

# AUSTRIA

**Edited by Andy Taylor**

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## EDITORIAL 154

By Andy Taylor

While looking for something else, I found inside my copy of Austria issue 7 the first-ever APS Library List! It is dated July 1967, and lists 19 items which members could borrow (by sending their membership card to prove they had paid their subs, along with the postage). Certain items such as Müller's Handbook of Cancellations were deemed especially valuable, and Registered Postage was required; this cost 3/- (15p) extra. Today's equivalent is Special Delivery, which for Müller would cost you a mere 46 times more! I also discovered the programme for a "Display given by the ASCGB to the RPSL" on 14 Dec 1967! Or to be pedantic, 52 frames by only 9 members. The subjects are much as the APS showed the RPSL in 2004, although the exhibitors of 1967 have long since "hung up their tweezers".



Help for Flood Victims in Austria: the river March forms the border between Austria and Slovakia. In April it flooded the Marchfeld, inundating huge areas of agricultural land and countless houses; reconstruction will cost millions. To provide financial assistance, the Austrian Post Office has overprinted an existing definitive (the "Kreuzstein" in Mondsee) to become 75 cents nominal (the postage for a second-weight letter) plus a surcharge of 4€25. They will gladly sell you a copy!

Incidentally, this is the second time in the Second Republic that the Post Office has adopted this approach. In 1954, an existing 2S stamp design was reprinted in a changed colour and overprinted "Lawinenopfer 1954", with a nominal value of 1S and a surcharge of 20 groschen for victims of avalanches. The stamp used was one issued in 1946 and depicted a snowy Alpine scene.



However, there is ample precedence in Austria for such Charity issues: this is one of the 1920 Flood Relief issue. See the tabulation of all Charity Issues up to 1938, in Austria 148 p48.

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# The Postal Rates of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1878 - 1918

*By Alfred Kraut and Gerrit Matthijssen*

## Preface

In December 2002 we presented the first version of this article in German language in "Postgeschichte" (English subtitle: Postal History), a quarterly journal published in Zurich. While this presentation was well received by collectors with sufficient knowledge of German, it was regretted by others that the article was not accessible to them. This encouraged us to prepare an English version, and we have appreciated the chance to publish it in "Austria".

We have studied the postal rates effective in Bosnia and Herzegovina for several years, and it was our intention to present them to the collectors interested in postal history in convenient form, and with reference to the underlying original decrees whenever these decrees were accessible in libraries and archives. This holds for the English version as well. Even so, this version is not a mere translation of the German original. Bosnian postal history is marked by the continuous interaction of the limitations and needs of a developing oriental country with a majority of illiterates, the endeavour to cope with the highly developed Austro-Hungarian postal system, and the War Ministry's prerogative. This is a challenging topic, and we have tried to make the historical background of the essential regulations more transparent to the reader than we probably succeeded in doing in the German version. Also, documents which we found during the last three years have of course been evaluated and taken into consideration.

Our first thanks are due to the collector friends who promoted our research in various ways. They are individually mentioned in the preface to the German original. Again we sincerely thank the staff of the Library of the Austrian Postal Administration and the staff of the Austrian State Archives. Without their assistance over many years we would never have succeeded in finding all of the 259 documents which are cited as References at the end of the article but which nevertheless make up its very base.

Hans R. Schwarzenbach, publisher of "Postgeschichte", readily consented to the publication of an English version of our article. This is gratefully acknowledged. Finally, many thanks to Martin Brumby and Andy Taylor of the Austrian Philatelic Society for their invaluable help in preparing the article for publication.

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**Section 5 and the References will be published in Austria 155**

# 1 The Postal Territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1878 - 1918

Bosnia and Herzegovina constituted the westernmost Vilayet (province) of the Turkish Empire when, in July 1878, Austria-Hungary was authorized by the Treaty of Berlin to occupy the territory in order to put an end to the continuous riots in this part of the Balkans and to establish an effective administration. The Treaty had been signed by the representatives of the European Great Powers and Turkey. It was understood that the occupied territory should formally remain under the Sultan's sovereignty. The occupation was intended to be a peaceful one, but because of the inhabitants' strong resistance it developed into a campaign of several months. The existing Turkish postal system broke down in the course of the military actions.

The Austro-Hungarian army had a well-equipped fieldpost system at its disposal. At the end of the campaign the Austro-Hungarian **Fieldpost** essentially covered the whole occupied territory. From about October 1878, and officially from January 1879, it also accepted letters from selected inhabitants, primarily merchants. Its services to the public were extended step by step until, by November 1879, it had actually become a public institution. To acknowledge this fact, its name was changed, on 16 Nov 1879, to **Military Post**. The new name implied that the characteristics of a fieldpost were no longer prevalent but that the postal system remained under the authority of the Austro-Hungarian War Ministry. This status persisted even after the political relation between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Austria-Hungary was changed by the territory's annexation in October 1908.

On 1 Jul 1892 Bosnia-Herzegovina had become a member of the **Universal Postal Union**.

At the beginning of **World War 1** the Military Post contributed, together with the Austrian and the Hungarian Post, to the re-establishment of the Austro-Hungarian Fieldpost. Fieldpost offices of the 5th and the 6th army operated in Bosnia-Herzegovina during the first few months of the war.

Two new offices of the Military Post were, somewhat prematurely, opened in the conquered Serbian towns of Ložnica and Lješnica on 17 Nov 1914. The War Ministry did not approve of the designation Military Post Office but ordered that stationary post offices in conquered territories were to be designated as Etappenpostämter (base post offices). In the case in question this decision could not be followed since the two offices had to be closed on 12 and 11 Dec 1914, respectively, due to a counter-attack by the Serbs. In consequence of this attack, the Austro-Hungarian army retreated from Serbia to the south of Hungary. From

this time only a few army units equipped with fieldpost offices were left in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, many other military units were assigned various tasks within the country, and the Military Post provided for the necessary communications.

There were numerous **restrictions** to which the Military Post was subject during World War 1. Censorship was introduced. Several post offices in the southeast of Bosnia had to be closed temporarily for different periods of time. Postal relations with enemy countries were interrupted, and those with other countries temporarily restricted. However, postal communications with the territories occupied by the Austro-Hungarian and German armies were re-established before long.

On 2 Nov 1918, deputies of the newly assembled Bosnian National Council demanded that the Commanding General in Bosnia-Herzegovina formally hand over the Military Post and Telegraph. The General, having no military order from his High Commander, the Emperor, refused. The postal organisation seems to have passed to the new authorities by unilateral local actions. This was the **end** of the **Military Post**.

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**Band Rates**  
 The **Fieldpost in the Sandjak of Novibazar** 1879 - 1908 was closely related to the Military Post in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A special agreement with the Turkish government had entitled Austria-Hungary to establish garrisons at three places outside Bosnia-Herzegovina, viz. at Plevlje, Prijepolje and Priboj in the Sandjak (administrative district) of Novibazar, which then was part of the neighbouring Turkish Vilayet of Kosova. To provide for postal communication, the Fieldpost was, from September 1879, extended across the political border, and fieldpost offices were established at the three places. These offices did not become part of the Military Post on 16 Nov 1879 but retained their status as offices of the Austro-Hungarian Fieldpost until the three garrisons were withdrawn at the end of October 1908 (as one of the compensations agreed upon with Turkey for the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina). Nevertheless, these fieldpost offices were put under the authority of the Military Post Directorate, they used the stamps and postal forms of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and their service was open to the general public even after Turkish post offices had been established.

The **Austrian Post Office at Neum** is another peculiarity of the postal territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Towards the end of June 1879, a post office was opened at Neum, which was then a very small port on one of Herzegovina's short shorelines. The office had, however, not been established by the Fieldpost but by the Austrian Postal Administration; it was attached to the Postal Directorate of Dalmatia based in Zara, and it used stamps of Austria (which were otherwise not valid in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1 Jul 1879). This status persisted until the end of World War 1. The postal rates which were in effect at

Neum for mail to Austria-Hungary were those which were in effect at the neighbouring post offices in Dalmatia. The postal rates at the post office of Neum are therefore not considered in this article.

## 2 Preliminary Remarks and Definitions

In Sections 3 to 5 the postal rates are grouped as follows:

- 3 Briefpost rates,
- 4 Rates for money orders,
- 5 Fahrpost rates and rates for letters with declared value.

The postal service branches Briefpost and Fahrpost differed considerably as regards their rate structures. The **Briefpost** carried letters, postcards, printed matter, samples, commercial papers, and it offered complementary services such as registration, express delivery, cash on delivery and the like. Also, **money orders** were carried by the Briefpost; these are dealt with in a separate Section for practical reasons.

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**BandHrates**

The **Fahrpost** was primarily concerned with parcels and the relevant complementary services. In addition, it carried money letters until about the turn of the century. On 1 Oct 1900, money letters to foreign countries (with the exception of Germany) were replaced by **letters with declared value**, which were included in the Briefpost regulations. Money letters to destinations within Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria-Hungary and Germany were replaced by letters with declared value only on 1 Oct 1916, but they had long before been included in the Briefpost regulations, too. Because of the close relationship between money letters and letters with declared value, both categories are dealt with in Section 5.

Most of the rates, particularly those which were repeatedly modified, are listed in **Tables**. The date at the top of a Table column gives the day from which the rates listed underneath were effective, provided that this date was specified in the decree or in one of the decrees cited below with a **Reference number**. The rates remained effective until the day before the next modification or, if no such modification is indicated, as long as the Military Post accepted the category of mail under consideration. In several decrees the dates on which they became effective were not specified, either due to negligence or because “immediate” observance was demanded. In such cases we give the date on which the decree was issued, with underlined day and month if listed in a Table.

An item of mail is called **franked** when the total rate for its forwarding (but not necessarily the fee for its delivery) was paid by the sender, either by the use of postage stamps or in cash.

The postal rates given in this paper were effective both in Bosnia-Herzegovina and at the fieldpost offices in the Sandjak of Novibazar unless specified otherwise.

The rates for mail to destinations within Bosnia-Herzegovina or to one of the fieldpost offices in the Sandjak of Novibazar will be called **internal rates**. Expressions such as “domestic rate” or “inland rate” will not be used with respect to Bosnia-Herzegovina because of the ambiguities which may arise from the special and evolving political relationship between this country and Austria-Hungary. All countries outside Austria (including Liechtenstein), Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina will be described as **foreign**. However, this description will not be used with regard to the three fieldpost offices in the Sandjak.

For brevity, the term **Sandjak** will often be used alone to designate the region of activity of the three fieldpost offices. This term should never be connected with the Turkish post operating in the same region.

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Phrases such as “each 15 g”, “each extra 10 fl” strictly mean “each 15 g **or part thereof**”, “each extra 10 fl **or part thereof**”.

The following abbreviations of currency units will be used:

- c centime (= 0.01 fr),
- fl florin (German: Gulden),
- fr franc (French franc, international reference currency unit),
- h heller (= 0.01 K),
- K krone (unit of the new currency which was introduced into the postal service on 1 Jan 1900; 1 K = 0.50 fl),
- kr kreuzer (= 0.01 fl).

The covers, postcards and forms shown in the **Figures** were selected with regard to the postal rates which had been charged. The Sections or Tables to be consulted for explanation are given (in square brackets) in the figure captions.

## 3 Briefpost Rates

### 3.1 General

The Fieldpost Regulations for the Austro-Hungarian army (Ref 1) became effective at the beginning of the occupation campaign on 29 Jul 1878 (Ref 2). Official letters (registered letters included) were free of charge. Private letters (registered letters excluded) between members of the army and any individual in Austria-Hungary were free of charge up to a weight of 70 g. Other letters were subject to the “general regulations”. This rather vague specification (Ref 1) was mostly, but not in all cases, interpreted in the way that such letters were charged as if they had been posted within Austria-Hungary.

Free postcards for private use were not provided for by the Fieldpost Regulations. However, interpreting the actual Regulations rather favourably, the Fieldpost accepted Austrian and Hungarian 2-kr stationery cards from army members to private addressees in Austria-Hungary. From October 1878 private merchants' letters to Austria-Hungary were occasionally accepted if they were properly franked for the forwarding within Austria-Hungary (5 kr up to 15 g, 10 kr up to 250 g).

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BandRates**

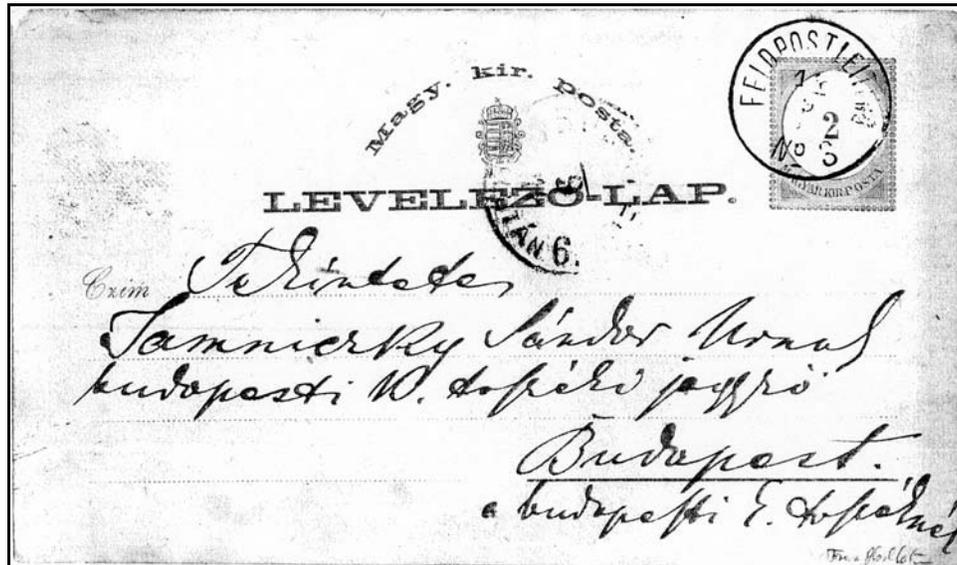
Officially, a limited service of the Fieldpost was granted to civilians by decree of 9 Jan 1879 (Ref 3). This date, therefore, is the starting date of Tables 1 and 2. Letters to foreign destinations and postcards were officially accepted from civilians from 1 Jul 1879 (Ref 4). This is the starting date of Tables 3 and 4. Occasionally, however, foreign letters had been accepted before this date.

Besides the postal rates, Tables 1 to 4 give the maximum permissible weights of printed matter, samples, and commercial papers. There was no numerical limit to the weight of letters except in the following cases.

From 1 Feb 1886 to 30 Sep 1916, the maximum weight of internal letters and letters to and from Austria-Hungary was 250 g (Refs 5, 6). The same was true of letters to and from Germany from 1 Jan 1892 to 30 Sep 1916 (Refs 7, 8).

The weight limit of 250 g was re-introduced for private letters to and from Austria on 15 Oct 1918 (Ref 9). A corresponding limit for internal letters and letters to and from Hungary is possible but has not yet been verified.

From 1 Jan 1894 mail to and from Austro-Hungarian **warships** operating in foreign waters was subject to the rates in effect for mail to and from Austria-Hungary provided the mail was properly franked (Refs 10, 11). Cash-on-delivery items were not included in this regulation.



Dobo, 14 Sep 1878. Private postcard to Budapest, 2 kr [3.1]

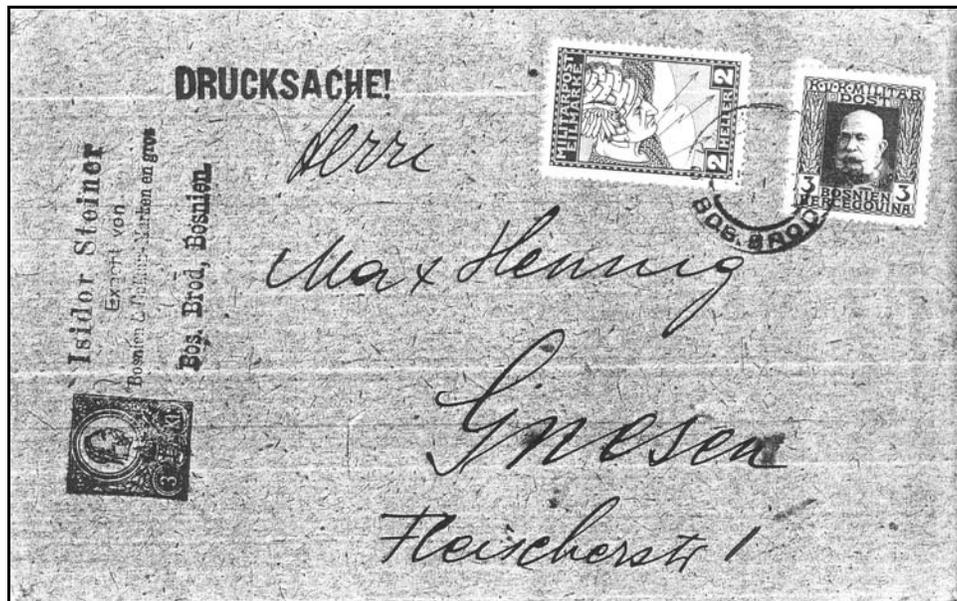
### 3.2 Special Classes of Printed Matter

**Newspapers** mailed by the publishers to internal destinations and to Austria-Hungary were subject to a reduced rate of 1 kr per piece from 1 Jul 1879 (Ref 4), and of 2 h per piece from 1 Jan 1900 (Ref 12). The rate of 2 h was also applied to newspapers mailed to fieldpost addresses (Ref 13) and to addressees in the occupied territories (Ref 14) during World War 1. All other newspapers with the exception of those ordered directly from the postal distribution service were subject to the standard printed-matter rates as listed in Tables 1 to 4. From November 1903 the reduced newspaper rates stated above were also applicable to periodically published price-lists and catalogues mailed by the publishers (Ref 15).

For internal **Braille** mail, i. e., texts on any subject but using exclusively characters made up of raised dots, the following rates were introduced on 1 Dec 1909 (Ref 16): 3 h up to 50 g, 5 h up to 100 g, 10 h up to 1000 g, 20 h up to 2000 g, 30 h up to 3000 g. The same rates were introduced for Braille mail to Austria on 1 Mar 1910 (Ref 17), and to Germany by decree of 8 Aug 1913 (Ref 18); they were also applicable to Braille mail to the territories occupied during World War 1 (Ref 19). On 1 Oct 1918 the rates for Braille mail to Germany were raised as follows: 5 h up to 50 g, 10 h up to 100 g, 15 h up to 1000 g, 25 h up to 2000 g, 35 h up to 3000 g (Ref 20).

Braille mail to all other countries, including Hungary, was subject to the standard printed-matter rates as listed in Tables 2 and 4 (Refs 17, 19).

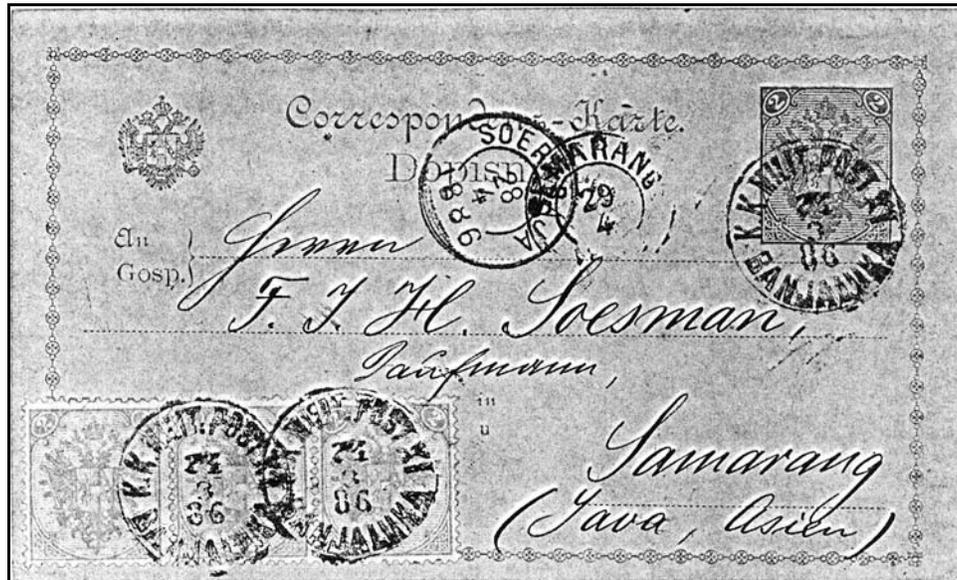
A **priority** service for printed matter to destinations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria-Hungary, the territories occupied during World War 1, Germany, and to fieldpost addresses was introduced on 1 Oct 1916 (Refs 6, 21). For an extra charge of 2 h, a fully franked printed item was forwarded as promptly as a letter (Refs 22, 21). For destinations in Germany the extra charge was cancelled on 1 Sep 1918 (Ref 19).



Bos. Brod, 1917. Printed matter to Gnesen (Germany),  
3 h + 2 h for priority handling [3.2, Table 3]

### 3.3 *Special Regulations for Mail to Foreign Countries*

Higher rates than the standard rates listed in Table 4 could be fixed if the transit route included a **sea route of more than 300 nautical miles** (1 nautical mile = 1.852 km). This was an agreement reached by the General Postal Congress in 1874 and confirmed by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Convention of 1878 (Ref 23). From 1 Apr 1879, the following higher rates were effective between Austria-Hungary and the majority of overseas UPU-member countries and colonies, but not Canada, Egypt and the United States (Ref 24): 20 kr per 15 g for letters, 8 kr for postcards, 6 kr per 50 g for printed matter, samples, and commercial papers (minimum 8 kr for samples, 13 kr for commercial papers). By decree (Ref 4) the applicability of these rates was extended to Bosnia-Herzegovina (see also Ref 5). The higher rates were replaced by the rates listed in Table 4 on 1 Jun 1893 (Ref 25).



Banjaluca, 24 Mar 1886. Postcard to Samarang (Java),  
overseas destination, 8 kr [3.3]

Mail to **non-UPU-member countries** was subject to the rates which had been agreed upon between Austria-Hungary and the respective countries (Refs 4, 5). Unified rates for such mail were introduced on 1 May 1888 (Refs 26, 27): 30 kr per 15 g for letters, 10 kr per 50 g for printed matter and samples (minimum 12 kr for samples), 12 kr per 50 g for commercial papers (minimum 20 kr). Postcards were not allowed. These rates were replaced by the rates listed in Table 4 on 1 Jun 1893 (Ref 25).

The rate for letters from Bosnia-Herzegovina (but not from the Sandjak) to **Switzerland** was reduced to 25 h per 20 g (instead of per 15 g) from 1 Dec 1900 to 30 Sep 1907 (Ref 28).

The rates for letters and postcards to **Serbia** were reduced from 1 Feb 1910 (Ref 29), and to **Montenegro** from 1 May 1914 (Ref 30), to 10 h per 20 g for letters, 5 h for postcards.

The rate for letters to the **Austrian post offices in Albania** was reduced to 10 h per 20 g by decree of 15 Jun 1914 (Ref 31).

Within all the preceding regulations there was no numerical limit to the weight of letters; the maximum weights of printed matter, samples, and commercial papers were the same as those which are stated in Table 4.



Bjelina, 13 Jul 1911. Postcard to Mladenovac (Serbia), reduced rate, 5 h [3.3]

### 3.4 Registration, Return Receipts, Arrival Receipts, Tracers

The registration fee, the fee for a return receipt (German: Retour-Recepisse or Rückschein) and the fee for a demand letter (German: Nachfrageschreiben) were 10 kr each until 31 Dec 1899, and 25 h thereafter. The References for specified periods of time are those which are given in Tables 1 to 4. There were three exceptions:

- ❖ from 1 Nov 1886 to 31 Dec 1899, the fees for registration of local mail and for local-mail return receipts were only 5 kr (Refs 32, 27);
- ❖ from 1 May 1888 to 31 May 1893, the registration fee for mail to non-UPU-member countries was 20 kr (Refs 26, 27); return receipts could not be requested;
- ❖ if a return receipt for an item had been requested and paid for, but had not been received, a tracer for that item was free of charge.

Return receipts and tracers could be used for any item for which a mailing receipt had been issued, i. e., for registered items as well as for money orders (cf. Section 4.3), parcels, money letters and letters with declared value (cf. Section 5.7).

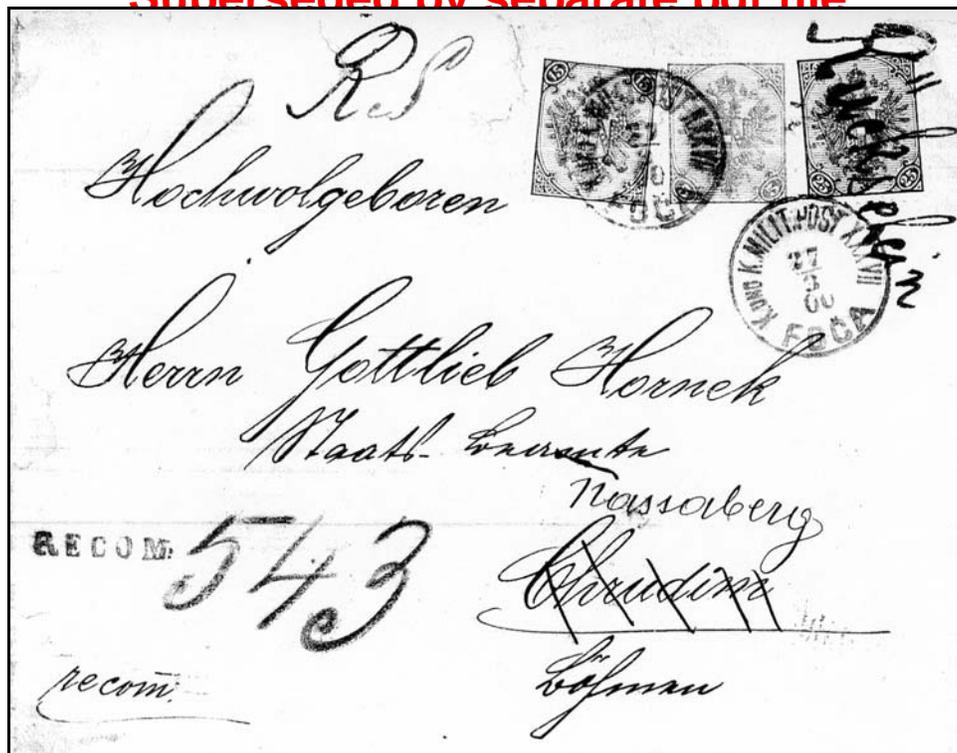
An **arrival receipt** (German: Empfangsanzeige), given by the destination post office before the delivery of a registered letter to an addressee in Bosnia-Herzegovina (but not in the Sandjak) or Austria, could be requested from 1 Jun 1907 to 30 Sep 1916 (Refs 33, 22, 34). The fee was 25 h.

All the fees mentioned in this Section had to be paid by the sender.



Sarajevo, 3 Oct 1899. Local postcard, 2 kr + reduced registration fee 5 kr [3.4, Table 1]

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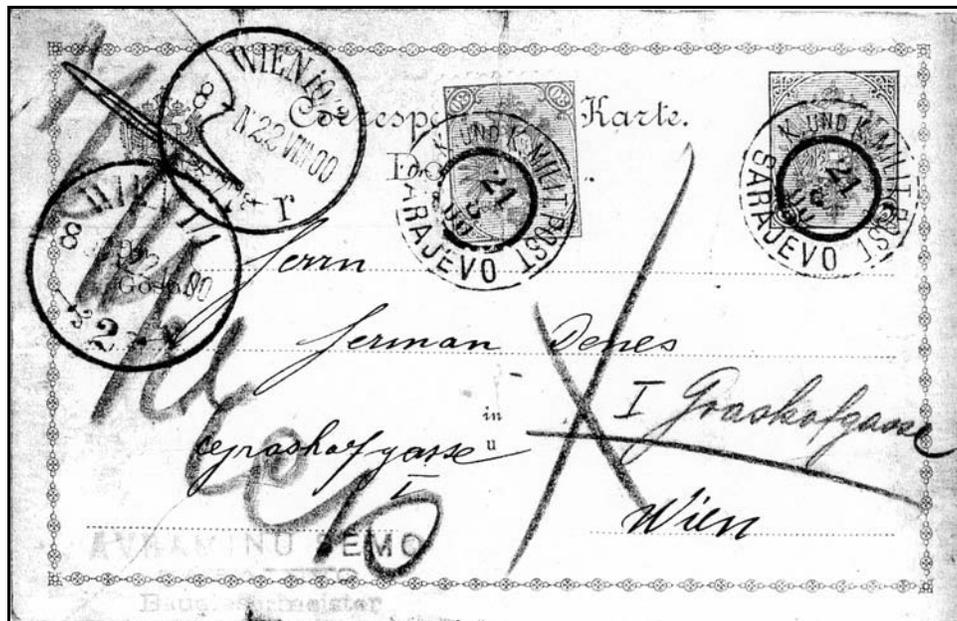


Foča, 27 Mar 1900. Letter to Chrudim (Bohemia), 10 h + 25 h for registration + 25 h for return receipt. Kreuzer-heller mixed franking [3.4, Table 2]

### 3.5 *Special Delivery*

The delivery of an item by a special messenger commissioned by the destination post office immediately after the item's arrival at the office could be requested for mail to Austria-Hungary from 1 Feb 1886 (Ref 5), to Germany from 1 Jan 1892 (Ref 7), and to other UPU-member countries which provided for this service from 1 Jul 1892 (Refs 27, 8, 35, 36). Mail of this type was designated as **express** mail. Express mail to foreign countries was not accepted in the Sandjak.

Internal express mail was introduced on 1 Jul 1893, but only to places where a military post office was available (Ref 37). The same restriction held for express mail from other countries to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thus, special delivery was never carried out by the fieldpost offices in the Sandjak.



Sarajevo, 21 Aug 1900. Postcard to Vienna, 5 h + 30 h for special delivery, transportation in Vienna by pneumatic post [3.5, Table 2]

The **express fee** had to be paid by the sender, even if the mail was otherwise exempted from postage (cf. Section 3.10). It was 15 kr until 31 Dec 1899 (Ref 5), and 30 h thereafter (Ref 38). It was raised to 60 h

- ❖ for mail to Hungary on 20 May 1916 (Ref 39);
- ❖ for mail to Austria at the beginning of 1918 (Refs 40, 41);
- ❖ for internal mail and mail to Germany on 1 Sep 1918 (Ref 19).

The new express fee for mail to (and from) Austria was decided upon rather late (Ref 40), and the decree was apparently not sufficiently clear (Ref 41). Express

letters to Vienna are known whose frankings prove that express fees of only 30 h had been paid but which were properly delivered even in July 1918.



Tuzla, 7 Aug 1918. Postcard to Budapest, 8 h + 60 h  
for special delivery [3.5, Table 2]

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### 3.6 Cash on Delivery **BandHrates**

Items at whose delivery a specified amount of money was to be collected from the addressee and conveyed back to the sender were accepted by the Briefpost to destinations in Bosnia-Herzegovina (including the Sandjak) and Austria-Hungary from 1 Mar 1893 (Refs 42, 8). **Registration** was obligatory, the maximum amount was 500 fl, and a **collection fee** of 5 kr as well as the fee for the appropriate **money order** (see Section 4.1) were deducted from the amount to be conveyed to the sender (Ref 43). From 1 Mar 1897 the reduced amount could also be credited to a bank account specified by the sender (Ref 44).

Some Austrian post offices in the Levant were included in the cash-on-delivery (C.O.D.) service from 1 Aug 1894 (Ref 45). On 1 Jan 1899 the service was extended to all UPU-member countries which were prepared to participate (Ref 46), with two restrictions: the Sandjak was not included in this extension, and for some countries the maximum amount to be collected was well below 500 fl.

On 1 Jan 1900 the maximum amount was converted to 1000 K (or correspondingly less), and the collection fee to 10 h.

From 1 Oct 1916 the collection fee of 10 h for C.O.D. mail within Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria, Hungary and Germany and, as far as admitted, the occupied territories was no longer deducted from the collected amount but had to be paid (as part of the franking) in advance by the sender (Ref 22, 47).

From 1 Oct 1916 at the latest, the addressee of an internal C.O.D. item could send a form with a request for **reduction** or **cancellation** of the **C.O.D. amount** (German: Ansuchen um Nachnahmeänderung) to the mailing post office for a fee of 25 h (Ref 22).

Bihac, 1 Sep 1908. C.O.D. money order to Tešanj, 10 h + 10 h for collection [3.6, Table 5]

### 3.7 Collection Orders

From 1 Nov 1883, it was permitted to send a collection order (German: Postauftrag) from Austria-Hungary to Bosnia-Herzegovina and to the Sandjak (Ref 48). Practicalities and fees were the same as within Austria-Hungary (Refs 49, 50). The amount to be collected was limited to 200 fl, raised to 300 fl from 1 Oct 1885 (Ref 51).

From 1 Feb 1886, orders to collect amounts up to 300 fl could be sent within Bosnia-Herzegovina (including the Sandjak) or from Bosnia-Herzegovina (and the Sandjak) to Austria-Hungary (Ref 5). The fee (Refs 49, 50) comprised

- ❖ the fee for a registered letter;
- ❖ the collection fee of 5 kr;
- ❖ the fee for the money order (see Section 4.1) by which the collected amount, reduced by the collection fee and the money-order fee, was conveyed to the sender.

The maximum amount to be collected was raised to 400 fl on 1 May 1886 (Ref 52), and to 500 fl in August 1888 (Refs 27, 53).

The collection-order service was extended to several Austrian post offices in the Levant on 1 Mar 1890 (Ref 27), to all such post offices in May 1903 (Ref 54), and to Germany by decree of 12 Feb 1914 (Ref 55).

On 1 Jan 1900 the collection fee was converted to 10 h, and the maximum amount to 1000 K (Ref 38).

A **collection-order card** for the collection of small amounts up to 10 K in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria and Hungary was introduced on 1 Nov 1913 (Ref 56). The fee for this form and its forwarding was only 10 h; a registered letter was no longer required. The maximum amount which could be collected using this form was raised to 20 K on 1 Oct 1916 (Ref 6).

Also from 1 Oct 1916, the fee of 10 h for collection orders sent to Austria and Hungary was no longer deducted from the amount conveyed back to the sender but had to be paid by the sender in advance (Ref 22).

Ankunftsnummer	1050	Raum zum Aufkleben der Briefmarken
AUFTRAGSPOSTANWEISUNG		
auf	9 K 70h	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	K 70 h	
an na	SINGER CO. NÄHMASCHINEN ACT. GES.	
in u	Sarajevo	
Straße, Hausnummer Ulica, kućni broj		
letzte Post (Land) zadnja pošta (zemlja)		
Annahmenummer	Bezirksstempel	Unterschrift des Postbeamten
117	SARAJEVO	

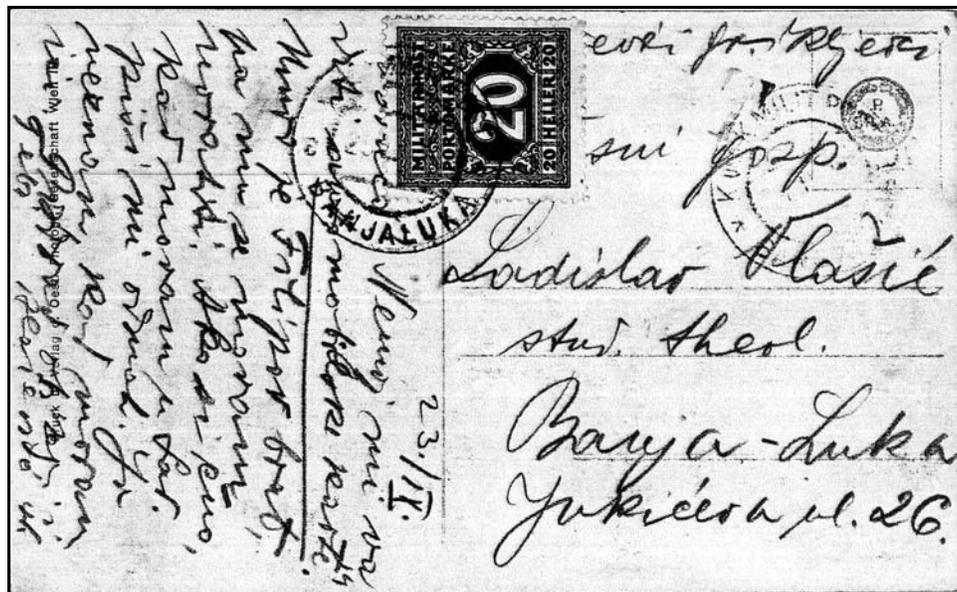
Trebinje, 6 Mar 1918. Money order, originally attached to a collection-order card, to Sarajevo, 20 h + 10 h for collection [3.7, Table 5]

### 3.8 Unfranked Mail

In principle, the Briefpost accepted the following categories of (non-registered) mail even without franking (i. e., without payment by the sender):

- ❖ letters;
- ❖ postcards to destinations within Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Sandjak and Austria-Hungary from 1 Jun 1892 (Refs 57, 58), and to foreign destinations from 1 Jul 1892 (Refs 59, 60).

However, full franking was required for letters and postcards to some non-UPU-member countries (Ref 5) and, during World War 1, to the occupied territories and to fieldpost addresses if there were no regulations to the contrary (cf. Section 3.10) (Refs 61, 14).



Sanski Most, 23 Sep 1918. Unfranked postcard to Banjaluka, postage due 20 h [3.8]

The addressee of an unfranked item had to pay a **postage due**, which was, as a rule, **twice the fee** for a franked item of equal category, weight and routing (the References for the respective periods of time are those which are given in Tables 1 to 4). The **exceptions** to this rule were, for the greater part, temporary:

- ❖ The amount due for unfranked letters to and from those UPU-member **overseas countries** for which higher than the standard rates were effective until 31 May 1893 (cf. Section 3.3) was 30 kr (rather than 40 kr) per 15 g (Refs 4, 5, 24).
- ❖ The amount due for unfranked letters to and from **non-UPU-member countries** (cf. Section 3.3) was, until 31 May 1893, 40 kr (rather than 60 kr) per 15 g (Refs 26, 5).

- ❖ The amount due for unfranked **letters** weighing **more than 20 g** within Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sandjak as well as from Bosnia-Herzegovina (but not from the Sandjak) to Austria-Hungary and vice versa was, from 1 Feb 1890 until 30 Sep 1916, **1.5 times** (instead of twice) **the fee** for franked letters, i. e., 9 kr or 18 h if local, 15 kr or 30 h otherwise (Refs 62, 38). The same held true for letters of more than 20 g from Bosnia-Herzegovina (but not from the Sandjak) to Germany from 1 Jan 1892 until 30 Sep 1916 (Refs 7, 38).
- ❖ The amount due for an unfranked **postcard** was, until 31 Dec 1898, the same as the amount due for an unfranked letter of equal weight and routing (Refs 57 — 60, 46, 63).
- ❖ **Official mail** from many public, military and clerical offices and institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria and Hungary **to private addressees** in these countries was, to a great extent, free of charge for the senders (cf. Section 3.10). However, if the indicated subject of the correspondence was not of public concern, the addressee had to pay a postage due which was equal to the **fee** that the sender would have had to pay in the case of **normal franking without** considering a possible registration (Refs 54, 65, 6).

**Superseded by separate pdf file**

**BandRates**

### ***3.9 Mail with Insufficient Franking***

In principle, the Briefpost accepted the following categories of (non-registered) mail even with insufficient (partial) franking:

- ❖ letters;
- ❖ postcards to foreign countries (with the exception of Germany) from 1 Feb 1886 (Refs 5, 24), to destinations within Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Sandjak and Austria-Hungary from 1 Jun 1892 (Refs 57, 58), and to Germany from 1 Jul 1892 (Refs 59, 60);
- ❖ printed matter, samples and (as far as admitted with full franking) commercial papers from 1 Jul 1879 (Ref 4).

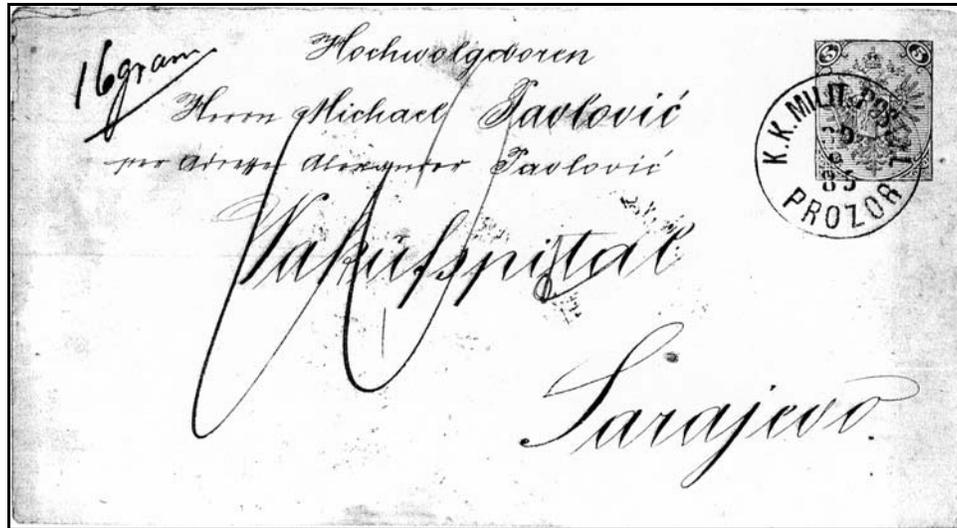
Mail to destinations as specified at the beginning of Section 3.8, for which full franking was required, was of course excepted.

The **postage due** for insufficiently franked mail was calculated in three different ways according to category, circumstances and period of time.

**Procedure A.** The addressee had to pay **twice the deficit** as compared with full franking. This simple procedure had been agreed upon for mail to foreign countries in the UPU Convention of 1878 (Ref 24), but it was widely employed on other mail too.

In the Sandjak this procedure was employed throughout. In Bosnia-Herzegovina it was employed on:

- ❖ all mail to foreign countries except Germany (Refs 4, 5, 22);
- ❖ letters with destinations within Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Sandjak, Austria-Hungary and Germany with the temporary exceptions stated under B (Refs 5, 66, 67);
- ❖ postcards, printed matter, samples and commercial papers without any restriction (Refs 4, 5, 22).



Prozor, 30 Sep 1885. Letter of 16 g to Sarajevo, insufficiently franked with 5 kr, postage due 10 kr: procedure A [3.9, Table 1]



Plevlje (Sandjak of Novibazar), 9 Apr 1894. Letter card to Sarajevo, insufficiently franked with 3 kr, postage due 4 kr: procedure A [3.9, Table 1]

**Procedure B.** The addressee had to pay the **difference** between the postage due for an **unfranked item** of the same category and the **value** of the **insufficient franking**. This procedure originated from an old taxation rule used in Austria (Ref 68). In Bosnia-Herzegovina it was only employed from 1 Feb 1886 until 30 Sep 1916, and only on letters to destinations within Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Sandjak (until September 1892), Austria-Hungary and Germany (Refs 5, 69, 70, 67, 66).



Sarajevo, 22 Jun 1913. Local letter, insufficiently franked with 6 h, postage due 14 h: procedure B [3.9, Table 1]

**Procedure C.** The addressee had to pay the **deficit** as compared with full franking. This procedure was only employed on redirected mail which was fully franked to the original destination but insufficiently franked to the new destination (Refs 71, 24, 3, 5, 6).

The postage due for an insufficiently franked item was never allowed to be higher than the amount due for an unfranked item of equal category, weight and routing.

Until September 1892, insufficiently franked mail from non-UPU-member countries was regarded as unfranked (Refs 70, 67, 5).

From 1 Oct 1916, postage dues on mail to destinations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria-Hungary and Germany had to be heller amounts divisible by 5. If necessary this was achieved by rounding up to the next multiple of 5 (Ref 22).

### ***3.10 Exemptions from Postal Charges***

Basically, the exemptions from postal charges in Bosnia-Herzegovina were those which had been introduced in Austria as early as 1865 (Refs 5, 64). The details were rather complicated. Comprehensive presentations with consideration of Bosnia-Herzegovina can be found elsewhere (Refs 65, 72). Only a concise account is given in the following.

Within Bosnia-Herzegovina and Austria-Hungary, the correspondence of the Emperor and his family (Ref 73) was free of charge. The same was true for the **mutual official correspondence** of many public, military and clerical offices and institutions. Only part of these exemptions included the registration fee. There was no exemption from the express fee.

**Official mail** from most of the mentioned offices and institutions **to private addressees** was free of charge for the senders, but, if the indicated subject of the correspondence was not of public concern, the addressee was charged with a postage due as stated at the end of Section 3.8.

**Special return receipts** for registered mail of public and military offices which had been granted this privilege to private addressees within Bosnia-Herzegovina and Austria-Hungary were free of charge (Ref 74). **Tracers** for official mail were also exempted from postal charge; for References see Section 3.4.

All correspondence of **postal authorities** concerning the postal service was free of charge in all UPU-member countries (Ref 23).

From the beginning of the **occupation campaign** (29 July 1878) until 15 Nov 1879, private non-registered letters up to a weight of 70 g to and from members of the armed forces engaged in the campaign were free of charge within Bosnia-Herzegovina and Austria-Hungary (Refs 1, 2, 65).

For the members of the garrisons stationed in the **Sandjak** this regulation was effective until the garrisons were withdrawn at the end of October 1908 (Ref 75). In addition, official fieldpost cards were issued for the members of the garrisons from March 1905. They could be used free of charge:

- ❖ within the Sandjak and from there to Bosnia-Herzegovina and vice versa from March 1905 until 31 Oct 1906 (Ref 76);
- ❖ within the Sandjak and from there to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Austria-Hungary, but not vice versa, from 1 Nov 1906 (Refs 77, 78).

Other postcards remained liable to postage.

During **World War 1**, non-registered letters with a weight up to 100 g and postcards to and from members of the Austro-Hungarian and German armed forces were free of charge (Refs 13, 61, 79).

Based on the UPU Convention of 1906, letters and postcards to and from **prisoners of war**, internees, and the respective inquiry offices were free of charge in all UPU-member countries from 1 Oct 1907 (Refs 80, 61, 72, 81).

### ***3.11 Delivery, Notification, P. O. Boxes, Poste Restante***

When, in January 1879, the Fieldpost began to offer its services to the public, it was not prepared to deliver mail at the addressees' residences. The mail was kept in the fieldpost offices until it was collected by the addressees. This was free of charge. However, persons who took a **p. o. box**, which was possible from 1 Jul 1879, had to pay a **fee** of 1 fl per month (Ref 4).

This practice continued even during the first few years of the Military Post. For the year 1883 a preliminary delivery service is reported, which was carried out by the post offices at Sarajevo, Mostar, Banjaluka, Tuzla, Travnik, Livno, Prijedor, Dervent and Bihać within the respective towns (Ref 82). Finally, from 1 Nov 1883, all military post offices (but not the fieldpost offices in the Sandjak) carried out deliveries within the areas of the respective places (Ref 83). Mail whose delivery involved the handling of money (e. g., collection orders) was, for many years to come, excepted from this service (Ref 5), but the addressee was notified of the arrival of such mail and asked to call at the post office. In later years the delivery service was allowed to handle small amounts of money, but the last restriction in this respect was only revoked on 1 Jul 1906 (Ref 84).

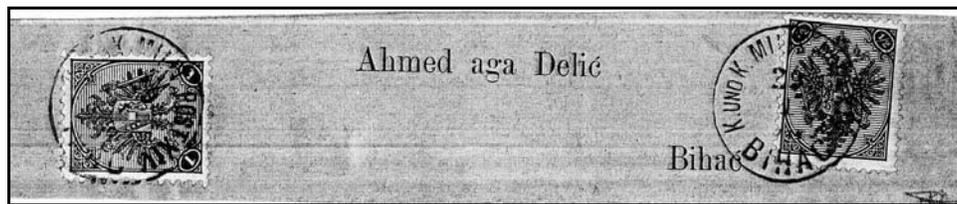
The **delivery** and **notification fees** to be paid by the addressees were the following (Refs 83, 5):

- ❖ delivery of a letter, postcard, printed matter (also newspaper if not of a category specified below), sample or commercial paper 1 kr;
- ❖ delivery of a newspaper ordered from the postal distribution service or posted by the publisher ½ kr;
- ❖ delivery of a registered item (also, in later years, of a collection order or a C.O.D. item) 2 kr;
- ❖ notification (German: Aviso) of the arrival of mail which was delivered only at the post office 2 kr.

All mail to addresses outside the area of delivery continued to be kept for collection by the addressees free of charge.

From 1 Feb 1886 no delivery fees were charged for mail from foreign UPU-member countries (Ref 5). No (additional) delivery fee was charged for special-delivery mail (Ref 5).

A remarkable exception from the practice that delivery fees were to be paid by the addressees was introduced on 1 Nov 1894: the fee ( $\frac{1}{2}$  kr) for the delivery of a newspaper which had been posted by the publisher could be paid by the latter in advance (Ref 85).



Newspaper wrapper to Bihac, 29 Jan 1898, 1 kr +  $\frac{1}{2}$  kr for delivery  
[3.2, 3.11]

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By 1 Jan 1900 the fees were converted to the new currency by the relationship 1 kr = 2 h (Refs 38, 86).

**Band rates**

All the delivery fees listed above were cancelled with effect from 1 Mar 1910 (Ref 87).

The **p. o. box fee** of 2 K per month was, from 1 Oct 1916, good only for an open box. The fee for a locker was raised to 3 K, and for a large locker to 4 K, per month (Ref 22).

When, from 1 Apr 1906 until 31 Mar 1910, an item of **poste-restante** mail was collected at the destination post office (but not at a fieldpost office in the Sandjak), a fee of 2 h had to be paid by the addressee. Poste-restante mail from foreign countries was exempted from this fee (Refs 88, 89).

**Table 1: Internal Briefpost Rates**

			9/1 '79	1/7 '79	16/11 '79	1/11 '86	1/2 '90	1/4 '91	1/5 '92	1/1 '00	1/5 '13	1/10 '16	1/9 '18	
Weight g			kr	kr	kr	kr	kr	kr	kr	h	h	h	h	
Letters <sup>1)</sup>	each	15	5	5	5	5								
	up to	20					5	5	5	10	10	15	20	
	250						10	10	10	20	20			
over 20 g each extra	20										5	5		
Local letters	each	15				3								
	up to	20					3	3	3	6				
	250						6	6	6	12				
Postcards			2	2	2	2	2	2	5	5	8 <sup>2)</sup> 10 <sup>3)</sup>	10		
Printed matter	each	50	3	3	2 <sup>4)</sup> 3 <sup>5)</sup>	2 <sup>4)</sup> 3 <sup>5)</sup>						3		
	up to	50					2	2	2	3	3		5	
	100									5	5		11	
	150							3	3					
	250						5	5	5	10	10			
	500						10	10	10	20	20			
	1000						15	15	15	30	30			
	over 100 g each extra	50											3	
	up to max.	1000	60	60	40 <sup>4)</sup> 60 <sup>5)</sup>	40 <sup>4)</sup> 60 <sup>5)</sup>								
	2000											120	125	
Samples	each	50	3	3										
	up to	50												
	100				5 <sup>5)</sup> 5 <sup>4)</sup> 6 <sup>5)</sup> 6 <sup>4)</sup>	5 <sup>5)</sup> 5 <sup>4)</sup> 6 <sup>5)</sup> 6 <sup>4)</sup>						10	10	
	150											15	15	
	250						5	5	5	10	10			
	350								10	20	20			
	over 100 g each extra	50			3 <sup>5)</sup>	3 <sup>5)</sup>								
	over 150 g each extra	50			2 <sup>4)</sup>	2 <sup>4)</sup>						5	5	
	up to max.	250	15	15	10 <sup>4)</sup> 15 <sup>5)</sup>	10 <sup>4)</sup> 15 <sup>5)</sup>								
	500											50	50	
Commercial papers up to	250										25	25		
over 250 g each extra	50										5	5		
up to max.	2000										200	200		
References		3)	4)	75) 90)	91) 27)	62)	92)	93)	38)	94)	22)	19)		

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BandRates

<sup>1)</sup> Local letters excepted from 1 Nov 1886 to 30 Apr 1913

<sup>2)</sup> Postal stationery cards

<sup>3)</sup> Non-postal-stationery cards

<sup>4)</sup> Within Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sandjak excluded)

<sup>5)</sup> Between Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sandjak, also within the Sandjak



Superseded by separate pdf file  
Sarajevo, 1 Jul 1898. Local letter, 5 kr [Table 1]

**BandHrates**



Banjaluka, 13 Sep 1918. Local printed matter, 5 h [Table 1]

**Table 2: Briefpost Rates for Mail from Bosnia-Herzegovina (but not from the Sandjak) to Austria, Hungary and to Fieldpost Addresses and the Occupied Territories during World War 1**

			9/1 '79	1/7 '79	16/11 '79	1/2 '90	1/4 '91	1/5 '92	1/1 '00	1/10 '16	1/9 '18										
Weight g			kr	kr	kr	kr	kr	kr	h	h	h										
Letters	each	15	10	10	5	5	5	5	10	15	20										
	up to	20																			
	250																				
	over 20 g each extra	20								5	5										
Postcards				5	2	2	2	2	5	8 <sup>1)</sup> 10 <sup>2)</sup>	10										
Printed matter	each	50	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	5										
	up to	50																			
		100																			
		150																			
		250																			
		500																			
		1000																			
	over 100 g each extra	50									3										
	up to max.	1000	60	60	40																
		2000								120	125										
Samples	each	50	3	3	5	6	5	5	10	15	15										
	up to	100																			
		150																			
		250																			
		350																			
		over 150 g each extra										50									5
		up to max.										250	15	15	10						5
		350								35 <sup>3)</sup>	35 <sup>3)</sup>										
		500								50 <sup>4)</sup>	50 <sup>4)</sup>										
Commercial papers <sup>5)</sup>																					
	up to	250								25	25										
	over 250 g each extra	50								5	5										
	up to max.	2000								200	200										
References			3)	4)	75) 90)	62)	95)	93) 96)	14) 38) 61)	6) 22) 47) 97)	19)										

1) Postal stationery cards

2) Non-postal-stationery cards

3) To Hungary and to fieldpost addresses and the occupied territories during WW 1

4) To Austria

5) Not allowed to fieldpost addresses and the occupied territories during WW 1

**Table 3: Briefpost Rates for Mail from Bosnia-Herzegovina (but not from the Sandjak) to Germany**

			1/7 '79	1/1 '92	1/1 '99	1/1 '00	1/4 '00	1/10 '16	1/9 '18
Weight g			kr	kr	kr	h	h	h	h
Letters	each	15	10	5	5	10	10	15	20
	up to	15							
		20							
		250							
	over 20 g each extra	20		10	10	20	20	5	5
Postcards			5	2	2	5	5	8 <sup>1)</sup> 10 <sup>2)</sup>	10
Printed matter	each	50	3	2	2	3	3	3	5
	up to	50							
		100							
		250							
		500							
		1000							
		over 100 g each extra							
	up to max.	1000	15	15	30	30			
	2000		60						3
<b>Superseded by separate pdf file BandRates</b>									
Samples	each	50	3	5	5	10	10	10	10
	up to	100							
		150							
		250							
		350							
		500							
	over 150 g each extra	50							5
	up to max.	250	15						5
	500								50
Commercial papers									
	up to	250						25	25
	over 250 g each extra	50						5	5
	up to max.	2000						200	200
References			4)	7)	63) 98)	38)	99) 100)	22) 6)	19)

<sup>1)</sup> Postal stationery cards

<sup>2)</sup> Non-postal-stationery cards

**Table 4: Briefpost Rates for Mail to Foreign Countries (to Germany from the Sandjak only), also for Mail from the Sandjak to Austria and Hungary**

Higher rates were effective for mail to the majority of overseas countries until 31 May 1893 (see Section 3.3)

Reduced rates were temporarily effective for letters and, to some extent, postcards to Switzerland, Serbia, Montenegro, and the Austrian post offices in Albania (see Section 3.3)

Other rates were effective for mail to the territories occupied during World War 1 (see Table 2)

	Weight g	1/7 '79 kr	1/1 '99 kr	1/1 '00 h	1/10 '07 h
Letters	each 15	10	10	25	
	up to 20				25
	over 20 g each extra 20				15
Postcards		5	5	10	10
Printed matter	each 50	3	3	5	5
	up to max. 2000	120	120	200	200
Samples	up to 50	5	5		
	100	6	6	10	10
	over 100 g each extra 50	3	3	5	5
	up to max. 250	15			
	350		21 <sup>1)</sup>	35	35
Commercial papers <sup>2)</sup>					
	up to 150	10	10		
	200	12	12		
	250			25	25
	over 200 g each extra 50	3	3		
	over 250 g each extra 50			5	5
	up to max. 2000	120	120	200	200
References		4) 24) 5)	46) 63)	38)	102)

<sup>1)</sup> Max. weight of 350 g introduced for samples from Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sandjak excluded) to Italy already on 1 Nov 1892 (Ref 101)

<sup>2)</sup> Not allowed to Austria, Hungary and Germany until 30 Sep 1916 (cf. Ref 8)



Sarajevo, 2 Feb 1879. Private letter to Brod in Slavonia, 10 kr [Table 2]



Prijepolje (Sandjak of Novibazar), 22 Sep 1900.  
Postcard to Vienna, 10 h [Table 4]



**Superseded by separate pdf file**

Bugojno, 22 Jan 1906. Printed matter to Belgrade, 5 h [Table 4]

**BandHrates**



Sarajevo, 30 Jun 1911. Printed matter, 50 - 100 g, to Lyon, 10 h [Table 4]

## 4 Rates for Money Orders

### 4.1 General

Money orders to Austria-Hungary were accepted by the Fieldpost as early as from 1 Dec 1878 because the transport of money letters had not proved to be sufficiently safe during the months following the occupation campaign. But the extension of this service was slow. Money orders to five Austrian post offices in the Levant and to Italy were accepted from June and October 1882, respectively. Internal money orders, except money orders within the Sandjak, and money orders from Austria-Hungary to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sandjak were not accepted before 1 Feb 1886.

From 1 Jan 1892 money orders could be exchanged with Germany, from 1 Jan 1893 with the United States, from 1 May 1893 with Switzerland (Ref 103), from 1 Aug 1894 with Serbia, from 1 Apr 1895 with Great Britain (Ref 104), from 1 Jul 1895 with Belgium (Ref 105), Egypt (Ref 106) and Rumania (Ref 106), from 1 Nov 1895 with France (Ref 107), from 1 Jan 1899 with several other UPU-member countries (Ref 108), from 1 Nov 1905 with Canada (Ref 109), from 26 May 1906 with Russia (Ref 110), from 1 May 1910 with Turkey (Ref 111), and from 1 Dec 1910 with Montenegro (Ref 112). The Sandjak was included only in some of the agreements made after 1893.

The regulations for the handling of money orders to and from foreign countries were basically the same as those which were in effect between Austria-Hungary and the respective countries (Ref 113). However, there were restrictions as regards special delivery (see below).

The rates for money orders are listed in Tables 5 to 12. All rates had to be paid by the sender.

Money orders up to an amount of 1000 K to and from Austro-Hungarian **warships** operating in foreign waters were admitted from 1 Sep 1901 (Ref 114). The rates were those which were in effect between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Austria-Hungary (cf. Table 7); however, these rates were not modified after 1 Oct 1907 but maintained from this day (Ref 115) until the service was discontinued at the beginning of World War 1 (Ref 116).

**Special delivery** of money orders was introduced on 1 Jan 1909 (Ref 117). In Bosnia-Herzegovina this service was limited to places where a military post office was available. The fee for special delivery was equal to the Briefpost express fee (see Section 3.5).

K. u. K. **BLAGAJ** 3 h

**Express** *Express*

Postanweisung auf } 50 K . h  
 Poštanska doznačnica na }  
 in Worten: — riječima: *Bedeset* K . h

Adresse } *Inf. Lubic Hasan*  
 Adresa } *H. n. K. Reservehospital*

Bestimmungsort } *abt. in Ilidže*  
 Opredjelište } *Bosna*

Wohnung des Empfängers }  
 Stan primca }

Gut für } 50 K . h

Postvornmerk.  
 Annahmepostamt }  
 Tag der Einzahlung }  
 Postdirektionsbezirk: Sarajevo.

Stempel des Einzahlungspostamtes  
 11. FEB. 1918  
 MOSTAR

Unterschrift des Postbeamten:

20 KUKMILITÄR POST BOSNIEN-HERZEGOVINA  
 20 KUKMILITÄR POST BOSNIEN-HERZEGOVINA  
 10 KUKMILITÄR POST BOSNIEN-HERZEGOVINA

Blagaj, 1 Feb 1918. Money order to Ilidže, 20 h + 30 h for special delivery  
 [4.1, Table 5]

## 4.2 Telegraphic Money Orders

Money could be transmitted by telegram to Austria-Hungary from 1 Feb 1879 provided there was a state telegraph connection between the fieldpost office and the destination post office (Ref 118). In the opposite direction this service was introduced on 1 Feb 1886, but only to places with a military post office (Ref 5). Internal telegraphic money orders to places with a military post office were accepted from 1 Nov 1892 (Ref 119). Telegraphic money orders to the fieldpost offices in the Sandjak were accepted from 1 Mar 1893 (Ref 120).

The exchange of telegraphic money orders with foreign countries started with Serbia on 1 Aug 1894 (Ref 121) and was extended to Italy on 1 Jul 1903 (Ref 122), Germany (Ref 123) and Switzerland (Ref 124) on 1 Aug 1903, Great Britain in October 1904 (Ref 125), Egypt on 1 Mar 1907 (Ref 126), Greece on 1 Aug 1910 (Ref 127), Montenegro on 1 Dec 1910 (Ref 112), the Netherlands on 15 May 1911 (Ref 128), the United States and Canada by decree of 26 Jun 1912 (Ref 129), and Denmark on 1 Feb 1913 (Ref 130). The Sandjak was not included in the international agreements.

For a telegraphic money order, the following **fees** were due in addition to the money-order rates listed in Tables 5 to 12 (Refs 118, 4, 38).

- ❖ The fee for the **telegram** in accordance with the actual telegraph tariff, to be paid in cash.
- ❖ The fee for **special delivery** as given in Section 3.5, except in the case of poste-restante telegraphic money orders.
- ❖ A **transfer** fee of 10 kr, from 1 Jan 1900 of 20 h, in cases where the post office and the telegraph office were not in the same building. This fee was introduced on 1 Jul 1879 (Ref 4) and cancelled at the beginning of 1909 (Ref 131); it had to be paid in cash.
- ❖ The fee for a **reply telegram** of 20 words to confirm the arrival of amounts of more than 300 fl. This fee was introduced at the beginning of August 1888 (Ref 53) and cancelled on 1 Jun 1892 (Ref 57); it had to be paid in cash.

The fee for special delivery had to be paid in cash until a decree of 23 Aug 1893 demanded its inclusion in the franking with postage stamps (Ref 132).

The image shows a historical document titled "Aufgabs-Schein" and "Predatnica". It is a mailing receipt for a telegraphic money order. The document is filled with handwritten entries and has a circular postmark from "K.K. MILIT. POST. TREBINJE" dated "12 81". The text includes details about the amount of the order (10 kr for telegram, 104 kr for special delivery, 15 kr for telegram fee) and the recipient's address (Zagreb). There are several signatures and stamps on the document.

Trebinje, 1 Dec 1881. Mailing receipt for telegraphic money order to Zagreb, 10 kr + 104 kr for telegram + 15 kr for special delivery [4.2, Table 6]

**Special rates** were in effect for telegraphic money orders to the **United States** and **Canada** because they were transmitted in these countries by the American Express Company and not by the postal administrations. The sender had to pay, for the transmission to New York, the telegram fee and a money-order rate, which depended on the transmitted amount: 100 h for an amount up to 100 K,

120 h up to 150 K, 140 h up to 200 K, 160 h up to 250 K, 180 h up to 300 K, 200 h up to 375 K, 220 h up to 600 K, 240 h up to 1000 K. The fees for further transmission within the American continent were deducted from the transmitted amount (Refs 129, 115).

### 4.3 Return Receipts, Tracers, Certificates of Payment

The fee for a **return receipt** and the fee for a **tracer** were 10 kr each until 31 Dec 1899, and 25 h (Refs 38, 22) thereafter. No direct References can be given for the period until 31 Dec 1899. The early decrees which deal with return receipts and tracers (Refs 4, 5) do so only in the paragraphs concerning the Briefpost, and it seems to have been understood that the fees given there (cf. Section 3.4, References in Tables 1 - 4) equally applied to return receipts and tracers for money orders. This interpretation is strongly supported by the corresponding regulations for Austria-Hungary including the regulations for the exchange of money orders with Bosnia-Herzegovina (e. g., Ref 133), and by pieces of evidence from 1879 on.

**Certificates of payment** of the transmitted amount to the addressee could be used instead of **return receipts** from 1 Jun 1888 (Ref 57), but for telegraphic money orders only from 1 Jun 1892 (Refs 27, 57). The fee was the same as for a return receipt (Refs 38, 22).



Blagaj, 3 Aug 1879. Return receipt for money order, 10 kr [4.3]

#### ***4.4 Exemptions from Postal Charges***

The transmission of **official amounts of money** by money order within Bosnia-Herzegovina (including the Sandjak) as well as to and from Austria-Hungary was free of charge from 1 Nov 1891 (Refs 27, 134). As far as the transmission of money between **postal authorities** for postal reasons was concerned, the exemption was extended to Serbia at the end of October 1895 (Ref 135), and to the other UPU-member countries with which money orders could be exchanged on 1 Jan 1899 since Bosnia-Herzegovina had joined the UPU Arrangement on the exchange of money orders of 1897 (Refs 136, 108).

Based on the UPU Arrangement on the money-order service of 1906, money orders to and from **prisoners of war** and internees were free of charge in all UPU-member countries from 1 Oct 1907 (Refs 137, 72, 81).

#### ***4.5 Delivery, Notification, P. O. Boxes, Poste Restante***

The **delivery** of money orders (together with the transmitted amount in cash) at the addressees' residences started with **telegraphic money orders** in Sarajevo, Mostar, Dolnja Tuzla, Banjaluka and Travnik on 1 Sep 1893 (Ref 138). In the following years this service was extended step by step to other places (Refs 139 - 143). The **delivery fee** was 3 kr for amounts up to 50 fl, 5 kr for amounts up to 100 fl, and 10 kr for amounts up to 500 fl (Ref 138). These fees were maintained from 1 Jan 1900 (6, 10 and 20 h for amounts up to 100, 200 and 1000 K, respectively) (Ref 38). From 1 Jan 1909 the delivery fee was 6 h for all telegraphic money orders (Ref 131), until, on 1 Nov 1909, this fee was completely cancelled (Refs 86, 22).

The addressee's **notification** of the arrival of a telegraphic money order which could only be delivered at the post office was free of charge (Refs 5, 22).

The **delivery of non-telegraphic money orders** to the addressees started with a test carried out in Sarajevo from 1 Dec 1893 to 25 Feb 1894 with money orders on amounts up to 50 fl. Based on the experience from this test (Ref 144), all non-telegraphic money orders were delivered to the addressees in Sarajevo and, at the beginning, 16 other towns, from 1 Feb 1895 (Ref 145). The **delivery fee** is not specified in the cited References, but the financial balance of the test (Ref 144) and other information (Refs 146, 38) suggest a fee of 3 kr independent of the transmitted amount. From 1 Jan 1900 the delivery fee was 6 h (Ref 38), and from 1 Oct 1916 it was 5 h for amounts up to 10 K and 10 h for higher amounts (Ref 22).

The **notification fee** was 2 kr (Ref 5), and 4 h from 1 Jan 1900 (Ref 38).

No (additional) delivery or notification fees were due in the case of **special-delivery** money orders (Refs 86, 22).

The fee for a **p. o. box** (cf. Section 3.11) was, from 1 Oct 1907, 3 K (rather than 2 K) per month if its use included money orders (Ref 147). From 1 Oct 1916, a separate p. o. box had to be taken for money orders; the fee for this box was 5 K per month (Ref 22).

When, from 1 Apr 1906 until 31 Mar 1910, a **poste-restante** money order was collected at the destination post office (but not at a fieldpost office in the Sandjak), a fee of 4 h had to be paid by the addressee. Money orders from foreign countries were exempted from this fee (Refs 88, 89).



Gačko, 1 Jul 1917. Receipt for p.o. box fee, 2 K for letters  
+ 5 K for money orders [3.11, 4.5]

**Table 5: Rates for Internal Money Orders and Money Orders to Fieldpost Addresses during World War 1**

Amount fl	1/2 '86	11/8 '88	1/2 '90	15/12 '93	Amount K	1/1 '00	1/10 '16	1/9 '18
	kr	kr	kr	kr		h	h	h
up to 5			5		up to 20	10		
10				5	50		20	25
20					100	20		
50	10	10	10	10	300	40		
100	20	20	20		600	60		
150	30	30	30	20	1000	100		
200	40	40	40		over 50 K each extra 50		5	5
300	50	50	50	30	up to max. 1000 <sup>1)</sup>		115	120
400		60	60					
500		70	70	50				
References	5)	148)	62)	149)		38) 150) 151)	22) 47) 81)	19)

<sup>1)</sup> Max. amount of private money orders to fieldpost addresses initially (from 11 Sep 1916) only 100 K

**Table 6: Rates for Money Orders to Austria and Hungary until 31 Dec 1899**

Amount fl	1/12 '78	1/7 '79	1/10 '85	1/2 '86	4/8 '88	1/2 '90	1/7 '92	15/12 '93
	kr	kr	kr	kr	kr	kr	kr	kr
up to 5	5					10		
20							10	10
40				20	20	20		
50	10	10	10					20
100		20	20					
150	20	30	30					40
200		40	40					
300			50					60
500								100
over 20 fl each extra 10							5	
over 40 fl each extra 10				5	5	5		
up to max. 300				150				
500					250	250	250	
References	152) 153)	4)	51)	5)	53)	62)	154) 155)	156)



Mostar, 10 Jun 1879. Money order to Mina (Dalmatia), 20 kr [Table 6]  
**Superseded by separate pdf file**  
**BandRates**

**Table 7: Rates for Money Orders to Austria and Hungary from 1 Jan 1900, and to the Territories Occupied during World War 1**

Amount K	1/1	1/11	1/10	1/4	1/7	1/10	1/9
	'00	'03	'07	'10	'11	'16	'18
	h	h	h	h	h	h	h
up to 20				10 <sup>1)</sup>			
40	20	20			10 <sup>2)</sup>	20	25
50			20				
100	40	30	30	20 <sup>1)</sup>			
300	80	60	60	40 <sup>1)</sup>			
600	120	90	90	60 <sup>1)</sup>			
1000	200	150	150	100 <sup>1)</sup>			
over 50 K each extra 50 up to max.1000					10 <sup>2)</sup> 200 <sup>2)</sup>	5 115	5 120
References	38)	157)	158)	159)	160) 161) 162) 163)	22) 47) 97)	19)

1) Only to Austria; to Hungary as before from 1 Oct 1907

2) Only to Hungary and, from 11 Oct 1915, to the occupied territories; to Austria as before from 1 Apr 1910

### Table 8: Rates for Money Orders to Foreign Countries

Other rates were effective, at least for limited periods of time, for money orders to

- the territories occupied during World War 1 (see Table 7),
- the Austrian post offices in the Levant (see Table 9),
- Germany (see Table 10),
- Serbia and Montenegro (see Table 11),
- the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Russia (see Table 12).

Amount fl	1/10	1/7	1/7	1/1	Amount K	1/1	1/10
	'82	'92	'95	'99		'00	'07
	kr	kr	kr	kr		h	h
up to 10		10	10	10	up to 25	25	
20	20			20	50	50	25 <sup>3)</sup>
30				30	75	75	
40				40	100	100	50 <sup>3)</sup>
over 10 fl each extra	10	10	10		over 100 K each extra	50	25 <sup>3)</sup>
over 10 fl each extra	10	10			up to max. 1000	550 <sup>2)</sup>	500 <sup>3)</sup>
over 10 fl each extra	20			10			
up to max. 200	200	200					
500			500 <sup>1)</sup>	270 <sup>2)</sup>			
References	164) 165) 166) 167)	154) 113) 114) 115)	106) 107) 108) 109)	108) 63) 64) 65)		38)	102)

**Superseded by separate pdf file**

**BandRates**

- 1) Max. amount to most countries only 200 fl
- 2) Max. amount to several countries only 250 fl (500 K from 1 Jan 1900)
- 3) To Greece as before from 1 Jan 1900; this transitory regulation (Ref 166) was cancelled before 1913 (Ref 115), the exact date being unknown

### Table 9: Rates for Money Orders to the Austrian Post Offices in the Levant

Amount fl	8/6	1/2	11/8	1/7	Amount K	1/1	1/9	1/10	22/10
	'82	'86	'88	'92		'00	'02	'07	'12
	kr	kr	kr	kr		h	h	h	h
up to 20				10	up to 40	20	20		
40	20	20	20		50			20	25
over 20 fl					100		40	40	
each extra 10				5	300		80	80	
over 40 fl					600		120	120	
each extra 10	5	5	5		1000		200	200	
up to max. 200	100				over 40 K				
300		150			each extra 20	10			
500			250	250	over 50 K				
					each extra 50				25
					up to max. 1000	500			500
References	167)	5)	148)	155)		38)	168)	102)	169) 170)

**Table 10: Rates for Money Orders to Germany**

	1/1				1/1		
	'92	'92	'99		'00	'16	
Amount	fl	kr	kr	Amount	K	h	h
up to	20		10	up to	40	20	
	40	20			50		25
over 20 fl each extra	10		5	over 40 K each extra	20	10	
over 40 fl each extra	10	5		over 50 K each extra	50		25
up to max.	200	100	100	up to max.	1000	500	500
	500		250				
References		7) 165)	155)			38)	22)

*Administration des Postes de Bosnie-Herzégovine.*

**Internationale Postanweisung.**  
*Medjunarodna poštanska naputnica. – Mandat de poste international.*

3 h

Über den Betrag von } 350.00 80  
*U iznosu od*  
De la somme de }  
(in arabischen Ziffern – arapskim brojkami – en chiffres arabes)

Wechselkurs  
Cours  
du change

Ausbezahlter  
Betrag  
Somme payée\*)

*Dreibundertfünfzig 80/100*

(Die Münzeinheiten auszuschreiben in lateinischen Lettern – Jedinice novca ispisati latinskim pismenima – Les unités en toutes lettres et en caractères latins)

Auszahlen an } An den  
*Ima se isplatiti*  
Payable à M. } Holbrmarkt

Bestimmungsort } Berlin NW 68  
*Mjesto opredjeljenja*  
Lieu de destination }  
Wohnung des Empfängers } Kundenstrasse 3  
*Stan primaoca*  
Adresse du destinataire }  
Bestimmungsland } Deutschland  
*Zemlja opredjeljenja*  
Pays de destination }

Postvormerk } 111111  
*Indications*  
de service }  
Annahmenummer }  
*Numéro d'émission* }  
Einzahlungstag } 29/3/18  
*Date d'émission* }  
Aufgabepostamt } 111111  
*Bureau d'origine* }

Unterschrift des Annahmebeamten } [Signature]  
*Signature de l'agent qui a dressé le mandat* }

\*) Indications à remplir par l'Office destinataire, lorsqu'il opère lui-même la conversion ou qu'il fait usage, pour ses paiements, de papier monnaie déprécié par rapport à la monnaie métallique ayant le cours de l'or. (Arrangement article 2.)

Gut für  
Bon pour

das ist:  
soit:

343 K 75 h

(Währung des Ursprungslandes)  
(Monnaie du pays d'origine)

Sarajevo, 29 Mar 1918. Money order to Berlin, 275 h [Table 10]

**Table 11: Rates for Money Orders from Bosnia-Herzegovina (but not from the Sandjak) to Serbia and Montenegro**

		1/8 '94			1/1 '00	1/10 '07
Amount	fl	kr	Amount	K	h	h
up to	20	10	up to	40	20	
	50	20		50		20
	150	40		100	40	40
	300	60		300	80	80
	500	100		600	120	120
				1000	200	200
References	121)				38)	171)

**Table 12: Rates for Money Orders to the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Russia**

		1/1 '93	20/1 '93			1/1 '00	1/3 '04	1/10 '07 <sup>3)</sup>
Amount	fl	kr	kr	Amount	K	h	h	h
up to	10		10	each	25	25	25	
	20	20 <sup>1)</sup>	20	each	50			25 <sup>3)</sup>
over 20 fl each extra	10	10	10	up to max.	400	400		200 <sup>3)</sup>
up to max.	200	200	200		1000 <sup>2)</sup>		1000	
References	27) 172)		173) 104)			38)	174)	175) 115)

- Superseded by separate pdf file BandRates**
- 1) The minimum rate of 20 kr was due to a misunderstanding in the preceding correspondence between the War Ministry and the Austrian Trade Ministry
  - 2) Maximum amount 1000 K only to Great Britain; to the United States and Canada 400 K; to Russia 100 rouble (254 K) from 26 May 1906 (Ref 110), and 300 rouble from 1 Oct 1907 (Ref 176)
  - 3) Only to the United States and Canada; to Great Britain and Russia as before. The date of the introduction of the new rates (1 Oct 1907) is the most probable, due to Ref 175 in conjunction with Ref 113, but has not yet been proved directly

**To be continued**

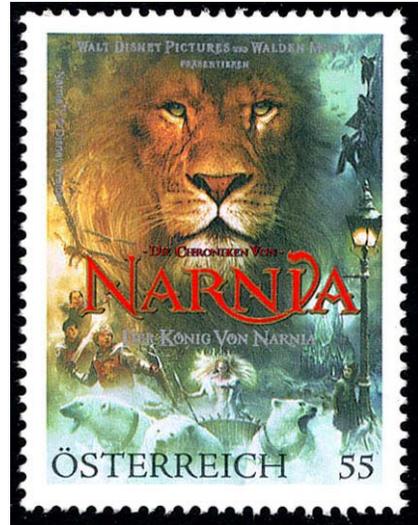
## New Issues - 2005 part 3

By Andy Taylor

All stamps are printed by the Österreichische Staatsdruckerei. The descriptions are taken from the English version of the Post.at website; the FDC dates from Die Briefmarke

### *Narnia*

€0.55; FDC Date: 8 Nov 2005; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: by Walt Disney Pictures/Walden Media, who released their latest fantasy film called “*The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*” in early December. The film is a new adaptation of the classic fantasy story by Clive Staples Lewis (1898-1963) which follows the exploits of the four Pevensie siblings Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter in World War II England. While playing hide-and-seek at an elderly professor's country home, they discover a magical wardrobe, which leads them into the magic land of Narnia.



### *800 years of the Teutonic Order in Austria*

€0.55; FDC Date: 18 Nov 2005; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.



Vienna has been the headquarters of the Order of the Teutonic Knights and hence the residence of the Grand Master since 1809. The “Deutsche Haus”, housing the Order's central archives, the Gothic Church of the Teutonic Knights and a museum, is directly behind St. Steven's Cathedral. The Order of the Teutonic Knights is one of the three major medieval orders of knights, founded between 1204 and 1206. In 1839, the order was given a new legal basis by Emperor Franz and Chancellor Metternich, adopting new rules and going under the name “Order of Teutonic Knights” for the next eight decades.

## *Advent Stamp*



€0.55; FDC Date: 14 November 2005; Issue: 4,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Dr. Reinhold Stecher.

The 2005 Advent stamp shows the “Maria Heimsuchung” (The Visitation) pilgrimage chapel in a watercolour by Dr. Reinhold Stecher (1921-), the former Bishop of Innsbruck. The chapel lies at the foot of the Nordkette at Innsbruck.

Bishop Stecher is also a talented painter, and in his expressive landscape watercolours, he plays with light as if on an organ, using it to reflect some of the message of goodwill that he announced to the world in his function as priest and bishop. The proceeds from his paintings all go to charity.

## *Christmas 2005*

€0.55; FDC Date: 25 November 2005; Issue: 6,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter.**

“Merry Christmas” – This greeting is heard around the world in all languages, often together with wishes for the New Year. Christmas greetings, once almost entirely sent by post, now use all the media to make their way to their recipients. And still we are happy to receive a card, often lovingly chosen or even handmade by the sender, with a handwritten greeting, perhaps a little nostalgic but always with a personal touch. The first day postmark was from the Styrian village of Langenwang and recalls Peter Rosegger's Christmas tales from his forest homeland, moving stories of simple and modest happiness.



## For new friends of old Austrian letters

***By Hubert Jungwirth; primary translation by Hans Smith***

*[This was written as a series of articles for the English-speaking readers of "Austria" by Hubert Jungwirth of PKMI, Tirol, and translated by Hans Smith. The original title is "Altbrief", which is used with the special meaning of "a letter written before 1 June 1850". All Altbriefe are "old letters" but not all old or indeed stampless letters are Altbriefe! The series will be printed as one long article, as is preferred by most of my readers. Lombardy-Venetia is not covered. The Imperial Court is given a capital C; a judicial court is not. Ed]*

### Introduction

This series has been prompted by the wide scatter of old stampless letters, gathering dust as they slumber, with their mysterious scribbled figures and their despairing owners.

The need for this series is not due to any lack of literature on Austrian pre-philately and postal history up to the appearance of stamps, but is due to the fact that the existing literature has been written by and solely for specialist pre-philatelic collectors and researchers. This is all too mysterious and complex for the layman with his eleven old letters from four different crown-lands. At best, he can look up in a catalogue how rare the handstamps on his letters are: if indeed they bear any handstamps at all.

The purpose of this series is to provide a simple introduction to Austrian pre-philately, certainly going beyond the 'points' valuations in the postmarks catalogues but avoiding confusing specialist areas and contributing only towards the essential basic knowledge needed to make the greater part of old letters comprehensible. Nor do the illustrations show tantalising rarities; they are simply typical covers.

The aim of this discourse is to encourage and cajole the possessors of these old letters to look and see what they have and to experience the joys of understanding, decoding, demystifying and discovering them. The contents of this series apply only to the Austrian Royal and Imperial Letter Post, formed in 1722, and end with the introduction of postage stamps on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1850.

A warning for specialists – this series contains no new knowledge about old Austrian letters and is not therefore intended for the advanced pre-philatelist nor for the postal historian.

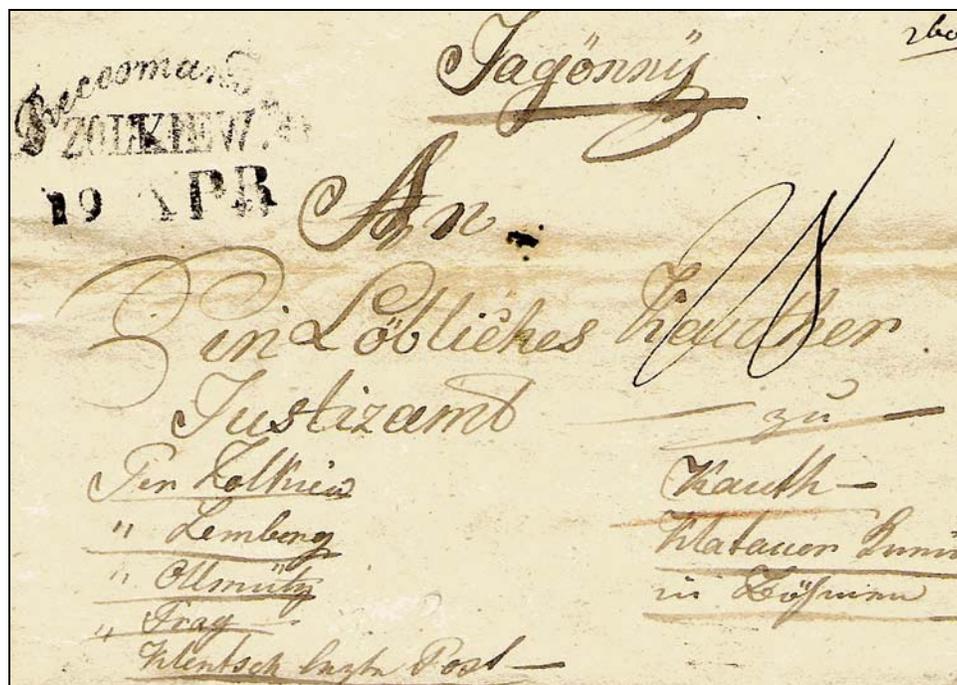
## 1. From sender to recipient

Most old letters are folded “entires”, the tucked-in parts of which were generally closed with a wax or paper seal. They were made of hand-made paper which was gradually replaced by fine machine paper only from the 1800s. Envelopes were rare at the time, because their weight increased the postal charge for the letter.

Only when letters are carefully unfolded do they fully reveal their contents, so that they show who wrote what to whom and when. These facts can be very valuable for accurately interpreting a letter. Conversely, empty wrappers, of the kind that used to contain letters from courts, do not tell the letter’s full story.

Collectors attach particular importance to the appearance of a letter, above all to the artistically executed address. Amongst the oldest of these beauties are “Schnörkelbriefe”, the elaborate ornamented covers of the baroque period, but more recent letters with coloured postmarks and company cachets, on suitably pigmented letter paper where possible, also have their admirers. Clearly-struck seals on the back similarly add to their beauty.

On closer scrutiny, letters show traces of different hands. The most obvious hand, of course, is that of the writer of the letter, who will generally also have written the address. Of particular use in postal history, and valued, is an indication of the place of origin, if it lay outside the postal district of despatch, or references by the sender concerning postal treatment of the letter, such as an indication of the post route.



The illustration above is a registered letter, 2<sup>nd</sup> weight step, despatch cancel ZOLKIEW/19. APR. It was sent from Jagönny in 1842. On the back is a 4kr. registration fee pre-paid by the sender; on the front is 28kr. postage paid by the recipient and the very precise routing indication:

To the esteemed court office at Kauth, Klatau District, in Bohemia. Via Zolkiew / “ Lemberg / “ Ollmütz / “ Prague / Klentsch last post.

The next piece of evidence on our letters was added by the postal clerks. The postmark, if the post office possessed one, was struck at the office of posting. The letter was then usually taxed with the postal charge, originally in red crayon, later in ink. Other notes by the postmaster are very desirable, especially the Franko (“post-paid”), registration, exempt postage, origin and route markings.

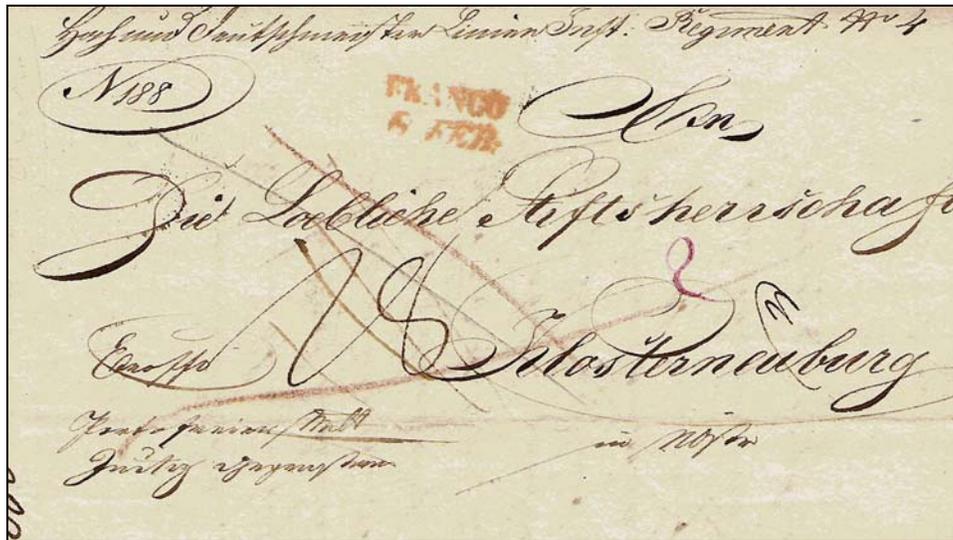


Fig 2 is a Double-weight official letter from the Hoch und Deutschmeister Regiment; written in Milan on 1. 2. 1836 – Vienna 8. 2. – Präs. Klosterneuburg 8.2.1836. Many people have written on it as it travelled!

1<sup>st</sup> hand: Address with file reference N188 + Ex offio/Portofreier Milit./Justiz Gegenstand [“Official paid military legal matters”]

2<sup>nd</sup> hand: Tax 28 Kr. postage at the Milan Post Office despite free-franking [ie it was postage-exempt]

3<sup>rd</sup> hand: Post-payment cancelled by Franko diagonals in pencil

4<sup>th</sup> hand: “Milt.” underlined in brown ink and charge deleted three times over

5<sup>th</sup> hand: post-payment again cancelled by Franko diagonals with red crayon and finally confirmed by Franko handstamp of the Vienna Office (acting for Milan Post Office)

6<sup>th</sup> hand: messenger fee Vienna-Klosterneuburg 2 Kr. in red ink, because free franking was not recognised by the City and Messenger posts.

Fortunately, handstamps and markings by the transit post offices were also recorded when letters were unpacked from the pouch on a post route and re-packaged in the pouch for another route.

The markings of the receiving office usually consist of an early datestamp or a more recent place/day stamp on the back of the letters. But charge corrections, forwarding and return markings may have been added and make covers more interesting. Now and again additional charges also appear for Messenger Services, applicable to carriage between the destination post office and the addressee. The most frequent is the “2” in red ink for the Klosterneuburg messenger.

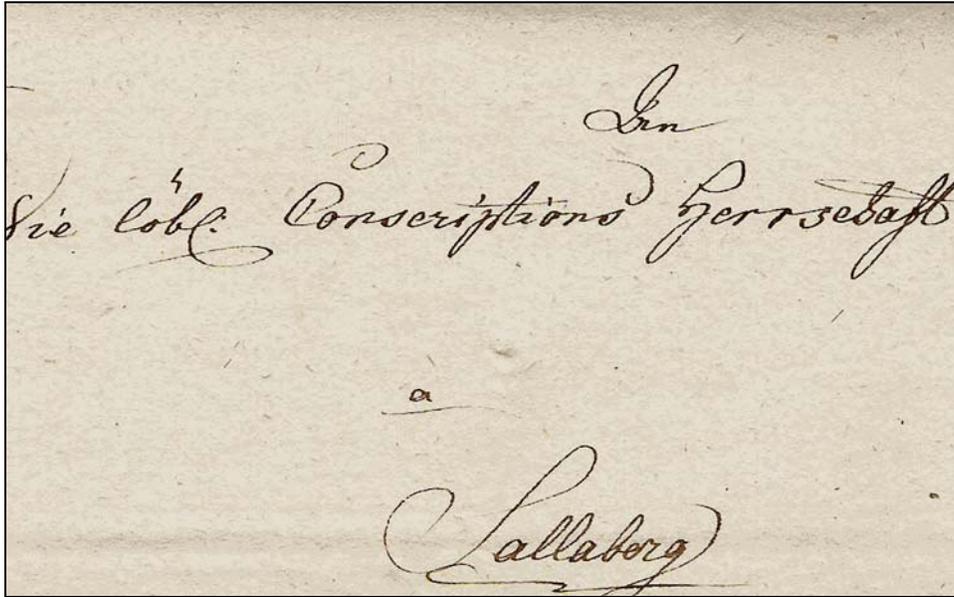
The recipient’s marking of the arrival date of the letters on the back also deserves attention, because it indicates the time spent on the way. On many official letters, the date of receipt appears after a manuscript “Präs.” (i.e. presentation to the postal clerk). Business letters in particular often include a comment on the back concerning the place and date of posting, with “empf “ (i.e. “received on ...”) underneath and beneath that often also “beantw...” (i.e. “answered on ...”).

The months were often abbreviated with Roman figures: 7bre = September, 8bre = October, 9ber = November, Xbr = December. “Hornung” is sometimes found; it means February.

## 2. How old letters were carried

An important distinction is that between messenger letters, Fahrpost (see next page) and the horseback post (i.e. letter post).

Pure messenger letters were taken from the sender to a recipient not on the post routes by private messengers, judicial messengers, or messengers appointed in the service of other authorities. They do not usually bear typical postal markings such as handstamps or charges. Nonetheless, they may enrich a Heimatsammlung (that is, a place-specific postal and social collection; most of these are of the collector’s or his ancestors’ birthplace).



This letter dates to 1813 and was carried for only a couple of ‘Stunde’ (<sup>1</sup>). It shows no characteristics at all of a posted letter: no place of posting, no official marking, no tax marking, no route, no destination post office, and the back is blank. This is a messenger letter, which at no point entered the official Austrian Postal system.

Letters that are marked on the front “Durch Güte!” were carried by a trusted person without charge.

The Fahrpost, which was administered independently of the letter-post, carried persons, goods, valuables and money, and therefore also money letters and the letters which accompanied parcels. Money letters usually have their contents marked at the bottom left of the front, e.g. taxed 5 fl. 20 kr., and usually 5 wax seals on the back. Parcel letters generally include a marking concerning the freight to which they referred, e.g. “with a box”.

The letter-post was responsible for ordinary and registered letters. Since letters were originally carried in pouches (i.e. postbags) by mounted postilions it was also called the courier post. When the total weight of all the letters was too heavy, two-wheeled chaises were used with a trunk for the letters and a simple box for the postilion. From 1835, mail coaches, the so-called Mallé Post, were used that not only carried persons but were also permitted to take the letter post in the “boot”.

Letter-post letters, on which most pre-philatelic collectors and postmark catalogues concentrate, can in turn be divided into various groups.

<sup>1</sup> A “Stunde”, literally “hour”, is often used to mean the distance a person could be reasonably expected to walk in an hour, ie about 2½ miles. Ed

- ❖ Most collections contain a wealth of free-franks: members of the Court and other highly placed persons enjoyed personal freedom from postal charges.
- ❖ Letters on official business between the imperial offices, generally marked “ex offo”, also travelled without charge and consequently without tax markings. Senior ecclesiastical offices, various charitable organisations and the mendicant orders similarly enjoyed exemption from postal charges. Generally speaking, so called “ex-offo” covers or wrappers are less meaningful than private letters.

Fully taxed letters will much more readily tell a complete story, extending from the sender through the postal processing to the recipient. Many of these covers come from commercial firms’ correspondence. Rarest of all are private letters from small places distant from the office of posting, which in turn were sent to similarly remote small offices.

### 3. The problem with old handwriting

The major obstacle when dealing with old letters are the old scripts. A specimen ABC and a sample text of the old orthography (i.e. the old German school script) does not help a great deal, because letters were often written in such different, individually marked styles that ultimately only perseverance and practice ensure success.

For the beginner, easily readable addresses from the 19<sup>th</sup> century are recommended, because the proper arrival of letters required particular care from the writer. Reading the contents is not only more difficult, because they are often written in an awkward, tiny or sloppy hand, but also because they frequently use old linguistic expressions that are no longer necessarily understood by German speakers today. As a consolation, it should be noted that few Austrian collectors of old letters can to any extent “translate” letters written before 1800, let alone read them fluently.

The next illustration is a typical letter...

*[Aside: the author did not discuss letters written in languages other than German: I have met (though cannot read) Czech, Polish, Italian, Hungarian and Yiddish; Latin is known; and the aristocracy would often address their letters in French! Ed]*

Ueber neuerliches Ansuchen des vice. Corporalen Leopold  
 John giebt man sich die Ehre, eine löbliche Stifts=  
 herrschaft unter Beziehung auf die gefällige  
 Mittheilung vom 21ten July v. J. N-4143. und in  
 Ansehung der diesseitigen Note vom 28ten Au=  
 gust 835. A. 1369. um die Eröffnung zu ersu=  
 chen ob das großväterliche Erbvermögen  
 desselben und mit welchem Betrage bereits  
 von dem Comotau er Magistrate hereinge=  
 bracht, dann auf welche Art es daselbst  
 fruchtbringend eloziert worden sey.  
 Mailand am 1ten Februar 836.

Line-by-line transliteration (<sup>2</sup>):

Ueber neuerliches Ansuchen des vice. Corporalen Leopold  
 John giebt man sich die Ehre, eine löbliche Stifts=  
 herrschaft unter Beziehung auf die gefällige  
 Mittheilung vom 21ten July v. J. N-4143. und in  
 Verfolg der diesseitigen Note vom 28ten Au=  
 gust 835 A 1369. um die Eröffnung zu ersu=  
 chen ob das großväterliche Erbvermögen  
 desselben und mit welchem Betrage bereits  
 von dem Comotau er Magistrate hereinge  
 bracht, dann auf welche Art es daselbst  
 fruchtbringend eloziert worden sey.  
 Mailand am 1ten Februar 836.

Which means: By recent request of Lance Corporal Leopold John, we have the  
 honour to request of the esteemed canonic authority with reference to the kind  
 notification of 21st July last year, ref. N.4143, and pursuant to our note of 28th  
 August, 835 ref. A.1369, for disclosure whether his inheritance from his  
 grandfather has already been recovered by the Municipal Authority of Comotau  
 and in what amount, and in what manner it has been placed there so as to bear  
 fruit. Milan, 1st February 1836.

<sup>2</sup> The arbitrary breaks in words when the end of the line is reached, indicated by an '=' sign, are typical of Austrian orthography of this and later periods.

## 4. Part-paid system from 1722 to 1817

From nationalisation of the Austrian Postal Service (<sup>3</sup>) in 1722 to 1817, charges for domestic letters were generally (<sup>4</sup>) collected by the half-paid system. This meant the sender paying half the postage and the recipient paying the other half.

The half-paid system made sense because it allowed the stringent letter charges to be shared by the sender and recipient and because the Post received the half-payment as an advance and the other half on completion of its service. However, this was complicated, because for every letter a payment had to be made at the posting office and again at the delivery office.

The older the letter, the scarcer the postal traces on surviving letters, and the more mysterious the conditions under which the post was carried, and also the thinner the documentation. From around 1750, however, the first town marks, handwritten indications of the place of posting and relatively reliable charge marks in red crayon began to be used.

Charge marks for part-payment on despatch and receipt were only very rarely specifically written. For the most part, the postmaster at the posting office did not write the part-payment received on the back of the letter but on the front, so that it also indicated the half that the postmaster at the delivery office had to collect.

### **Domestic charges for the area covered by the Imperial letter post up to 1817:**

From 16 October 1722: 4kr. + 4kr. per ½ Loth (<sup>5</sup>); pre-paid letters could be sent between certain main post offices.

From 1 June 1750: 8 kr. per ½ Loth on posting or on receipt!

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3 The extent of the Austrian postal service differed greatly in the course of the years. The Post in the Tirol, for example, was nationalised only in 1770; and during the Napoleonic period, southern parts of Austria belonged to the French Province of Illyria.

4 Naturally, there were also the free-frank court and official letters and exceptions during certain charging periods. A completely different system applied to foreign mail.

5 Mail both internal and foreign was supposed to be measured in the Zoll (ie Customs) Loth; one Zollpfund contained 30 Loth and weighed 500 gram, so 1 Zoll-Loth = 16.67 gram. However the Vienna Loth of 17.5 gram was often used instead. Either Loth is approximately ½ oz. imperial measure.

Until the end of October 1751, the letter charge was based only on the weight. A further grading was now introduced according to distance. This distance charge made it necessary to indicate the place of posting, which the sender was required to write at the top right on the front of the cover. From 1 November 1751:

Part-paid	up to ½ Loth	1 Loth	1½ Loth	2 Loth	3 Loth	4 Loth
Zone 1	3kr+3kr	6kr+6kr	8kr+8kr	10kr+10 kr	12kr+12 kr	14kr+14 kr
Zone 2	4kr+4kr	8kr+8kr	10kr+10kr	12kr+12 kr	16kr+16 kr	20kr+20 kr
Zone 3	4kr+4kr	8kr+8kr	12kr+12kr	16kr+16 kr	24kr+24 kr	32kr+32 kr

From 1 January 1789: 4kr. + 4kr. per ½ Loth

From 1 November 1789: 4kr. + 4kr. or 8 kr. post paid per ½ Loth

From 1 August 1798: 6kr. + 6kr. or 12 kr. post paid per ½ Loth

From 15 November 1803: 8kr. + 8kr. or 16 kr. post paid per ½ Loth

From 1 November 1806: 12kr. + 12kr. or 24 kr. post paid per ½ Loth

From 1 October 1810:

Part-paid	up to ½ Loth	1 Loth	1½ Loth	2 Loth	3 Loth
1 to 4 relay stations	8kr+8kr	16kr+16kr	24kr+24kr	32kr+32kr	40kr+40kr
over 4 relay stations	16kr+16kr	32kr+32kr	48kr+48kr	64kr+64kr	80kr+80kr

From 15 March 1811:

Part-paid	up to ½ Loth	1 Loth	1½ Loth	2 Loth	3 Loth	4 Loth
1 to 4 relay stations	4kr+4kr	7kr+7kr	10kr+10kr	14kr+14kr	18kr+18kr	21kr+21kr
over 4 relay stations	7kr+7 kr	14kr+14kr	21kr+21kr	28kr+28 kr	35kr+35kr	42kr+42kr

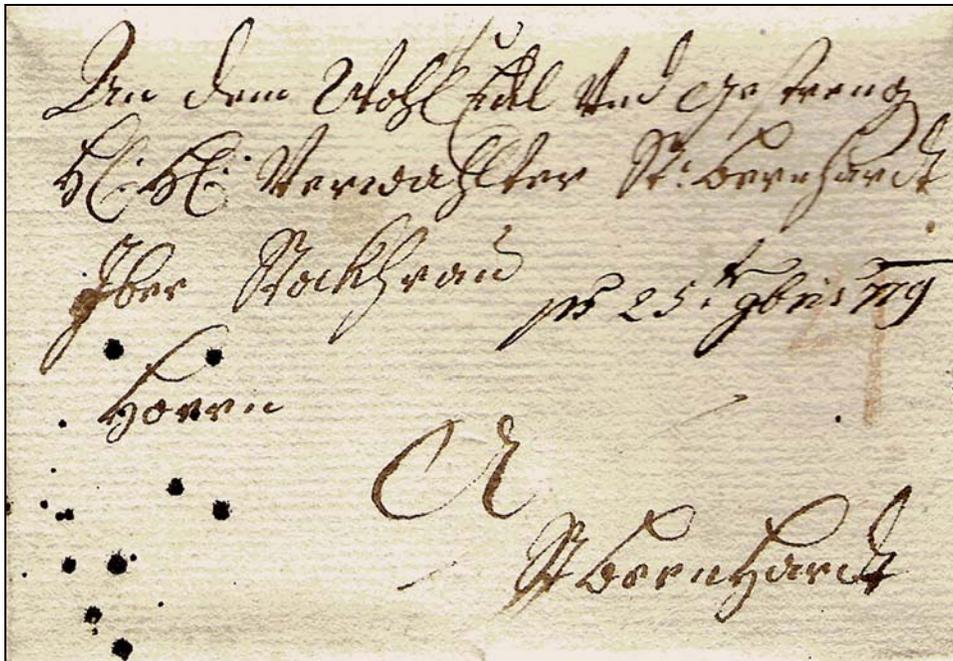
The charges had now to be paid by Einlösungsscheinen (for which see Austria 151 p 20) of a face value five times the value of the carriage fee.

From 1 February 1814:

Part-paid	up to ½ Loth	1 Loth	1½ Loth	2 Loth	3 Loth	4 Loth
1 to 4 relay stations	4kr+4kr	8kr+8kr	12kr+12kr	16kr+16kr	20kr+20kr	24kr+24kr
over 4 relay stations	8kr+8 kr	16kr+16kr	24kr+24kr	32kr+32kr	40kr+40kr	48kr+48kr

From 16 May 1815:

Part-paid	up to ½ Loth	1 Loth	1½ Loth	2 Loth	3 Loth	4 Loth
1 to 4 relay stations	6kr+6kr	12kr+12kr	18kr+18kr	24kr+24kr	30kr+30kr	36kr+36kr
over 4 relay stations	12kr+12 kr	24kr+24kr	36kr+36kr	48kr+48kr	1fl+1fl	1fl12kr + 1f12kr



Part-paid letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight step, 2<sup>nd</sup> distance zone. Hainburg 19. 11. 1779 – Vienna – Stockerau – Horn – St. Bernhard 25. 11. 1779. Part-paid on despatch: 4 kr. by sender; part-paid on receipt: 4 kr. by recipient. The address is:

An den Wohl Edel und gestreng / H. H. Verwalter St. Bernhard / Iber Stockhrau / ps 25tr 9bris 779 / Horn / a / St. Bernhardt

Which means: To the noble and respected administrator of St. Bernhard / via Stockerau / [Arrival date] 25 Nov. 1779 [via] Horn / to St. Bernhard

**Additions for rare covers (+ = scarce; ++ = rare; +++ = very rare)**

- + Routing indications
- + Taxed covers at higher weight steps, at least
- + From/to small post towns
- + Tax corrections
- + Forwarded letters [*Nachsendebrief: the addressee had moved. I have not used "re-routed" as this has overtones of a changed route to the original address. Ed*]
- ++ Taxed letters before 1750, at least
- ++ Post-paid letters before 1817 according to age, at least
- ++ Registered letters before 1817 according to age, at least
- ++ Unusual postmaster markings
- ++ To and from places without Post Offices
- +++ Letters paid at destination of 1750/1751
- +++ Tax marking in Kreuzer + Einlösungsscheinen

## **5. Letters paid at destination from 1817 after the introduction of letterboxes**

In 1817, boxes were erected in front of the post offices, and subsequently also at central locations in the cities, where unfranked domestic letters could be deposited. This brought an end to the part-payment system hitherto used in Austria. Senders were no longer tied to the opening times of post offices.

Customers made plentiful use of the Post's new service and dropped most domestic letters into the letterboxes unfranked so that until adhesive stamps were introduced in June 1850, there were far more unpaid letters than prepaid.

Foreign letters, on the other hand, had to be handed in at the post office as in the past, because, as we know, the sender had to pay postage up to the frontier. Of course, letters could also be sent prepaid, for which the sender paid the charge.

**Charges for domestic letters from 1 June 1817 to 31 July 1842:**

	up to ½ Loth	1 Loth	1½ Loth	2 Loth	2 ½ Loth	3 Loth
up to 3 relays	2 kr	4 kr	6 kr	8 kr	10 kr	12 kr
4 - 6 relays	4 kr	8 kr	12 kr	16 kr	20 kr	24 kr
7 – 9 relays	6 kr	12 kr	18 kr	24 kr	30 kr	36 kr
10–12 relays	8 kr	16 kr	24 kr	32 kr	40 kr	48 kr
13–15 relays	10 kr	20 kr	30 kr	40 kr	50 kr	1fl
16–18 relays	12 kr	24 kr	36 kr	48 kr	1fl	1fl 12 kr
over 18 relays	14 kr	28 kr	42 kr	56 kr	1fl 10 kr	1fl 24 kr

The registration fee was 4 Kreuzer Convention currency (Vienna currency). The charge was based on the Vienna Convention Currency (hereafter “VCC”), but up to 31 January 1818 could also be paid in the devalued old Vienna Currency (4kr. VCC = 12kr VC). In Lombardy-Venetia this charge took effect only on 1.7.1819 and up to 1823 was still levied in Centesimi (4kr. VCC = 20 Centesimi).

From 1833, main and branch post offices were supposed to use red ink for prepaid letters and black for post-paid letters. The smaller post office were to use black ink only. The letter charges were generally no longer written in red crayon but in black ink.

From 1.5.1838, at least the government (ie State-owned) post offices had postal markers showing the date and month and pre-paid and registration handstamps. However, these regulations were not always followed, especially in the non-governmental post offices, so that numerous discrepancies occur.

In 1817, new rules were introduced for charging domestic letters. The sending office was to write on the back of the letter the charges that the sender had paid, and on the front the charges that the recipient had to pay at the delivering post office.

The illustration below shows an unpaid letter with charge correction: Vienna 23.6.1827 – Innsbruck – Rovereto 28.6.1827. It was presumably taken from the letter box at the Vienna Post Office, received the Vienna town stamp, and was taxed as ½ Loth letter with 14 kr. post-payment. At the Rovereto Post Office it was re-weighed and designated a 1-Loth letter, consequently the Vienna charge was crossed out (this is the cascade of red Xs) and it was re-charged at 28 Kr.

The correction was confirmed with the Rovereto local handstamp, and the arrival date nicely stamped on the back.



### **Additions for rare covers:**

- + Private letters in higher weight steps
- + Pre-paid letters
- + From or to small places without a post office
- + Return letters
- + Forwarded letters
- + With routing indication
- + Small sample or printed matter
- ++ Confirmed charge correction
- ++ Registered pre-paid or post-paid letters
- +++ Charged in old Vienna Currency

## 6: The new Austrian charges from 1842

While other states had for a long time been fixing charges in grams and “kilometres as the crow flies”, Austria lagged well behind until radical changes were at last introduced with the new charging system in 1842.

### Austrian charges from 1 August 1842 to 28 February 1843:

Pre-paid or post-paid	up to ½ Loth	¾ Loth	1 Loth	1½ Loth	2 Loth	3 Loth
Local letters	2Kr.	2Kr.	2Kr.	2Kr.	2Kr.	
Up to 10 German miles	6Kr.	9Kr.	12Kr.	18Kr.	24Kr.	30Kr.
over 10 G. miles	12Kr.	18Kr.	24Kr.	36Kr.	48Kr.	1fl

Only three distance zones were left. Local letters were carried within the delivery district of a post office. The tariff applied not only to domestic letters but also to outgoing foreign letters prepaid up to the border and to the Austrian charge from the border on incoming foreign letters. The registration charge, including a certificate of posting, was now 6 kr. The distance was measured in a straight line: 10 miles = 75.859 km. In most cases, this new tariff was altogether much simpler and the charges substantially lower.

The second distance zone was extended to 20 miles from 1.3.1843.

A distance zone of up to 10 miles came into effect on 1.6.1848, according to which a ½ Loth now cost only 3 kr., ¾ Loth 5kr., 1 Loth 6kr., 1½ Loth 9kr., etc.

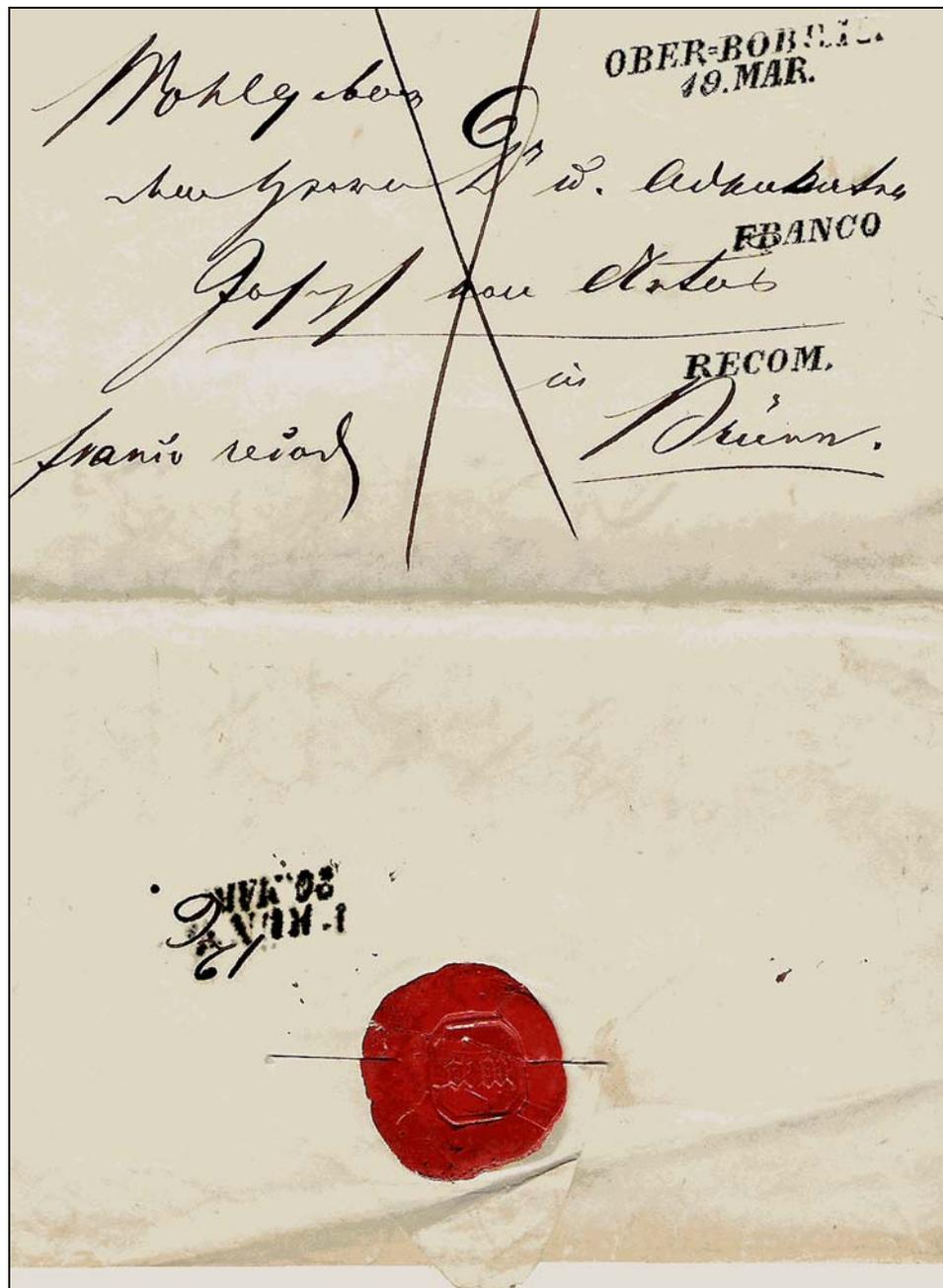
Finally, the 20-mile zone was extended to 30 miles from 1.4.1849.

The first Austrian stamps appeared on 1.6.1850.

### Additions for rare covers:

- + Private letters in higher weight steps
- + Pre-paid letters
- + Local letters
- + From or to small places without a post office
- + With direction indication
- + Small sample or printed matter

- + Return letters
- + Forwarded letters
- ++ Confirmed tax correction
- ++ Registered prepaid or post-paid letters



Registered prepaid letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> weight step for more than 30 miles.

Ober-Bobrau 19.3.1850 – Brunn 20.3.1850. Prepaid: 12 kr. letter charge + 6 kr. registration fee (on the back, underneath the arrival mark) making 18 kr. paid by the sender.

The pre-payment crossed diagonals indicated that the recipient had to pay nothing. At a time when pre-payment handstamps did not yet exist, they were the most reliable indicator of prepaid domestic letters. The words “frei, frey, franco, frco, fro.....” (i.e. ‘carriage paid’) generally appeared on the front of prepaid letters and the charge was still written on the back.

NB: Most Austrian pre-philatelic collectors collect only by the despatching postmarks and value their letters according to the Müller Catalogue. However, anyone delving deeper into postal history, such as Andy Taylor with “A Letter from Brixen to Kufstein in 1816” in Austria 151, must observe many other criteria in addition to the handstamps and not value letters only by the postmark.

## 7. Registered mail

The oldest indication of registered mail are the letters “NB”, the Latin abbreviation for *nota bene* = note carefully. However, most old registered letters can be recognised by the red crayon grille - the “Registration Grid” - which looks like “mm” with one or more cross-bars.

A uniform registration fee of 6 kr. plus the letter charge was introduced at all Austrian post offices only from 1.1.1789.

From 1.2.1814, the registration charge was no longer paid by the sender alone but also by the recipient: 6 kr. + 6 kr.

From 16.5.1815, the registration charge was paid by the sender only, and was 12 kr.

From 1.6.1817, the registration charge paid by the sender was 4 Kr VCC.

From 1.8.1842, the sender had to pay 6 kr. but received the certificate of posting free of charge.



Registered prepaid letter, 3rd weight step, M. Budwitz (Müller 825a) to Vienna 26.1.1833. Top left: Registration grid in red crayon. Top right in ink: registration No. 76. Centre bottom in red crayon: 24 kr. letter charge; beneath it in red ink: 27 kr. from recipient including 3 kr. messenger fee. [On the back in red crayon is the 4 kr. registration charge paid by sender; it is too faint to reproduce here.]

## 8. Return receipts

Receipts are forms confirming posting or receipt of whatever was sent. Return receipts, i.e. confirmations of receipt for messenger letters, existed that had nothing to do with the Post. And receipts existed for the Fahrpost offices, which confirmed the posting of cash or goods and which had nothing to do with the letter post.

For the letter post, only receipts confirming the posting of registered letters and those with the sender's confirmation of receipt of registered letters are interesting. Originally, the Postmasters had their own receipts printed locally for their post offices, and charged a uniform 2 kreuzer for them as from 1817, but they had nothing to do with the registration fee. Up to 1826, senders of registered letters could even write out the receipt themselves and so save the receipt fee.

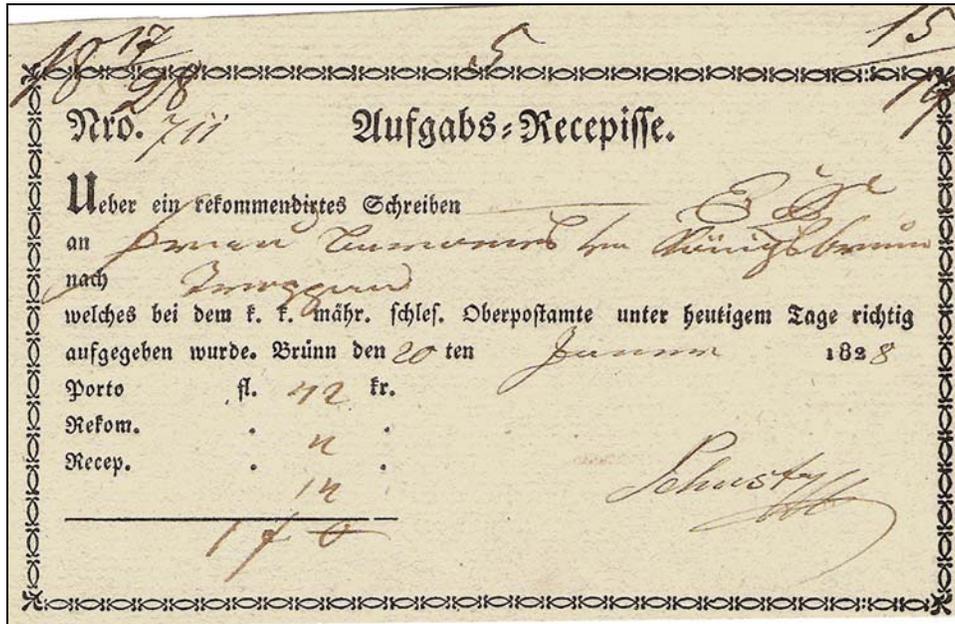
Return receipts were written by the post office of posting, sent off together with the letter, signed by the recipient and sent back to the sender.

Only from 1.8.1842 was a certificate of posting automatically issued when a registered letter was posted, the cost being included in the registration fee of 6 kr.

On next page: Posting receipt (locally-printed) No. 711 from Brünn of 1828 for a registered letter to Herr von Königsbrunn in Troppau. The letter was a seventh step (= 7 times ½ Loth) registered prepaid letter with certificate of posting and return receipt. The charges are itemised:

Post-paid*	42 kr (for 3½ Loth over 8 relay stations)
Rekom.	4 kr registration fee
Recep.	14 kr (2 kr for the certificate of posting + 12 kr for the return receipt)
total	60 kr, ie 1 fl, paid by the sender

\* As with most return receipts, this should have said "Franco" [post prepaid]. However, even the Postal Regulations sometimes used "Porto" for "Franco".



### Mark-ups for rare specimens:

- + Receipts with a fine decorated edge
- + Receipts before 1800
- ++ Local printings from small post offices
- ++ Return receipt
- +++ Hand-written receipt

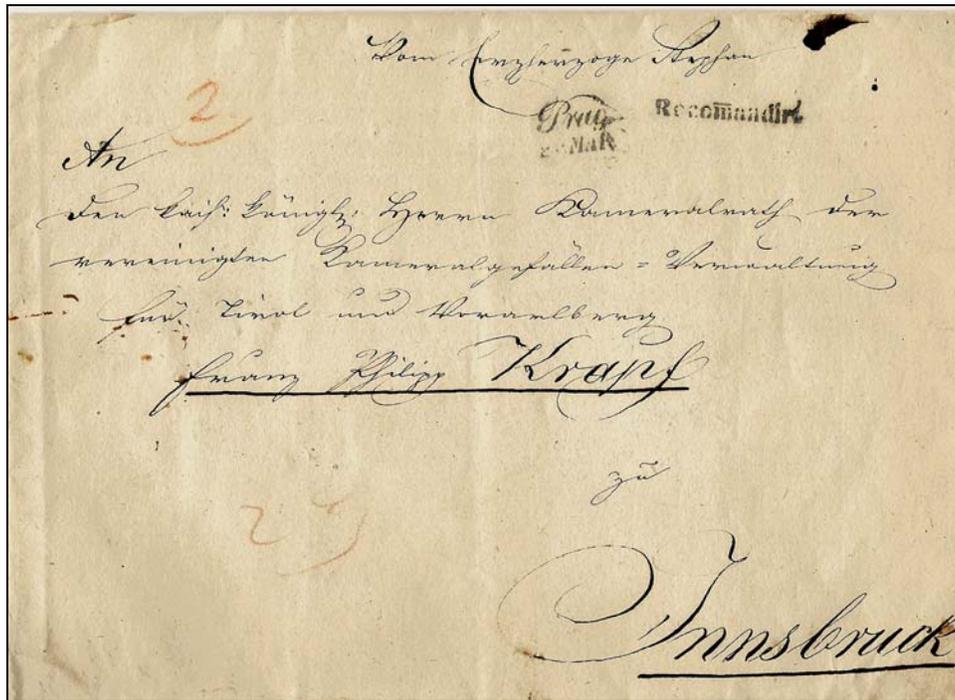
## 9. Free Franks

Exemption from charges is an unsatisfactory chapter in Austrian pre-philately because the regulations were continuously changed and because handling by the Post was inconsistent [*after 1850 it was no better! Ed*].

There were personal free franks for members of the Court. Letters of this kind have the name of the privileged person on the face or, at a later period, only “Hof” (= “Court”) top right. They are consequently called “Hofbriefe” (“Court letters”).

Secondly, official letters from the royal and imperial offices also enjoyed exemption. These letters were marked “ex offo”, “ex officio”, “in str. offic.”, “Militärsache [“Military matter”], “Jud. Gegenstand” [“legal matter”] etc. and are generally called “Ex-offo” letters.

There are Ex-offo letters that were carried free of charge, often identified by the ex-offo symbol in red crayon, which looks like an extravagant “P”.



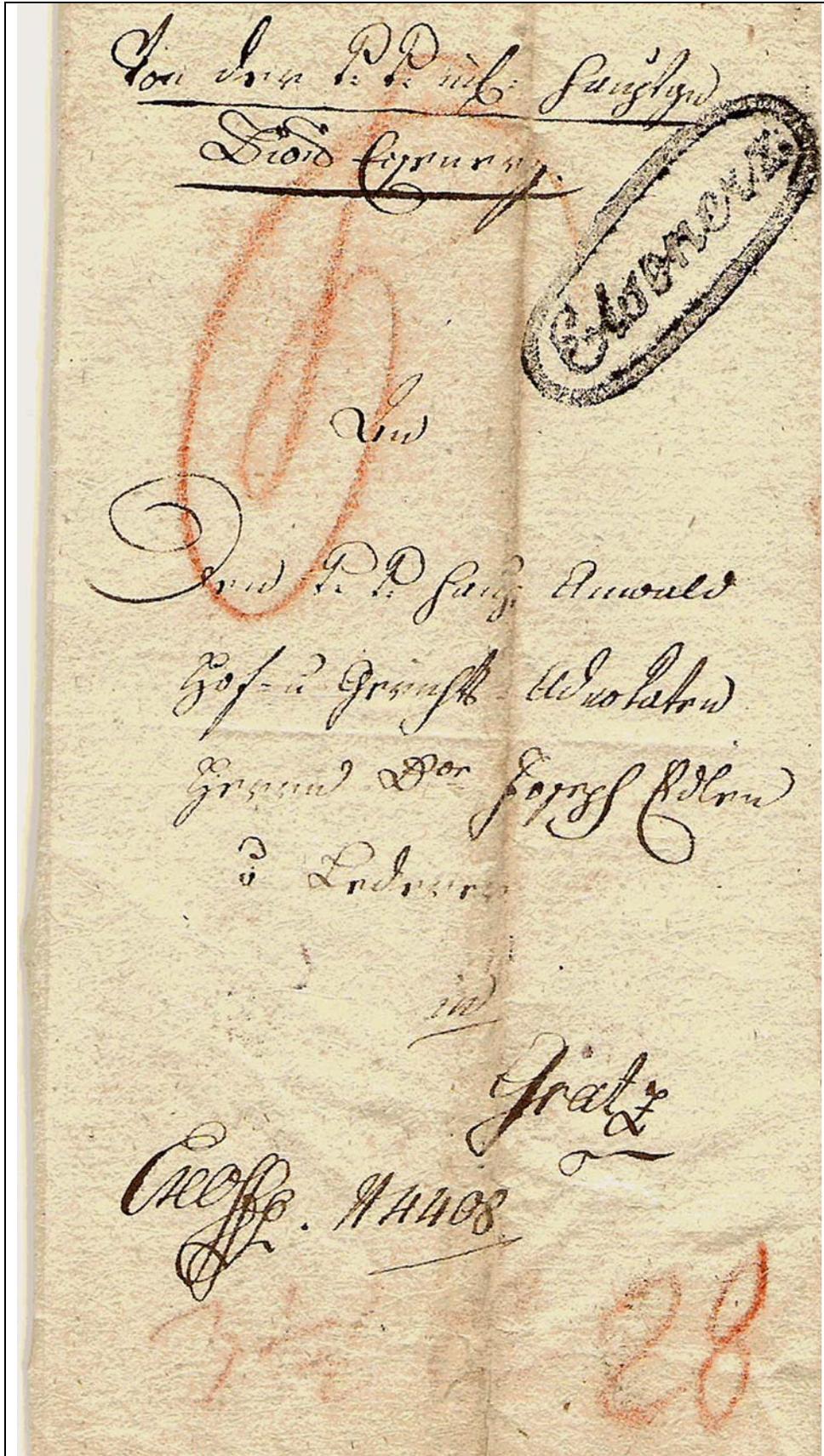
2 Loth heavy registered Court letter for 2<sup>nd</sup> distance zone; Prague 23.3.1845 – Vienna – Innsbruck. Fully exempt because sent by Archduke Stephan

Where an Ex-offo letter is marked with a diagonal line from bottom left to top right this means that the sender had no charge to pay. If the recipient had to pay a charge, the letter was marked with half-postage, subsequently with the entire postage.

Many more recent ex-offo letters between exempt offices are marked along the bottom: “Postporto kommt von der betreffenden Parthei einzuheben.....”. [“Postage to be collected from the party concerned”.] This means that the receiving office has paid the postage due and subsequently collected this from the party – in a probate matter, for example, from an heir.

### Mark-ups for rare covers:

- ++ Registered ex-offo letters
- +++ Court letters



Ex-offo letter (sender, hence justification, unreadable) with 3½ Loth over 6 relay stations. From Eisenerz to Graz; dated 10.11.1824.

28 kr postage paid for 7<sup>th</sup> weight step, 2<sup>nd</sup> distance zone (but at the top there is an Ex-offo mark in red crayon!)

## 10. The Border pre-paid system for letters sent abroad

Prephilatelic correspondence between Austria and any other postal area is an extensive specialist area. Consequently, only a general summary and some examples are possible here.

For letters sent abroad, the Austrian sender had to pay **postage up to the frontier**. This means that he had to pay the charge from the office of posting up to the national border of the Imperial and Royal Postal area. Only Court letters and ex-offo letters were excepted. For the first time, the border pre-paid system was replaced on 1.10.1842 by a common postage between Austria and Bavaria.

Many of these border pre-paid letters were treated **as inland pre-paid letters**, carrying the pre-paid diagonals, the comment *frey* [“paid”] and/or a pre-paid handstamp. Only meticulously written border pre-paid letters have the manuscript marking *frei bis zur Grenze* [“paid up to frontier”] or also a handstamp **GRENZE** [“FRONTIER”] next to the “Franco” handstamp.

Origin, border crossing and charge marks on foreign letters demand specialist knowledge. The **origin marking L.A.** means “*lettre autrichienne*” and served to calculate the postage payable by the foreign recipient. The exchange post offices at the frontiers used various **border crossing markings** which indicate which post route a letter followed. In some postal areas, **charge handstamps** were also used, which indicate a transit charge or the entire postage in the appropriate national currency. The most important book concerning these markings is “*Marques de Passage*” by James Van der Linden.

### Pre-payments to frontier amounted to

From 1.7.1722:	6 kr per half Loth
From 1.6.1750:	6 kr per half Loth to the Netherlands, the German Empire, Milan, Mantua, Tuscany, Tirol and the extra-territorial Hapsburg possessions.
	8 kr per half Loth to other countries
From 1.11.1751:	6 kr per half Loth to all foreign countries
From 1.11.1789:	8 kr per half Loth
From 1.8.1798:	12 kr per half Loth
From 15.11.1803:	16 kr per half Loth

From 1.11.1806:	24 kr per half Loth	
From 1.7.1810:	48 kr per half Loth	
From 15.3.1811:	14 kr per half Loth = 1 fl 10 kr in Einlösungsscheinen	
From 1.2.1814:	16 kr per half Loth = 1 fl 20 kr in Einlösungsscheinen	
From 16.5.1815:	24 kr Vienna Currency [= 8 kr VCC from 1.6.1816]	
From 1.6.1817:	1-3 relay stations up to frontier:	2 kr per half Loth
	4-6 relay stations	8 kr per half Loth
	7-9 relay stations	10 kr per half Loth
	10-12 relay stations	12 kr per half Loth
	over 12 relay stations	14 kr per half Loth
From 1.8.1842:	Distance postage in a straight line up to the frontier under the domestic tariff	

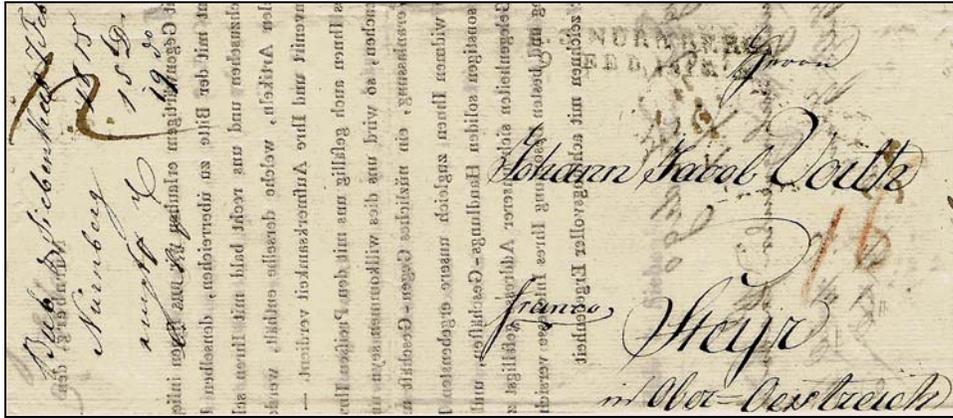
**The rates** for Austrian mail prepaid to the border therefore appeared on the front of old letters in red crayon and from approx. 1817 on the back, initially in red crayon, subsequently in black ink.

Postage payable by the recipient appeared on the front. If a letter transited other countries, several transit charges were often written up, and finally the total postage as from the Austrian frontier charged in the currency of the recipient's country.

#### **Additions for rare covers:**

The value of foreign covers depends greatly on their age, the destination and the origin, border crossing, payment and tax stamps, for which Van der Linden gives a valuation in his book. Rare destinations for letters from or to Austria include for example North America, Ireland, Scandinavia, Portugal, Spain, Malta and some other countries.





Simple letter pre-paid to the border. From Nuremberg 7.2.1815 via Regensburg and Linz to Steyr 15.2.1815. Bavarian Postage of 12kr. Rh (see below) paid up to the border by the sender (**franco** refers to post-paid up to the border). Austrian Border postage of 16 kr. Vienna currency, paid by the recipient.

## 12. Transit letters to Austria

Transit post is undoubtedly the **most complex chapter in early European postal history**: up to 1806, it was relatively simple, because the greater part of European overland post was carried by the Thurn and Taxis family's Imperial Posts ("T&T"). Then came the Napoleonic period with many changes in sovereignty and postal areas. And with the new order in Europe following the Vienna Congress, transit post entered its most complex period, because many small European states were created, most of which had their own postal system.

Until the conclusion of international treaties, the transit post generally functioned as outlined in the example below:

From country 1, a letter was sent via country 2 and country 3 to country 4.

Country 1 obtained payment in the form of the sender's prepayment up to the border.

Country 2 noted its transit charge (Auslage) as an expense for country 3 and obtained it from country 3.

Country 3 noted the Auslage by country 2 plus its own transit fee (Auslage) as an expense for country 4 and obtained it from country 4.

Country 4 added up the expenses of country 3 plus its own postage from the border, paid the expenses to country 3, and retained its own postage from the border.

The recipient in country 4 had to pay a total of the transit postage for countries 2 and 3 and the inland postage from the border.

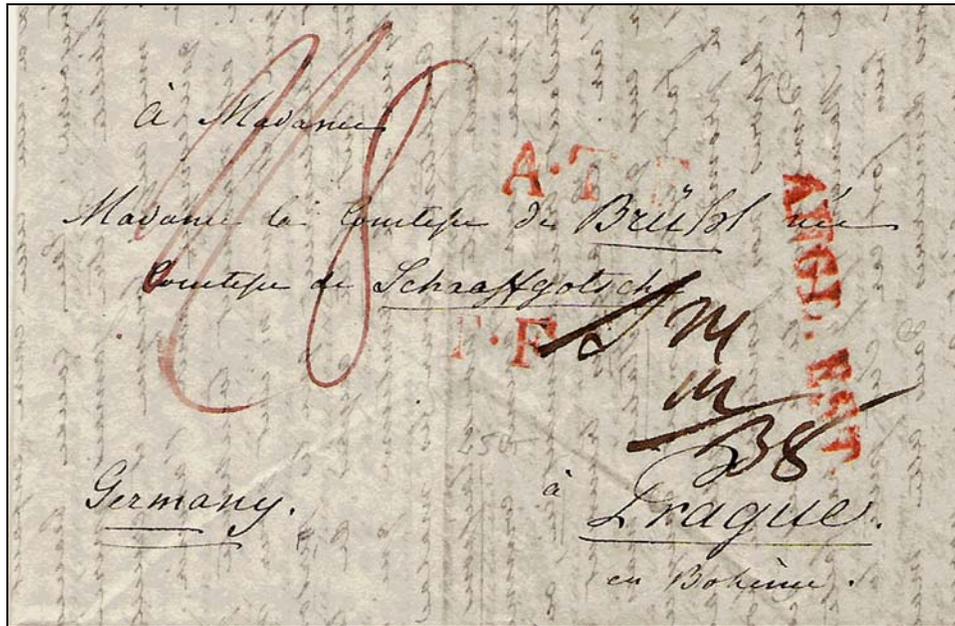
A particular added difficulty was that most countries had different currencies which had to be repeatedly converted.

**For incoming transit letters, Austria charged the recipients the following fees in addition to its postage from the border:**

from 1.2.1809	for transit through Bavaria: 24 kr. per ½ Loth
from 1.9.1810	for transit through Bavaria: 36 kr. per ½ Loth
from 15.3.1811	for transit from France, Switzerland, Holland etc.: 12 kr. Vienna currency for ½ Loth, 18 kr. for 1 Loth, 24 kr. for 1½ Loth, etc.; no transit fee from Frankfurt, Württemberg, etc.
from 16.5.1815	30 kr. Vienna currency for ½ Loth, 45 kr. for 1 Loth, 1 fl. for 1½ Loth, etc.

From 1819 [in VCC]:

Letter from:	for ½ Loth	1 Loth	1½ Loth
Tuscany	4kr.	8kr.	12kr.
Switzerland	6kr.	12kr.	18kr.
Italian States	6kr.	12kr.	18kr.
Thurn & Taxis area via Bohemia	6kr.	12kr.	18kr.
T&T area via Switzerland-Milan	8kr.	16kr.	24kr.
France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, West Prussia	14kr.	28kr.	42kr.
England, Scotland, Ireland, North America	24kr.	48kr.	1 fl 12kr.
Spain, Portugal and Colonies	36kr.	1 fl 12kr.	1 fl 48kr.



Simple transit letter from Dover 29.12.1833 via Calais, Paris and Strasburg to Prague. British border prepayment to Calais: **1/8d** by sender. Origin stamp: **ANGL. EST** Transit stamp: **T.F. + A.T.F.** meaning Transit France + Allemagne. Austrian postage due: 24kr. CM for transits from Calais + 14kr. CM Austrian postage from the border making 38kr. CM payable by the recipient

### 13. The first uniform charge

In 1842, **Austria and Bavaria** concluded a postal treaty providing for a single, uniform letter fee for correspondence between the two states instead of the previous postages paid to and from the border. This postal treaty is shown as an example as the last contribution towards foreign letters into Austria because it was the first to provide for a uniform charge and because similar postal treaties were concluded with other countries soon afterwards, with uniform charges.

The introduction to the Treaty text reads: *On account of removal of compulsory pre-postage between Austria and Bavaria and the application of a uniform letter carriage charge.*

**As from 1.10.1842**, letters between Austria and Bavaria could still be optionally paid by the sender **or** the recipient.

For letters paid in Austria, the charge applied under the Austrian 20 florin basic currency = CM Vienna Currency. (VCC)

For letters paid in Bavaria, a charge applied under the Bavarian 24-florin basic currency = Rh.

Letters from Austria to Bavaria were stamped in Austria “*O.B.C.*”, *i.e.* Österreichisch-Bayrische-Correspondenz [Austrian-Bavarian Correspondence).

Letters from Bavaria to Austria were stamped in Bavaria “*B.O.C.*”, *i.e.* Bayrisch-Österreichische-Correspondenz [Bavarian-Austrian Correspondence].

Pre-paid or post-paid	up to ½ Loth	up to 1 Loth	up to 1½ Loth
up to 5 miles*	3kr. CM = 4kr. Rh.		
up to 10 miles	6kr. CM = 7kr. Rh.	9kr. CM = 11kr. Rh.	12kr. CM = 15kr. Rh.
over 10 miles	12kr. CM = 15kr. Rh.	18kr. CM = 22kr. Rh.	24kr. CM = 29kr. Rh.
Addition **	4kr. CM = 5kr. Rh.	6kr. CM = 8kr. Rh.	8kr. CM = 10kr. Rh.

Charges were applied according to distance in a direct line and always in the currency of the country where the charge was paid.

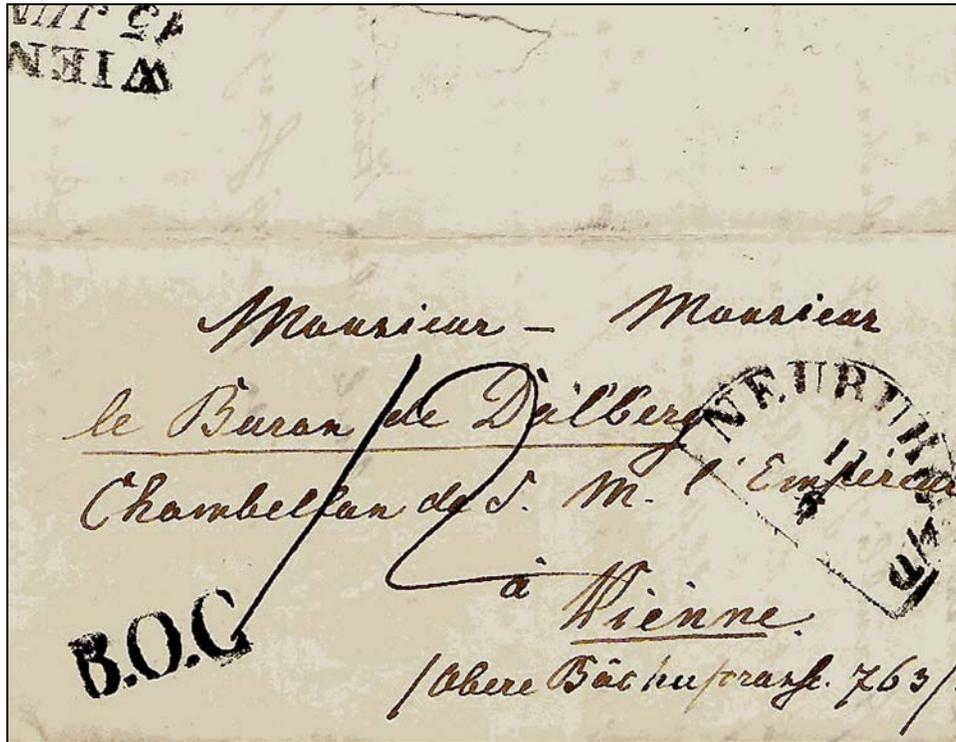
\* The charge for cross-border traffic was introduced only in September 1848.

\*\* Bavaria received a supplement for letters from/to its detached territories.

Samples accompanying a letter were charged at 1/3 of the letter rate, subject to a minimum of the lowest ordinary letter fee. Printed matter was similarly charged 1/3 of the letter rate, subject to a minimum of one half of the lowest ordinary letter fee.

**Free-frank items** crossing the border between the two states were marked “*R.S.*” (“Government Matter”) in Bavaria and with the customary *Ex offio* in Austria.

Letters requiring full payment to exempt recipients had to be franked in full. Items from exempt senders to recipients required to make full payment were charged at half the fee. Letters to royal Courts were charged at half the uniform fee. Exempt persons had to pay half the uniform fee.



Simple post-paid letter in Bavarian-Austrian Correspondence from Neuburg a.d.D. 11.6.1846 via Regensburg and Linz to Vienna 15.6.1846.

In Neuburg: posting mark + B.O.C. + Austrian Postage due **12** kr. VCC; the sender paid nothing. In Vienna: arrival stamp + **12**kr. VCC paid by recipient.

#### **Additions for rare letters:**

- + With fee up to 5 miles
- + Without OBC or BOC marking
- + with Bavarian distance addition
- ++ with manuscript OBC or BOC
- +++ Return letter with OBC + BOC stamp

#### **Important literature on Austrian pre-philately:**

Paul Kainbacher, "Handbuch der Brief- und Fahrpost in Österreich-Ungarn"

Edwin Müller, "Handbook of the Pre-Stamp Postmarks of Austria"

**Forgeries:** *Austrian Altbrieife are hardly ever forged; those from elsewhere eg Lombardy-Venetia sometimes are. Ed*

# TYROL PHILA

Mag. Peter Zoller

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# How to look after your Collection -A Basic Guide

*A Paper given to the 87th Philatelic Congress at Derby on 8 July 2005 by David R. Beech FRPSL (1)*

## *Introduction*

Many philatelists understand that they are the guardians of the material in their collections for themselves and for future owners. It is unfortunate when some collectors show a disregard for looking after their collection and dismiss comment with a remark like “it will be OK in my lifetime”. It is to show that looking after your collection is not a complicated affair that I have written this article. Having said that this is a brief or basic guide only and interested parties seeking more comprehensive information should consult a professional paper conservator.

The British Library is custodian of national collections of international importance some of which have been in its care for over 250 years. During this period it has developed, along with the library and archive community, policies and practices designed to protect those collections. The curator’s job is to understand the issues and work with the conservator, who will have specialist knowledge and practical experience. In 1989 the British Library published the book *The Care and Preservation of Philatelic Materials*, written by the late T. J. Collings, a leading paper conservation expert, and R. F. Schoolley-West FRPSL, former Head of the Philatelic Collections. This title appeared in two editions, one in collaboration with the American Philatelic Society.

To break down the subject into manageable portions I have divided it into seven sections which are: Environment, Light, Paper, Gum, Plastics, Physical issues and Treatments.

## *Environment*

Philatelic Collections should be stored at a temperature under 18 centigrade and with relative humidity of between 55 and 60%. Recent research has shown that gummed and perforated material is under less stress at these slightly more moist conditions than had previously been recommended. Outside these conditions collectors run the risk of the growth of fungi if too hot and too humid.

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<sup>1</sup> Reprinted with the kind permission of the RPS and of the author, from the *London Philatelist*, March 2006

Remember that one cause of foxing is believed to be dead fungal growth, so by avoiding bad conditions you can help to avoid those unsightly stains. If too dry, paper suffers stress and with an unused stamp with gum a tension will develop between the gum and the paper. This tension may be sufficient to split perforations. Dampness is probably one of the main dangers to paper and especially to gum. Ventilation of a room or storage container is likely to reduce the level of moisture; some mild and gradual heating may be of assistance in carrying moisture away. Never heat a damp room without adequate ventilation as this may promote the growth of fungus.

Clean air is important too as pollutants may cause damage. Smoking is incompatible with philately because of damage from ash, staining and the transfer of smell.

### *Light*

The best lighting conditions to keep your collection in is complete darkness. We do need to study our material and show it to fellow philatelists and for this we need light; but how much? In simple terms material on exhibition should be shown in no more than 50 lux, which is 50 candles worth at a distance of one metre. Light contains ultra violet (UV) and a maximum of ten microwatts per lumen is advised. It is the duty of all philatelic exhibition organisers to arrange these conditions. This is the same standard as is used by art galleries for exhibitions of prints and drawings, so it is not impossible to achieve. While most organisers will at least avoid direct sun light nearly all fail to come even close to the conservation standard of 50 lux. Clearly it may be a difficult and expensive thing to achieve but measures should be taken to reduce levels and the resulting damage. That damage has taken place is clear from the examination of collections protected from light, and these include the British Library's Philatelic Collections and the Royal Philatelic Collection where the bright and fresh colours are often remarked upon.

One international exhibition held in Europe since 2000 under Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) rules and supervision seemed to have no or little regard for the dangers of light. The exhibition halls had one-third glass roofs resulting in high lux and uv levels. These were measured on a cloudy day randomly around the halls. The minimum was 91 lux and 165 microwatts per lumen and the maximum was a horrifying 3,395 lux and 479 microwatts per lumen. Over half of the frames, where the levels were measured, exceeded 1,000 lux!

Fading undoubtedly resulted. If FIP supervision of international exhibitions to have any meaning for the protection of material on show, it must at least set

standards that seek to avoid the worst of the bad conditions. I challenge FIP to do so before it is too late!

Photocopying of material has its hazards too in the form of not only of light but heat too, the latter causing a stress in the paper. Some more modern machines may be less harmful and further research work here is needed. At the Philatelic Collections office at the British Library all of our lights have uv filters as do the windows and we never leave material exposed to light unnecessarily.

## *Paper*

Papers are complicated in form and structure. For this basic guide it is perhaps sufficient to say that the best papers have a pH of between 6.0 and 8.5. pH is the measure of the extent to which material is acidic or alkaline (<sup>2</sup>). Paper which is acidic usually goes brown like modern newspapers and paperback books. Philatelic material may suffer from being acidic and the most obvious examples of this are postal stationery cards. Many of these are so bad that they probably have a life of only a few years, perhaps in some cases 10 to 20 years. The problem can be addressed by deacidifying the item, but it is recommended that this be undertaken by a professional conservator. Postcards that have been used with typewriting or manuscript addresses or messages and perhaps with additional adhesives will need special care as the process is one where wetting is involved. The deacidification process will arrest the acid attack at the time of treatment but it will not reverse the browning of the paper.

Clearly album pages should be such that they cause no damage to the material mounted on them, and so need to be acid free and comply with the ISO 9706 standard for permanent paper.

## *Gum*

As I have indicated, gum is often in tension with the paper it is applied to and this can be reduced under the appropriate storage conditions that I give in the Environment section above. If the gum becomes too dry (and especially if it is thickly applied) it may crack and go on to crack or damage the paper of a stamp or cover, etc. The removal of gum is probably in the best interests of stamps in the long term. This is controversial and further work needs to be carried out as to how this may be achieved with the best results.

Removal by water may not be the answer in many cases and inks may be affected. Pressure sensitive adhesives, that is self adhesives on stamps, are

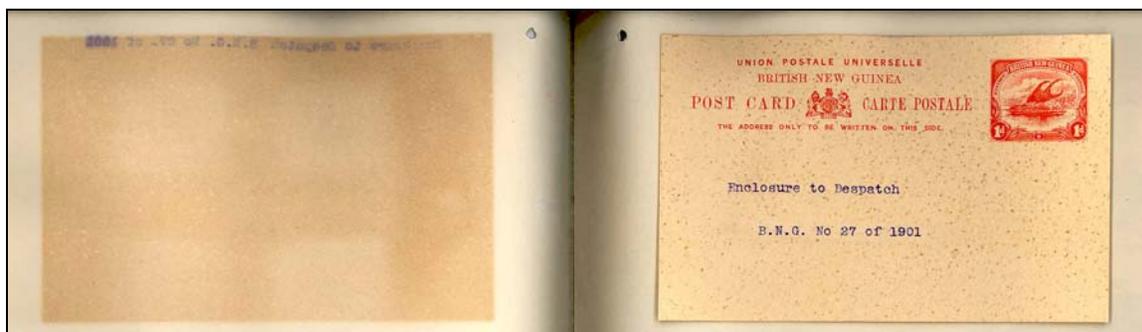
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<sup>2</sup> [A pH of 7 is neutral, under 7 is acidic, over 7 is alkali. Ed.]

emerging as a major conservation concern. Clear tapes, like *Sellotape* and other similar products, are pressure sensitive and as most of us know the adhesive turns brown and leaves a stain on just about anything that it has been stuck to. Will this be the case with self adhesive stamps? By the way, never repair any philatelic item with a pressure sensitive tape; it was never designed for this purpose.

## ***Plastics***

A great deal has been written about plastics in philately which are used as mounts and protectors. Here I am only going to say that top museums, libraries and archives only use polyester (*Mylar* and *Melinex* are commercial names) without any anti-static coatings, with paper or similar materials. They never use PVC, which can ooze plasticisers, and forms acid as it decomposes.



On the right-hand page is a postal stationery postcard issued in 1901 which since that time has been in an official collection. This shows the browning effect of the high acidic level in the postcard and its transfer to the back of the left-hand page. The “window pane” effect is caused by the stamps stuck to the other side of the paper; the reversed printing also is from the other side. [*The British Library, Philatelic Collections: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Collection.*]

## ***Physical Damage***

That care should be taken in handling material should be taken for granted. One University library that lends books had or has a notice that said something like “Books should be stored with care and should be kept away from rodents, silverfish, insects, children and other vermin”.

I have seen small photograph corners cause much damage especially to covers. The act of using them may cause physical damage to the corners of a cover over time. Clearly material should be handled with clean hands, but even so the moisture on all skin will transfer to the stamp or cover. This is why in libraries and archives rare materials are often handled with special gloves.

Peelable stamp hinges if applied correctly are safe to use. Many collectors are not good at using hinges and it would be a good idea if philatelic societies gave lessons to new collectors on their use. In any event minimal moisture should be used, and the hinge should only be applied to the very top of a stamp. Plastic mounts are a safe alternative if made of polyester.

The writing in pencil on covers of a price by dealers and others should be avoided<sup>3</sup>, as every time it is removed by eraser it will damage the paper and if repeated will eventually cause a hole in the paper. It may be of interest to the reader to give the policy we apply at British Library Philatelic Collections on the mounting and housing of its collections. Such arrangements have to last one hundred years. Stamps or covers are mounted in polyester mounts on conservation quality album pages which are placed in a polyester protector. These, about sixty at a time depending on the material, are stored in conservation quality boxes with a waterproof buckram covering, which are kept upright on the shelf.

## *Treatments*

Philatelic material that needs any kind of treatment should be shown to a paper conservator. Not all treatments are advisable, indeed some will cause damage. This many not at first be apparent but it may emerge in time. The bleaching of items is not recommended and many of the methods or techniques carried out in the past have ruined stamps and covers. Do not be tempted to do it yourself!

Another point to remember is that repairs, cleaning, etc may be acceptable in some areas of paper object collecting, but not in philately as in some instances fraud may result either in a sale or in exhibiting. Only in exceptional and rare instances will any repair work be acceptable. A good example of this is the first stamps of Hawaii, the Missionary stamps of 1851-52, which are printed on very thin and fragile paper. Many of the 199 copies that exist are repaired. If they had not been they probably would not exist today!

## *Conclusion*

You are the custodian of your material for your lifetime or until you sell. Do look after it for future generations - otherwise nothing will exist to collect, study, research and enjoy! I should like to thank Barry Knight, Head of Conservation Research at the British Library, for checking aspects of this paper.

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<sup>3</sup> Underlined by your Editor, it being one of his hobby-horses!

## NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

### *Die Briefmarke:*

**Issue 1/2006:** Mozartiana from Salzburg, Vienna and Canada; more pro-WIPA-2008; genesis of the ABSV; the 1945 issues; Austrian telegraph stamps; end (?) of the Kleinwalsertal special rates; brief postal history of Graz; unusual frankings of inland postcards, 1916-18; events and society news; PKMI programme for 2006; letters and replies; reviews of catalogues; etc. *Post.Philatelie* insert: Mozart; backgrounds of some new issues; Prof W Seidel; special cancels; openings & closings; etc.

**Issue 2/2006:** winter Olympic philately; “from accumulation to collection”; traditional philately; Austrian Stamps depict Austria, or at least ought to [with notes on redesigns of the 1945 Landscapes]; 125 years of post in Bulgaria; incoming underfranked pre-1914 letters from UK; reviews of books & catalogues; forgeries on eBay; etc. *Post.Philatelie* insert: backgrounds of some new issues; Roger-Louis Chavanon; the 2006 Mozart Collection; the Kärntnerstrasse P O Shop; special cancels; openings & closings; etc.

**Issue 3/2006:** 60 years of Airmail (from 1946); “WIPA Grand Prix” for the world’s prettiest stamp (Austria as organiser is debarred) won by a Russian Zodiac mini-sheet; “from accumulation to collection”; traditional philately; Austrian Levant registration labels [*later comes a review of a book on the topic*]; the special-collecting group (think Gindl!); various society activities; Qs including the 1947 18-groschen rate & As; reviews of books & catalogues; Youth; etc. *Post.Philatelie* insert: backgrounds of some new issues; Karlheinz Bohm; more Mozart; etc.

**Issue 4/2006:** the Easter Hare; results of annual vote on Austrian Stamps [Prettiest: the Sattler-Panorama; most unnecessary: the Nude]; traditional philately; “from accumulation to collection”; life & death of the Bonus-Briefe; the Aerogramme; German-style WWII cancels for Greater Vienna; Half-Franked letters, 1819-40; the 45-Groschen Costumes-series card; forged Nazi propaganda cards; foreign news including a review of Austria 152 (!!!); Mozart; various society activities; Qs & As including the 1947 18-groschen rate; reviews of books (Postablagen; Perfins; post-WWII-Censoring) & catalogues; Youth: The Stamps; etc. *Post.Philatelie* insert: 49% of Österr. Post to be floated; Robert Trsek; new Opost products including an HO-gauge model railway carriage (*splutter*); etc.

## *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost*

**Issue 84:** details of their week-long Annual Outing, to Radmannsdorf in Slovenia; members' wants; Answers and more Questions; Fliegerkompagnie 15 field-postcards; "dateline Sarajevo, 28 June 1914"; 10K Feldpost stamp correctly used on a money letter; South-west front disposition in 1915; FPA 205; the CORIAC system for coding censor marks; book reviews; etc.

## *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.*

**Issue 73:** "if nobody will volunteer to be President, the ArGe will be closed"; unusual Levant items; review of Stohl Two; Etablissement Venedig & Englischer Garten; the Austrian Post in Hungary; issue date of the 60 Gro. Posthorn & the 1946 UNO stamps; tariff to Prag in 1925/6; German Fieldpost cancel used in Salzburg in 1940; Michel-Öst-Spezial cat review (some prices up; many down; reviewer incensed); etc

## *Czechout*

**Issue 1/2006:** meeting notes etc; the Austrian 1916/19 issue (in colour!) continued; posting of valuable items: JLW's illustrated comments; questions and answers; and as always much else of interest.

## *Stamps of Hungary*

**Issue 164: March 2006:** News & views; Sälaj/Szilagyi County issues of 1945; More About Official Stamps (JLW); AUT perfins and the 1906 Automatic Registering postbox; Displaced Hungarians after WWII ; etc

## *Südost-Philatelie*

**93-4/2006:** the use of Austrian 1916/17 dues in post-war SHS; overview of stamps & Postal History of Trieste, Fiume, Istria & Slovene Littoral, 1945-47, 18pp in English; Montenegrin matters; etc.

## *Germania*

**Feb 2006 vol 42 no 1:** A German POW in England, 1945-48; Stamp Days part 2 (1941-45) [including examples from Vienna]; Graf Zeppelin flights 1929, 31; late 19<sup>th</sup> century official German mail (Dienstsache portopflichtige, D. frei); forced civilian labour in 1916; Auctioneer and Packeteer desperately wanted; Exponet; regional group reports; Q&A; etc.

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

**Issue 1/2006:** the Taxquadrat system; Austria-Australia Airmail rates in 1946.

## ***The London Philatelist***

**April 2006:** (Vol 115; Nr 1334) an article “1855 First India Head – Nonconformist Engraving” contains much informative descriptions of the techniques of line engraving (and a plea that those who refer to other works should include complete bibliographical details thereof).

## ***Additions to the Library***

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
193 E	Ukranian Legion: postcards of supporting organisations	In the “Postal History of Ukraine” series	76	Roman Dubniak & Peter Cybaniak	2006	E
405	Obliterations on the First Vienna Issue of Austria 1945	Includes Kleckstempel	150	Richard A Krueger	2004	E

## **Book Reviews & Notes**

### ***Ukranian Legion: postcards of supporting organisations***

This organisation was comprised entirely of Ukrainian male and female volunteers, and fought alongside the Austro-Hungarians against the Russians in 1914-18. This volume is the latest in the authors series illustrating and describing postcards which were produced to raise funds and for use in informing the Ukrainian refugees of the bravery and successes of their Legion. It covers postcards of supporting organisations such as the American-Ukranian Exchange and the Ukrainian Women’s Committee. Copies of these volumes are available in exchange for “Something Ukrainian 1900-1920” – contact the Editor for details.

### ***Obliterations on the First Vienna Issue, 1945***

(written & published by Richard Krueger; 2004; 150pp)

*Paul Watkins writes:* As might be expected from this author, his handbook on the cancellations to be found on the provisional ‘Hitler head’ overprints of May-June 1945 is a meticulous, exhaustive and clearly-presented study of a complex and little-analysed area of Austrian postal history.

As a provisional measure, the Soviet Military Administration in Occupation of Vienna in the early Summer of 1945 ordered the overprinting of four values of the German 'Hitler' definitives for use on local and regional mail; Marshal Tolbukhin quickly tired of seeing the imperfectly-obscured head of the erstwhile Führer glaring out from the post and ordered that the face on each stamp was to be obliterated with any device available to postal clerks - in practice, this meant fingerprints, pencil ends, erasers, pieces of wood or metal - in fact, anything that came to hand! This created a fertile ground for the postal historian - until now, without a detailed listing in English. (1)

An admirably concise overview of the circumstances leading up to the issue gives way to the 'meat' of the handbook: a nearly 100pp catalogue of the various individual obliterations recorded on these stamps, organised by Office - the majority in Vienna and suburbs - with illustrations of all different types, each with its reference number and further cross-referenced in a 23pp design index, enabling the identification of cancellations on detached stamps. A further useful extra is a 3pp list of Offices in Lower Austria with dates of re-opening in 1945.

A remarkable study of great fascination for the student of this short-lived provisional issue.

### ***Registered Mail Labels of Austria, 1945-65***

(written & published by Richard Krueger; 55pp)

*Paul Watkins writes:* A fine introduction to the variety of registration labels used in Austria over a 20 year period following the end of WWII, with coherent cataloguing by type.

Unsurprisingly, the main emphasis is on the fascinatingly complex immediate post-war period, covering the continued use of German labels, provisional issues including local and manuscript usages, pre-Anschluss types called back into service, the curious supplemental labels of the late 1940s, TPO & Bahnpost types etc. before turning to more recent developments such as vending-machine and bar-coded labels - the last, admittedly, outside the declared parameters of the title.

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1 A series of illustrated articles on these "Kleckstempel" was published in the first ten issues of this Journal, but only one surviving ex-ASCGB member, and the discerning few who purchase and read a complete set of back numbers of "Austria", could know this. Ed

Observations on geographical distribution of use and relative scarcity of each type complete this handbook; which is of great interest to the student of Austrian registered mail as well as to the aficionado of post-WWII postal history.

Both works are published by and available from the author.

### ***Bahnpost books by Gerd Bock***

An up-date has been received by email for the two “Bahnpost in Tirol & Vorarlberg” books by Gerd Bock [Library items 379 and 393] giving amendments to existing information. There are two pages for each book - those for the South Tirol book relate mainly to the lines in North Italy.

If any member has a copy of one or other of the books and would like a copy of the relevant amendments, please send an SAE to the librarian - A4 size if you want the pages unfolded, or smaller if you do not mind a crease or two.

## **QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS and SNIPPETS...**

### ***Korrektions Korner: Austria 153***

Page 47: 3 rows x 4 sheets = 12 not 16 – I had Stampex on my mind. And on the same and other pages, I do not know why some spaces between words have disappeared and some words have been split in half.

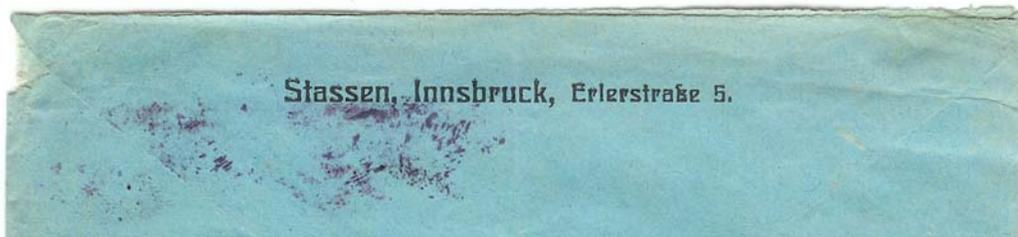
Page 85: the vehicle depicted on the stamp is not a diesel-electric but an electro-diesel railcar. (*“Diesel-Electric: electric traction motors powered by a diesel engine driving a generator; no connection with any outside electrical supply. Electro-diesel: the same plus overhead or 3rd rail current collection as an alternative to the on-board generation plant. Usually the external supply is the main one with the diesel engine used for short runs away from the wires or 3rd rail.”* As with comb vs harrow perfs, there are those to whom such differences are important.)

*Dear Editor,*



Some time ago I suggested that members might like to tell of items purchased for their collections that were more interesting than first thought. At Philatex in February 2006 two members spotted an Innsbruck cover and told me of it, so after the joint meeting I sought out the dealer, found the item and bought it. The additional franking and cancellation interested me and at home I was able to confirm that postage rates had gone up on 21 August 1922. My first thought was that this letter might have been returned to the sender for the extra postage to be paid but I did not check the increases or I would have found that this was not possible. I sent a scan to Andy who confirmed that my thoughts were wrong and that the violet cachet says “Aufgegeben vor / 21 August 1922 / Frankierung daher richtig / Postamt Innsbruck 2” (“Posted before 21 August 1922; franking thereof correct”.) He added that 21 Aug 1922 was a Monday and that he would guess that it was found in a letter-box on the first collection on the Monday morning: thus, just as with “last day of Euro” items, it might have been posted on the Sunday, so it received the benefit of the doubt and got the old rate.

According to Netto, the standard foreign rate until 20 August was 75K for the first 20g then 37½ for each subsequent 20g. I guess that it had 75 placed in the normal position, then someone thought to check-weigh it, and added the additional 37½ at bottom left. The cachet turns out to be mentioned in Stohl - page 607A, Band 2 of part B-Z.



The letter appears to be addressed to a flower and bulb company in Amsterdam, Holland. On looking at the reverse I found that the sender was Stassen of Innsbruck. To most people this would have little meaning but for me it was an added interest. In my Spalding collection I have a Bulb catalogue wrapper sent from Vienna in 1936 to an address in England with the indication that it came from Stassen Limited, Bulb-growers and Nurserymen, Spalding (Lincs). From local research I have found that Stassen were taken over within the last ten years by another Dutch bulb grower who still operates out of Spalding, and the site of the old Stassen trial grounds are less than two miles from home. Until finding this cover I did not know that they had an office in Innsbruck, and I will be going to find the building in the summer. Whilst the cover will be put in the Innsbruck collection, a copy has been added to the Spalding one.

### ***Mrs J Boyer***

### ***Yehudi Menuhin Trophy***

The winners of the Yehudi Menuhin Trophy for the “Most popular Music Stamp” for 2005 were announced in December. The winner was issued by the Republic of San Marino with one from Finland in second place. Austria’s stamp depicting the conductor Riccardo Muti and the New Year’s Day Concert in Vienna was third.

### ***The London Philatelist Archival Edition 1892-2005: own all of it, now, on CD!***

The Royal Philatelic Society London has published, in PDF format on 12 CDs, the whole 114 volumes (32,000 pages, 20,000 articles) of the Society's Journal “The London Philatelist”. The RPSL has always seen itself as the premier philatelic society and has liked to think of its journal The London Philatelist as the premier philatelic publication and as such a Journal of Record. Although complete bound copies are not too difficult to find, you’d need over 4 metres of

shelf to store it; and the last complete index stops at 1968. Even with this index, it is at times difficult to find material of interest in earlier issues.

In addition to high resolution facsimile images of every page, the digitised images have been converted to text which is stored in a structured database. There is a powerful search facility for retrieving data and displaying facsimile images of the search results using Adobe Acrobat Reader. It is designed to run on a PC [performance highly dependent on having enough memory]. More detailed information is on the Society's web site [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk). Non-member prices including p&p are: UK £185 Europe £186 Rest of World £160. Orders should be sent to RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY. Telephone +44 (0) 20 7486 1044.

*[Thinks... This is Austria 154. Say issues 1-100 have about 48 pages each; issues 101-126 have 64; issues 127-154 are already in PDF. That's only 6,464 pages to scan! H'mm. Pity the original printer was so careful with the ink. Ed]*

## **More Bier?**

Following up the special Bierauflage registration cancellation (Austria 153 p42), Prof Zimmerl has sent a copy of a similar oddity for the Argentinian-Austrian Charity. This is a combined town, date, registration, and payment cancel! Note the high serial number (58273); and that the cost of the money transfer was as much as the amount transferred!

ARGENTINISCH-ÖSTERREICHISCHES WOHLFAHRTSWERK	
Wien VII, Hermannsgasse Nr. 24 (Postamt Wien VII/62)	
Postsparkassenkonto 150.362	
Nachnahme K	<u>zweitausend</u>
Postgebühr . . . . . K	<u>2000</u>
Summe . . . . . K	<u>4000</u>
Herrn Frau	<u>Salay Zimmerl</u>
WIEN 62	4. APR. 23 R 58.273
Rekommandiert	<u>W. Zimmerl</u> 17/33