

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

No 157	CONTENTS	Spring 2007
Editorial and 2008 plans		2
Questions, Answers, Letters		4
Advert: Wardrop & Company Ltd		12
Notes on Publications		13
The APS Library: Magazines		18
Advert: Tyrolphila		20
The 1945 Graz issue		21
New Issues for 2006, part 3		26
Tales of the Makartplatz, Salzburg		30
Treasures of the Münzkabinett		43
Early Austrian postmark errors		48
The 1899 & 1901 Definitive Issues		62
Advert: Rodolphe de Maleingreau		OBC

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EDITORIAL 157

By Andy Taylor

International stamp exhibitions seem to be like deregulated buses: none for ages, then several come along at once! WIPA2008 is on 18-21 Sep, Austria Center, Vienna. Meanwhile an FIP International Exhibition has been announced, to be held in Prague on 12-14 Sep 2008. This poses a problem for those with qualifying displays, as it is logistically impossible to submit the same display to both events. Your Editor, sadly, does not have that problem; however, a qualifying literature entry *can* appear in both, and you are reading one now, since “The 2005 issues of Austria” gained a Silver at Torquay-2006.

Other awards gained at Torquay by APS members include R Dixon “Deutsche Nothilfe 1924-35” (Silver); Brian Presland “A-H military medical units” (8 frames, 128 sheets: Large Vermeil); Geoff Barling “The postal history of Srem to 1920” (Vermeil); Andy Taylor “Austrian Newspaper Tax” (Silver); Mrs C J Turner “Man and Malaria” (Bronze-silver). In the Literature class, “The Pneumatic Post of Vienna” by C Tobitt & A Taylor won a Large Vermeil.

Meanwhile in other parts of the forest, at the Klubmeisterschaft held by our Partners in Innsbruck, Dorli Haslauer was declared Champion in the Traditional Philately category with “Briefkultur im Biedermeier”. And Sebastian Wegschieder, one of the “Stamper” youth group she mentors in Salzburg, won the Championship in the Thematic Philately class. A total of 20 entries were submitted by 13 members. Also, Mrs Joyce Boyer entered Kiwipex (a New Zealand National Competition), winning a Silver for the “King George VI Postal History Challenge” with her “Channel Islands” and a Vermeil (Silver Gilt) for “Austrian Airmails 1919 – 1938”.

The death is announced of George Kwiatkowski Kay; members will recall his invaluable book “Place Names in Poland” (APS Lib 250). I met him several times in Edinburgh, and recall him as a quiet gentlemanly person as well as a knowledgeable philatelist. He came to Scotland as part of the Polish Army in WWII, and worked as an artist and printer.

A warm welcome to new members: L Porter, Harrisberg; Dr H Heinzl, Liechtenstein; R Thompson, Alabama; W Dalymple, Bexley; N Philip, Churchtown; A Becker, St Neots; R Boarder, Towcester; J Pedersen, Denmark; A Barlow, Leicester; Dr M Brennan, New York; Dr J Schofield, (Old) York.

☺ The APS 60th Anniversary year is 2008 ☺

and here is what your Committee is planning for the APS to celebrate it!

- ❖ The APS will stage a major **display at Spring Stampex** (Wed 27 Feb to Sat 1 March 2008, Business Design Centre, Islington, London). This will be about 100 double-sided frames, aimed at persuading the general philatelist to specialise in Austrian philately. Classical, modern, mainstream and the occasional obscurity will be covered; and we plan to launch the ...
- ❖ **Festschrift**, which is envisaged as a 150+ sides glossy A4 book of not only learned but also new articles, covering a wide range of subjects, written in English, and illustrated in colour.
- ❖ The APS will have a **presence at WIPA2008** in Vienna.
- ❖ We intend to **enhance the APS web site**.
- ❖ Members will write **articles** to appear in the major UK stamp magazines, and in “Die Briefmarke”.
- ❖ Along with our partners PKMI, the APS plans to hold a non-competitive **Salon in Innsbruck**.
- ❖ We will facilitate a **visit to WIPA** and elsewhere, by members, partners, and friends.

The committee hopes that as many members and friends as possible will participate in these events. “Being there” is only the first step, of course; philatelic contributions will be needed and your Editor’s powers of peaceful persuasion will be mercilessly deployed.

VOePh (Verband Österreichischer Philatelistenvereine, the umbrella organisation for philately in Austria) reminds APS members that if they join any society based in Austria they get Die Briefmarke free.
Anyone so minded can contact the Editor for further details.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS and SNIPPETS...

Dear Editor,

I am looking for 2 tourist-view cards with a 6 pfennig Hindenburg stamp imprinted, with views in the district of Kufstein, one from Kirchbichel and the other from Brixlegg. I wonder if you could put a message in the next 'Austria'. Thank you.

Ernst Oberthaler.

Dear Editor,



What is the large O on the stamp, which is also cancelled WEITRA 11.12.05?

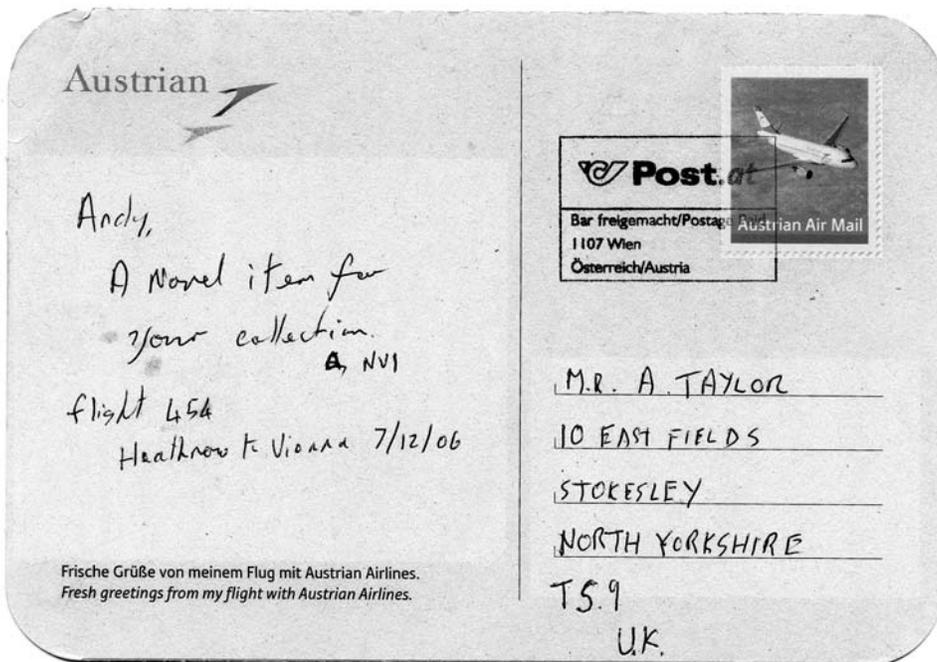
Paul Taylor

A new Airmail item?

This recently arrived through my letter-box:



It looked much like the lid of a cardboard salad... turning it over revealed ...



... a new design of non-value indicator, and I guess it was “posted” on board the plane (should it have been stamped PAQUETBOOT?) as it bears one of the new series of paid-in-cash cancels.

WeitFranco ?? 14 ??



“Fergy” has lent me some interesting covers involving “14”. The first letter is on the headed paper of a firm with branches in both Wien and London, and is dated 25 Aug 1865. According to Ferchenbauer p50, the Vienna-London postage then was “11Kr + 14Kr per

Lot”, and the item is franked with $10 + 15 = 25$ Kr. The **P.D.** and the **WeitFranco14**, both in red, will be to confirm that the full postage has been pre-paid.

This Wien-London cover has the 1867 stamps on it, and must have been sent before the rates changed in July 1870 (Ferch. p50). Franking of 25kr again, plus the same red P.D. and LONDON PAID marks.



Also a boxed “Retour”; the “London” has been crossed out. The interesting thing is that “14” again, towards the bottom-left corner in red crayon. Fergy would like to know whether the “Weitfranco 14” handstamp and the manuscript “14” were applied on despatch in Wien or added en route in Prussia.

The answer may be known! John Whiteside has found the “Weitfranco 14” stamp in the book on “Marques de Passage” by James van der Linden. This lists 5 WF handstamps of various designs and colours, three of which were only used in Wien and two in Triest; Fergy’s one above is one of the Wien ones, known from 1863. John therefore suggests that the covers with manuscript “14” markings are also Austrian marks, but applied in Post Offices outside Wien that didn’t have the handstamp. Three more have been seen, from Richenburg, Aussig and Prag. They travelled slightly faster than would be achieved today!



Richenburg 28.10 to London 31.10.66



Prag BH 12.3 to London 14.3.67

Benachrichtigt?

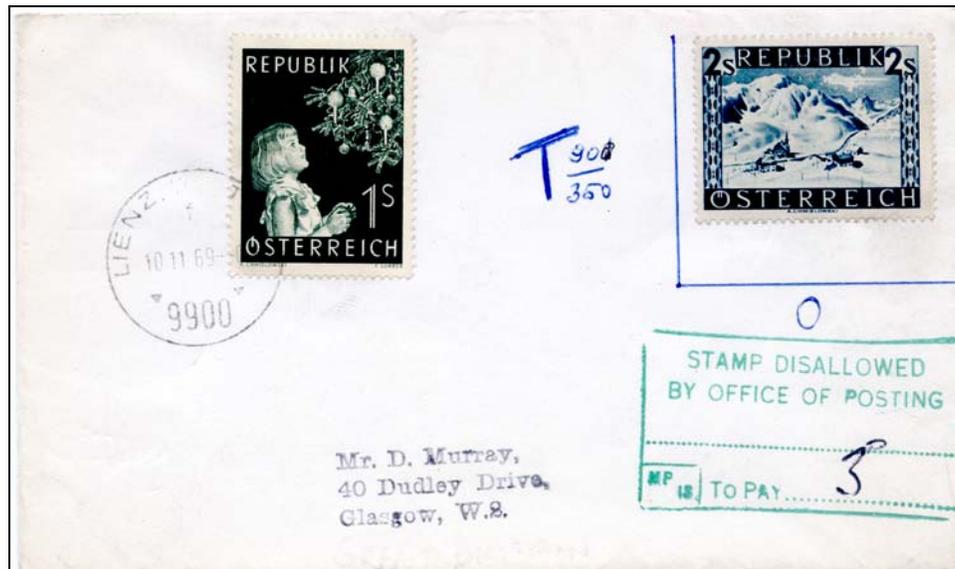


Dr Moser surmises: The letter was posted in a box, and handled at Salzburg 5020 who found it overweight and marked it “T”, adding the Nachgebühr cachet, as the address was also 5020. However Wilhelm Erben Straße is actually located in the district of Salzburg 5017, to which office the envelope was transferred. In this case the Nachgebühr applied by 5020 had to be made invalid (“ungültig”), but also the fee was transferred, now using Tax-stamps at 5017. Mr. Fischer was told (Benachrichtigt) to pay the fee - had he not done so, the letter would have been returned to the sender on 28.03.1994.

Andy adds: Bernadini & Pfalz state that in 1994 the postage due was calculated as “the deficiency or 5S, whichever is greater”. So this letter had 5S50 and should have had 5S50 more, a total franking of 11S – hence it must have weighed between 101 and 250 grams.

This seems odd, as the envelope is flimsy and doesn’t look as though a large wedge of paper had been stuffed into it. I wonder if for some reason the stamp wasn’t recognised as a product of the Austrian Post and the item treated as unfranked? According to Netto, it was issued on 19 March 1993 and remained valid until the Euro arrived.

However, in that case it should have been underlined in blue – as shown on the example below: This was posted on 10 November 1969 - but that 2 Schilling stamp, issued 16 June 1946, became invalid with the currency revaluation of 10 December 1947!



Foreign letter rate at 10/11/1969 was 3.50; deficiency 2.50; Tax Fraction should be 250/350; internal UK letter rate was 4d; so postage due is 4 times 250/350, ie 2.86d, rounded to 3d as indicated by the green cachet. For some reason the Tax Fraction has been written as 300/350, which gives a UK amount of 3.4d: perhaps Glasgow took it to the nearest penny?

Business reply postcard?



From 1933, a Business Reply Postcard system existed; but the cards had to be inscribed “**Geschäftspostkarte**” and this isn’t. So it was treated as posted-unfranked and charged double-deficiency on the inland postcard rate of 12 gr, making 24 gr.

What is this?

Post & Telekom Austria
post

Nachsendungsantrag – Inland

Bitte diesen Antrag möglichst 5 Wochen vor Beginn der Nachsendung Ihrem Abgabepostamt übergeben! Masse ohne Anschrift, Anzeigenblätter, Zeitungen und Geldbeträge, bei Absender die Nachsendung ausgesondert werden nicht nachgesendet. Zeitungen und Anzeigenblätter werden 1 Woche lang nachgesendet.

*) Über die Höhe der jeweils geltenden Nachsendegebühr informiert Sie Ihr Postamt.
678 600 001 GZ 131 350-PE/96

Postdienstliche Vermerke:

Gebühr für 3 Monate entrichtet. Bei längerer Nachsendedauer bitte hier Briefmarken für die Nachsendung von jeweils weiteren 3 Monaten aufkleben. *)



6.3.98 - 31.3.99

Es sind nachzusenden: (Zutreffendes bitte ankreuzen)

A) gebührenfrei 000654

- Briefsendungen, Zeitungen und EMS
- Geldbeträge
- Telegramme (im Postwege)

B) gebührenpflichtig

- Pakete
- Telegramme (telegraphisch)

wegen vorübergehender Abwesenheit
ab bis *)

wegen Übersiedlung (auf Dauer)
ab 5.3.98

Einwilligung (streichen, soweit unzutreffend):
Ich und die weiteren hier eingetragenen Personen sind damit einverstanden, daß diese geänderte Anschrift an Dritte weitergegeben werden darf, damit Postsendungen von vornherein richtig adressiert werden können.

5.3.98 Datum *Weller* Unterschrift

***) Bitte tragen Sie hier nicht den letzten Tag Ihrer Abwesenheit, sondern den gewünschten letzten Tag der Nachsendung ein!** 1011

Bitte beachten Sie:
Personen gleichen Familiennamens können die Nachsendung mit einem gemeinsamen Antrag verlangen, wenn die bisherige und die neue Anschrift sowie der Zeitraum der Nachsendung gleich sind.

Familienname oder Firma (in Blockschrift)
WELLISCH

Vorname(n)
Peter

bisher:
PF 90
Straße / Haus-Nr. / Stiege / Tür-Nr.
1011 Wien
Postleitzahl / Ort

nunmehr:
Vorgartenstr. 177/5
Straße / Haus-Nr. / Stiege / Tür-Nr.
1020 Wien
Postleitzahl / Ort

It's both sides of the card you complete and send to the Post Office to have your mail redirected. The price of the card includes the first 3 months, and additional 3-month-periods can be obtained by sticking on adhesive stamps of appropriate value.

Railway Freight?



The above is a bright orange label (which I had to digitally remove as it would print solid black). Stuck on it is an off-white label with a serial number and the wording “80 Heller für die Beförderung eines Kollo's Eilgut nach Maßgabe der Bestimmungen des Lokalgütertarifes der k.k. österr. Staatsbahnen”. On top of that are a pair of perforated stamps or labels, in a washed-out red; the design is a spoked wheel equipped with large feathered wings surmounted by the number 50 which is also repeated in each corner. Both label and stamps have a typical double oval railway cancel.

The accompanying query stated that these are Austrian Railway freight stamps, asked for more details, information, and references; and wondered what a “Kollo's” is. Now, “eines Kollo's” means “of one kollo”, so what's a kollo?

The best translation (so far) is “80 heller for the transport of an item of express freight according to the local goods tariffs and regulations of the k.k. Austrian state railways”. Apparently a “Kollo” (plural “Kolli”) is simply the number of packages a shipment consists of. It is in current usage (albeit a technical term) and does not refer to package size. A surmise is that it could be a Germanisation of “colis”, the official international postal term of the time for a small packet.

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NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 11/2006: VÖPh's support for literature in Austria; meetings, seminars and events; WIPAnews; the Sammler-Service; Budapest Postal Museum; thematic: Schweitzer; postage dues on identity cards; early letters; new issues; collecting printing errors from OPAL machines; auction reports; book & catalogue reviews; society and other news, letters etc.

Issue 12/2006: Thematics: Christmas, Jesus; reports of Pinkabria & España 2006; qualifying for WIPA; the Liechtenstein Post Office; 150 years of the Red Mercury (and 100 of the ÖBMHV, the Austrian Dealers Association); unusual uses for the 1925 definitives; inland letter rates 1817-1842; new issues; ancillary products; Helping Hungary in 1956; the Alexandretta office; Symposium in St Paul im Lavanttal (at which our member Johannes Haslauer presented "Salzburg from Prince-Archbishopric to E U Bundesland"); cutouts from "100 Years of Austrian Stamps" used yet again to create forged covers; society, bodypainting & other news; readers' letters; etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 76: New President (Erich Skarupke) & committee elected; nobody attends local meetings so will change to at-event ones; travels and travails of an 1891 postcard to Persia; the new President introduces himself; a puzzling PC-franking from 1947; the 58-year postcard; supplementary franking on 1867 cards; history of & registration labels from the Central Telegraph Building in Vienna; T-cachets; etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- u Zensurpost

Rundbrief 86: Annual-outing report; birthdays; queries; Fieldpost in the Krakau area; many 1-page articles on unusual items (illustrated in colour).

Rundbrief 87: Sales, wants, meetings and birthdays; wants, queries & answers; military hospitals on the S W Front; preparations for the S E Front, 1915 (many maps); more about Przemysl (by KT); book reviews & for-sale list; etc.

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 167: December 2006: News & views & book reviews; *Caveat Emptor Ebayensis*; Hungarian telephone tickets; meter marks; Budapest local parcel service 1932-42; assorted interesting covers.

Militär und Philatelie

Issue 219: Personal Stamps with a military theme, continued; Austrian troops in peace-keeping activities; etc

Czechout

Issue 3/2006: reports of meetings and of Washington 2006; book reviews; news of current and deceased members; new issues; many short non-Austrian articles.

Issue 4/2006: reports of meetings and awards gained by members; book reviews; Czech forces in Russia in WWI; new issues; many non-Austrian articles.

Germania

Nov 2006 vol 42 no 4: AGM & meeting reports; Martin Luther; Airmails to China (*interesting to compare with the routes Austria used*); letters; and their Editor's reply to a complaint on coverage "**if nobody writes it I can't print it**". [*I think I'll get a T-shirt saying the same...*]

Südost-Philatelie

Issue 97-98/2006: fiscal franking of post office forms in SHS, 1819-21; Overview of Trieste, Fiume, etc Part 3 (in English); etc. Supplement in colour: registration labels of Croatia, 1941-45.

Wiener Ganzsachsen- Frei- u Poststempelverein

Issue 3/2006: airmail to Czechoslovakia in 1946

Issue 4/2006: an invalid postcard from Burgenland in 1872; new-from-2006 Landbriefträger (rural postmen) cancels and reg. labels; more on "the end of the Schilling"; extracts from the latest rules on payment-by-cash.

The London Philatelist

Feb 2007 vol 116 no 1342: review of extensively-illustrated biography of Ludwig Hesshaimer: artist, stamp designer, VOePh President, & Anschluss-enthusiast (184pp; in German; €75).

Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale

[Items that seem to concern territory that was never under Austrian control have been omitted. Ed]

Issue 135: The Austrian postal tariff in the 18th century; a letter from Todi in 1829; Trieste to Oporto via France; Messina 1600-1700; Sindelfingen 2005; etc

Issue 136: 1713 - the first postage stamp in Venice; transit through the Papal States; etc

Issue 137: the “Disinfected Mail” issue, including Trieste, Venice, etc.

Issue 138: Bavaria to Kärnten in the early 1800s; Como arrival mark; etc etc

Additions to the Library

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
500	UPU Treaties	(see below)		UPU		FG

Book 342 - Netto catalogue. The 2005/06 edition has been donated to the library, displacing the 2002/3 edition.

Book 371 Die Flugpost Österreichs part 1 has been re-numbered and is now 371A. The library now has part 2 (No. 371B) covering 1971-1984 and part 3 (No 371C) covering 1985-2005. These contain details of first and special flights in the periods listed. Many of the cancellations are illustrated and all are valued (in Euro).

Book 500: The APS are gradually collecting together the official Austrian edition of the UPU Conventions; they will be kept in the library under the reference number 500. So far we have 1920 Madrid (parallel French & German text); 1924 Stockholm (parallel French & German text, preceded by what in theory is the same text in English in the version issued in Australia!); and 1930 London (also parallel French & German text preceded by the same in English); we plan to add the full set from 1874, eventually.

Book reviews

BANAT AND BAČKA by Tønnes Ore, published March 2006 as Monograph Number 4 of the Yugoslav Study Group / Issue Number 77 of Jugoposta (107 pages A4, black and white).

Austrian collectors might better recognise this territory as the Province of Vojvodina (less Syrmia) plus the Temes District, and there is plenty to interest the Austro-Hungarian collectors in this work. The monograph is based upon the author's medal-winning collection, and traces the area's philatelic history from the beginnings to the end of the Second World War.

Mr Ore (a member of the APS) maintains that Banat-Bačka is little-known and studied compared with other contested areas, such as Alsace-Lorraine or Upper Silesia, and he aims to put the region firmly on the philatelic map. The territory belonged to the Habsburgs from the early 18th century, and is now divided between Serbia and Romania (with a smaller part in present-day Hungary). However, as he points out, there have been manifold changes in between!

Part 1 contains a most comprehensive description of the postal history of the territory under Austrian and Hungarian postal administrations up to the end of the First World War. In fact, the collector of any part of the Austrian Empire who seeks a detailed explanation in English of postal developments, rates, currency-changes and postal rules could do worse than read this part of the book: most of it would apply to the rest of the Empire. Like the rest of the book, this part is lavishly illustrated with material from Banat-Bačka, all from the author's own collection, and many of them rarities.

In part 2, the author concentrates on the periods of great change, ignoring the intervening decades of relative stability. Thus he focuses on the Serbian and Romanian occupation of 1918-20; the Romanian and SHS Yugoslavia administrations of 1919/20; and finally the Second World War. Again, the work is generously illustrated with covers and cards, particularly to illustrate usage of the many local and provisional issues.

The whole book is rigorously researched by someone who loves his subject, and is full of fascinating facts. Did you know that a border revision of 1923 created between Romania and Hungary a strip of SHS Yugoslavian territory 15km long, but only 50cm wide? You'll have to buy the book to find out why!

My only reservation is that, after reading the book, I still wasn't convinced that Bačka-Banat is a meaningful geographical or political entity when it only really existed in that form for a brief period in 1919. Otherwise, parts of it were

always parts of other countries or provinces. It would also have been better with Srem (Syrmia) included in the book. To leave out that part of Vojvodina is akin to writing a book about England and Scotland, omitting Wales. However, a footnote promises us a future Monograph for Srem from Geoff Barling, and that gives us something to look forward to.

Nevertheless, it is still an excellent and important work, both for the general collector of Austria-Hungary and for those with a specialist interest in this corner of the Empire.

This book is not in the APS Library, but is available for £15 (or 25 Euros or 30 US Dollars for overseas collectors) including postage from Michael Chant, 8 Ullswater Road, London SW13 9PJ (or you can contact him by email at meac@familychant.freemove.co.uk). For that price, I defy you to think of a reason not to buy it!

Keith Brandon

“**The Bath Philatelic Society 1906-2006**”, compiled by Peter Hindley, records in 127 Austria-sized pages the history of one of the UK’s oldest Societies. Details of meetings and events complement lists of past Officers; all taken from the Society’s handwritten Minutes of Meetings and supplemented by research in local archives. Many photographs appear, often from local newspapers. It is interesting that many of their successes and problems are exactly paralleled by our own! ***A copy will be retained by the Librarian until the end of 2007.***

“**A concise history of Hungary**” is reviewed in Czechout 4/2006 where it is described as delivering what it says on the tin, and ideal as a Christmas present to yourself. The author is Miklós Molnár; it was translated into English by Anna Magyar, and published by Cambridge University Press. The paperback is £15; ISBN 0 521 66736 4.

Our Partners in Innsbruck have produced two more of their Schriftenreihe series (*contact the Editor or the Librarian to obtain copies*).

Vol 11 is “**Dienst-Instruktionen für die kaiserlich-königlichen Poststationen (von 1863)**”; that is, operating instructions for a k.k. postal station. This had to cope with letters, parcels, and the transport of people. The contents (142 sides, A5, in German) include general instructions for these; and such specifics as messengers, Cariol- Staffete- and Extra-posts, and express travel. Price 12€ for members, 15€ otherwise; to both add postage.

Vol 12 deals with **Werbestempel** (“town publicity cancels”) in the Tirol. As such cancels are no longer used, considerable care and effort has been expended to make this the definitive work on the topic. 165 sides, A5, German. Price 15€ for members, 18€ otherwise; to both add postage.

A message from the Librarian regarding Magazines

Since I took over as librarian in 2001 for books and 2002 for magazines, both have expanded by regular additions but the space available to house them has not. Your committee have had to review the position and make a decision between discarding some early issues of magazines (which received much opposition) or again separating these from the main book library. I have been fortunate to find a volunteer with dry and, more importantly, accessible loft space who is prepared to house the magazines and deal with your requests to borrow back numbers. Thank you John. The changeover took place on 3 February and the present home for each magazine is as follows. Please address any requests to the correct holder. Requests sent to the wrong person will, of course, be forwarded as necessary.

In the library - Joyce Boyer

Black prints of Austria stamps

ASCGB Bulletins

Austria

ABPS News

Held by the editor - Andy Taylor

Bulletin of the (former) APS of New York [library book no 6]

Die Briefmarke

Held by the treasurer - John Anthony

Stamps of Hungary

Germania

Yugopost

Südost-Philatelie

ARGE Österreich Feld- und Zensurpost 19 14-1918

ARGE Österreich e.V.

Wiener Ganzsachen Frei- und Poststempelsammlerverein

Interessengemeinschaft Bosnien-Herzegowina

Czechout

Austrian Philatelic Society (US), this Society was founded in 2000.

ARGE Militaria Austriaca Philatelia

Bollettino.

For more information about the various magazines please refer to the APS web site at <http://www.kitzbuhel.demon.co.uk/austamps/notbooks/index.htm> or to pages 3 and 4 of the printed 2003 library list.



***Please make use of both
the main book library and
the magazine library***

since only by the members making use of these assets of the Society can we justify retaining and adding to them. If you have mislaid your library list it may be accessed from the Society website or ask the librarian for another copy. The Society will pay the first £3 of postage on each borrowing. Since the introduction of "Pricing in Proportion" by the UK Post Office and, more importantly, the extension of a second class postage rate to packets under 1 kilo, postage costs have been reduced on many book loans.

Mrs Joyce Boyer

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The “Graz emergency issue” of 1945

Translated & adapted by A Taylor from an article by Richard Zimmerl



After the end of the war, Styria held the record with five zones of occupation: as well as America, Britain, and Russia the Yugoslavs and the Bulgarians also occupied areas. The city of Graz was occupied by the Russians on 8th May 1945 practically without any fighting. By this date the Republic of Austria had already been restored in Vienna, and postal service had resumed in Vienna on 2nd May 1945.

In the areas occupied by the Russians the postal service was never fully interrupted, although it was severely handicapped by destroyed or confiscated office space and the absence of any means of transport.

Until 22nd May 1945 the Hitler-era stamps could be used in Styria without overprint. Around 10 am on that day the first values of 1, 3, 4, 6, 10 and 12 Rpf of the “Graz Emergency Issue” were issued. It was subsequently described in the official notice B.M.Zl.9165 of 9 May 1946 (repeated in the “Post- u. Telegraphenverordnungsblatt No. 7 of 21 May 1946) as consisting of “a vertical black overprint ‘Österreich’, flanked on the left and right by three vertical black strokes”. The remaining values followed in the next few days.

The overprint on the small-format values of 1 to 24 Rpf was carried out by the Styrian State Printers in Graz castle. The larger format values of 25 to 80 Rpf as well as the RMark values were overprinted in the printing office of Ludwig Kunath, 6 Conrad-von-Hötzendorf-Gasse. Since the printing capacity of the Kunath printing office was inadequate, the overprinting of the RMark values was transferred to the printing office of Karl Birkwald, 19 Kaiserfeldgasse, on 15 June 1945. There somewhat larger letters were used.

Collectors distinguish thus for the RMark values a “thin” overprint 16.25mm in length and a “fat” overprint of 18.5mm. The RMark values exist in two perforations,

Line of 12½ and Comb of 14 (the line perf has irregular corners, while the comb always has a perforation hole at the corner). The variants of overprint and perforation thus yield four combinations for the RMark values. However, not all four face values occur in all four combinations. The 1 RM value with fat overprint in line perf 12½ is extremely rare. The perforations are often very inaccurate.



The Rpf values have numerous shades of colour as well as smooth and ribbed gum. Especially expensive are the 1Rpf in grey-black and the 5Rpf in dark moss-green.

Due to insufficient printing equipment and the necessary urgency of manufacture, the overprints have numerous varieties and plate faults. Since each printer had only one overprinting plate for all values of the same size, many errors occur in several or even all values. A very good survey of the plate faults is given in the Austria Netto Catalog (ANK). Very popular are the inverted overprints, which occur in almost all values; on them the word “Österreich” runs from the top downwards instead of from the bottom upwards.

Considerably more striking are double impressions, slanting overprints or horizontally- or vertically-displaced overprints. The sheet overprints run over the whole of the sheet (as is obvious from the first illustration). If the overprint is displaced vertically, it ends at the lowest row (fields 91 to 100) instead of the lower margin, as is illustrated later on a 40Rpf stamp.



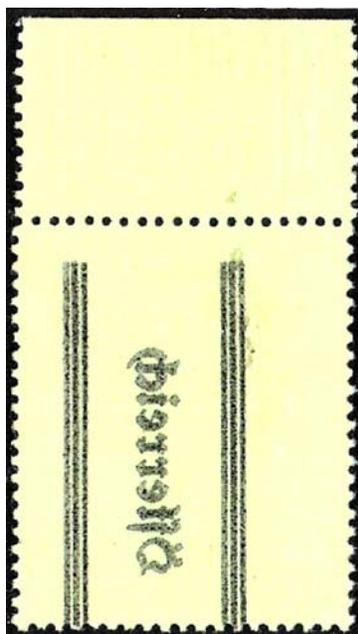
If on a such stamp a plate fault also appears, especially attractive pieces emerge. The 12Rpf below is the 100th stamp, ie the lower right corner of the sheet. This field has the plate fault “point in the h”, and as well as the overprint has a large shift upwards.



Due to the great fragility of the overprint, an immense variety of damage to the letters and the lines is found. So for example on three adjacent stamps of the fourth column (fields 44, 54, 64) the word “Österreich” is scratched (see illustration). In the RMark values the two last letters of the word “Österreich” are frequently stronger: “fat ‘ch’ ” or “semi-fat ‘ch’ ”.

Also the thin lines were very susceptible to damage and breaks, and thinner or interrupted lines occur frequently. The boundary between plate- and printing-faults is here fluid.

		
<p>Overprint displaced vertically</p>	<p>Overprint displaced vertically: bottom row</p>	<p>Middle line on right thinned</p>
		
<p>“Österreich” scratched</p>		<p>Left set of lines intermittent</p>



Very popular, although happening by chance, are offprints. As the printing machine slowed down, the printed image was transferred as a mirror image to the reverse.

As well as the stamps, the value-imprint on various postcards was also overprinted, which only required a single-stamp-wide overprinting plate. There are two types, 18mm and 22mm in length. Possibly these overprints were manufactured, like the RMark values, in two different printing offices. Postcards with adhesive stamps are also known overprinted, and overprinted stamps of 1, 5 and 6 Rpf intended for postcards are found. With these singles the overprint does not extend over the perforation on both sides: thus they may be distinguished from displaced overprints. Such pieces are

extremely rare, and there exist numerous forgeries. In addition, different “rarities” were produced during the manufacture. If a postcard had propaganda-text, this was concealed with additional ornaments.

Warning! There exist numerous fakes and forgeries of ALL the overprint values, as well as forged and backdated cancels. Caveat emptor...

The issue of the overprinted stamps was between 410,000 (60Rpf) and 790,000 items (30Rpf). For the stamps of 16 and 24Rpf, only 100,000 were overprinted. On the contrary the much used values of 6 and 12Rpf had issues of 2.6 and 2.9 million. With the RMark values, the issues lie between 160,000 and 37,500 pieces (fat overprint). In the Kunath printing office (thin overprint) only about 15,000 pieces per value were overprinted.

The stamps were in practice only valid in the area of the Post- and Telegraphendirektion at Graz, which essentially coincided with the zone initially occupied by the Russians and later transferred to the British. Genuinely used pieces, especially on entires, are much rarer than unused.

The overprinted stamps were valid until 2nd July 1945, when the Russian occupying power forbade the use of all Hitler-stamps (including the Viennese overprints). Instead payment in cash was ordered, until new stamps were delivered. The stamps of the Arms series [ANK 714-736] were first delivered to Styria on 22nd July; meanwhile however on the 15th of July the occupying power changed, the Soviets handing over the zone to the British. On the 26th July the first stamps of the Posthorn series [ANK 697-713] were delivered. Stamps of the Arms series could thus be used only for three days in Styria, and items franked with them are thus extremely rare, most being philatelically-inspired.

In some areas of Styria the Graz overprints were used until the end of July. In other areas of Styria, around Leibnitz and Leoben, Hitler stamps were similarly overprinted [see ANK “Lokalausgaben”].

Note: see Heinzl’s “Österreich nach 1945” vol 2 pages 14-16 for a listing of which values could be used on what items. Many of the larger Rpf values are only found in contrived, philatelic usages; the 1RM has a theoretical use on Postanweisung forms; the 2, 3 & 5RM have no valid uses at all!

New Issues - 2006 part 3

By Andy Taylor

All stamps are printed by the Österreichische Staatsdruckerei. The descriptions are adapted from the English version of the Post.at website and radically abbreviated.

Animals - Northern Bald Ibis and Brown Bear



Self-adhesive; €0.55 each but sold as 5 pairs on backing sheet at €5.50; FDC 6 Nov 2006; Issue: 165,000 sets; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter.**

The Northern Bald Ibis is a social bird who seeks out members of its species to form colonies of over a hundred. For a long time extinction threatened; however the Konrad Lorenz Institute in Almtal launched a successful programme to reintroduce the species to the wild. The Brown Bear is one of the largest land predators in the world. Considered a potential threat to humans, in several regions it has even been hunted to extinction. Austria is the only country in the German-speaking area that is home to a group of Brown Bears; only a small number occasionally roam in other Alpine regions. The Brown Bear is often represented in heraldry and is featured in many fairy tales, fables, literary works and films.

Animals - Pond Turtle

Self-adhesive, sold as boxed roll of 100. FDC: 6 Nov 2006; Issue: 5.1M; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter.**

These stamps are Austria's first self-adhesives to come in a roll in 100-piece sets. The European Pond Turtle is the only species of turtle that is indigenous to Austria and for that reason is under strict protection. Its favoured habitat are river systems untouched by human hands with muddy riverbeds and wetland forests featuring thick vegetation and plenty of dead brushwood for basking in the sun.



Christmas 2006 - The Holy Family at rest



€0.55; FDC 10 Nov 2006; Issue: 5M;
 Printing: Photogravure; **Design:** Franz
 Weiß.

The artist Franz Weiss was born in Södingberg near Voitsberg in 1921. He has created almost 500 works for churches, chapels and small monuments in 237 locations in Austria and abroad. Near his home and studio in the western Styrian town of Bernbach in the Tregist Valley, he created an unequalled work of art, the village chapel of Our Lady of the Knots. Franz Weiss' talent was recognised at an early age, and he received a solid education in Graz and Vienna. Starting from late Austrian expressionism, he developed a contemporary realism through his own specific stylistic language, thereby occupying a unique position within

Austrian painting. In 1979 he was awarded the title of Professor, and in 2005 he was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for services to Science and Art.

Weihnachten 2006 – Christkindl

€0.55; FDC 24 Nov 2006; Issue: 5M;
 Printing: Photogravure; **Design:** Dr.
 Reinhold Stecher.

As in 2005, the 2006 Christmas stamp again shows a water-colour painting by the popular former Bishop of Innsbruck; this time the Christkindl Pilgrimage Church in wintry mood. The Pilgrimage Church “Zum Christkind unterm Himmel” owes its name firstly to the village to which the church originally belonged, and secondly to the legend of the origin of the church. The land on which it was built and around which the village gradually developed is close to the village of Unterhimmel, mentioned in documents as early as 1577. The part of Christkindl around the church became part of the town of Steyr in 1938.



village of Unterhimmel, mentioned in documents as early as 1577. The part of Christkindl around the church became part of the town of Steyr in 1938.

Old Austria: 750 Years Lvov



€0.55; FDC 1 Dec 2006; Issue: 1.2M; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; **Design:** Volodymyr Taran; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel.

The town of Lvov was founded in 1256 by Prince Danylo Halytskyj, and named after his son Lev. It attracted Tatars, Germans, Hungarians, Poles,

Latvians, Austrians and Swedes. Over the centuries, they brought their cultures, traditions and religions to the town – and thus there are buildings that show the traces of the Gothic, the Baroque, the Renaissance and the Romanesque, the Rococo and Empire, as well as contemporary architecture.

[If you peer carefully at the small print to the left of the town's seal, you can see "Lemberg", which for some readers is a more familiar name. Ed]

Formula 1 Legends - Michael Schumacher

€0.75; FDC: 4 Dec 2006; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; **Design:** Charly Frei.

Michael Schumacher, born on 3 January 1969 in Kerpen (Germany), announced after his 90th Grand Prix victory at Monza that he was retiring from active participation in motor racing. He is the undisputed king of Formula 1, having been world champion seven times in total, five times between 2000 and 2004 – a record unparalleled in grand-prix racing. This makes this Switzerland-resident German the most successful racing driver of all time.

This stamp was printed in photogravure, but an error was noticed in Schumacher's Ferrari-supplied championship dates and it had to be rapidly reprinted in offset by Enchedé instead of ÖSD. Some of the Yearbook printed texts show the wrong date; the erroneous adhesives "have all been withdrawn".



100th Anniversary of the Austrian Stamp and Coin Dealers Association



€0.55; FDC 8 Dec 2006; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.

[The stamp is issued with red letters, and the "Red Mercury" Zeitungsstempel is matt gold on a deep red background. If reproduced here, this would print as a solid black square: so I have photoshopped it! Ed]

There have been stamps for 160 years, and for about 160 years they have been collected and traded. There have been philatelic clubs for about 140 years, retailers' associations for 120 years and in 2006 the Austrian Stamp Dealers Association celebrated its 100th birthday. Seven Viennese stamp dealers, Rudolf Friedl, Moritz Grünberg, Otto Waldemar Friedl, Karl Körner, Leopold Traub, Dagobert Wlaschim and Fanny Grossmann, founded the Austrian Stamp Dealers Club in 1906. Its first chairman was Rudolf Friedl, a dealer famed throughout Europe. Now the "Austrian Stamp and Coin Dealers Association" (Österreichischer Briefmarken- und Münzenhändler-Verband - Ö.B.M.H.V.), they organise "NUMIPHIL", the stamp and coin exchange held every year since 1992.

The new Automatenmarkenmaschine



For the winter season, the new Stamp Dispensing Machines were loaded with seasonal designs by Hannes Margreiter, showing

a traditional winter scene alternating with children playing in the snow. The machine sells useful preset values (eg 55 cents), but if you overpay then the change is only given as a stamp – eg if one inserts 50 + 10 cents one has to have a 5-cent stamp. Given time, patience, and a sack-barrow of small change one can obtain a complete set of 1, 2, 3 ... cents – and I observed several people doing just that. Each transaction also produces a printed receipt, also collectable. I'd call it stamp collecting, not philately 😊

PHILATELIC TALES OF THE MAKART PLATZ



by Salvatore J. Rizza

What is now the Makart Platz in Salzburg was in the late 1500s a mostly empty plot of land across the Salzach River from the town proper. Salzburg was ruled by Archbishop Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau from 25 May 1587 to 7 March 1612. As a gift to his brother, Rudolf Hannibal, the Archbishop had a palace with a garden (the Mirabel Garden) built on this meadow on or about the year 1600. When completed it was called Schloss Hannibal, and, over time, other buildings were built in front and around the palace, and this area became known as the Hannibal Platz [below]. The Archbishop died in January 1617, and was laid to rest in a mausoleum in St. Sebastian's church, situated at the top of the square. He had commissioned the famed Austrian architect,



Fischer von Erlach to build this edifice for him. Leopold Mozart and Wolfgang Mozart's wife, Constanze, are buried in the church cemetery, as well as the controversial Dr. Theophrastus Paracelsus, the father of modern medicine.





Above: the Hannibal Platz. Below: Mozart's birth-house, Getreidegasse



Leopold Mozart had been thinking for quite a while that the time had come for the entire Mozart family to move from the rented third floor apartment in the Getreidegasse 9. They had outgrown the cramped quarters there that consisted only of a kitchen, a chamber, living room, bedroom, and study. In 1773, after a two-month sojourn in Vienna, Leopold and his son Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart returned to Salzburg, and the entire family then established their residence at the eight-room apartment located at Hannibal Platz 8 about September 1773 [overleaf]. Wolfgang Mozart lived here for

eight years, off and on, composing many works of music. The young composer left for Vienna on 16 March 1781 and stayed there.



An enemy plane accidentally hit the house with a bomb on 16 October 1944.



Two-thirds of the building was destroyed, which included the entire Mozart living area. The damaged section was sold to an insurance company, Assicurazioni Generali, and an office building was constructed after the war on this land. The scene is depicted on the next page. What was left of the remaining structure had a

plaque stuck on the wall, stating that it was the Mozart House. In reality, all that was left was the residence of the original owner of the building, Frau Maria Anna Raab, known as the “Danzmeister Mitzerl.”



Upon my visit to the Makart Platz in May of 1994, I was amazed to see that the corner building where the original Mozart family home once stood had been town down. As I was in the process of taking the photo below, an elderly Salzburg woman spoke to me. *“First, the city gets the tourists to come to Mozart’s hometown so it can make money; then it has the gall to allow his former home to be torn down. Don’t bother with photographing the building with the sign on it. They have already razed the structure where the home once stood!”* Having said this to me, the outraged local citizen walked sadly away.



The old lady had been mistaken. The International Mozarteum Foundation had purchased the preserved part of the Tanzmeistersaal in 1955 and converted it into a museum. Thereafter, the Foundation bought the insurance building in 1989, and demolished it on 2 May 1994, when I just happened to visit there.

Work was then started to rebuild the Mozart House exactly as it was originally, and the finished building was opened to the public on 26 January 1996.



On the left is the first Mozart commemorative stamp issued by the Austrian Post Office on 24th April 1922 (as part of the ‘Composers’ charity set); and on the right the latest Mozart commemorative stamp issued in 2006 on the 250th anniversary of his birth.



Christian Andreas Doppler is another famous Salzburger, born 29 Nov 1803 in the family house at Hannibal Platz 1, just up the street from the Mozart home, (on the left side of the square). His father was a Master Stonemason, but the son grew up to become a world famous mathematician and physicist, internationally known for the “Doppler Effect.” Doppler’s scientific work has made itself felt in medicine, science, and even space travel. He died in Venice on 17 March 1853 and is buried there.



Hans Makart for whom the square is named was the son of a chamberlain at the Mirabell Palace, close to the then Hannibal Platz; Makart was born there on 29 May 1840. The view above appears on a stamp issued in 1923. The beautiful building is now used as the Salzburg City Hall. Hans Makart studied art in Vienna and in Munich. He also travelled to London, Paris and Rome to complete his studies. Makart was a poor draftsman, but his art works are filled with sensuous colour.



Emperor Franz Josef purchased one of his paintings, Romeo and Juliet, for display in the Vienna Museum, and soon thereafter the Viennese aristocracy

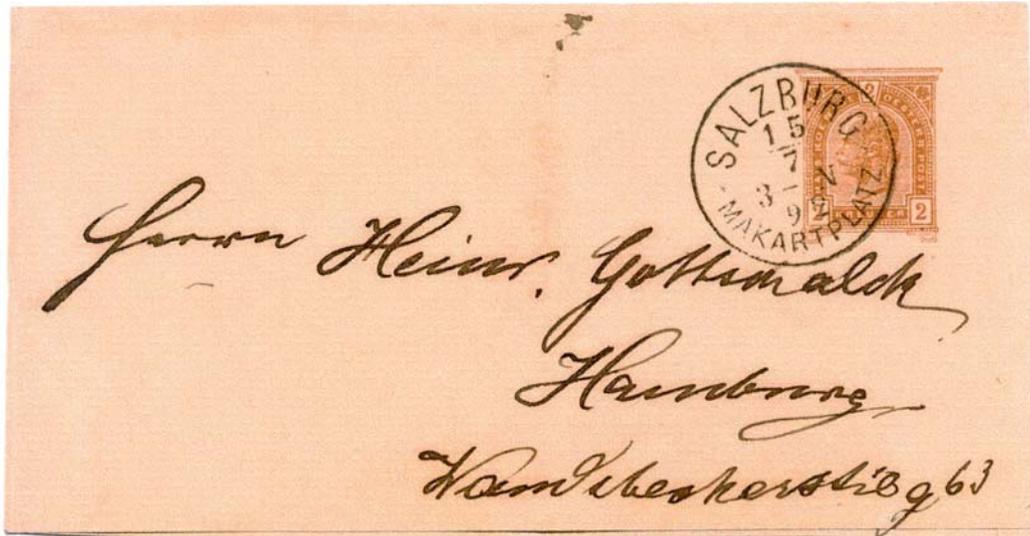
invited Makart to come to the Austrian capital city. The artist did so and became so popular in Vienna that this period is known as the Makart Era. His name became a fashion statement. There were clothes in Makart red, with the Makart collar and the Makart Rose. The Makart lady's hat was an enormous cartwheel that was worn with flowers and swaying feathers!



A notable occurrence of the time was the Makart Procession, which took place on Emperor Franz Josef's silver wedding anniversary in 1879. Hans Makart had designed all the costumes of the marchers! As the 14,000 paraders passed in review before the Austrian ruler, Empress Elizabeth stood next to him, dressed in Makart red and wearing a Makart white feathered hat with a gold embroidered veil. Hans Makart died in Vienna on 3 October 1884, at the age of 44. The Hannibal platz had been renamed the Makart Platz in 1873, in honour of the Salzburg luminary. The Austrian Post Office has printed three stamps with his portrait. They were issued in 1932, 1948, and 1990.



One of his paintings, The Triumph of Ariadne, was honoured with a postage stamp in 1961, in connection with the 100th anniversary of the Vienna Art Museum.



A postal wrapper cancelled at the Makart Platz sub-post office on 17 July 1892 is illustrated above. This post office was located at the right-hand corner of the Makart Platz and Dreifaltigkeits Gasse, at Makart Platz 6, just up the street from the Mozart House. Stohl lists this post office as opening for business on 17 September 1877. It was then called Salzburg-Stadt Postexpedition. It was renamed Salzburg-Makartplatz on 30 November 1890; then it was renamed Salzburg 4 on 17 February 1896; and later renamed Salzburg 5024 on 1 January 1966. Stohl cites this cancel as being used from 1900 to 1901, while Klein lists it as K4352d, saying that the postmark was in use from 1890 to 1901.

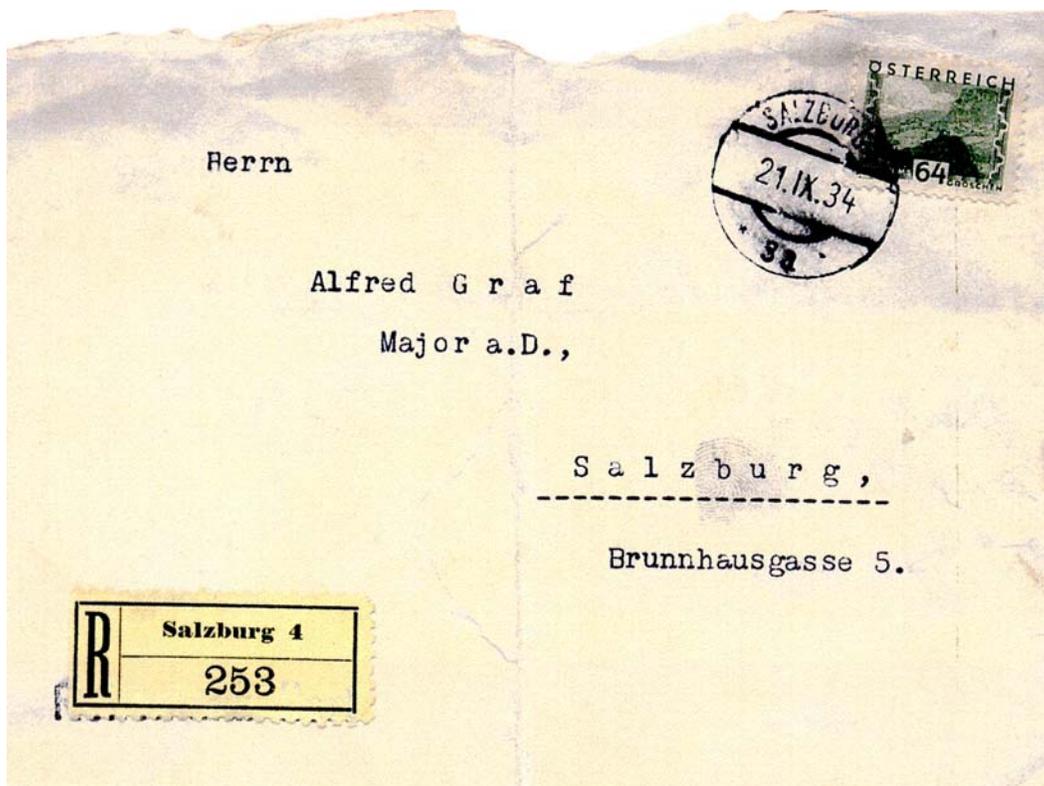
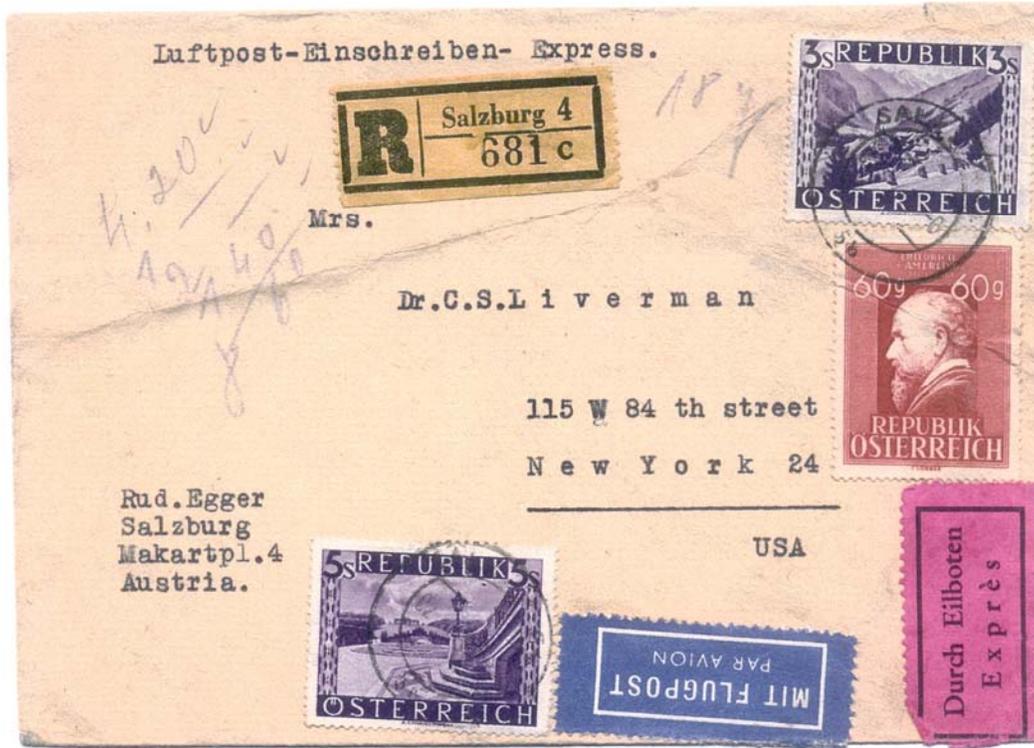


Figure 22 is a registered cover mailed at the Makart Platz, Salzburg 4, sub-office on 21 April 1934.



The above is a registered express air mail letter from Herr Rudolf Egger, whose address is Makart Platz 4, the site of the Bristol Hotel. The letter was mailed at the Salzburg 4 post office on the Makart Platz about the end of May 1948, and it arrived in New York City on the 5th of June 1948. Below is an airmail cover posted at the Makart Platz post office, now known as Salzburg 5024, on 12 December 1969.

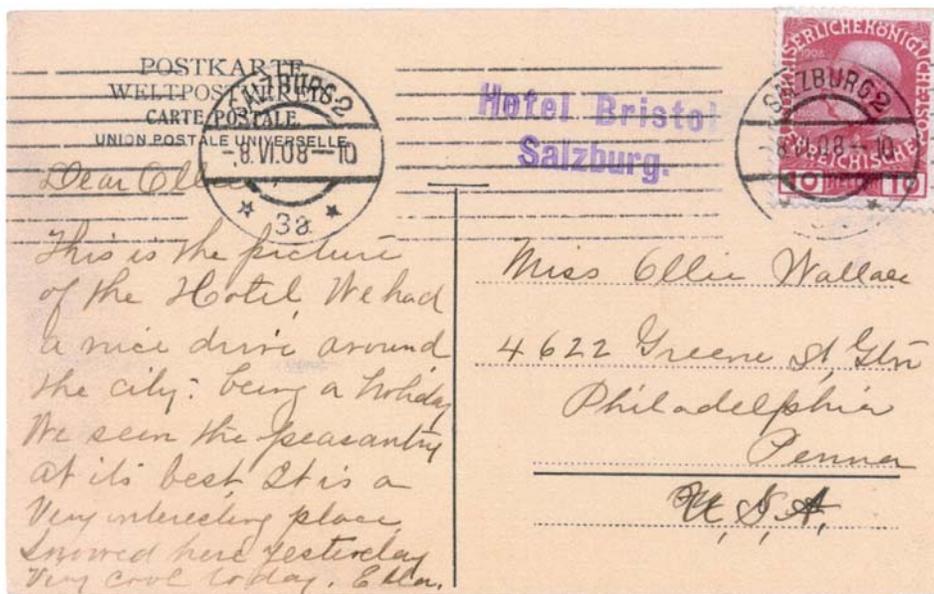


The Bristol Hotel is located at the original site of the Schloss Hannibal. The hotel was erected at this site about the year 1890. It was the first hostelry on this side of the River Salzach to have electric lighting. During its lifetime, the hotel has had many prominent guests, including Emperor Franz Joseph I, Sigmund Freud, and the Conductor Ricardo Muti among others.



During the 10-year Allied occupation of Austria, from 1945 to 1955, the Bristol Hotel was requisitioned by the U.S. Army and became the living quarters for lower ranking U.S. Army officers, Warrant Officers up to the grade of Major.

A postcard sent from Salzburg to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 8 June 1908, is shown below. The writer of this card left it at the hotel desk to be mailed, and the desk clerk applied the “HOTEL BRISTOL, SALZBURG” marking on it, and it was later posted.



The view side of the above card shows the square, with the Hotel Bristol on the left.



The Bristol Hotel had put out its own advertisement postcard by 1909. The message side of one of these cards is shown below. It was posted on 5 June 1909, addressed to the Philippine Islands, again with the hotel hand stamp.



The view side of this card was reused in a 1993 publicity advertisement, wherein rooms were offered at up to \$600 per night at this five-star hotel, during the Salzburg Festival Season from mid July to the end of August.



Another feature of this city square is the Landestheater, shown at lower left on the above card.. The 200th anniversary of this building was recognized with a commemorative stamp in 1975.

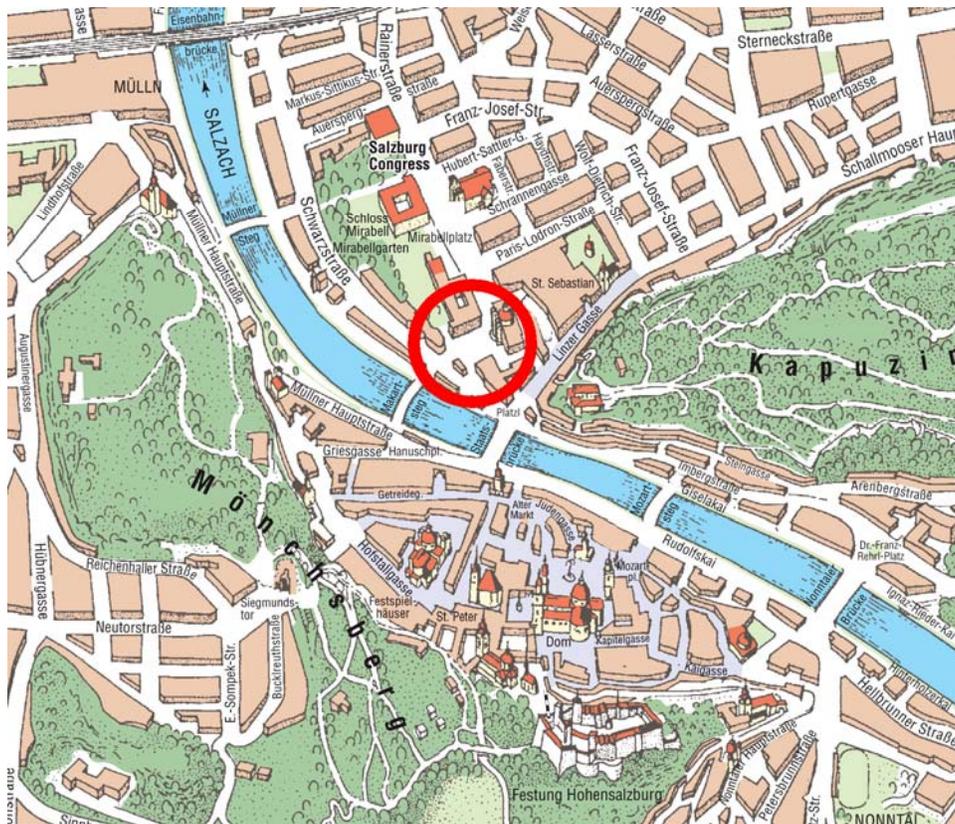
This lovely city square started out by being named the Hannibal Platz. In 1873 it was renamed the Makart Platz. It stayed that way for 61 years until 1934, when it was renamed the Dollfuss Platz, in honour of the Austrian Chancellor, who was assassinated in the attempted Nazi coup of 25th July 1934 . Austria was annexed to Germany in 1938, and the dead Patriotic Front Dictator, Engelbert Dollfuss, lost his name on the square which became the Adolf Hitler Platz for a two-month period. Unfortunately for the Salzburg Nazi official who had been responsible for the name change, Adolf Hitler had been an admirer of Hans Makart and his art ever since his sojourn in Vienna as a poverty-stricken young man, and I surmise that the angry Führer ordered in no uncertain terms that

the square be renamed the Hans Makart Platz. It has so remained from 1938 to this date. All in all, the Makart Platz has turned out to be a small philatelic treasure trove.



References:

1. The Life of Mozart, by Otto Jahn, 1882, English translation, unknown date, paperback edition, 3 volumes, Edwin F. Kalmus, Publisher, New York.
2. Guide-Book Through Salzburg-Town and Its Environs, by Julius Pupp, Circa 1950.
3. The Book of Austria, by Ernst Marboe, 1958.
4. Fodor's Austria, 1988, Nicholas Allen, Area Editor; Richard Moore, Editor.
5. Mozart, 1556-1791, by Jeron Koolbergen, English translation, 1995.
6. Hitler's Vienna, A Dictator's Apprenticeship, by Brigitte Hamann, 1999.
7. Information from Stohl's two volumes on Austrian Postmarks, 1900 to date, 1998 (courtesy of Andy Taylor).
8. Dr. Sabine Veits-Falk, Salzburg, Austria, City Archives. and Frau Elisabeth Erber, Wels, Upper Austria, City Archives. (With my thanks for your wonderful assistance.)
9. Various Makart Platz Internet Sites, 2006.



Location of Makartplatz on a modern map.

Treasures of the Münzkabinett

(well, a very few of them)

by Andy Taylor

On Monday 11th December 2006, I visited (by prior arrangement: see footnote^Φ) the archives of the Münzkabinett (“Coin Cabinet”) of the Kunsthistorisches Museum on Maria Theresien-Platz, Vienna. Their web site gives a brief history:

“The newly constructed museum building in the Vienna Ringstraße was ceremoniously opened in 1891. For the first time, most of the imperial Habsburg collections were housed under one roof, the monumental building itself being conceived as a memorial to Habsburg patronage. The architects Gottfried Semper (1803-1879) and Karl von Hasenauer (1833-1894) designed the building in the style of the Italian Renaissance, establishing in the spirit of Historicism a link with an epoch of especial significance for the arts and sciences.

“The Numismatic Collection owes its existence to the collecting activities of the Habsburgs. With some 700,000 objects from three millennia, it includes not only coins, but also paper money, medals, orders and other items. The displays in the two exhibition rooms provide the viewer with an overview of the history and development of money and medals. A third room is used for special exhibitions on a particular theme.”

I had been told that in the archives of the Münzkabinett they also have a very large and old collection of Austrian revenue stamps – it is possibly the collection of Koczynski, Krug, or Mittelmeier (the Hanus collection is in Prague). They have newspapers, specimens of signets prior to 1850, many document tax stamps (pre 1854) from L/V, kalendar tax (the Austrian Kalendar is the English almanac), tax stamps for hair-powder, rouge & fizzy wine etc.

So after much emailing and phoning I duly presented myself at the appointed time & place, and was most courteously received by the staff, who went to considerable lengths to locate and display the items I was interested in. Photocopies were no problem. It will take me several weeks to comprehend all I saw and to study the copies I obtained – visits such as this are best conducted as an “intellectual raid” as there is no time to consider if an item one finds is or isn’t relevant to one’s interests, or indeed someone else’s. Besides, the marginal cost of a photocopy is rather less than that of a return trip to Vienna!

^Φ As far as I know, anybody can request a visit: well, they let me in! It is necessary to apply in writing many weeks in advance, obtain an appointment, and deposit ones passport with Security at the Burgring entrance. It also helps to realise that the button labelled “Glocken” is the door-bell!

So, to whet your appetite for the vast store of riches in the Münzkabinett, here are a selected few. More will appear later in the decade.

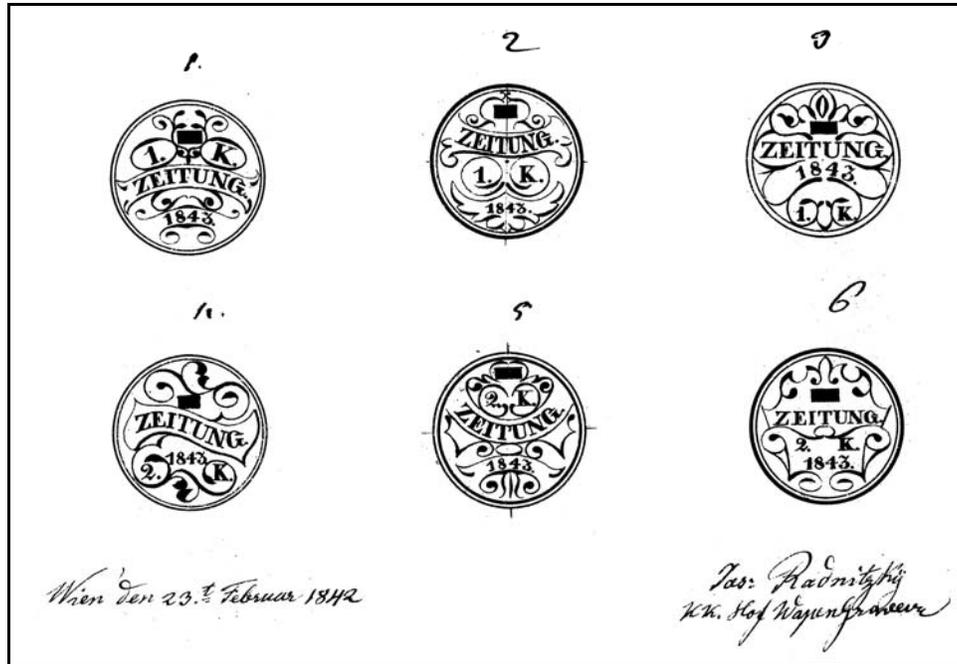


Two newspaper mastheads, from 1789 and 1790. Both were liable to tax, and the shield-in-circle shows that it was paid. But, one has Z S and the other does not: different tax rates or a different symbol? Studies continue...



This piece has a 1/2K tax signet from 1809 plus part of a second mark in French (TIMBRE DE CONTROLE). Why? Clue: the "LA" on the signet, standing for Laibach, and the date of 1809: it's from the period of occupation by Napoleon.

The archive contains many design submissions and proofs. These are designs for the 1843 newspaper tax, signed “Jos Radnitzky, K.K. Hofxxxgraveur” and dated 23 Feb 1842.

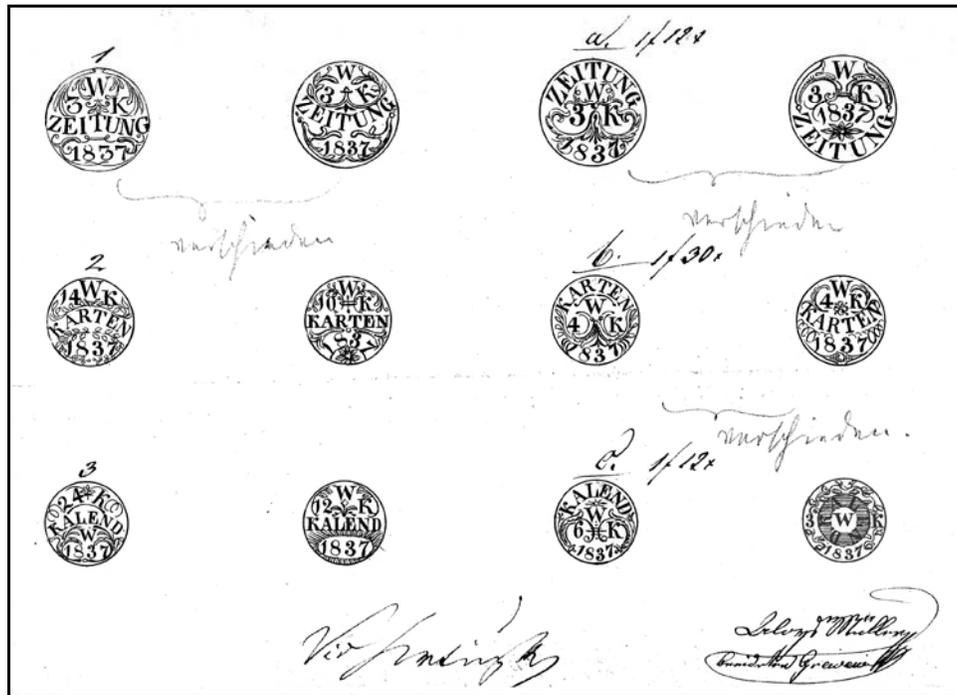


This example (in my possession) show that design number 2 was chosen.



There are some complete newspapers in the files; one I noted was the Wiener Zeitung for 1 Sep 1840 which contains the text of a Decree concerning the taxation of newspapers, Kalendars, and playing cards that also formed part of a monstrously-long Patent, issued the previous 27th January! It may or may not be useful to compare the two texts.

Here are somebody's designs for newspaper, playing-card, & Kalendar tax stamps for 1837; for newspapers the second-right column was preferred.



This unusual newspaper carries a tax signet for 1826 and also a 6-Kr tax stamp with a control stamp. These latter must be due to its having been produced in evidence in a law court, for which of course a special tax was payable.

Oesterreichisch-privilegierte Kaiserliche Zeitung.

269. Freytag, den 24. November 1826.

W i e n.

Se. k. k. Apostolische Majestät haben dem Carl Bibicz, Güter- Director Sr. kaiserl. Hoheit des Erzherzogs Carl, den Ungarischen Adelskand zu verleihen geruhet.

Se. k. k. Majestät haben mit Allerhöchster Entschliesung vom 3. November d. J., die Stelle eines Vice- Delegates zu Sondrio im Lombardisch- Venetianischen Königreiche, dem ersten Adjuncten bey der k. k. Delegation zu Como, Bonifazio Donetti, allergnädigst zu verleihen geruhet.

B r a s i l i e n.

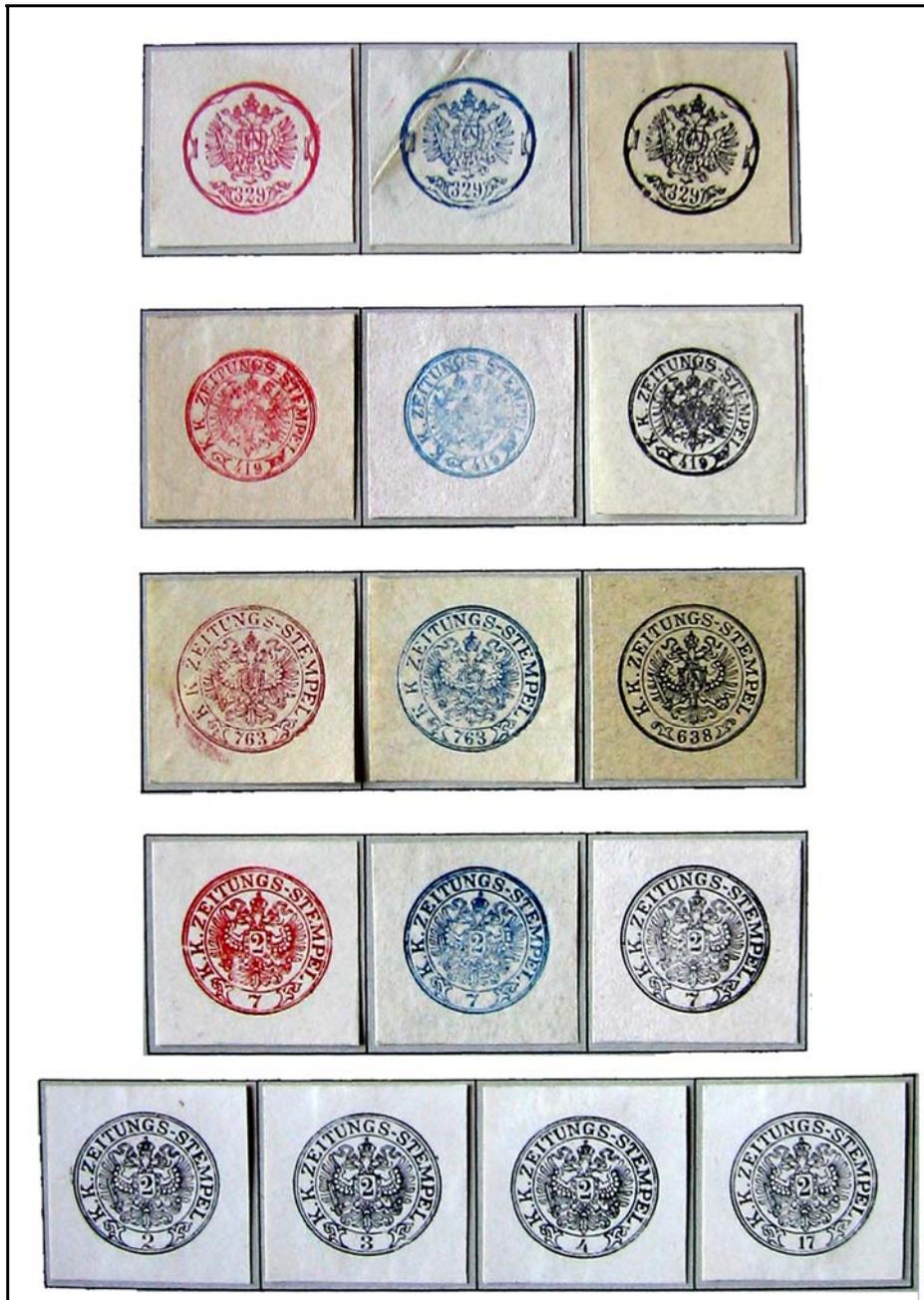
Der Globe and Traveller enthält die schon erwähnte, zwischen Portugal und Brasilien zugleich mit dem Friedens- und Allianz- Tractate dieser beyden Nationen abgeschlossene Convention. Folgendes sind die Bestimmungen desselben:

„Art. 1. Sr. kaiserliche Majestät willigt, nach genommener Einsicht über die von beyden Regierungen vorgelegten Forderungen ein, der Regierung von Portugal die Summe von zwey Millionen Pfund Sterling zu entrichten, so bald wie zwischen Portugal und Brasilien durch den constitutionelle Charte beschworen hat. Sogleich nach diesem Acte hat sich derselbe an Sr. Heiligkeit gewendet, um von derselben die nöthige Dispensation zur Schließung seiner Ehe mit Meiner erlauchtesten souveränen Nichte, der Königin Donna Maria II., zu erhalten.“

„Die gesellschaftlichen Verhältnisse werden mächtig beitragen, die öffentliche Ruhe des Staats zu erhalten; auch werden sie das durch die Constitutions- Urtunde eingeführte politische System fest begründen. Sie werden die Herrschaft der Gerechtigkeit auf der dauerhaften Grundlage der Civil- und Criminal- Gesetzgebung errichten; sie werden in die Municipal- Corps und in die Provinzial- Verwaltungen Ordnung bringen; sie werden endlich dem Kunstfleiß, Handel und Ackerbau, dem Quellen des Wohlstandes der Nation, einen neuen Schwung verleihen.“

„Ich kann den Handel nicht erwähnen, ohne Ihnen Meine schmeichelhafte Hoffnung mitzutheilen, daß derselbe hinsichtlich des Verkehrs zwischen Portugal und Brasilien eine verdoppelte Thätigkeit erreichen wird. Die zwischen diesem Reiche und einigen Mächten Europas abgeschlossenen Verträge steigern noch diese Hoffnung, und Wir finden ein noch sichereres Pfand für deren Erfüllung in der bekannten Groß-

There are colour trials of the 25-Kr newspaper tax adhesive of 1890, in blue, two shades of green, and three of red. There are copies of the Laibacher Zeitung for 1816 & 1817, with red tax signets. There are all manner of wonders!



And finally there are the above. (This is not the only set; I have a similar one and I know of a third.) In the top 4 rows, the left one is red, the center is blue, the right is black. The prints are very sharp, and are not on news-paper. Colour trials? Engraver's proof-book cutouts? Practical joker? Archival records? Specimens for Post Offices? Vorlagestück? Watch this space!

EARLY AUSTRIAN POSTMARK ERRORS

By Keith Brandon ⁽¹⁾

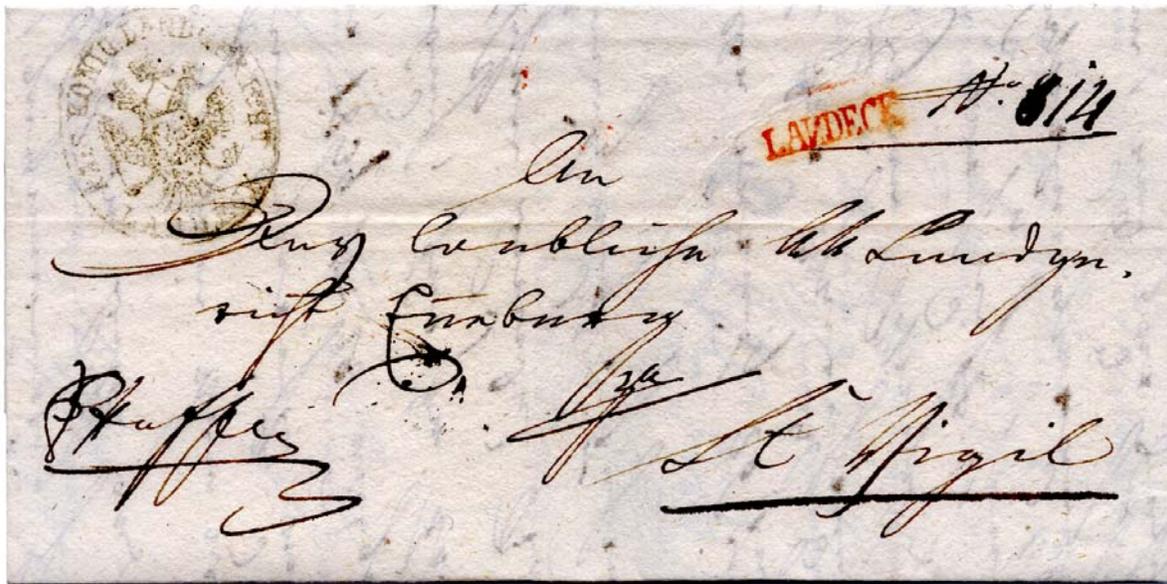
If, like me, you collect postmarks of the Austrian pre-philatelic and classic period, it is inevitable that a close examination of your collection will reveal a selection of postmark errors. These can make an interesting sub-collection in their own right.



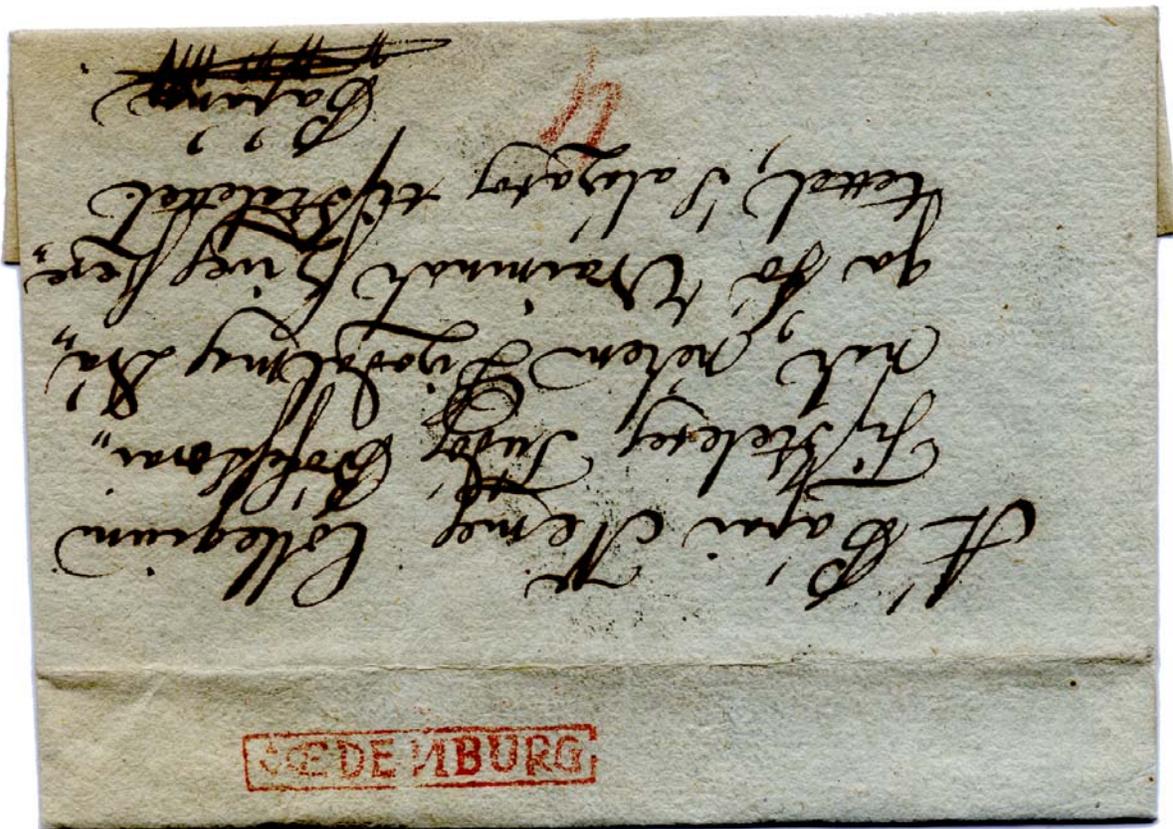
These errors can either be made by the engraver of the handstamp or by the post-office staff. The early, undated, handstamps were usually made in one piece, and any mistake can therefore only be the engraver's. Such errors are infrequent but "constant" and are often catalogued. The most frequently found is the reversed "N". (This can only be an engraving mistake; a removable "N" replaced upside-down is still an "N").



¹ This article is based upon the author's display at Heaton Royds in August 2005, with additional information from Andy Taylor's files. The covers and stamps illustrated are from the author's collection. [*Editor's note: many of the items illustrated appear to be odd non-rectangular shapes. It's not your eyes nor my scanner; they ARE that shape!*]



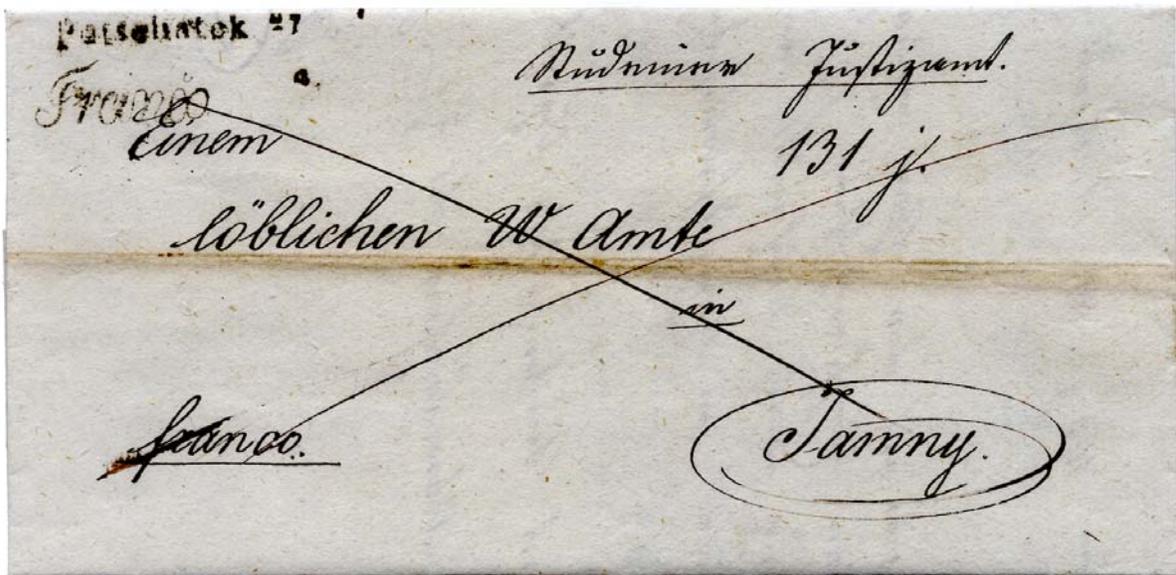
1840 LANDECK (Müller 740a; red) with reversed "N".
Listed thus by Zopelli as no. 32c.



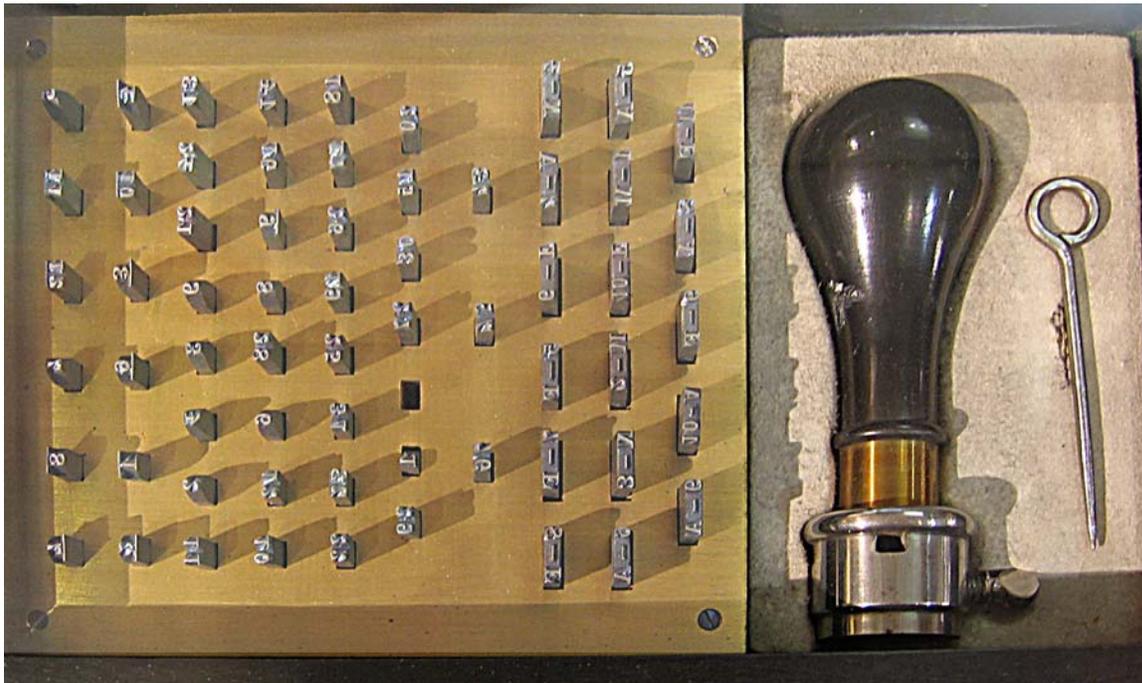
1780s V. OEDENBURG (Müller 1046A; red) with reversed "N".
Listed thus by Bér as no. 446a.

Some cancellers, even from the pre-philatelic period, were made up of individual letters, fixed in the holder by a screw. This enabled worn characters to be cleaned or replaced easily, but also led to mistakes by post-office staff replacing the characters in the wrong order.

The error POTCSHATEK for POTSCHATEK is listed by Votoček, along with errors of “e” for “c” and “inverted c”, and on more than one type of postmark from this town. Perhaps a case of undiagnosed dyslexia in their post office!

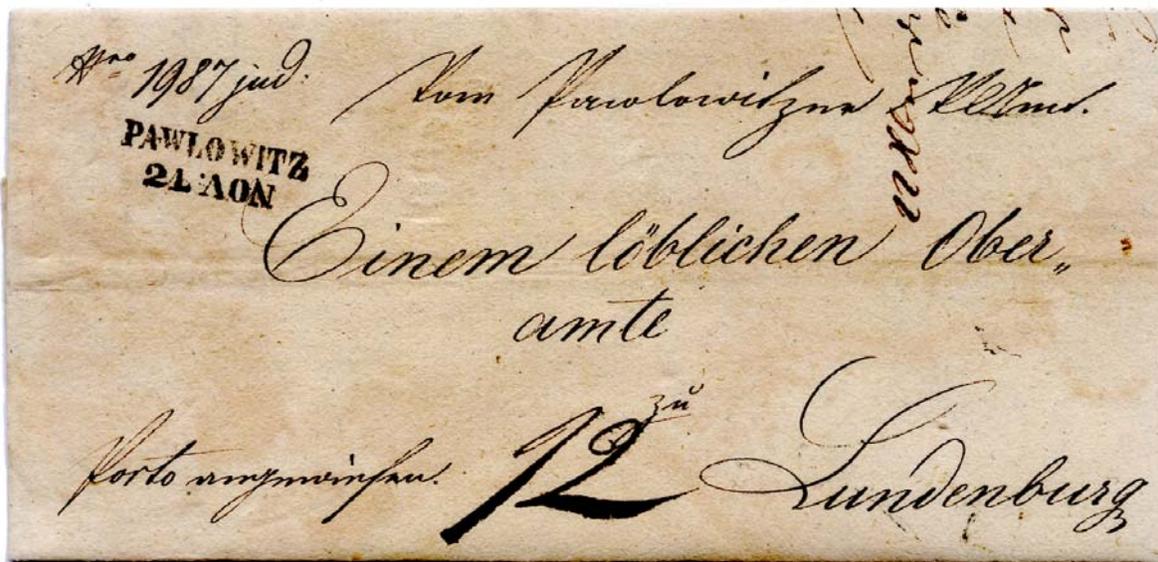


When, in the 1830s, it was decreed that the postmark must include the date, post offices had the choice of using their existing town stamp plus a separate datestamp (as shown in the Potschatek example) or of commissioning a new canceller incorporating the date as well as the town name. Both alternatives involved separate day and month inserts held in place by screws.



This is a replaceable-slug set, as issued to post Offices.

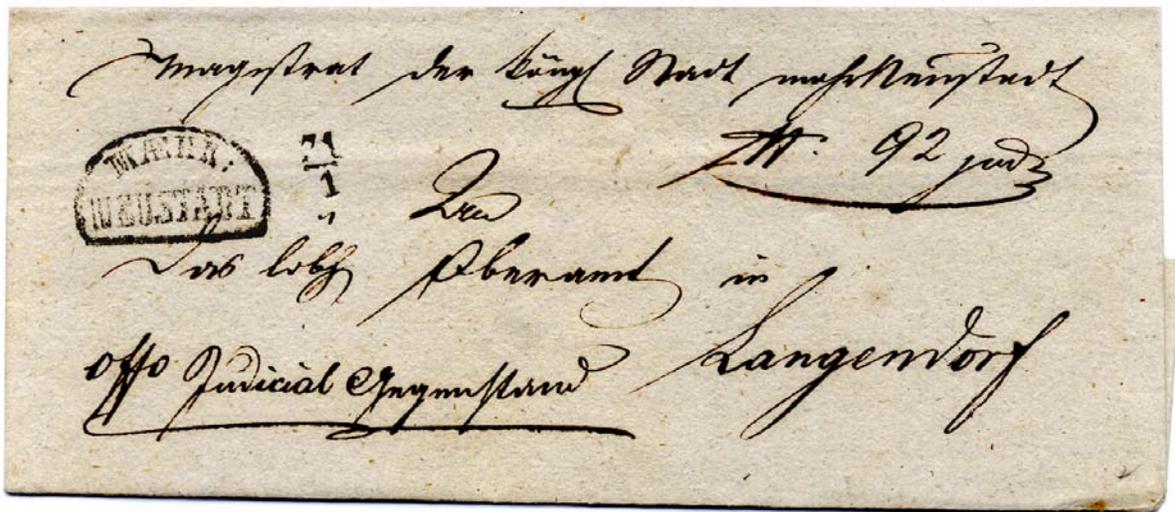
Now the postal clerk had to remember to change the date on the canceller first thing every morning, and to change the month and sometimes the year at appropriate times as well. When an expedition code was included, this had to be changed during each day, often several times. Needless to say, these changes were sometimes not made or were made incorrectly, due to forgetfulness, pressure of work or maybe just a bad hangover.



1845 PAWLOWITZ / 21 NOV (Müller 1098a; black) with month inverted.



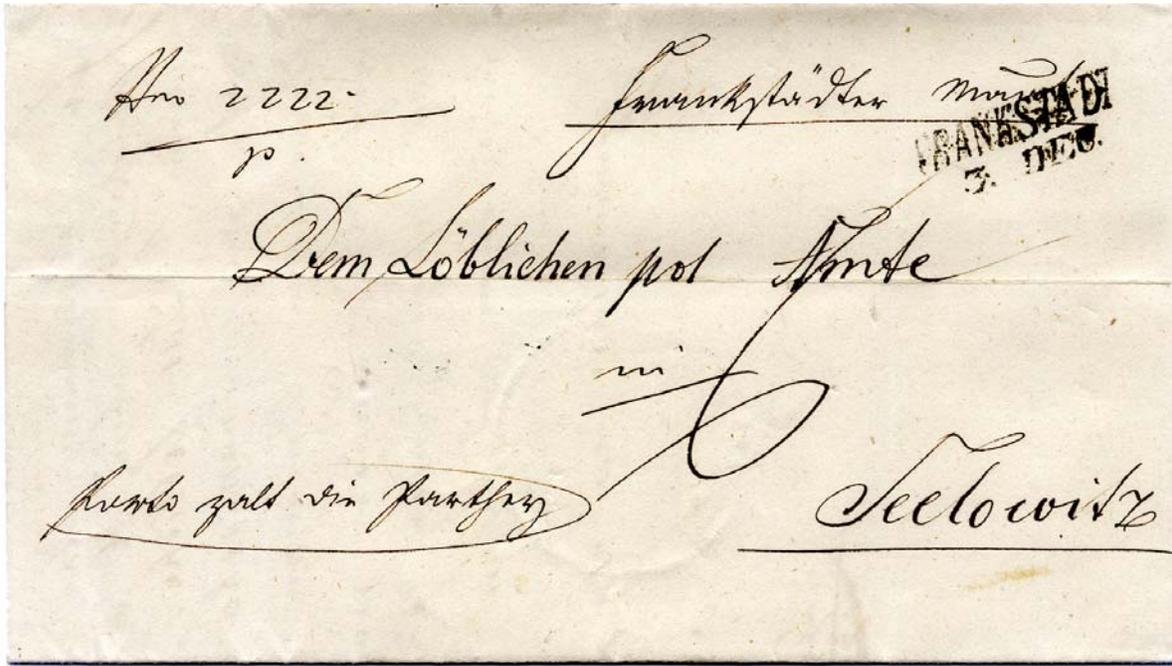
1849 SPITAL / AM / PYHRN / 30. APR. (Müller 1418a, black).
 "30" inverted in date.



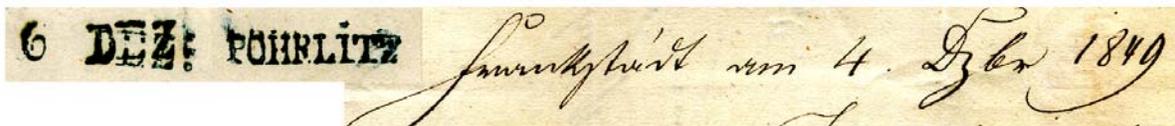
Above: MAEHR./ NEUSTADT (Müller 826b; black) with date shown as 71/1 instead of 17/1.

Right: 1830 O.P.A GRATZ / 9 APR 1380 (Müller 445c; blue) with year "1380".



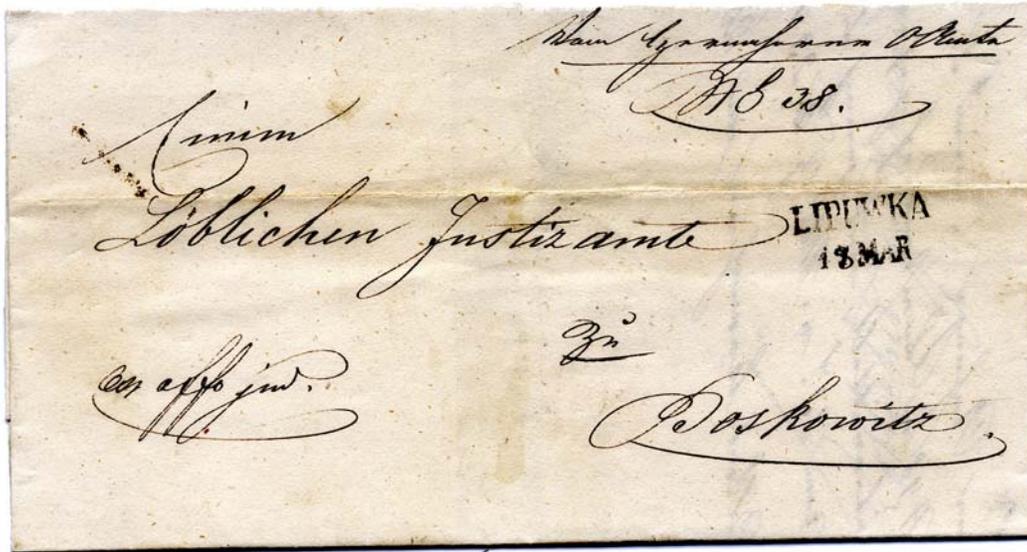


1849 FRANKSTADT / 3. DEC (Müller 369b; black). At first glance, this looks correct, but it was postmarked the day before it was written! The letter is clearly dated 4 December, but postmarked 3 December. Of course, it could be the writer's mistake, but the Pöhlritz transit cancel is 6 December. It would be unusual for a letter between two Moravian towns to take 3 days. More likely, the postal clerk forgot to advance the date of the canceller.



While not common, these date-slug errors are not particularly rare either. Müller (1961) suggests a premium of 10% to 50%, depending upon the type. Most dealers do charge a premium if they spot the error; but in my experience they often don't. I have often only noticed the error once I have bought an item and got it home.

It sometimes happened that a postal clerk postmarked a cover, realised that he had forgotten to change the date (or had done it incorrectly), and then corrected his mistake. Such corrections provide some interesting and unusual additions to a postmark collection.



1848 LIPUWKA / 18 MAR. (Müller 789b; black).
Date changed by hand from 17th to 18th.



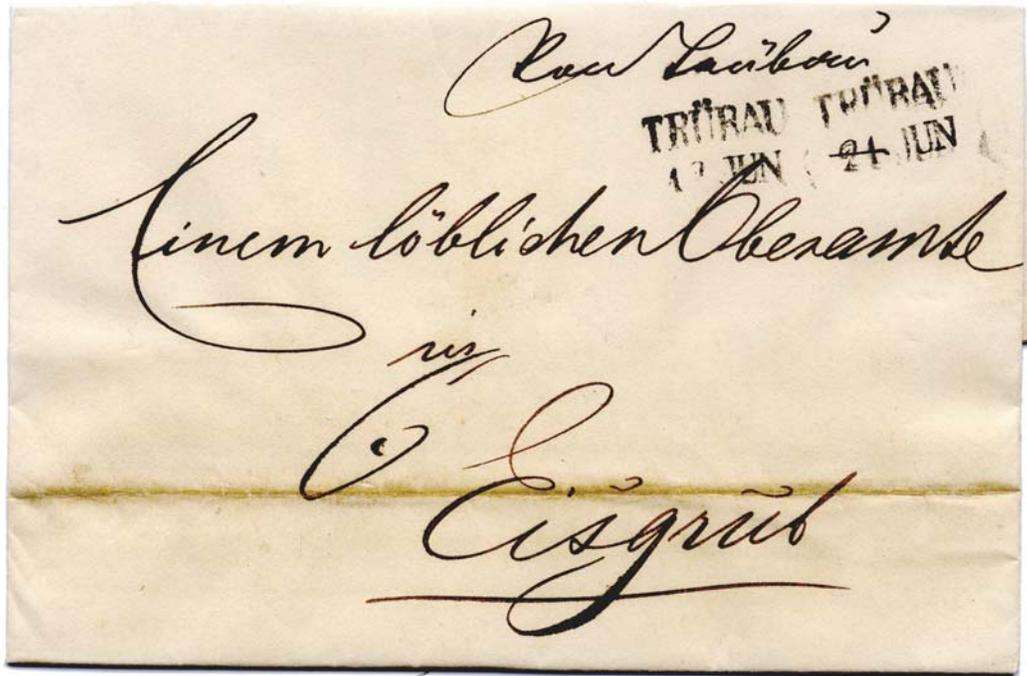
1843 WIEN / RECOMMAND. / 16 JUL. (Müller 1697Rc; black).
Date changed by hand from 15th to 16th.



1872 FELDBACH / 25.3.72 with "72" added in manuscript.



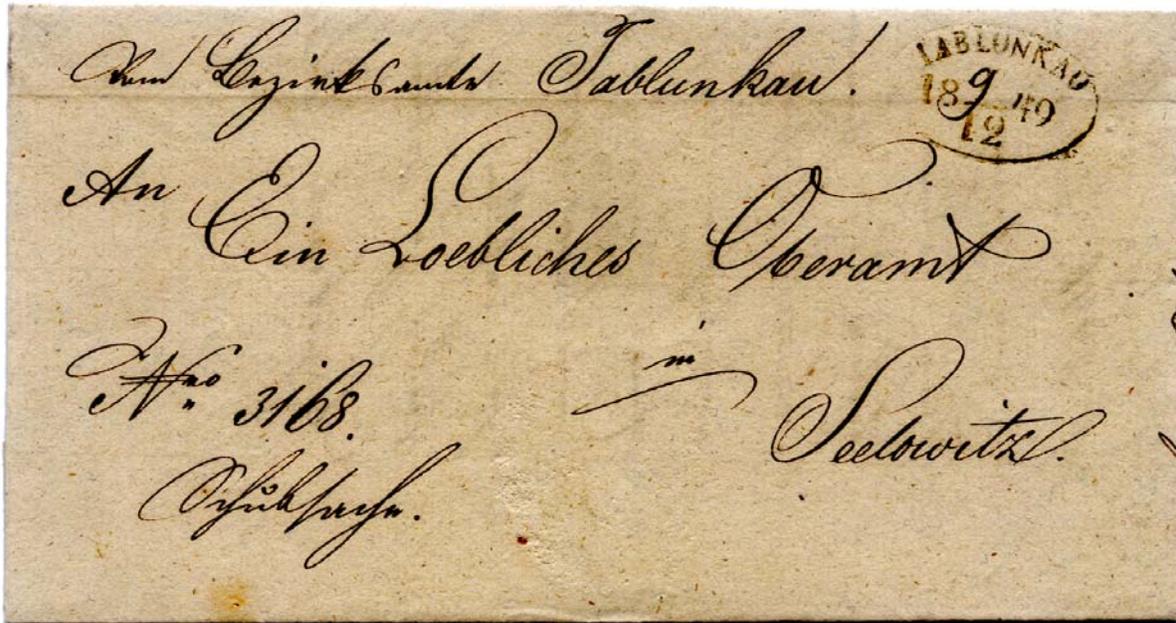
1875 PETSCHAU / 28. . 75 with month omitted.



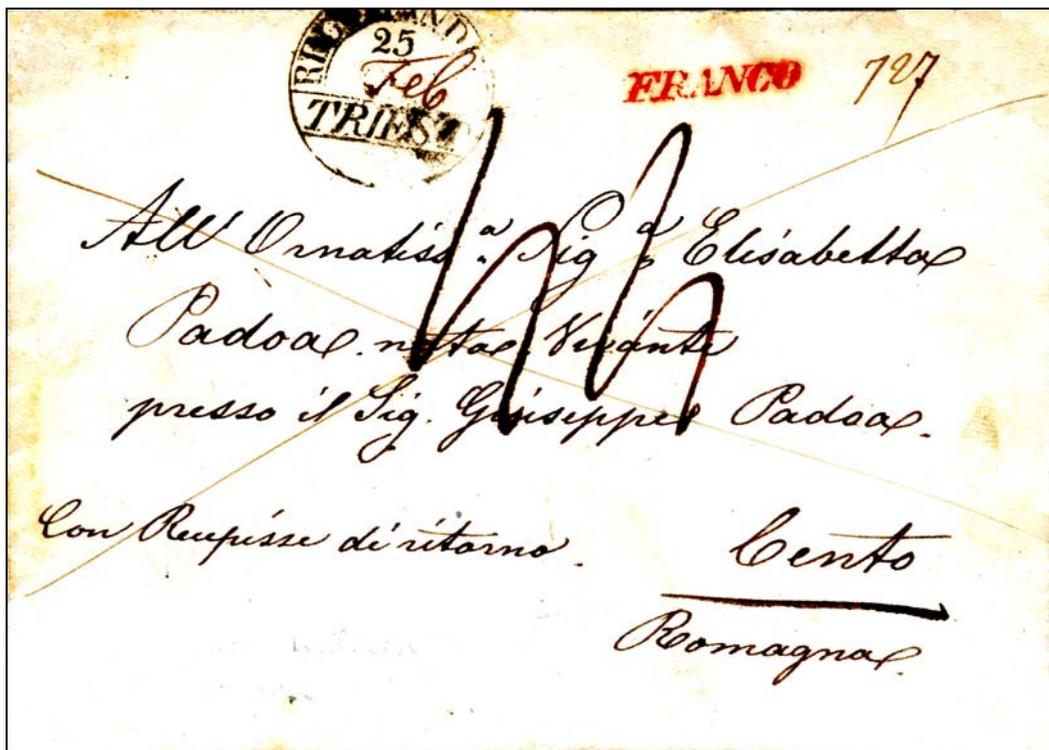
1847 TRÜBAU (Müller 831b; black). Postmarked 21 JUN
and then correctly 12 JUN.



1842 GRATZ / 20 AUG. (Müller 445e; blue).
Month inserted upside-down, corrected in second postmark.



1849 JABLUNKAU / 9.12.1849 (Müller 578b; black)
with "9" omitted from handstamp and added by hand.



1843 RECOMMANDIRT / TRIEST / 25 Feb (Müller 1575Rc; black) with
month omitted from handstamp and added in manuscript.



What was going on in REGENS (Moravia)? Here are three covers from 1841, 1841 and 1849, all with the number for the day of month added by hand. Perhaps they had mislaid their box of numbers!

Date-slug errors are by their very nature transient, quickly-corrected, and not included in the postmark catalogues. Some, however, are more persistent and are catalogued. They may be due to parts of the canceller being lost and not

replaced, to failure to order a new year-slug, or to a conscious decision by the postmaster to omit part of the cancel.

There is no reason why a postmaster would deliberately, say, invert the month in the date, but he may decide to leave out a year-slug or an expedition code altogether because he considers them no longer worth the bother. These can be thought of as “deliberate errors” rather than mistakes. There are many cases catalogued in Klein of postmarks amended to omit the year or expedition code.



(a) STRAKONITZ with year (month present but faint) (Klein 5022d),
 (b) STRAKONITZ with year omitted (Klein 5022da)

An alternative solution is the use of the “Balken” (= bar) in postmarks of the second half of the nineteenth century. This occurs when part of the date-slug, usually the year or expedition code, is put into the holder with the base outwards, providing a black rectangle in the postmark. These are not errors, but are deliberate decisions by the post-office staff. They occur throughout the Empire, are consistently used, and are catalogued.



(a) LERMOOS / 29.6.82 with year in date (Klein 2622b),
 (b) LERMOOS / 11.5. ■ with Balken for year (Klein 2622bb)

Although the system of separate date inserts in a holder was intrinsically impractical and error-prone, it remained in use for some 70 years. In 1904 the first Austrian cancellers incorporating rotating wheels were introduced, a system that has stayed with us until the twenty-first century. Although mistakes were still possible with the modern cancellers, the golden age for postmark errors ended with the nineteenth century.

Catalogues mentioned

- Müller: Handbook of the Pre-Stamp Markings of Austria (APS Library #7; there are also three supplements)
- Müller: Handbook of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia Cancellations on the Postage Stamp Issues 1850, 1858/9, 1860/1, 1863, 1863/4 (1961) Müller & Fitch 1961 (APS Library #8)
- Zopelli: Nordtiroler und Vorarlberger Poststempel 1770-1850; includes rarity index (APS Library #214)
- Bér Handbook of the Hungarian Pre-Stamp Mail (APS Library #188) by A. Bér , L Makkai and L Surani
- Votoček Die böhmischen Poststempel von den ältesten Zeiten bis 1918 (vols 1 & 2; APS Library #46)
- Klein The Regular Postmarks of the Permanent Local Post Offices in the Austrian half of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy [Postal Obliterations and Other Cancellations on Austrian Stamps 1867, 1883 and 1890] vols 1 & 2.

References here are to the second edition of part 1 by Rieger - APS Library #31A-1.

THE 1899 & 1901 DEFINITIVE ISSUES

This article is based on pp 525-540 of “Ferchenbauer Österreich 1850 - 1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Wien 2000” as translated by Tom Dickerson for the APS(USA) Journal, vol 3 issue 2; and is reproduced here by kind permission of all concerned. The original valuations are in Euros-of-2000; some have been left and must be treated as relative only. [*Comments in italics inside square brackets are A Taylor’s.s.*]

THE DEFINITIVE ISSUE of 1899

Emperor’s head in oval or rectangle, facing left (facing right in kronen values), denomination now in heller and kronen; various perforations on granite paper without watermarks. Typography, or for the kronen values recess, printing. In the illustration below, all four designs of this issue are depicted: the 1 kreuzer in design a, 30 heller in design b, 40 heller in design c, and 1 kronen in design d.



Issued: at the beginning of December, 1899; Valid: until October 31, 1908

As of January 1, 1900, the new heller/kronen currency was introduced in the entire postal system. 1 kreuzer was the equivalent of 2 heller; thus 1 gulden was the equivalent of 2 kronen. Simultaneously with this currency change, a new postal tariff was introduced, which had the effect of increasing certain fees and rates. The rate for postcards was increased from 2 kreuzer to 5 heller, foreign letters now cost 25 heller instead of 10 kreuzer, the registration fee, also formerly 10 kreuzer, was similarly raised to 25 heller; however the basic rate for printed matter was reduced from 2 kreuzer to 3 heller. Of course, the currency/postal rate change had to be reflected in the issuance of a new definitive issue with appropriate changes in denomination.

The heller denominations were produced in three different designs, as indicated in the illustration. This design variety was intended to preclude the ability to forge the denomination, as happened with the 1890 issue to the detriment of the postal service. For the same reason, a small but effective change was made in the design of all of the heller denominations: the background immediately

behind the number is in colour, as opposed to the off-white background of the earlier issues.

As in the case of the earlier issues, the heller values were once again printed in two separate print runs, the three kronen values also once again in recess.

The printing plates for the coloured print run comprised 400 clichés (in four blocks of 100). The printing plates for the black print [*ie the value-number*] could to some extent continue to be used unchanged from the 1890 issue; they consisted of two blocks of 100 clichés placed side-by-side. In general, they were stereotyped, although for the early print runs there were also some with removable numbers. Consequently - and very rarely - the insertion of incorrect numbers occurred.

Paper and gum was the same as for the last print runs of the previous issue; this was also true of the colours used.

Perforation: Heller values - RZ 13:12½, Kronen values Line 12½

Schedule:

Nr	value	colour	design
69	1 heller	lilac	a
70	2 heller	gray	a
71	3 heller	light brown	a
72	5 heller	slate green	a
73	6 heller	orange	a
74	10 heller	light carmine	b
75	20 heller	brown	b
76	25 heller	ultramarine	b
77	30 heller	red lilac	b
78	40 heller	olive green	c
79	50 heller	gray blue	c
80	60 heller	yellow brown	c
81	1 krone	carmine red; dark pink	d
82	2 kronen	gray violet	d
83	4 kronen	gray green	d

Prices [*not given here*] are for letters, not for package cards or postal forms. A large proportion of these stamps was used to frank bundled goods, and were thus used singly. Cleanly separated blocks and strips are uncommon! The 2 kr

and 3 kr are very rare on regular letters but can be found on money letters (Wertbriefe). [See appendix]

PERFORATION VARIATIONS

The heller values were primarily produced in comb perforations 13:12½ (14:16 teeth) and, more rarely, 13:13½ (14:17 teeth); as an exception, and only at the beginning of the period of validity, these stamps were also produced in line perforations 10½ and 12½ and as mixed perforations of these two perforations.

[summarising a large table:] The following line perms are found: 10½; 12½; 10½:12½; 12½:10½; 13:13½. All the stamps are found in all these perms except:

10 heller found only in line 13:13½; line 10½; line 12½.

1, 2, 4 kronen not found in line 13:13½.

Pairs, Middle Imperforate

Pairs with middle imperforate occur only with line perforations, but occur both horizontally and vertically. The most common variation is the 1 krone value, vertically imperforate.



Pairs, middle imperforate	mintnogum	mint	used	letter
30 heller red lilac	€750	€1250		
60 heller yellow brown	€850	€1400	€1750	
1 krone carmine red	€300	€175	€550	
2 kronen gray violet	€775	€1300		
1 heller lilac imperf	€0	€160	€180	
same in horiz pair	€200	€340	€400	€175**

** Most often found on postcards cancelled with a “BRIONI” postmark

Double perforation: approximately €75 (unused); €85 (used) extra (on cover approx. €250 extra)

Imperforate stamps on piece are worth €200; on cover at least €500

Selvage was removed after perforation, so, as a rule, the sheets arrived at the post office without selvage. Items with selvage are therefore very rare and are worth a premium of at least €200.

The so-called “**Tiller-perforation**” also exists in this issue, but is far rarer, premiums are double those indicated for the 1890 issue!

Differences in **stamp dimension** (high and wide, or short and narrow formats) are to be found much less frequently than for the 1890 issue; individual items with definite format variations are therefore worth at least 3 times as much as the values indicated for similar format variations in the 1890 issue.

PRINTING VARIATIONS

[Ferchenbauer notes and prices these errors:]

- ❖ Black printing [*ie value*] entirely or partly omitted
- ❖ Significantly shifted black printing
- ❖ Partial colourless printing of the colour
- ❖ Machine-offset of the colour design, the black print, and of both
- ❖ Spacers [*Balken*]
- ❖ Incorrect figures of value: extremely rarely, errors are found such as the 1 heller with black print upside down; 3 heller with “3” in lower right hand corner “lying down”; 50 heller with 2 denomination figures offset by 90 degrees. High prices! [*NB: stamps have been offered for sale purporting to have inverted figures; close inspection reveals that the circles with the numbers have been cut out, and the stamp then glued upside down on top of another!*]

FRANKING VARIATIONS

Mixed frankings between heller and kreuzer are not as a rule all that rare, since the issues were simultaneously valid for over 10 months. The most frequent combination, 2 kreuzer and 1 heller on postcard is worth about 25€ See example below.

Mixed frankings of the same colour or denomination are a popular collecting interest; the value of the cover is determined by the value of the franking (the higher the value of the franking, the more valuable the cover), as well as by the destination and the overall attractiveness of the cover.

One- or many-colour frankings: 3-colour frankings at least €7 on piece, €8 on cover; 4-colour frankings at least €33 on piece, €125 on cover; 5-colour frankings at least €75 on piece, €300 on cover

High-value Frankings: As for the previous issue, frankings over 1 krone in the context of regular mail (as opposed to package cards or money letters) are very rare; the valuation guidelines set forth in the main tables, or in the tables for registered and/or special delivery letters, are to be considered with this in mind (in any event, correctly franked letters with kronen values are highly sought after!)

Registered and Special Delivery Letters

Local registered	€50
Registered	€12
Special Delivery	€125
Registered & Special Delivery	€200
Registered & return receipt requested	€75

The above prices are minimum prices; covers which are particularly colourful or display interesting stamp combinations command higher prices! Registered or Special Delivery letters to foreign destinations command premiums of at least 150%. On postcard, add 30%

CANCELLATION VARIATIONS

Manuscript Cancellations

5 heller (on postcard): pen “X” + date €15; complete town name €45. 10 heller (on letter) €30 and €80 resp. Loose stamps approximately €3 to €5.

Coloured Cancellations

Postmarks used with this issue were practically always black; postmarks in other colours are very rare. The relatively most common such colour is blue; red postmarks are known only from Prague. Violet cancellations are found primarily from Viennese post offices where this colour was used principally in the years 1905-7 (all others are significantly rarer!)

[complicated table of values omitted]

Early cancellations/last day cancellations

Date	loose	on piece	cover
31 December, 1899	€20	€40	€150
28-30 December 1899	€35	€50	€200
before 28 December 1899	€50	€70	€300
Last Day Cancellations (31 October 1908)	€30	€60	€250

POSTAGE STAMPS USED AS REVENUE STAMPS

Despite the fact that this is the first issue denominated in heller, usage as fiscal stamps is not common; especially the higher values are rarely to be found in this usage. The same price indications set forth for the 1890/96 issue apply [*which are: 2 kr revenue used as postage stamp on card €150; 3 kr ditto on local letter €375*]

PROOFS

As early a commentator as Edwin Mueller notes that proofs of this issue are rare. Presumably the authorities were able to apply the lessons learned with the issue of 1890/96 to this issue also.

Black prints and die proofs

First impressions of the 2 and 4 kronen values in black on carton-paper €250. Same, impression of a single stamp €175. Same, but in issued (or similar) colours €200. The formats of these impressions vary widely. The smallest format is approximately three times the size of the stamp.

Proofs other than those mentioned here are valued similarly. All such proofs with the annotation “Imprimatur” command a 25% premium!

Single die proofs on ungummed granite paper in lilac (various shades), green, or carmine €250. Same, on regular paper €225. All values as die proofs in a single sheet €150.

Sheet Proofs

		hinged	mintnogum	mint
in original colours	imperforate	€25	€40	€50
	perforated 12.75:13	€30	€50	€60
in other colours	imperforate	€30	€50	€60
	perforated 12.75:13	€35	€60	€70

The 4 different types of sheet proofs listed above also exist with varnish bars; these command a premium of €15 over the above prices.

Miscellaneous Proofs: 10 heller red, tete-beche gutter pair: each €200; 1 krone red in design c, imperforate: each €350; 2 and 4 kronen, missing denomination on the right side, imperforate: each €250

Printer's Proofs: On thin, yellow ungummed paper, imperforate: each €30

THE DEFINITIVE ISSUE of 1901/2

Same design as the 1899 definitive issue. Granite paper without watermark, but with varnish bars, various perforations, Typography or engraved.



Issued in August, 1901; the 35 heller denomination on February 15, 1902. Valid until October 31, 1908. Soon after the issuance of this set of definitives, the lack of a particular value whose counterpart existed in the kreuzer issue became noticeable: The tariff for registration of a letter, which had been 15 kreuzer, was increased to 35 heller, which required 2 stamps. The 35 heller value was therefore issued in February of 1902.

Since the post office had already dealt with the prevention of stamp forgery through the introduction of granite paper in the 1890 issue, it now addressed the illegal re-use of stamps through the application of varnish bars to the surface of the design (prior to printing, the granite paper had shiny strips of varnish applied to it). The varnish bars would partially dissolve in water or other liquids, removing that part of the stamp design printed on the bar. This rendered easily visible attempts to remove a postmark through washing of the stamp. Experiments with this technique were conducted as early as year-end 1899, and included stamps of the 1890 issue in kreuzer denomination, which were still

valid. (For valuation of kreuzer-denominated stamps with varnish bars, see the rubric “Proofs” under the 1890 issue).

The varnish bars in these essays run diagonally from top left to bottom right at an angle of approximately 45 degrees. Both the width of the bars and their separation from one another is approximately 3.5 mm. Consequently, each stamp bore between four and five bar segments. Since these experiments were deemed unsatisfactory, the 1899 issue was initially printed on ordinary granite paper without varnish bars.

The varnish bar pattern ultimately adopted was a combination of two widths: a shinier bar 2.25 mm wide, alternating with a less shiny bar 3.0 mm wide. The distance between bars was now approximately 4.5 mm, so that each stamp bore between three and four bar segments. As early as 1902, however, a further change was made: the shinier bar remained 2.25 mm wide, but the less shiny bar was reduced to 2.0 mm in width, a combined width of 4.25 mm, which had the effect of increasing the distance between bars to 5.25 mm. Finally, in 1903 the less shiny bar was eliminated entirely, leaving only the 2.25 mm bar, the distance between bars thereby increasing to 7.25 mm. (Because of the slight differences in value between these varnish bar types, no separate valuation of each type is provided).

Gum is identical to that of the previous issue.

Perforation: RZ 13:13½

Schedule:

Nr	value
84	1 heller lilac
85	2 heller violet grey
86	3 heller yellow brown
87	5 heller slate green
88	6 heller red orange
89	10 heller light carmine
90	20 heller brown
91	25 heller ultramarine
92	30 heller red lilac
93	35 heller green
94	40 heller olive green
95	50 heller grey blue
96	60 heller light brown

The comb perforation 13:12½ is somewhat less common. Denominations from 1 to 25 heller command a 20% premium; 30 to 60 heller denominations a 50% premium.

PERFORATION VARIETIES

“Friedl” Perforations

At the postal window only stamps with comb perforations 13:12½ or 13:13½ could be obtained. However, the post office produced stamps in line perforations of various types for Sigmund Friedl, a major Viennese stamp dealer. These so-called “Friedl perforations” were made available for purchase even during the validity period of the stamps, and thus can be found validly postmarked on philatelically inspired letters.

[*summarising a table*] All the above-listed stamps exist as line 12½:10½. Also, the 2 and 10 heller exist as line 9.25, and the 1 3 5 & 10 heller as line 10½. The 30 heller stamp also exists in line perforation 10½:12½. For valuations of other variations of perforation, printing or franking, and for coloured postmarks, the same prices as for the issue of 1899 apply. The 35 heller stamp with red postmark is valued at €200 loose and at least €650 on cover. First Day cancellations for the 35 heller denomination (15 February 1902) are valued at €50 loose, €100 on piece, €425 on cover.

PROOFS

Sheet proofs (all with varnish bars)

Imperforate in original colours €65 each; in amended colours €85

Comb perforations 13:12½, 1 to 60 heller (but without the 35 heller) with 3.5 mm wide varnish bars (same distance between bars): bars from top left to bottom right €40 each, bars from bottom left to top right €50, bars on the back of the stamp €60.

Colour proofs

35 heller in blue, red and blue-green, imperforate €100; comb perf 13:12½ €15

Printer’s Proofs

on thin, yellow, ungummed paper €30.

Appendix

Examples (from AT's accumulation)



3 and 12 kr used to uprate a postal stationery envelope into a registered letter to the USA (the numbers are from the USA system).



30 kr used on parcel card to Berlin



1, 2, 15 kr on money letter from Würbenthal to Freiwaldau



The "standard" mixed franking: 1 heller + 2 kreuzer.