> and replaced by a new paper note of the same face value, the Anticipationsscheine or Einlösungsscheine (redemption note), at an exchange of 1 new for 5 old. Everybody except the Government regarded this as "State bankruptcy"! The Government promised never to issue more paper money, but the costs of dealing with Napoleon led them to issue more in 1813. These two papers were collectively referred to as Wiener Währung. It in turn suffered inflation, being quoted at 350/100 by 1815. In 1817 the "Privileged National Bank" was created, relying on foreign capital (probably via the Rothschilds, who kept Austria from financial collapse for several decades). The bank issued notes and bought in the Wiener Währung at slightly better than the exchange rate. From 1818, Wiener Währung was not accepted in payment for postage, and rates expressed in it were converted at 300/100 which was slightly worse than the exchange rate for currency.

**On 1.8.1818 the currency used in the Tirol officially reverted to Austrian Conventionsmünze**, remaining until the Austrian currency reform of 1858. The exchange rate was 5 Kreuzer CM = 6 Kreuzer Reichswährung. Hubert Jungwirth has recently found the formal Decree stating this in a collection of the Tiroler Landesgesetze, ie the laws made by and applying to the Land of Tirol: "*In Tirol und Vorarlberg hat ab 1. 8. 1818 nicht mehr der 24-Gulden-Fuß, die so genannte Reichswährung, sondern der 20-Gulden-Fuß als gesetzliche Währung zu gelten.*". That is, "*In Tirol and Vorarlberg from 1. 8. 1818 no more shall the 24-Gulden-Fuß, the so-called Reichswährung, but the 20-Gulden-Fuß be valid as legal currency.*". Alongside that however the Bavarian Reichswährung remained in use for decades in rural areas of North Tirol, as can be seen in messenger fees etc.

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<sup>1</sup> The notes returned to the central authorities were incinerated to prevent fraud, and for a time the letter post service was responsible for this. The person in charge of the disposal had a rather long job title even by the standards of Postal Austrian: the **Bancozettelveilgungsdeputationskassaoffizier**.

## ***Kainbacher's Rate Tables***

To make them more available, the rate tables from Kainbacher vol. 1 pp179ff are summarised next; **these did not apply to the Tirol** other than the late use of the 1.2.1814 table and the eventual adoption of the 15.4.1817 table. All state the rate for an Inland letter “up to 4 Posten” and “over 4 Posten”; this distance basis remained until the complete change of 1817. The four figures (eg “4,7,10,14”) are the HALF Porto for ½, 1, 1½, 2 Loth missives.

<b>Decree dates and comments</b>	<b>up to 4 Posten / over 4 Posten</b>
Issued 20 Feb 1811, effective 15.3.1811. Rates in Einlösungsscheine, which were introduced that day.	4, 7, 10, 14 / 7, 14, 21, 28
Issued 10 Dec 1813, effective 1.2.1814 “in the Erblandern”. Rates in Wiener Währung & to be paid in Anticipations-scheinen.	4, 8, 12, 16 / 8, 16, 24, 32
Issued 26 Jan 1815, effective 1.3.1815. Mail to the Tirol was now to be treated as inland.	
Issued 20 Apr 1815, effective 16.5.1815. “with the exception of the newly-acquired provinces”.	6, 12, 18, 24 / 12, 24, 36, 48
Issued & effective 8.10.1816. Inland rates now apply to Salzburg, Innviertel, and part of Hausruck.	
Issued 15 Apr 1817, effective in different Länder on dates between 10 April and 1 May 1817. Half-paying abolished. New distance & weight basis, applying to all the Empire. Dual listing, in Einlösungsscheine and CM. §2 of the Decree prescribes that in each Land the rates must be paid in “permissible currency”.	

## ***The confusing Tariff situation in the Tirol***

After the recovery of the Italian and Illyrian parts of Tirol (roughly, Bozen and everything to its south), Austria took over the administration in the autumn of 1813 through Commissioner Roschmann; he brought back Kugtascher from Vienna in October and installed him as South Tirol head postmaster. The Italian and Illyrian postage rates remained in effect until 31.5.1814 and were replaced from 1.6.1814 by the so-called Roschmann-tariff.

However, the negotiations with Bavaria over the northern part of the Tirol carried on until the First Treaty of Paris was concluded on 3.6.1814, so that it

was only on 26.6.1814 that Roschmann could take over the administration in Innsbruck for Austria. The Bavarian schedule remained in effect until 31.8.1814.

### ***North Tirol letter tariff 1.12.1810-31.8.1814***

This is the Bavarian tariff. The charging basis is Postal Miles, and letters were sent either Franco (fully paid) or Porto (unpaid). **The currency is Bavarian, 24 Gulden-Fuß.**

<b>24 Gulden-Fuß</b>	Up to ½ Lot	½+ to 1 Lot	1+ to 1½ Lot	1½ to 2 Lot
Up to 6 Meilen	3x	4x	6x	7x
6-12 Meilen	4x	6x	8x	10x
12-18 Meilen	6x	9x	12x	15x
18-24 Meilen	8x	12x	16x	20x
24-30 Meilen	10x	15x	20x	25x

Under this table, on 1 Apr 1813 the sender of a ½-1 Lot letter from Brixen to Kufstein (about 25 Meilen) would (unless exempt) be charged 15 kreuzer in Bavarian money; or the recipient would have to pay it.

The Roschmann-tariff first became effective in the formerly Bavarian Innkreis on 1.9.1814. The strange situation thus arose, that on one hand from 26.6.1814 all of the Tirol was governed by Austrian commissioners; on the other hand however until 31.8.1814 the area of the Roschmann-tariff ceased at the former Bavarian customs border which was between the Post-stations at Kollmann and Deutschen (today called Atzwang); these are on the main road from Brixen southwards to Bozen.

### ***North Tirol letter tariff (Roschmann-tariff) 1.9.1814-28.2.1815***

<b>24 Gulden-Fuß</b>	bis ½ Lot	bis 1 Lot	bis 1½ Lot	bis 2 Lot
Up to 4 Posten	3x + 3x	6x + 6x	9x + 9x	12x + 12x
Over 4 Posten	5x + 5x	<b>10x + 10x</b>	15x + 15x	20x + 20x
Borders	8x	16x	24x	32x
Foreign	12x	24x	36x	48x
Transit rate	12x	18x	18x	24x

**Note that it is in “24 Gulden-Fuß” ie Bavarian currency.**

Under this table, on 1.8.1814 the sender of a ½-1 Lot letter from Brixen to Kufstein would (unless exempt) be charged 10 kreuzer in Bavarian money, and the recipient the same.

The Roschmann-tariff was replaced from 1.3.1815 in north Tirol by a special Tirolean rate. This was numerically the same as that introduced into Austria on 1 February 1814 BUT it was to be paid in Rhenish a.k.a. Bavarian [abb. 'rh'] coin. The use of [paper] Wiener Wahrung was impermissible within the Tirol at this date (indeed it never was); only "ringing coin" [*klingende Munze*] was legal tender.

### **North Tirol letter tariff 1.3.1815-31.4.1817**

<b>24 Gulden-Fuß</b>	bis ½ Lot	bis 1 Lot	bis 1½ Lot	bis 2 Lot
Up to 4 Posten	4x + 4x	8x + 8x	12x + 12x	16x + 16x
Over 4 Posten	8x + 8x	<b>16x + 16x</b>	24x + 24x	32x + 32x
Borders	16x	32x	48x	60x =1fl
Foreign	12x	18x	18x	24x

**Note that it is in "24 Gulden-Fuß" ie the Bavarian currency.**

In addition the regulation was occasionally (and very inconsistently) applied, that whilst a sender entitled to free postage was exempt from the Halbfranko, a recipient who wasn't so entitled had to pay the Halbporto on the item; this was marked by a red crayon diagonal from bottom left to top right.

Under this table, on 4 Oct 1816 the sender of a ½-1 Lot letter from Brixen to Kufstein would (unless exempt) be charged 16 kreuzer in Bavarian money, and the recipient the same.

Kainbacher (Vol 1 p186) prints the 1.3.1815 Decree (promulgated 26.1.1815) stating that the 1.2.1814 rates are henceforth to be applied to the Tirol, and adds this note "*From the first of March of this year, in Land Tirol, which has returned again to the k.k. States, the letter-tax decree of 10 December 1813, existing at that time in all the old k.k. States, shall be implemented in such a manner that all prescribed fees in Tirol, where only ringing coin has legal circulation, must be paid and charged in ringing coin to the Conventions-Fuß standard, and that correspondingly, effective today, in old k.k. States all letters and letter- packages from and to Tirol are to be treated as inland as regards the postage rates.*"

**The Brixen-Innsbruck-Kufstein letter is a letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> weight step (½ to 1 Loth) and the second distance band (more than 4 Posten) and thus cost 16Kr rh + 16Kr rh. The sender in Brixen as "Ex-Offo" was exempt from paying his Halbfranko, so the postmaster in Brixen marked a diagonal / and assessed 16x rh Halbporto for the recipient.**

### ***North Tirol letter tariff 1. 5. 1817***

Kainbacher prints on pp 192-199 the Decree issued 15 Apr 1817, effective in different Länder on different dates and in the Tirol on 1 May 1817. New distance & weight bases were applied to all the Empire (eg distance bands ending at 3, 6, 9, 12, 15 Posten). Letters were sent Franco (fully paid) or in special cases Porto (unpaid). The rates are listed in parallel columns, in CM and Einlösungsscheine. §2 prescribes that “in each Land the rates must be paid in permissible currency” [*gangbaren Währung*]; a further complication is the continued use of Bavarian currency - which was a Convention Money too - until 1 Aug 1818 in the Tirol. Few examples from this period are available, and of those that are, some agree with the above Decree and some do not. The work is ongoing!

Under this table, on 1 May 1817 the sender of a ½-1 Lot letter from Brixen to Kufstein would (unless exempt) be charged 20 kreuzer in Convention Money. (At 12½ Posten it's just into the 12+-to-15 Posten band; had it been 12 the charge would have been 16x CM) That is a great reduction on the previous scale's charge of 16+16.

### ***Further reading***

Hubert Jungwirth, “Über alte Tiroler Briefe”, APS Lib 352

Jean Bérenger, “A history of the Habsburg Empire 1700-1918” [ISBN 0 582 09007 5] pp127, 137.

C A MacArtney, “The House of Austria” [ISBN 0 85224 351 0] pp43, 46

V L Tapié, “The rise and fall of the Habsburg Monarchy” [ISBN 0 269 02791 2] p247

G Fryer & J Whiteside, “The Silver Yardstick: 1840-1871” [The London Philatelist Dec 2003 Vol 112 Supplement]

P Kainbacher, “Handbuch der Brief und Fahrpost in Österreich-Ungarn 1588-1918” Part I; APS Lib 326A

## FIRST-ISSUE FRANKINGS.

by Johannes Haslauer, PKMI <sup>(1)</sup>

**O**ld Austria and especially the First Issue is one of the most desirable areas of philately. This article summarises the issue and then discusses all the possible frankings.

The First Issue has generated one of the richest bibliographies. There is no other issue which has been dealt with so extensively - and this was not only written in Austria! The issue was valid for eight years, quite a long time. It was surprisingly large for the time; we're talking of approx. 277 million pieces. However, only some 1-2% of the stamps have survived until today, and of these only one in a hundred remains on a letter. Amongst the multitude of different types some, especially on letter, are supremely rare. For example, only a handful of letters are known franked with the 9Kr type IIIa on machine paper.

The long period of issue required numerous reprintings. Because of wear, the individual clichés had to be re-engraved, and spare clichés inserted into the printing plates. This produces differences in plate settings. The changes from hand-made to machine-made paper and in the watermarks produce many visible differences between stamps; so do plate errors and changes of ink colour. In addition, many beautiful cancels were used on the First Issue – thus, a collection can be arranged in numerous different ways. One of these is the different possible frankings on letters.

With the introduction of the first stamp on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1850, inland letters had to be franked with stamps when handed in. Although the Austrian postal administration would have liked all letters to be pre-stamped, this was not possible for foreign mail until suitable postal treaties had been concluded with other countries.

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1 Based on Johannes Haslauer's Powerpoint presentation entitled "*Das Sammeln von Frankaturen der ersten Ausgabe Österreichs*" given to Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck on 16 Feb 2005. Translated, truncated, and adapted by A Taylor, who regrets that the original coloured illustrations must appear here in shades of grey. The original presentation has examples of all 35 possibilities; they are not all shown here but the original figure numbers have been retained. Illustrations come from the collections of Jerger, Ferchenbauer, Auktionen Köhler, Auktionen Corinphila, Haslauer, and (last and least!) Taylor

For the forwarding of simple letters weighing up to 1 Lot, the following rates applied. These are valid for weights up to 1 Lot = 1/32 Wiener Pfund (Vienna pound) = 17½ gram. 1 Meile = 7.586km; distances were at this date measured in a straight line (<sup>2</sup>)

Stamp	Primary purpose
1 Kreuzer yellow	Printed matter
2 Kreuzer black	Local letters
3 Kreuzer red	Letters for up to 10 Meilen
6 Kreuzer brown	Letters from 10 to 20 Meilen
9 Kreuzer blue	Letters for over 20 Meilen

It is possible to make up these five different frankings in a total of 30 different ways. Including half- and third-stamps adds another 5 ways; these are extremely rare. The following list shows all the legitimate possibilities; artefacts such as a 3-Kr rate made up from three halved 2-Kr stamps are ignored.

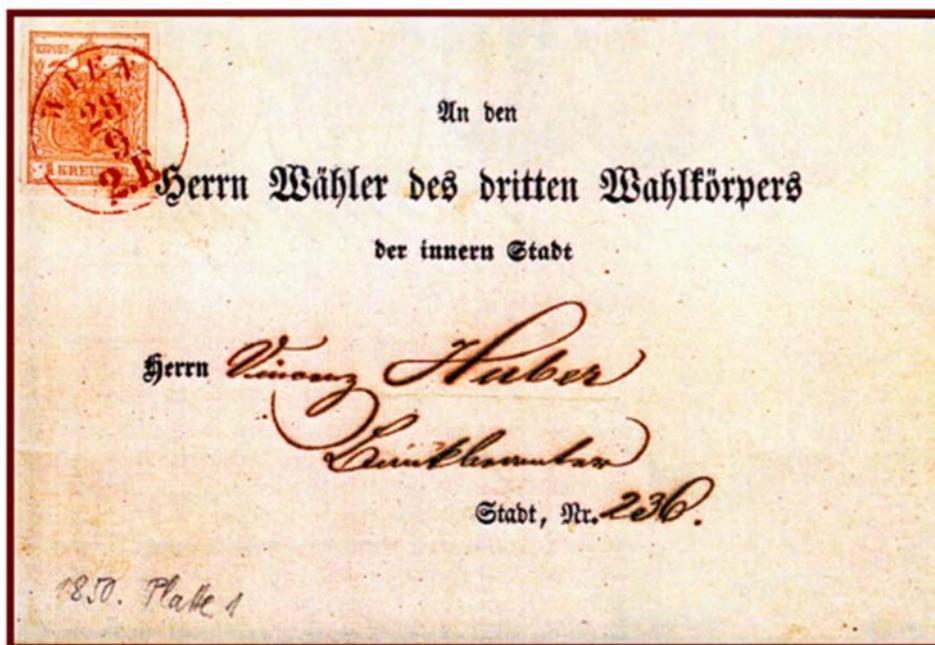
Frank	Nr Poss	Possibilities			
1Kr	3	1Kr	2Kr halved	3Kr thirded	
2Kr	2	2Kr	2 x 1Kr		
3Kr	5	3Kr	2Kr + 1Kr	3 x 1Kr	6Kr halved
		2Kr + 2Kr halved			
6Kr	8	6Kr	2 x 3Kr	3Kr + 2Kr + 1Kr	3Kr + 3 x 1Kr
		3 x 2Kr	2 x 2Kr + 2 x 1Kr	1 x 2Kr + 4 x 1Kr	6 x 1Kr

<sup>2</sup> This is the Austrian mile; I have retained “Meile” to distinguish it from the much shorter English mile. When the German-Austrian Postal Union (DÖPV) was implemented on 1 July 1850, the Geographic Mile of 7.4089 (conventionally taken as 7.5) km should have been used, but completion of the change took until 1 April 1868! Ed.

Frank	Nr Poss	Possibilities			
9Kr	17	9Kr	6Kr + 3Kr	6Kr + 2Kr + 1Kr	6Kr + 3 x 1Kr
		3 x 3Kr	2 x 3Kr + 2Kr + 1Kr	2 x 3Kr + 3 x 1Kr	3Kr + 3 x 2Kr
		3Kr + 2 x 2Kr + 2 x 1Kr	3Kr + 2Kr + 4 x 1Kr	3Kr + 6 x 1Kr	4 x 2Kr + 1Kr
		3 x 2Kr + 3 x 1Kr	2 x 2Kr + 5 x 1Kr	2Kr + 7 x 1Kr	9 x 1Kr
		6Kr + 6Kr halved			

## The 1 Kreuzer rate, for printed matter.

**Fig 3: 1Kr yellow**



Printed matter was required to have no handwriting apart from the address. The item is a printed voting document for the inner city of Vienna, with a dark-orange coloured 1Kr stamp. It has a red WIEN cancel, and is addressed to a Herr Vinzenz Huber, Stadt Nr. 236. At that time the house number (in the Land Register) was used as the address.

## The 2 Kreuzer rate, for local letters

**Fig 4: 2 Kreuzer black**



This beautiful little letter has a rare blue cancel from Hietzing, at that time a suburb of Vienna. (Only the “Flag Cancel” is rarer!) The curious mark at top left is a “small blue pine tree”, denoting that a famous collector called Provera once owned it. Next the stamp is Ferchenbauer’s proof signature.

**Fig 5: 2 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**

The second way to frank a local letter is with a pair of 1Kr stamps



## The 3 Kreuzer rate, for letters up to 10 Meilen.

**Fig 6: 3 Kreuzer red**



Short letter from Oberleitensdorf in Bohemia to Theresianau by Tetschen. Cancel 3.1; dated 2 Jan 1851 in the text. Transit cancel “Teplitz 3 Jan” and arrival cancel “Tetschen 4 Jänn” on the rear.

**Fig 7: 2 Kreuzer black + 1 Kreuzer yellow**



Letter from Bozen to Brixen; Alfredo Diena’s proofing mark.

**Fig 8: 3 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**

The third way to frank a 10-Meilen letter is to use three 1-Kr stamps; here a strip is cancelled with the straight-line mark of ROVERETO. It is addressed to Verona, and has an arrival mark on the reverse. The ringed “1” is the Verona local delivery cancel.

## The 6 Kreuzer rate, for letters up to 20 Meilen

**Fig 9: 6 Kreuzer brown**

The item has a 6-Kreuzer stamp, with a blue cancel from WARASDIN in Croatia. It is addressed to THERESOWATZ, but as there is no Post Office there it was sent to Veröce bei Waizen.

**Fig 10: 2 x 3 Kreuzer red**

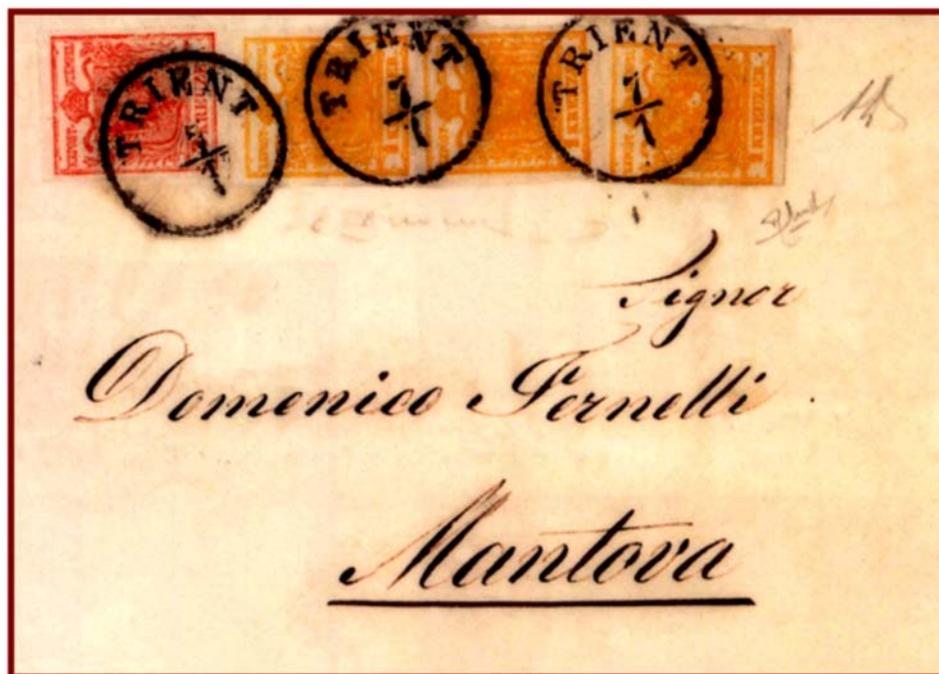
The item has two 3-Kreuzer stamps, cancelled with SCHREMS in an oval and with a double-ring Schrems datestamp alongside; it is addressed to Vienna.

**Fig 11: 3 Kreuzer red + 2 Kreuzer black + 1 Kreuzer yellow**



A spectacular 3-colour franking! (This is one of the two possible such, the other is shown later.) Sent from VERÖCE to WARASDIN.

**Fig 12: 3 Kreuzer red + 3 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**



The fourth way of achieving a 6-Kreuzer franking. The item went from TRIENT to MANTUA.

**Fig 13: 3 x 2 Kreuzer black**

Shown on a letter from Bozen to Gargnano am Gardasee. Franked with a pair and a single 2Kr.

**Fig 14: 2 x 2 Kreuzer black + 2 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**

Ferchenbauer-proofed letter from NEU SOHL to BODAIK, both in Hungary. This colour combination is sometimes called the Patriotic Franking.

**Fig 15: 1 x 2 Kreuzer + 4 x 1 Kreuzer**

This is a large piece; it went from KRONSTADT in Siebenbürgen (=Transylvania) to DUBICZA in the croatian-slavonic Military Border district. It carries one 2-Kreuzer stamp and 4 single 1-Kreuzer.

**Fig 16: 6 x 1 Kreuzer**

Letter from RAAB in Hungary (not Raab in Oberösterreich) to PEST. It is franked with six 1 Kreuzer yellow; however the left 4 are lighter in colour than the right 2 so must be from a different printing.

**The 9 Kreuzer rate, for letters over 20 Meilen****Fig 17: 9 Kreuzer blue**

Letter from Wiesenberg in Moravia to Wien, 20 June 1855. Registered, so 6Kr fee paid by additional stamp on rear.

**Fig 18: 6 Kreuzer brown + 3 Kreuzer red**

After the single stamp, the commonest 9-Kreuzer franking is the combination of 6Kr brown and 3Kr red. The example has the blue single-circle cancel of HRASTNIGG, then in Steiermark but today in Slovenia (100 Müller points!). It is addressed "Herr Something, Wien" only. That sufficed in these days; in each Land there were so-called Postbooks, in which every resident was listed alphabetically with their full address – so an insufficiently addressed letter would be correctly delivered.

**Fig 19: 6 Kreuzer brown + 2 Kreuzer black + 1 Kreuzer yellow**



This letter from MÄHRISCH TRÜBAU to TEPLIETZ in Böhmen shows the second 3-colour franking: brown – black – yellow, making up the full inland letter rate.

**Fig 20: 6 Kreuzer brown + 3 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**

The example is a letter from SISSEK in the Croatian-slavonic Military Frontier to SEMLIN in the Banat-serbian Military Frontier, franked with a single 6Kr brown and a vertical strip of three 1Kr stamps placed horizontally.

**Fig 21: 3 x 3 Kreuzer red**

Blue cover with a vertical strip of three 3Kr carmine-red stamps placed horizontally. Cancelled with the blue oval double-circle cancel of JICIN in Böhmen and sent to STEYR in Oberösterreich.

**Fig 22: 2 x 3 Kreuzer red + 2 Kreuzer black + 1 Kreuzer yellow**

Letter from MURAU in Steiermark to BLUMAU bei Kirchdorf in Oberösterreich. Franked with a 1Kr, a 2Kr, and a 3Kr at the top plus another 3Kr at bottom left (possibly the sender hoped it qualified for the 6Kr rate until the Post Office said otherwise!) An exceedingly rare combination!

**Fig 23: 2 x 3 Kreuzer red + 3 X 1 Kreuzer yellow**



A decorative 9-Kreuzer franking on a blue cover, with two 3Kr red and a vertical strip-of-3 of the 1Kr yellow, from Wels to Prag.

**Fig 24: 3 Kreuzer red + 3 x 2 Kreuzer black**

The 8<sup>th</sup> way of achieving a 9Kr franking is with a 3Kr red & three 2Kr black; the illustration is of the 3Kr surrounded by an extremely rare L-shaped block-of-3 of the black 2Kr stamp. These were cancelled with the Wien 3-ring 'dumb cancel' with a number 1 in the middle.

**Fig 25: 3 Kreuzer red + 2 x 2 Kreuzer black + 2 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**



Shown on a most artistically-arranged piece, with the red 3Kr in the centre, a 2Kr black on each side, and a 1Kr yellow at each end! The cancels, not so symmetric, are from BALASSA-GYARMAT in Hungary.

**Fig 26: 3 Kreuzer red + 2 Kreuzer black + 4 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**



This letter, franked with a 3Kr red, a 2Kr black, and 4 x 1Kr yellow, dritte Mehrfach-3-Farben-Frankatur, was rather nastily cancelled on its way from WIEN Nordbahnhof to SENFTENBERG in Böhmen. It has the supplementary mark “Nach Abgang der Post” – “[received] after the post had gone”.

**Fig 27: 3 Kreuzer red + 6 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**



This letter from GÖLLNITZ in Hungary to MEDIASCH in Siebenbürgen, now in Romania, is franked with a 3Kr red and 6 x 1Kr yellow. The stamps are arranged overlapping to save space: the so-called Treppen (staircase) franking. [It also provides opportunities for miscreants to reuse stamps cancelled on one side, and to use parts of stamps instead of entire ones!]

**Figs 28-9: 4 x 2 Kreuzer black + 1 Kreuzer yellow**

Letter from TEMESVAR in Hungary to PESTH franked with a strip-of-four 2Kr and a yellow 1Kr. Fig 29 shows the same franking, from ROHRBACH in Oberösterreich, as a 2x2 block of 2Kr with the yellow 1Kr in the centre!

**Fig 30: 3 x 2 Kreuzer + 3 x 1 Kreuzer**

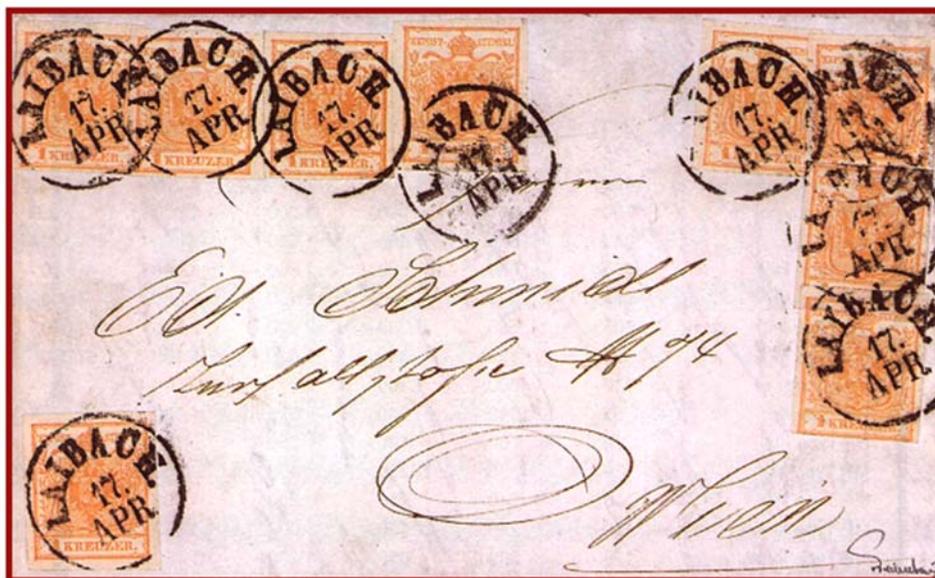
Wondrous 9Kr black-yellow patriotic franking with a strip-of-three 2Kr black and another of 1Kr yellow. From STERNBERG in Mähren to WIEN. Proof signature of Ferchenbauer senior.

**Fig 31: 2 x 2 Kreuzer black + 5 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**

Large piece, franked with the extremely rare combination of 2 x 2Kr black & 5 x 1Kr yellow, from PRAG addressed to somewhere on the cut-off portion.

**Fig 32: 2 Kreuzer black + 7 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**

Another rare combination: one 2Kr stamp, and seven yellow 1Kr stamps as a vertical strip of 3 plus 4 singles.

**Fig 33: 9 x 1 Kreuzer yellow**

This piece should be familiar – it is on the front cover of “Ferchenbauer 2000”! A cover with nine single 1Kr stamps is (relatively) not so rare as the previous combinations with 5 or 7 – about 20 such have survived. This one went from LAIBACH to WIEN. One must assume that some Post Office staff didn’t require many 1Kr for printed matter and used them up on letters.

## FRANKINGS WITH PARTS OF STAMPS

The 30 franking possibilities so far presented can be complemented with 5 further variants. These are extremely rare exotic usages of parts of stamps (division into 2 or 3). These occur predominantly in the Hungarian part of the Empire.

### 1 Kreuzer rate, for Printed Matter

**Fig 34: 2 Kreuzer halved**

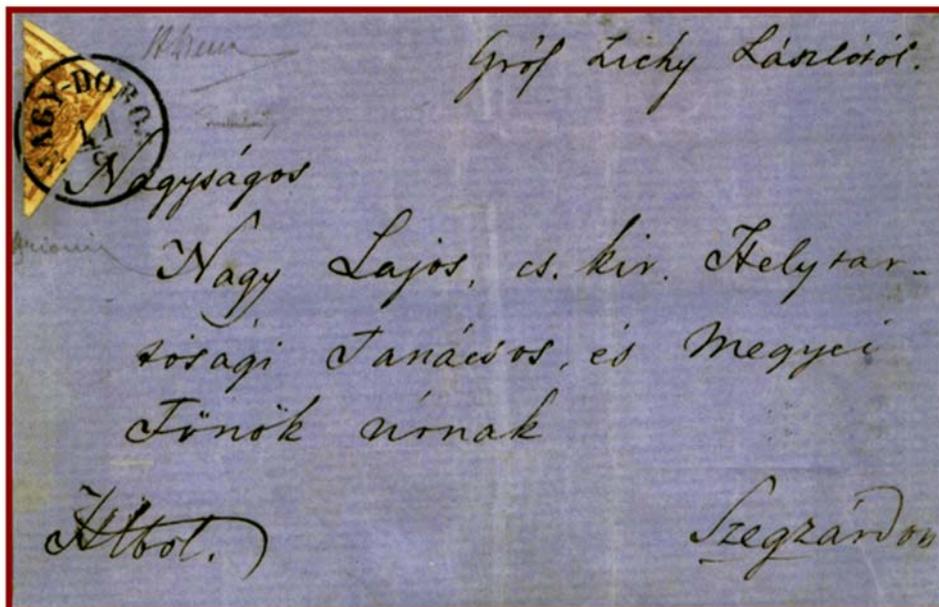


Diagonally halved 2Kr stamp on a death notice from KAPOSVAR in Hungary.

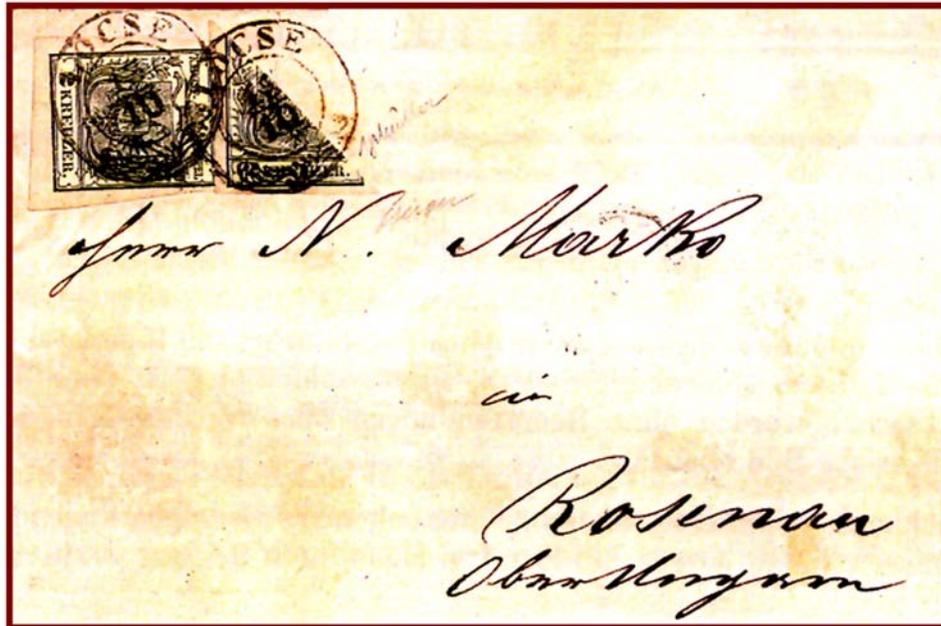
**Fig 35: 3 Kreuzer 'thirded'**

Wedding invitation from NAGY TAPOLCSAN in Hungary to PREDMIZ bei BISTRITZ in Siebenbürgen (today Romania), franked with one-third of a 3Kr stamp. Two such examples are known.

### 3 Kreuzer rate, letters up to 10 Meilen

**Fig 36: 6 Kreuzer halved**

Also from Hungary comes this halved 6Kr stamp to make the 3Kr rate on a letter from NAGY DOROG (today in Ukraine) to SZEGEDIN in Hungary: it's surrounded with expertising signatures!

**Fig 37: 2 Kreuzer + 2 Kreuzer halved**

The 3Kr rate made up by one whole and one halved 2Kr stamp! Letter from LÖCSE in Hungary (today in Slovakia) to ROSENAU in Oberungarn. Various expertisings including Müller.

## 9 Kreuzer rate, for inland letters over 20 Meilen

**Fig 38: 6 Kreuzer + 6 Kreuzer halved**

This 9Kr franking by one whole and one halved 6Kr stamp is the commonest of the part-stamp frankings. The letter is from RUMA in Syrmien to an Indigo (the blue dye) dealer in PESTH.

## TURKISH DELIGHT?

by Andy Taylor

In Salvatore J. Rizza's article in the last issue (Austria 150 pp 4-15) entitled "The 60th Jubilee Postal Cards of 1908", he wrote on page 5 "Compensation for the lost territories was eventually offered by Austria-Hungary to Turkey and paid, per the agreement signed on 26 February 1909."

The "Austrian Newspapers On-line" site contains scanned images (most are of course printed in Fraktur) of an increasing range of newspapers (*see <http://anno.onb.ac.at/zeitungen.htm> for the list of those available*). While the last Austria was being printed, Sal discovered on the ANNO site the exact compensation paid by Austria-Hungary for its annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Vienna Reichspost of 27 February 1909, at pages 3 and 4, printed the text of the agreement reached between Austria-Hungary and Turkey on 12 January 1909. It consisted of 9 Articles; Article 5 stated that the Austrians would pay to Turkey, no later than 15 days after the ratification date of 26 February 1909, the sum of 2,500,000 Turkish Pounds, payable in gold.

Naturally, Sal wondered what that was worth in other currencies. So I asked Tony Boyer, who replied "*What an interesting exercise. And to think that the answer is all the time within the files of the APS, or at least in its back numbers of the journals. See issue 102 p31. (All this is thanks to the APS Librarian!)*". He helpfully added the calculations which follow.

Shamefacedly, I turned to the index of Austria, which sure enough at "Currency Regulations prior to 1914" referred me to issues 101/44 and 102/31. Perhaps as well as writing this journal I should read it.

These references are to "some notes from John Whiteside" – actually a learned article – telling us inter alia that in 1910 the Turkish Pound was worth 18s 4d sterling. This same article gives the value of the U S Dollar as 4s 2d from 1875 to 1914, and the Austrian Krone as worth 10d between 1900 and 1914. So the cost in 1909 of Bosnia-Herzegovina of 2,500,000 Turkish pounds is equivalent to £2,291,666 13s 4d; 11,000,000 U S dollars; and 55,000,000 Austrian krone. [As the articles are headed "Currency Relationships prior to 1914" I have amended the website copy of the index to suit.]

The compensation is about £151 million (222 M€) at today's rates. I leave it to others to judge if the investment was worthwhile...

## THEMATIC COLLECTING

By Joyce Boyer

**I**N writing this article I will be referring to “Thematic Collecting” and would ask our American members to accept this English wording - if writing for an American journal it would be “Topical Collecting”.

On page 76 of “Austria” 147 there was a request from Andrew Bardell for information but also asking if there were any Thematic collectors in the APS. In his editorial for “Austria” 149, Andy says that there were no replies and admits that he and others do have collections that might be regarded as thematic. Anyone who looked at the list of displays at the Royal, and particularly the CD, would have seen that two frames were devoted to “Innsbruck Winter Olympics”. This collection started as part of my postal history collection of Innsbruck but has now grown to include stamps and covers from other countries and should now be regarded as Thematic. From this it is clear that one can become a thematic collector by accident rather than by design. I am therefore writing this article to try and answer the question “**What is Thematic Collecting?**”.

In his book “Handbook of Thematic Philately” W E J van den Bold (1990, English version 1994) says “The basis for what is known today as thematic philately was laid when collectors hit upon the idea to make the design on the stamp the focus of their collection.”, and when this type of collecting was in its infancy this is what collectors did: building up, often fairly cheaply, a large collection of stamps on a theme - for example trains, animals, or flowers. Collectors still do this and it is often a way for younger people to start stamp collecting especially if the theme is linked to something else that interests them. One problem with making such a collection is how to store or mount it. Do you keep the stamps in Country and date of issue order or do you put stamps featuring the same object together? Thus if you collect flowers do you put all your Australian ones together followed by Austria and so on, or do you put all the daffodils on one page and roses on the next, or all alpine flowers together followed by bulbs and so on? What ever you do, it can be difficult to keep a record of stamps you have or need - and how do you keep up with new issues? One answer, of course, is to choose a smaller topic.

As Thematic collecting has grown and been accepted as a branch of Philately together with Traditional and Postal History, so the emphasis has changed. Now a Thematic collection and display will include much more than just stamps. Covers are collected for the stamp, cancellation - either pictorial or place name - or a connection to the theme; postcards, maxi cards, stamp booklets or anything else connected to your subject can be added to make it more interesting but not

all of these items may be allowable in competition. For example I have stamps depicting the parent of the “Margaret Thatcher” hybrid orchid and as I had a photograph of the orchid I thought it a good idea to include this. Fine in a display to local clubs but definitely not as part of a Thematic competition as a photograph is a non-philatelic item.

A thematic collection normally includes material from more than one country unless you make it very specific. The Alps would normally include material from Austria, Switzerland and other European countries but what about including New Zealand for the Southern Alps? To collect “The Tirol” need not mean that only Austrian items would be included since alpine flora, fauna, and sports - back to the Winter Olympics held in Innsbruck - are shown on the stamps of other countries.

Whilst I would never tell a collector what, or how, he should collect and write up his material, if he were to consider entering a Thematic competition an entry including material for only one country is at best frowned upon and in some places positively discriminated against.

Over the years the concept of Thematic Philately as a competition class has changed from just stamps on a theme but should now include other material and “Tell a Story”, beginning with an opening page giving details of the display and including the various sections. Internationally shown collections often have two pages of introduction and these can indicate that only part of the collection is being shown.

I entered my local Club and Federation nine-sheet thematic competition with an entry entitled “Lace” in which the “Story” was built up as follows.

1 Opening statement, list of sections, postcard of Honiton lace and lace maker plus reduced photocopy of reverse to show postal use.

2. The equipment used: that is the pillow stuffed with straw or sawdust; a pillow support usually of wood; the bobbins made of wood, horn, or ivory (in many English lace centres these have “spangles” of beads to give added weight); threads to make the lace, usually cotton, linen, silk or wool; the pricking (pattern), which used to be made of leather and used many times over, but today card or strong paper covered by a transparent film is used; and pins made of metal.

3. Lace making showing either lace making in progress or a lace maker; this includes the painting by Vermeer reproduced on a French stamp, and used

postcards of lace makers from various countries to show the different types of equipment used.



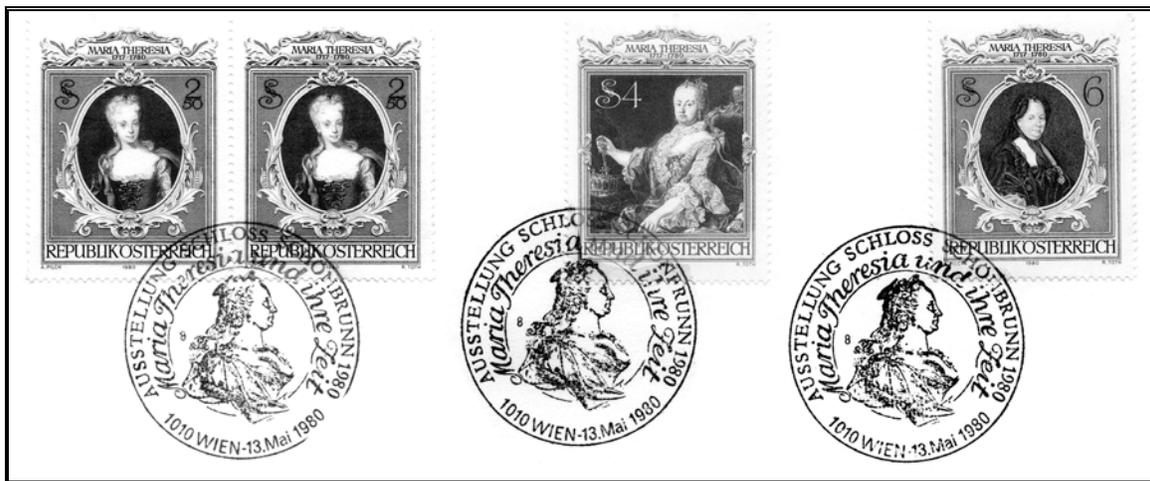
4. The different styles of lace: motifs, edgings or strips, corners or larger items.

5. Lace in use, ruffs, collars and cuffs, frills, veils, dresses or other clothes, and in the household as mats or tablecloths.

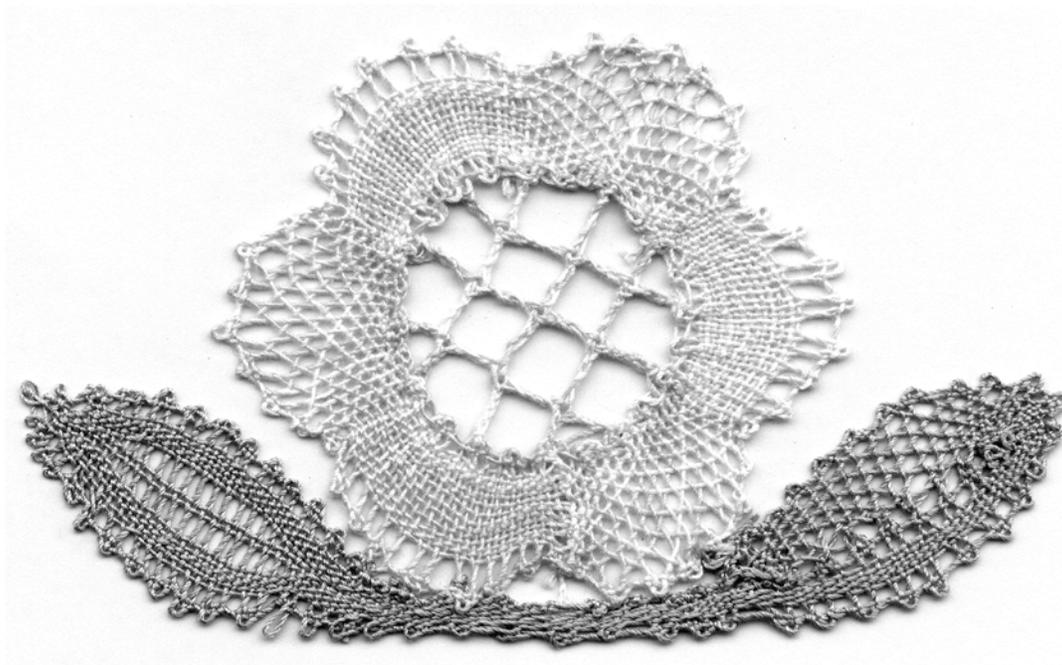
I extended the display to twelve pages for the “Innsbruck Salon” in 2003 and added pages showing the specific use of lace as part of a National dress and how its use can be varied according to the age of the wearer.



In this last respect the set of Austrian stamps issued in 1980 to mark 200 years of the death of Empress Maria Theresa, shown on first day covers, was used.



For anyone interested in thematic collecting, the National societies are The British Thematic Association, membership secretary Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 2By, or for our American members the American Topical Association, PO Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057. There are also Clubs or Societies concerned with specific themes and details of these may be available from the BTA.



# TYROL PHILA

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## NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

### *Die Briefmarke:*

**Issue 5/2005:** many pages of snippets of news; 2000 years of St Polten & its postal history; Austria's Jubilee (60 years since 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic founded and 50 years since State Treaty signed); Turkish Post in 1873 (2); Garnets; Austria in 1945 (3); Bratislava (3); the 18 gr Postage Due of 1925; new Personalised Stamps (including "130 years of Pneumatic post in Vienna"); etc.

**Issue 6/2005:** multi-snippets; 117<sup>th</sup> and last Balloon Post for Pro Juventute; Graz Marke & Münze and postal history; Conrad von Hötzendorf; Personalised Stamps extended [alternative background; sheets of 25 can be all different]; more stamp issues sold out; Life Ball & Top-Model Heidi Klum; Meine.Karte service; Austria in 1945 (4); 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of compulsory schooling; Bratislava (4); railways in Hausruckwald; St Florian; Vindobona festivities; Expertising (by Dr Ferchenbauer); etc

**Issue 7/2005:** multi-snippets; the 30 years war; BSV Zwispallen; Austria's first-ever embroidered stamp; new Philatelic Shop to open in Vienna at 44 Kärntnerstraße; "50 years since State Treaty signed" celebrations; Post Office closures and openings; Küb office closes; Zustellbasis cancels in Vöcklabruck district; Bratislava (5); Austria in 1945 (5); Bisected 24Rpf stamps cancelled Obermühl an der Donau are fakes; Mag. Klaus Schöpfer honoured; latest catalogue issues; Expertising (by Dr Ferchenbauer); etc etc.

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost*

**Issue 81:** [posted from France!] AGM & excursion to Romania; members' wants; Qs & As; the Marineunteroffiziers school; mail from Jasna Góra; a letter to FML Scotti censored against the regulations; WWI Feldpost to Vorarlberg; news on FPA 451 (Constantinopel); **table by H Riedel listing the Field Post Offices for each Infantry Regiment in 1914-18**; antigas shelter for mail-carrying pigeons; Brian Presland's amazing discovery; book reviews (including our Pneumatic Post!); etc etc.

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.*

**Issue 70:** A curiously-franked item from August 1938; book reviews; usage of bisects at Stainz in 1920s; rates in 1938; auction list; etc

## ***Czechout***

**Issue 2/2005:** meeting notes, auction reports, and book reviews (including our Pneumatic Post!); Brno 2005 exhibition; 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Austerlitz; Německé Jablonné aliases; Czech & Slovak Republics Postal Museums; Vienna Military Museum; and as always much of great but purely post-WWI interest. Appendix: library listing update.

**Fiftieth Anniversary CD:** The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2003. On 21 May 1953 George Pearson FRPSL gave a display of Czechoslovakia to the Royal Philatelic Society London, and in October of that year elections were held for officers and a committee. To mark its 50th anniversary the Society mounted three major exhibitions of Czechoslovak philately. 94 frames at Spring Stampex from 26 February to 2 March, then a display to the Royal Philatelic Society London on 20 March, and finally 140 frames at the Embassy of the Czech Republic from 22 to 24 May. This CD has been made to provide a permanent record of the unprecedented assembly in the UK of so much fine Czechoslovak philatelic material.

**CPSGB Monograph 18.** The latest CPSGB monograph “*Postal Arrangements Following the Liberation of Prague in May 1945*” by Robert J Hill, has just been published. ISBN 0-9536555-8-X; A4, xviii + 92 = 110 pages. Colour covers, fully illustrated, much in colour. This is their first monograph to be produced with a bilingual Czech-English text. The volume comes complete with a loose A3 period map of Prague and a numbered black print. Copies including UK P & P cost £19 – write to The CPSGB, 14 Middlecroft, Guilden Sutton, Chester, CH3 7HF. Payment by Mastercard or VISA is possible.

## ***Stamps of Hungary***

**Issue 161: June 2005:** Results of annual vote for best article on their Journal (“Newspaper Stamps” by one Andy Taylor was 2<sup>nd</sup> equal!); visit their excellent website on [www.hpsgb.net](http://www.hpsgb.net); AGM report & accounts; civil censorship post-WWI part 1; official adhesive stamps on parcel cards; etc

## ***Südost Philatelie***

**Issue 90/2005:** more forgeries and swindles; German occupation of Serbia, 1941-1944: introduction of German reg labels, imprinted postcards; usage of SHS; Kosovo 5-digit postcodes; reviews; etc.

## *Germania*

**May 2005 vol 4 no 2:** Stobs Camp (at Hawick) 1914-1919; notes on Friedrich von Schiller 1759-1805; Bodensee Schiffspost (*lovely pictures!*); Stuttgart City Post (iv); regional group reports; AGM Motions; Q&A; etc.

## *APSUS Journal*

**Vol 5 Nr 3:** Qs&As; results of “Whadda you want?” survey of the membership; Austrian military stamps (themes and variations); Ferchenbauer2000 pp1301-5 translation: the 1879/98 issue; Personal Stamps; etc etc.

Also their Auction list 7 (437 lots) in almost-readable print, with 4 pages of illustrations in colour.

## *Wiener Ganzsachen- Frei- und Post-stempelsammlerverein*

**Issue 2/2005:** special rates for Krankenkassen printed items (see “Q&A”); AGM - which was accompanied by a First Republic air mail exhibition!

## *Additions to the Library*

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
270	Handbuch für Christkindl-Sammler	Cancellations, balloon posts, covers etc. With amendments 1-7 (2005) Now in two parts - part 1 Sections 1-7 and Part 2 sections 8-12	200	Weindel	1992	G
392A	Pneumatic Post in Vienna	Parts 1-3	300	C Tobitt & A Taylor	2005	E
392B		Part 4: supplementary information	200			
395	Lombardy and Venetia revenue Stamped Papers	After a Manuscript believed to be by Ladislaus Hanus of Prague	72	Hanus?	?	G
396	Österreichische Stempelmarken Versuche und Probe		17	Ladislaus Hanus, Prague	?	G

## FROM THE OFFICERS

### *Revision to library book: Christkindl Handbook library number 270*

By Joyce Boyer.

The 7<sup>th</sup> set of amendments to the Christkindl Handbook was recently received and brings the information for all collectable items listed by them up to date to include the 2004/05 cancellations. The only information missing is the actual number of items serviced in 2004/05 but this is estimated as being similar to recent years. As a result of the increasing amount of information the book has expanded into two volumes. However as they are 'loose leaf' anyone wanting information in respect of a single year or only one type of cancellation (e.g., balloon flights, über Christkindl labels) need only borrow or have copied that information and not borrow the whole book.

Pages for earlier years are being revised to give additional information about the cancellation; for example the 1992 Advent cancellation was based on a 19c. crib in Stift Lillienfeld, Lower Austria. This information could lead to an expansion of a Christkindl collection to include more information or a postcard of the source of inspiration. (I must think about this before I re-write my collection to include the additional information).

Checking the catalogue prices there has been very little movement between 2002 and 2005, but comparing them with Austria Netto 2004/05 there are differences. The first two years and registered items for the next three years are rated more highly by Netto, for the following years the Handbook gives the higher price but from 1990 they appear to agree.

The Christkindl Handbook is produced by Motivgruppe Weihnachten e. V. based in Germany and if any member would like to obtain a complete copy please contact the librarian who will provide contact details.

## New Members

We welcome: William McDuff of Quebec; Charles Stirton of Bath; Andrew Holland of Leamington; Adis Hodzic of Bergen; Johannes Haslauer of Salzburg; Carol Ralph of St Leonards On Sea; and Gerry Trumper of Pinner.

## KRANKENKASSEN RATES IN 1925 – 1938

By H Pollak & A Taylor

Issue 2/2005 of the Wiener Ganzsachen- Frei- und Poststempelsammlerverein Bulletin has an article by Franz Hochleitner on special rates for Krankenkassen printed items. In Stohl part Y page 614A there is quoted a Postal Directive (now lost, although similar ones have been found) concerning a problem experienced by the Vienna Krankenkassen (health insurance organisations): their forms fell foul of the regulations for postcards, and would have be franked at the more expensive letter rate – and perhaps enclosed in an envelope.

Postcards had to be printed on stiffer paper (“Karton”), and these things weren’t on Karton. The general reason for a lower postcard rate is that because of the stiffness they require less care in handling. The medical insurance organization(s) negotiated a special money-saving arrangement so that they wouldn't have to stick the things into a regular envelope. But in addition to the postcard rate for most of the form, they paid the printed matter rate for the Erlagschein part, and paid the sum of the two. The items were supposed to have a special imprinted cachet, which Stohl illustrates. However the examples shown in Franz Hochleitner’s article of the 13g rate from Vienna and Linz don’t have it, for some unknown reason.

The full rate table is:

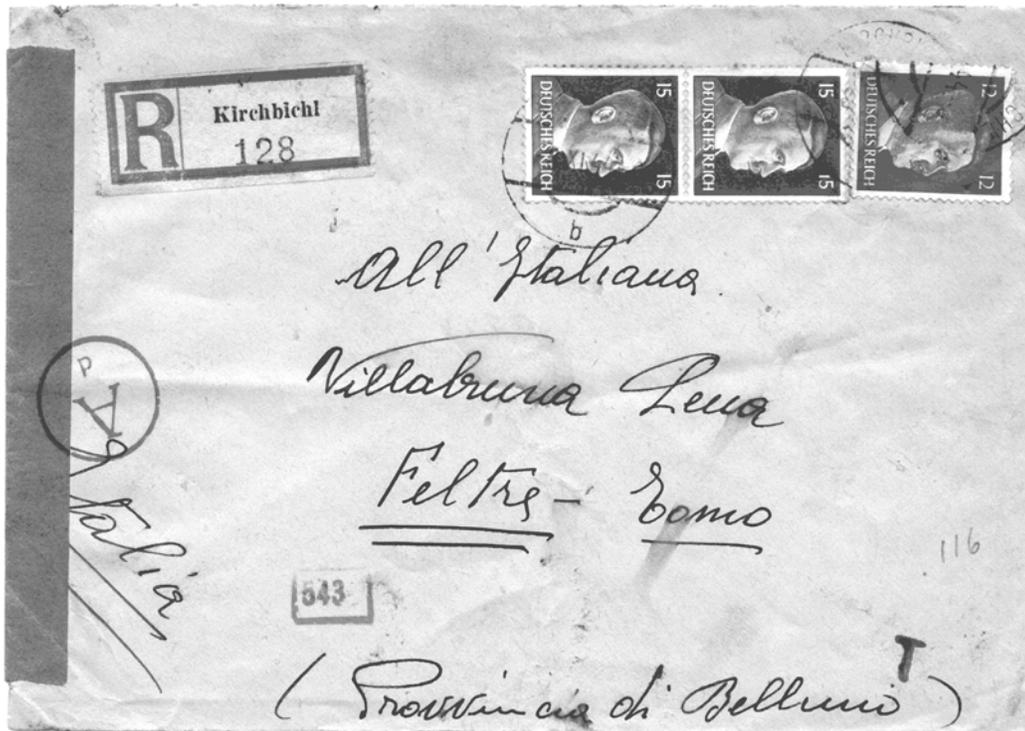
<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>PC</b>	<b>Pmat</b>	<b>Sum</b>
1.3.1925	30.9.1925	7g	1g	8g
1.10.1925	30.11.1925	8g	1g	9g
1.12.1926	31.1.1929	10g	2g	12g
1.2.1929	31.8.1932	10g	3g	13g
1.9.1932	3.4.1938	12g	3g	15g

It is not known what happened to this arrangement after the Anschluß.

## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS (rarely), LETTERS...

*Dear Editor,*

Can you explain the many markings on this registered letter from Kirchbichl in Tirol to Feltre in Italy? On the front, marks include a ringed A d in red; a boxed 543 in red; a T in violet; and a pencilled 116 in pencil (possibly a packet reference - the digits are UK-looking). On the back are a small smudged ringed A.R. in blue (Kosel the dealer?); a FELTRE arrival cancel; and an oval cachet MUNCHEN 2 B Z / HAUPSTADT DER BEWEGUNG. The third word of the sender's address is said to be "Lagger" which would be "Lager" mis-spelled.



*Ernst Oberthaler*

**R***eply: No, of course I can't! However I know people who can. Here is my interpretation of the answers of John Whiteside & Rex Dixon.*

The registered letter from Kirchbichl in Tirol to Feltre in Italy was sent in November 1944, when Northern Italy was still in Axis hands, so Tirol and Italy were on the same sides. The postage rate was 12 Rpf for a letter up to 20g plus 30 Rpf registration. From 1.1.42 Germany and Italy had a bilateral agreement, whereby mail from Germany to Italy (including Rhodes and the Sporadees) went at internal rates. This applied to most classes of letter post up to the German internal weight limits. It did not apply to ancillary fees such as express, COD, insurance, airmail. (The internal and foreign registration fees were identical.)

The letter was censored in Munich (shown by the circled A/d). The small boxed number identifies an individual censor. The T might be to do with this too although it is not in Riemer.

The 116 certainly looks English! The MÜNCHEN 2 BZ mark is not a TPO mark, though it is of the same general format. It was used at the Telegraphenamts, and is often but not exclusively found on pneumatic mail.

All mail abroad from Germany was routed via the appropriate censor office no matter how odd the routing may seem. So all mail to/from Italy was routed via Munich, even if this was a long way off the direct route. The extreme case of this is where the sender has paid the Grenztarif for post-towns less than 30km apart, and the route via the censor office has turned the route into hundreds of kms: the Grenztarif is still valid. This happens, for example, with mail from Friedrichshafen to Romanshorn in Switzerland: the mail still got routed via Munich for censorship.

### ***Dear Editor,***

I really enjoyed the "60th Jubilee Postal Cards of 1908" article by Salvatore J. Rizza, in the Summer 2005 edition of Austria. I, like many other Austria collectors, had some of the cards but had considered them quite boring. This article explaining the history of the Jubilee issue made my boring cards exciting! But what prompted me to write, were your most interesting comments on the participants of the Jubilee procession in Vienna in 1908.

[This is page 15 of Austria 150, where I quoted “Hitler’s Vienna”, by Brigitte Hamann (OUP 1999) which in turn quotes contemporary writers (all middle-class male Viennese I think!) as saying “*the participants in the parade were paid, but the rate only attracted the poorest – hence the 2000 visitors from Galicia, who shocked the Viennese by their different appearance. The realisation that over 60% of Ruthenians were illiterate compared with 3.12% of Germans ...*” Ed.]

In 1908, the Austro-Hungarian Empire included three regions where lived a majority population of Ukrainians: Carpatho-Ukraine, Bukovyna (Bukowyna) and Halychyna (Galicia) (mainly the eastern part). To prevent Ukrainian aspirations of uniting these regions with Russian occupied Ukraine, thus losing them from the Empire, the Austrian authorities had given Ukrainians who lived in their Empire the name Ruthenes, and their language Ukrainian was referred to as Ruthenian. Ukrainians in the Empire gladly accepted this name, for now they were recognised, many came to believe that they actually were Ruthenian not Ukrainian!

The Poles too had a dream “ad mozha do mozha”, that is “Poland from the Baltic sea to the Black sea”. For the Poles, the whole of Halychyna had to be kept Polish to fulfil their dream. Though the Austrian authorities had long ago abolished serfdom, in Halychyna (Galicia) the Poles, who controlled all positions of power, managed to continue serfdom of the Ukrainian population. Thus the Ukrainians of Halychyna (Galicia) remained mainly uneducated and illiterate (of Austrian), hidden from the Empire.



Item 1: This is a postcard (no.8), from a series of postcards produced in Vienna in 1908, showing the Ukrainians of Bukovyna in the 1908 Jubilee procession. (note the headdress of the girl at the front of the procession -bottom left)



Item 2: Shows Ukrainian girls from Chernivtsi (Czernowitz), wearing the same headdress. Item 3 (not illustrated here) & Item 4: Ukrainian girls from Bukovyna.



Items 5-7 (left to right above) show Ukrainian women of Halychyna in their 'working clothes'; young girls of Halychyna in their 'procession clothes'; and Ukrainian people of Halychyna in their 'Sunday best clothes'.

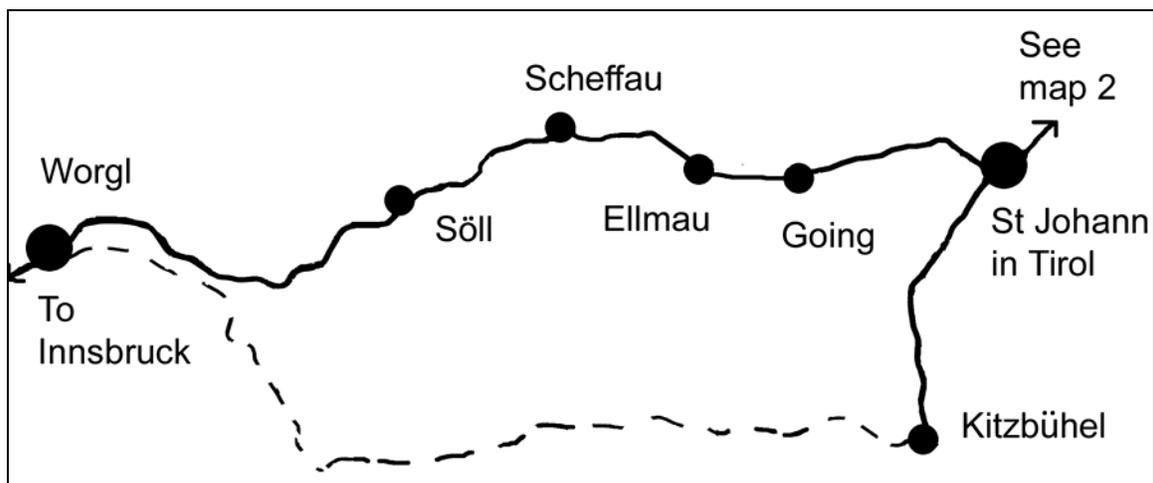
The reason the Ukrainians of Halychyna attended is that it gave them the opportunity to be recognised, to see Vienna the cultural capital of Europe, and not for the money! Look at the postcards do they look like poor people ?

## *Peter Cybaniak*

[According to the official census returns, the literacy rates of the Ukranian part of Galicia as a percentage of those for Lower Austria (incl Vienna) were: in 1890, 20.9%; in 1900, 33.1%; in 1910, 45.5%. Ed]

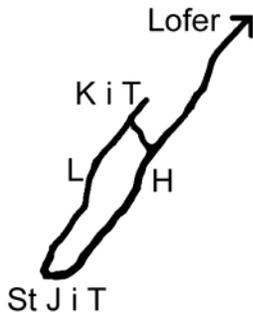
### ***"Disinfected but where" - probably here...***

While looking for something else, I (re)discovered that the WIPA 2000 Festschrift has an article by a Dr Klaus Meyer on Disinfected Mail. [*The WIPA author lives in Germany and is no known relation to the Dr Karl F Meyer Ph.D. M.D. who wrote APS Library book nr 65 on Disinfected Mail published in USA in 1962.*] It shows the locations of the western cordon stations against cholera in the 1830s and the post routes on which they were sited; the only one relevant is "Habbach-Litzelfelden" on the Innsbruck – Salzburg route which is shown as running Linz/Salzburg/Habbach-Litzelfelden/Innsbruck/Brixen/Bozen. From other sources we know that it ran from the Lofer pass through St Johann, then through Ellmau and Söll to Wörgl; it did not go through Kitzbühel and down the Westerndorf valley which is much steeper, nor from Söll to Kufstein.



Meyer's map shows Habbach-Litzelfelden as close to the Lofer Pass, just into the bit of Salzburgerland which is to the west of the Berchtesgarden enclave. My modern gazetteer has no Habbach, but five Habachs in various bits of Austria. The only one near Meyer's map is a hamlet near Kirchdorf in Tirol (KiT on adjacent sketch) which is near St Johann and is certainly on the correct postal route. There's only one Litzlfelden (L on the map), another hamlet just across

the local river from Habach (H on the map). So I believe that this is the geographical location that Meyer put on his map; and that my letter might well have been disinfected at Habbach-Litzelfelden, but not at Kitzbühel as there was neither station there nor route through it.



Hans Smith commented: I have long assumed that the marking you referred to was applied at your Habach (near St Johann) because (1) it was on the important post route you refer to and (2) it is an ideal place for a quarantine: the maps I have consulted show no potential 'rat-runs' for

evading the quarantine. The disinfection marking also appears on mail from Italy to Munich (i.e. via Salzburg, which points to a near-St Johann location). I had not checked on Litzelfelden previously but I'm glad to hear that it confirms my earlier suspicion.

Mail from Vienna, adds Hans, was disinfected because (1) all mail coming from the east was suspect - Upper Austria (Vienna) was as badly affected by the cholera as anywhere else and (2) many regional authorities (including Munich) would not touch mail originating from eastern or southern Austria on principle unless it had been disinfected.

## ***RAGUSA VECHIA***

Keith Brandon would appreciate some help with an 1844 cover. It has an oval RAGUSA VECHIA postmark, spelt with one "C". Müller (Handbook of the pre-stamp postmarks of Austria) lists a type RO mark (Mü. 1217a), but spelt VECCHIA with 2 "C"s.

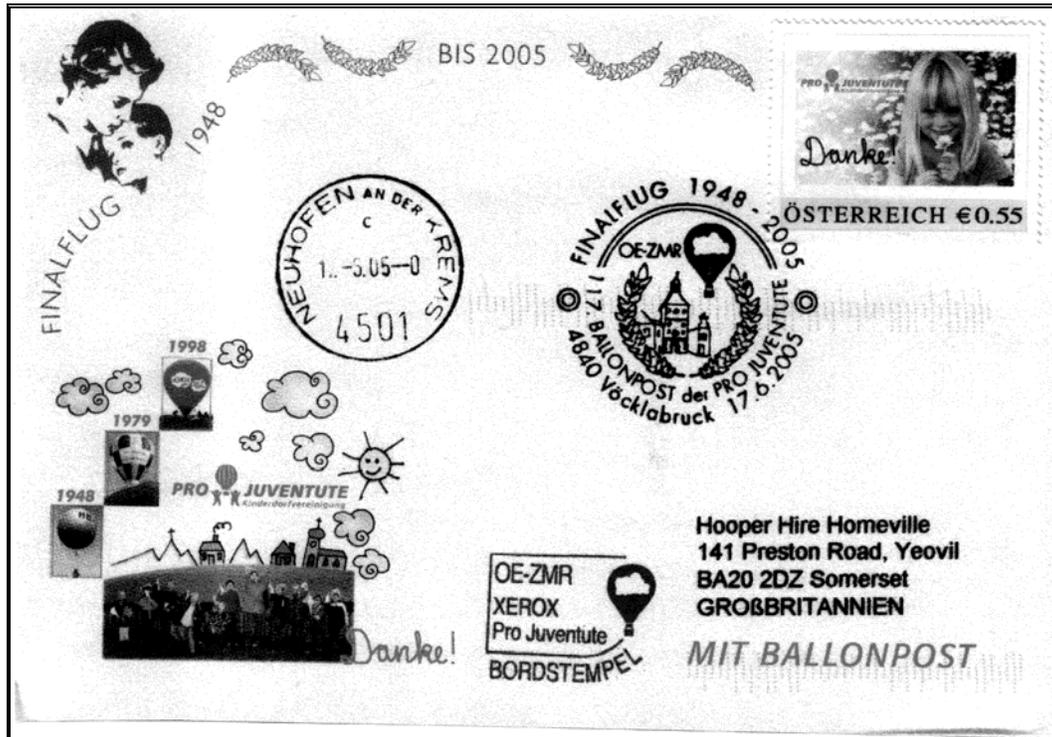
So, has Keith found an unrecorded postmark, or has Müller made a spelling/proofreading mistake in the catalogue? Keith would be grateful if any reader having a copy of Müller 1217a could email a scan to him (duntrading@aol.com), or post a photocopy to The Editor.

## ***Routing question***

Stephen Dunderdale writes: I collect Ceylon WWII material, and recently purchased a ps card (imprinted 5 + 10 adhesive) sent from Vienna on 14.08.1939 to a passenger on board the Rotterdam Lloyd ship Baloeren, at Colombo, where it received an arrival mark on 18.09.1939. It was redirected to Australia. Can anyone help with the route the surface rated card would have taken to Ceylon? I will write up any details for the Ceylon Study Circle (CSC) newsletter.

## *Pro Juventute Balloon flights grounded*

James Hooper reports that the Pro Juventute organisation in Salzburg have decided to terminate their annual balloon and airship flights which have in past years raised considerable funds for their childrens' charity. Simply put, the costs have risen to exceed the income, which for a charity is illegal. The final flight was the 117<sup>th</sup>; the cover is shown below.

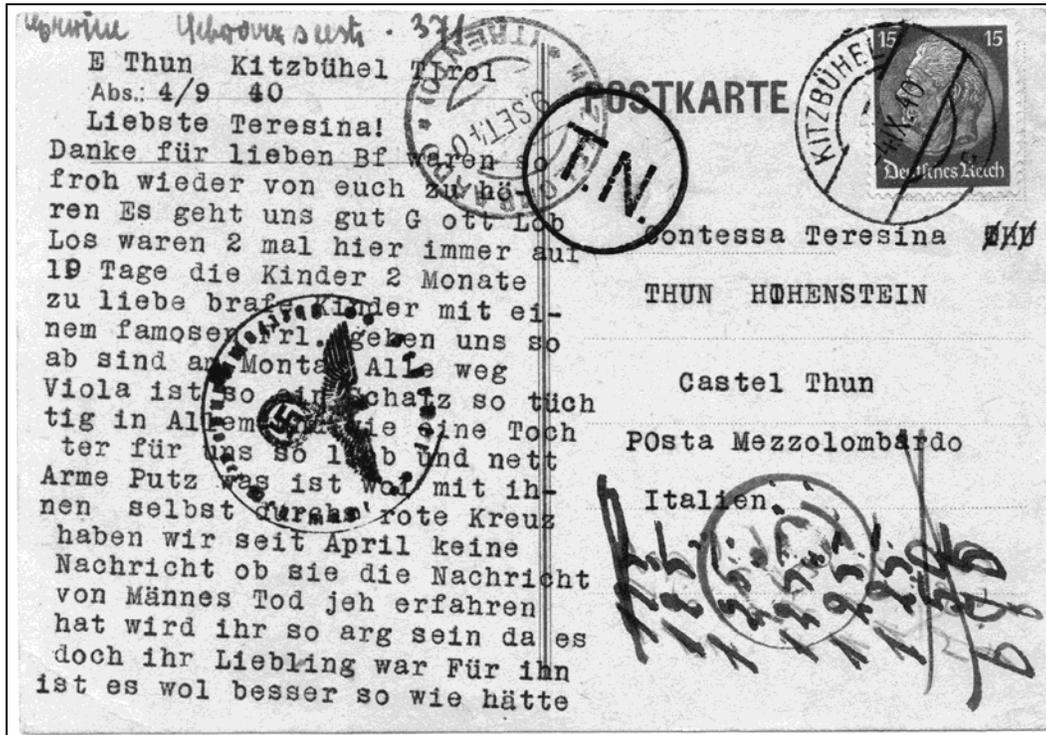


## *Korrektions Korner*

None reported! (Better proofreading? Readers' holidays?)

## *Curious cachet*

Can anyone tell me the significance of the circled T.N. on the card shown below, sent from Kitzbühel to Italy on 4 September 1940? (The curious mark at bottom right appears to be a 2-digit number in brackets, all in a circle and in violet.)



%%%%%%%%%

## Obituary: Bob Randall

Bob Randall has recently died following a massive brain seizure. Hans Smith writes:

An ex-insurance man, Bob acted variously as secretary, treasurer and secretary-treasurer of the Association of Austrian Philatelists of London (now the "London Group") and as secretary assisted with the drafting of the Austrian Philatelic Society's Rules at the time of its formation. For the first two years of the new society's existence he also acted as London Group representative. A relatively quiet man, London members appreciated his warm, friendly personality and common sense approach. He developed an interest in Austrian philately through his wife's family connections and while still in good health attended the Society's first Advent visit to Vienna. Although he was unable to attend London meetings in the past year, he will be greatly missed and the London Group extends its condolences to Bob's wife and son.