

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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EDITORIAL 158

By Andy Taylor

Congratulations to Dr Inger Kuzych whose exhibit “Lemberg: The Postal History of an Imperial Austrian Crownland Capital” won a gold at the 10th Ukrainian National Stamp Exhibition, held in Lviv (Lemberg) in October of 2006 to help celebrate the city’s 750th anniversary. This was the (recently reworked) exhibit’s first international showing and its first international gold. It also includes several of the pieces illustrated in an article “The First Airmail Service” prepared for the APS Anniversary Festschrift – of which more is below.

Austrian spies tell me that WIPA2008 expect to receive far more entries than they will have space for; and there may be an advantage in getting ones entry form in as soon as possible.... The same applies to Society Stands, and the APS has now applied for one, where it hopes to welcome existing members, attract new ones, and generally promote Austrian Philately In English even if we’re accused of taking eagle owls to Athens.

The APS will stage a **major display at Spring Stampex 2008** (Wed 27 Feb to Sat 1 March, Business Design Centre, Islington, London). This will be about 100 double-sided frames, located on the “Village Green” which every visitor has to pass. It’ll be 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**. This will be a 150+ sides glossy A4 book; a provisional contents list follows: Brief history of the APS; “The world’s first airmail service, Vienna-Krakow-Lemberg-Kyiv”; “The Austrian Navy – an Essential Historical Background”; “Austrian Newspaper Tax, 1789 till 1899”; “Wien 25 revisited”; “British Troops in Austria”. Other articles are still possible; potential authors are invited to contact the Editor.

Your help, assistance, and participation will be needed to bring all this to fruition. “What’s in it for me?”, you may well say. Basically, the continuation of the Society and the promotion of our speciality! Any society (and organisation, charity, sports club, political party, etc) that wants to remain viable must attract enough new members to replace those who resign, retire, or die. For the APS, that’s roughly one per month. Think how wonderful it would be if each of you persuaded one more person to join! The alternative is an extremely rich sponsor; but although that would remove all financial constraints (eg this journal could be in full colour) a Society with no members is as useful to the future of Philately as a Post Office with no stamps.

NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 1/2007: Thematic:Gold Frankincense & Myrrh; WIPAs in the past; designing a quality stamp; Österreich vs Austria; Andy Warhol; 75th anniversary of the Hochhaus in Vienna; News about Traditional Philately; the new series of Austrian definitives; various subscribable-for items; l'Académie Européenne d'Etudes Philatéliques & Postales; the mysterious case of the 1947 8-groschen postcard; Kaiser Franz Josef's 90th death anniversary; numismatic, foreign, society & other news; readers' letters; etc.

Issue 2/2007: 100 years of scouting; Lower Austria Exhibition "fire & earth"; thematic:geology; postal history of Burgenland; registered letters & their receipts; Prof A Pilch's 90th; German-Austrian Philately; society & other news; readers' letters; etc.

Issue 3/2007: Roses; warning that the WIPA logo is copyright; WIPA General Secretary Dr Riedmann forced by illness to resign; Werner Schindler appointed; Picture postcards; Felix Salten; the 1842 postal tariff reform; Burgenland (2); new issues; greetings & mourning stamps; Sammler-service new phone number; German-Austrian Philately (2); centenary of Stamp Dealers Association; registration labels of Vienna; Official Warning that registered mail is unsuitable for mailing philatelic items to other countries ("use a Wertbrief; split a packet into several of lesser value"); society, foreign & other news; readers' letters; etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 77: More committee members needed; thimble cancellations from Alexandria (6pp colour illustrations); was there a collector's counter at Constantinople?; money transfer and the taxes thereon pre-1900; etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- u Zensurpost

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 168: March 2007: News & views & book reviews; “the activists are getting scarcer”; forged Hungarian pre-stamp letters; watermarks on stationery; 1919 overprints; Qs’n’As; etc

Militär und Philatelie

Issue 220: Personal Stamps with a military theme, continued; book reviews; meetings and awards; locations of Landsturm battalions; Karl Kalis to receive the 2006 Patka-medal; Anton Benya prize for innovation awarded to Österreichische Staatsdruckerei; Austrian troops in peace-keeping activities; etc

Czechout

Issue 1/2007: reports of meetings; book reviews; post-WWI Silesian plebiscite stamps (esp. Teschen); the Vienna Technical Museum; techniques of stamp printing; new issues; etc.

Germania

Feb 2007 vol 43 no 1: Control & censorship at Konstanz, 1819-24; Zeppelins old & new, and Kinderdorf airmail; a mixed-franked card from Vienna in 1938; meeting reports; new issues; etc.

Südost-Philatelie

Issue 99-100/2007: 2 plate faults on the 6 & 30 heller B&H landscapes issue; HGW’s Domanovivi cancel; Croatia/SHS essays eyc in 1918; parcel-card problems; etc

Wiener Ganzsachsen- Frei- u Poststempelverein

Issue 1/2007: UPU-1964 hand-roller-cancel; Adieu to the Werbestempel; book reviews; another “special rate for Krankenkassa card” specimen; Czech censorship on incoming Austrian mail in 1947; etc.

Additions to the Library

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
328	Tiroler Werbstempel und im Anhang Tiroler Wellen- und Strichstempel	PKMI series vol 12	161	Karl Ploner & Hans Moser	2006	G
408	Dienst-Instruction für die kaiserlich-königlichen Poststationen (herausgegeben 1863)	PKMI series vol 11; clear copy of the document in German script of the period.	141	(PKMI)	2006	G
409	Karetni Kolek v Rakousku a Uhrách 1692-1918	Tax on playing cards in Austria and Hungary; many illustrations	48	J Kořínek	2006	Cz
410	Kalendářní Kolek v Rakousku a Uhrách 1721-1900	Calendar tax in Austria and Hungary; many illustrations	62	J Kořínek	2006	Cz
411	Novinový Kolek v Českých Zemích 1789-1853	Newspaper tax signets; many illustrations	88	J Kořínek	2006	Cz.
412	Srem Postal History to late 1944	Srem along with Banat & Bačka form Serbia's Vojvodina province	115	Geoff Barling	2006	E

Note that nr 328 has replaced the previous book with that number, since PKMI-12 replaces PKMI-5.

Ukrainian Philatelist

We have received from the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society those volumes of their Journal that were missing from our library – we thank them! For the convenience of readers, a complete contents listing follows. This journal contains much information on the modern state of Ukraine (*NB!! the country's name has no 'the'*) and on its philately. Articles that might be of particular interest to APS members are listed here.

Vol 48 No 1 (82): (first in their new series) introducing the committee; 1920 issues (some Vienna-printed).

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

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

Vol 49 No 2 (85): 50 years of the Society (ie 1951-2001); the official transliteration table between the Ukrainian Cyrillic and the English alphabets; reviews of two Dubniak-Cybaniak books.

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

Vol 50 No 1 (87): Three WWI military heroines; tracking down the 1918 Lviv issue; Austrian (and other) postmarks relating to Ukraine; more on the Hutsul Battalion; "why does Ukraine issue stamps that don't correspond to any postal rate?"

Vol 50 No 2 (88): Telephone-card collecting (the technical details are equally applicable to Austria); early postal services in Ukraine (eg Lviv from 1625).

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

Vol 51 Nr 2 (90): The journal awarded a gold Medal at Chicago; more gems from the Vienna-Kyiv airmail (many illustrated in Ferchenbauer); much data on recent Ukrainian issues; historically inaccurate stamp designs changed (just) before printing; a Graf Zeppelin saga; the Treaties of Brest-Litovsk; etc

Vol 52 Nr 1 (91): New editor needed; comprehensive list of Trident overprints; SKALAT overprints; Stanyslaviv issues; travels & overprints (mostly on Austrian issues) in what had just become Western Ukraine in 1919; etc

Vol 52 No 2 (92): New editor found; postal rates of Ukraine 1918-1920; Bessarabian money transfer cards.

Vol 53 No 1 (93): Membership survey results; retour-recipisse forms; post-Brest-Litovsk covers.

[Vol 53 No 2 (94) was devoted to Carpatho-Ukraine, and it's sold out!]

Vol 54 No 1 (95): Balloon flights from 1915; "BIKHO" on R-labels on covers using A-H stamps; the Hutsuls and the Bukovynian Legion of the A-H army.

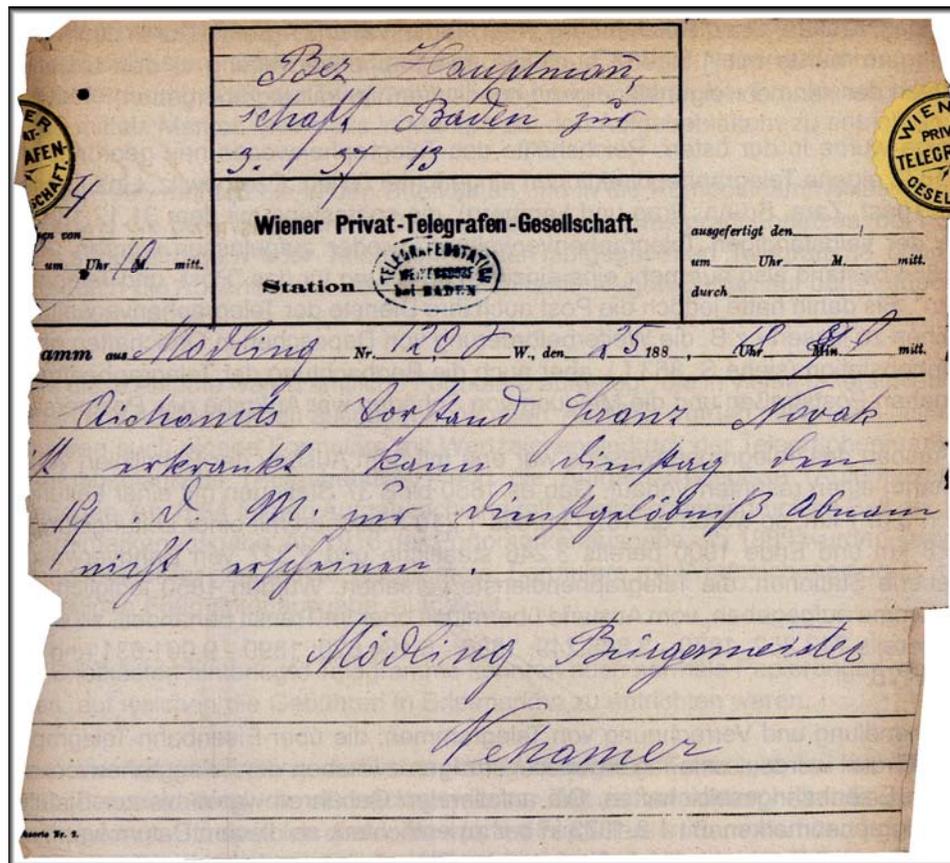
Vol 54 No 2 (96): The Vienna-printed Stanyslaviv issues; Kolomyia essays on A-H stamps; postal rates of Ukraine 1918-1919.

TELEGRAPH SERVICES IN AUSTRIA

This article is based on pp 855-869 of "Ferchenbauer Österreich 1850 - 1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Wien 2000" as translated by Judge George Brunn and George Taube for the APS(USA) Journal, vol 1 issue 5 & vol 2 issue 1; and is reproduced here by kind permission of all concerned. The original valuations are in Euros-of-2000 and must be treated as relative only. Numerical dates are days-first, eg Christmas is 25/12. "Miles" are German: 1 mile = 7.6 km.

INTRODUCTION

The construction of telegraph lines in Austria dates back to the prephilatelic era. An experimental line was built by the Northern Railway Co in 1845 between the Nordbahnhof in Vienna and Floridsdorf. When telegraph service was made a royal prerogative on 25th January 1847, private telegraph construction or operation without governmental permission was prohibited. As an exception, railroads were allowed to develop telegraph lines, initially only for their own messages. The first longer telegraph service began operating between Vienna and Brünn in March 1847. It was used exclusively to transmit government messages. Private messages were first accepted on 15th February 1850.



Telegram from the 1880s: Telegram office Weitersdorf bei Baden



The Vienna Private Telegraph Company issued 5 imperforate “receipts” in 1870 in denominations of 10, 20, 40 and 80 kr and 1 fl 20 kr. They were always cancelled with a horizontal pen mark. Valuation of the complete set mint hinged is 100 (there are no authenticated uses on a form).

Mail and telegraph services were closely connected from the outset; both were subject to the authority of the Ministry of Commerce. The telegraph administration worked with the postal service to set up district offices (Vienna, Triest, Verona, Innsbruck, Prague, Brünn, Lemberg, Zara, Linz, Cracow, Graz, Reichenberg, Pest, Temesvar, and Agram). As a result of the settlement with Hungary on 1st May 1867, the administration of telegraph services in Hungarian territories was transferred to Hungarian control.

This led to the reorganisation of telegraph services in the Austrian half of the country; and in May 1872 the service received its own regional offices (Vienna, Czernowitz, Linz, Innsbruck, Graz, Triest, Zara, Brünn, Prague and Lemberg) that were closed, at the latest, when independent telegraph administration ended on 31st December 1883. From 1st January 1884 there was a single administration for postal and telegraph services. Even before then the post office had provided services to the telegraph administration, such as forwarding telegrams in locations without a telegraph office, as well as observing and reporting damage to telegraph lines adjacent to post roads.

Telegraph services expanded rapidly and in close relation to the extension of railroads. In 1850 there were only 37 telegraph offices and 3,071 km of telegraph lines. By 1870 there were 1,210 offices and 18,248 km of lines, and by the end of the year 1900 there were 3,246 government-operated telegraph offices and an additional 2,227 operated by railroads. In 1850 only 13,019 telegrams were sent, received from abroad, or handled in transit. In 1860 the number was 713,352; in 1870: 3,888,249; in 1880: 6,164,620; in 1890: 9,001,631; and in 1900: 15,057,176.

The treatment of telegrams transmitted over the telegraph lines of railway companies and the accounting for such telegrams were governed by several agreements between the telegraph administration and the railway companies.

Fees had to be paid in cash until the introduction of telegraph stamps on 1st August 1873. The use of such stamps was mandatory from that date until their discontinuance on 31st March 1879.

From 1st April 1879 until 31st December 1883, cash payment was required; after 1st January 1884, there was an option of paying cash or with postage stamps. Before that date, postage stamps were used in connection with telegrams only when the telegraph administration gave telegrams to the postal service for further transport.

PROCEDURES AND FORMS

The sender wrote the text of the telegram and the exact address of the recipient on an “Aufgabs-Blankette” (transmittal form). The sender was given a receipt (Gebührenquittung or Aufgabeschein) that showed the charges paid, including fees for any special services. Initially receipts were provided free, but after 1st August 1873, they were issued only on request and upon payment of a fee. At the receiving office telegrams were written on a form for incoming telegrams and were delivered or forwarded against a receipt or advice notice.

At first telegrams were accepted only at telegraph offices; later also successively at post offices, railway stations and private telegraph offices, mail boxes at post offices and travelling post offices, collection boxes for pneumatic mail in Vienna, as well as by rural letter carriers. Certain special fees, for instance for expedited delivery over telegraph lines, had to be prepaid with stamps placed on the transmittal form.

From 1st May 1905, all telegrams placed in mail or pneumatic mail boxes, as well as telegrams sent at post offices outside the telegraph network or given to rural letter carriers or telegraph messengers, had to be franked with postage stamps on the transmittal form to the amount of the prescribed charges.

For all these procedures there were official forms that went through many printings and changes. In 1873, transmittal and receipt forms with telegraph stamp imprints were placed into use. They were succeeded in 1884 with transmittal forms that bore imprints of current postage stamps. From 1916, imprints of the postage due set of 1916 were used. From 1885, transmittal forms for deferred payment telegrams bore imprints of current postage stamps.

Normal sheets of paper could be used for telegrams put in mail boxes. The prescribed fees had to be paid by postage stamps placed on the sheet.

Used forms, other than transmittal forms, were kept by the Post & Telegraph Administration and were destroyed after a certain period of time. Thus, very few franked forms reached collectors; forms bearing telegraph stamps are extremely rare. Transmittal forms franked with telegraph stamps are also very rare.


 Österreichischer Telegraphen-Verein

Gebühren-Quittung
 über die entrichteten tarifsmäßigen Gebühren für die Beförderung des Telegramms N^o 643
 in 10 Worten von SEMLIN nach Alt Pazua
 Aufgegeben am 18/12 1869 um 8 Uhr 7 Min. 4 Mittags

Bezahlt wurden:		fl.	kr.	Hinterlegt wurden:		fl.	kr.
a.	für vereinsländische Beförderung		40	a.	für Clafetten		
b.	" auswärtige Beförderung			b.	" Expresboten		
c.	" Verdienstfälligkeit			Summe			
d.	" Weiterbeförderung			Dazu Gebühren wie nebenstehend			
e.	" Rückantwort			Hauptsumme			
Summe			40				

Gut für SEMLIN
 A. k. Telegraphen-Station SEMLIN Angenommen durch Müller

Aufgenommen durch Linner

(Dieses Telegramm ist, sofern von dem Aufgeber desselbes die Gebühr für eine Antwortdepesche bezahlt wurde, bei der Aufgabe der letzteren vorzuzweisen.)

Druck von J. Köstner, Buch- und Lithograph. K. u. k. Hof-Druckerei Nr. 31.

Transmittal form (preprinted for the German-Austrian Telegraph Association) for a telegram of 1 -20 words, 18th Dec 1869, from Semlin to Alt Pazua (up to 10 Austrian miles) with attached receipt for the dispatch fee of 40 kr, payable in cash by the sender.

CANCELLATIONS

An independent telegraph administration using its own cancels existed until 31st December 1883. The use of telegram cancels began in the central office in Vienna in 1859. By the mid-1860s many telegraph offices had oval cancelers without the coat of arms, as well as a circular canceler in the form of an official seal with the imperial double eagle. The cancel inscriptions did not differentiate between telegraph offices, branch offices, substations and summer offices; only main offices were shown as such.

Cancels from pneumatic stations and railway telegraph offices are also found. The cancellations are mostly in black, sometimes blue or violet, rarely green or red. One also finds handwritten and crayon cancellations.

Some canceling devices employed by telegraph offices remained in use after the consolidation of the post and telegraph administrations. Cancelers of local post offices also came into use after the consolidation.



Fee receipt in form of handwritten acknowledgment concerning telegram of 15 words on 23rd Nov 1898. The transmittal fee was 3 kr per word x 15 = 45 kr; the fee for the receipt is evidenced by a 5 kr postage stamp of the 1890 series, cancelled by a bilingual railway station cancel from Plass, Bohemia.

Particularly unusual forms and/or cancellations command fancy prices!

TELEGRAM CHARGES

Charges for telegrams underwent many adjustments and changes until the end of the monarchy. Domestic rates were strongly influenced by the rate system of

the German-Austrian Telegraph Association. Foreign rates were determined by numerous bilateral arrangements and international agreements; such rates were composed of charges imposed by the sending and receiving countries, as well as transit fees in some cases. From 1st July 1886, rates for telegrams sent abroad combined a basic rate and a fee per word. Compilations of regulations and rates, organised by destination, were published at irregular intervals. The chart below shows only domestic rates.

Period	Rates			Paid by
10/1/1850-30/9/1863	60 kr for 1 - 20 words per zone; 10 zones based on distance			Cash
1/10/1863-31/12/1865	For simple telegrams (1-20 words)		Per 10 extra	Cash
	To 10 miles	40 kr	20 kr	
	10- 45 miles	80 kr	40 kr	
	45-100 miles	120 kr	60 kr	
1/1/1886-31/3/1870	For simple telegrams (1-20 words)		Per 10 extra	Cash
	To 10 miles	40 kr	20 kr	
	10- 45 miles	80 kr	40 kr	
	Over 45 miles	120 kr	60 kr	
1/4/1870-30/6/1873	For simple telegrams (1-20 words)		Per 10 extra	Cash
	To 10 miles	40 kr	20 kr	
	Over 10 miles	60 kr	30 kr	
1/7/1870-31/7/1873	For simple telegrams (1-20 words)		Per 10 extra	Cash
	Zone I (Taxquadrat system)	40 kr	20 kr	
	Zone II and further	60 kr	30 kr	
1/8/1873-31/3/1879	Regardless of distance: for simple telegrams (1-20 words)		Per 10 extra	Telegraph stamps
	Basic	50 kr	25 kr	
	Railway telegraph surcharge	20 kr	10 kr	
	Local telegrams	20 kr	10 kr	
	From 1 Oct 1876: 10-word domestic telegrams	30 kr	---	
1/4/1879-31/12/1891		Local	Elsewhere	Cash; from 1/1/1884, cash or postage stamps
	Basic rate	12 kr	24 kr	
	Rate per word	1 kr	2 kr	
	Railway telegraph surcharge	---	1 kr	
1/1/1892-31/12/1899		Local	Elsewhere	Postage stamps or cash
	Rate per word	1 kr	3 kr	
	Minimum rate per telegram	20 kr	30 kr	

Period	Rates			Paid by
1/1/1900- 30/9/1916		Local	Elsewhere	Postage stamps or cash
	Rate per word (note 1)	2 h	6 h	
	Minimum rate per telegram	40 h	60 h	
1/10/1916- 11/11/1918	Rate per word	8 h	8 h	Postage stamps or cash
	Minimum rate per telegram	1 k	1 k	

Notes:

- 1 In 1900 & 1901, the rate per word was 6 h for local telegrams as well.
- 2 From 1891 “elsewhere” included Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 3 After 1st August 1873, receipts for sending telegrams only upon request and payment of a 5 kr fee!

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS AND CHARGES

Forwarded telegrams

The sender of a telegram could add “nachzusenden” (forward) to the address. In that event when the receiving office was informed of a new address at the time of attempted delivery, it would forward the telegram to that address. The added word “forward” could also be accompanied by several addresses. Then the telegram would be sent successively to these addresses until it was actually delivered. The forwarding fee was collected from the recipient. From 1st July 1904, the sender could also prepay a reply for forwarded telegrams.

Reply-paid telegrams

A service that started in the early years of telegraph operation made it possible to send a telegram and prepay the reply. The receiving office prepared a form called “Directions for sending a franked reply message free of charge”, the back of which could be used for writing the answer. A sender who wanted a reply of not more than 20 words wrote the words “Antwort bezalt” (reply paid) after the text and before the signature, and prepaid the reply with the amount of the fee for a simple telegram. From 1st April 1879, the fee for prepaid replies was the same as for telegrams of 10 words, as long as there were no special instructions as to the number of words. When a different number of words (to a maximum of 30) was to be prepaid, the number had to be stated in the original telegram and the appropriate fee paid.

Duplication

For every duplication of a telegram that was to be delivered to several recipients in the same locality there was a charge of 24 kr for telegrams up to 100 words after 1st April 1880. This fee was added to the charge for sending the telegram. The 1880 regulation replaced one of 1st October 1863 that had imposed a 30 k fee for the second and each subsequent copy of a telegram. When duplicate telegrams were sent to different receiving offices, each telegram was charged the applicable rate and the duplication fee was added.

Urgent telegrams

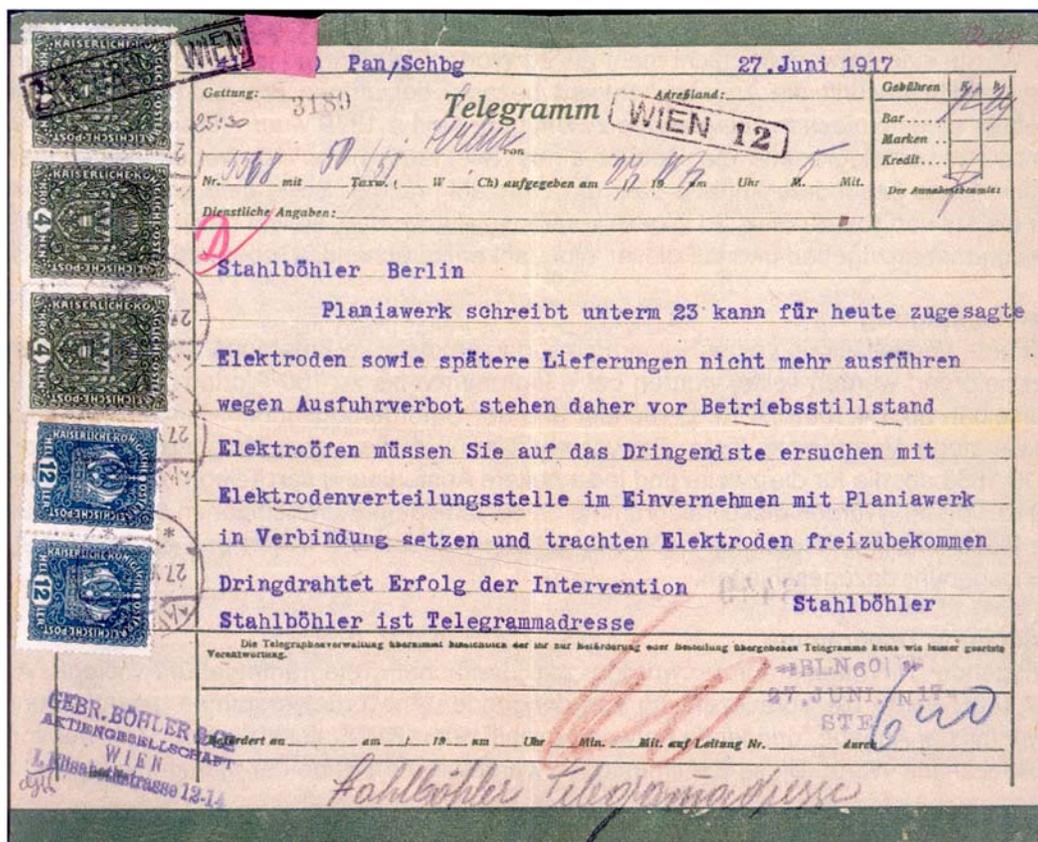
Urgent private telegrams were charged triple the normal fee. From 1st July 1866, prepayment of urgent reply telegrams was permitted by writing “dringende Antwort bezahlt” (urgent reply paid) or “RPD” along with the number of prepaid words. These regulations remained in effect until the end of the monarchy.

Monthly payments

Aside from immediate payment of charges for sending telegrams, it was possible for certain senders to pay a deposit and be billed monthly. This privilege was limited to a group of senders known to officials for having extensive telegraphic correspondence. Each sender had to pay a reduced receipt fee of 2 kr (later 5 h) for preparation of a receipt coupon. These coupons were kept by the transmitting office for accounting purposes. From 1st January 1885, forms with stamp imprints were available for deferred payment telegrams.

Letter telegrams

Letter telegrams were introduced in Austria on 1st April 1912 and traffic between Austria (including Liechtenstein), Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina on 1st March 1914. These telegrams were sent for a reduced fee during night time by night service to the telegraph office closest to their destination. They differed further from telegrams customarily used until then in that the receiving post office notified the sending office of undeliverable letter telegrams by means of a postage free, non-registered postal card. If instructions from the sending office arrived during the next 8 days by mail or wire, the telegram was handled accordingly, otherwise it was treated as undeliverable. The charge per word for such telegrams, marked with “Bft” or “Brieftelegramm” (letter telegram) was 1½ h within Austria, otherwise 2 h, and 3 h for letter telegrams to Germany, with a minimum charge of 60 h.



Transmittal form for an urgent telegram dated 27th June 1917, from Vienna to Berlin, franked with 12 kr 24 h in payment of the rate per word and the fee for urgent telegrams (51 words x 8 h = 408 h x triple rate = 12 kr 24 h). Rare!

Minimum valuations of franked telegram transmittal forms:

1890 issue	LP
1899/1906 issue	LP
1908 issue	min 200
1916 issue	min 150

FORWARDING BY THE POSTAL SERVICE

Even though a rapidly growing number of telegraph stations formed an ever denser network, it was unavoidable that telegrams had to be forwarded by courier, express messengers or by the postal service if the addressees were situated outside the delivery districts of the telegraph offices. An inordinate number of regulations tried to make the interplay of various services as smooth, efficient and accountable as possible.

From February 1851, telegrams that were to be forwarded by the postal service, meaning those that had to be handed over by the telegraph service to the postal

service, were handed over to the appropriate post office as registered letters against a forwarding receipt. The franking and registering fees were to be paid by the sender in cash.

Telegrams for locations in foreign countries, where telegraph connections did not exist, were sent to the closest possible inland telegraph station and from there handed over to the postal service for forwarding, with correct letter postage paid in the form of stamps.



Telegram to a foreign country: official envelope for a telegraph dispatch from Venice to Salonika, Greece, telegraphed from Venice to the telegraph station Hermannstadt, there handed over to the postal service as a registered letter and forwarded to Salonika. The franking of 3 + 6 + 9 + 9 kr, 1850 issue, covers the letter and registration fee of an ordinary letter to Greece; the telegraph fee was paid in cash.

From 1st October 1859 postage stamps were used for forwarding of telegrams by the postal service within the monarchy.

The telegraph dispatching stations had to provide those telegrams with stamps for letter franking and registering fees, turn them over to the postal service against a receipt, and collect the amount charged from the sender. From that date on, telegrams for direct delivery were handled as express letters. The post

office had to be paid delivery/express or messenger fees. For each telegram the fee was 15 kr for daytime delivery and 30 kr for night delivery. If the telegram was addressed to a recipient outside the dispatching office district, the express delivery fee amounted to 120 kr plus a fixed surcharge of 15 kr for delivery up to a distance of 2 miles. For delivery beyond that distance the actual accrued delivery costs were charged.

If the forwarding charges could not be determined in advance (for instance, by telegraph query) the fixed delivery fees plus a deposit were collected from the sender, which after delivery of the telegram and after determination of the actual costs, was settled with the sender as follows. The delivering post office had to note the costs for the telegram delivery on the back of an accompanying slip and return the latter to the forwarding post office. The forwarding post office collected the accrued charges from the telegraph office and with the accompanying slip settled accounts with the telegraph office once a month. Prepayment of fixed messenger fees was already set in 1858. If the messenger fee was paid in advance when forwarding a telegram, the notice "Bote frei" (Messenger free) was affixed to the telegram. In case of payment by the addressee "Bote unbezahlt" (Messenger not prepaid) was noted.

No. *21* *Vertraulich Nr. 11-862*
Regel 8. zahlw. Aus *Deva*
 Von der k. k. Telegraphen-Station in *Klausenburg*
TELEGRAPHISCHE DEPESCHE
 an *Maros Vasarhely*
 RECOMM *Endre*
 in *Maros Vasarhely*
 Telegraphen-Station zu *Klausenburg* am *10/6* 2 um *12* Uhr Min. mittags
 von dem Postante zu am 1861 um Uhr Min. mittags
 Recommandirt

Telegram from Deva addressed to Maros Vasarhely; telegraphed from Deva to the telegraph station Klausenburg; the delivery form filled out there, franked as a registered letter and handed over to the post office for forwarding. Franked with 10 + 10 kr (1861 issue) as payment of the fee for a regular letter and the registration fee.

From 22nd January 1862, telegrams that were to be picked up at the telegraph station or the nearest post office by the addressee could be marked with “Bureau restant” or “Poste restante”, If however such a telegram were forwarded by the post office, it was to be treated as a registered letter and it had to be decided if the forwarding charges for postage, registration and express delivery were to be paid by the sender and/or accounted for by a deposit, or be collected from the addressee. It was noted on the envelope with “Postgebühr vom Adressaten zu zahlen” (postage to be paid by the addressee) or “zahlbares Telegramm” (chargeable telegram).



Telegram, which is marked “Bozen, poste restante” and therefore franked by the telegraph station as a registered local letter and handed over to the post office for delivery. Franked by 4 x 2 kreuzer stamps, issued 1867, coarse print, to pay the local letter fee of 3 kr and the registration fee of 5 kr.

Until May 1865 every telegram to be forwarded was handled as a registered letter. Then, the international telegraph treaty of Paris brought about the cessation of obligatory registration except when numbers were included in the telegram text. The registration charge was paid by the sender. The forwarding of registered telegrams was handled as before. Telegrams were franked by the telegraph forwarding station as registered letters and handled by the postal service as express letters, whereas non-registered telegrams were treated as ordinary letters.

By decree of October 1866 the handling of registered and non-registered telegrams was amended further. Both options were still available to the sender,

although telegrams from private parties to the government and its offices had to be registered. Non-registered telegrams were treated, in regard to forwarding and delivery at the destination, as express letters; and the respective fees (postage, express delivery or messenger fee) were paid by the addressee.

From 1st May 1868 whether delivered by day or night, there had to be paid an express delivery fee of 15 kr, and for delivery outside a post office district a messenger payment of 50 kr per mile or part thereof (but no other surcharge). All telegrams handed over to the post office for forwarding, which were not marked “Poste restante” and not to be delivered by messenger, were treated as express letters and all charges paid, when handed over by the telegraph station to the post office, by affixing appropriate postage stamps.

Telegrams for which the forwarding fees were to be paid by the addressee were marked “Porto und Expressgebühr vom adressanten zu entrichten” (postage and express fee to be paid by addressee) on the envelope and forwarded as non-registered express letters. If that marking was not present, the telegraph posting station had to provide the envelope with stamps necessary to cover the postage, registration and express delivery or messenger fees and forward them, against a mailing receipt. They were treated as registered express letters.

From 19th January 1870 all telegrams were again handed over to the post office by the telegraph forwarding stations as registered and provided with appropriate stamps to cover postage and registration fees. That also applied to telegrams marked “Express-delivery-fee or messenger-fee to be collected from addressee”. If undeliverable, or if acceptance of the telegram was refused, the unpaid fees were recovered from the telegraph posting station by return of the telegram.

If forwarding was prepaid, which could only be the case for a registered telegram, postage and/or registering fees, plus the express delivery fees or messenger charges, had to be paid to the post office as postage stamps and the amount of the express delivery or messenger charges reported back to the posting station. The same procedure was applied from 19th Jan 1870 to telegrams that were not prepaid.

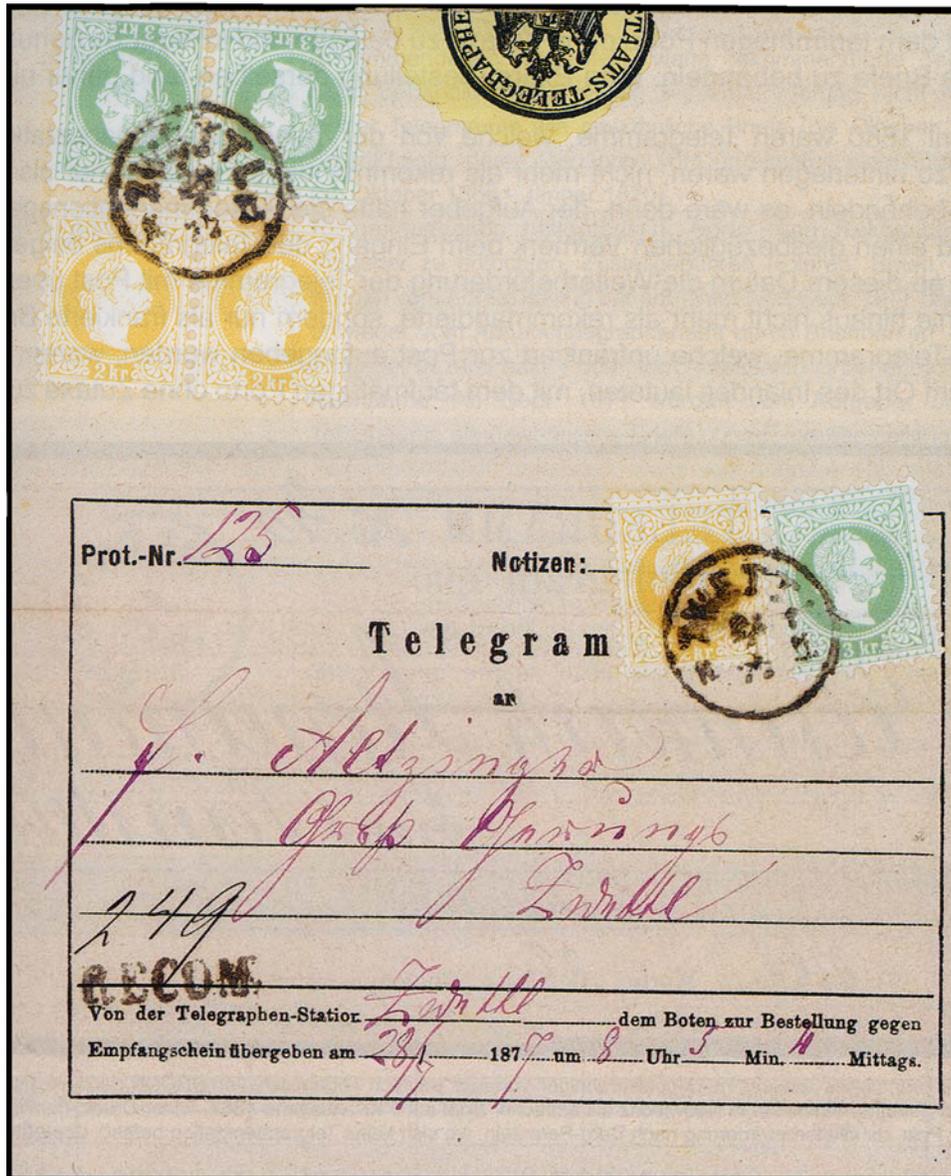
From 29th September 1877, telegrams that were handed over to the post office as registered and provided with appropriate stamps to cover postage and registration fees, or in case of inland government telegrams, were marked on the envelope with the inscription “portofreies Staatstelegramm” (postage-free state telegram).



Telegram of 15th Nov 1873, addressed to a recipient at Anthering near Salzburg, annotated “Per Mail” and handwritten that express charges were to be collected from addressee. As there was no telegraph station at Anthering, the telegram was franked as a registered letter by the telegraph station and handed over to the postal service for delivery to Anthering, which also had to collect the express fee from the addressee. Franked with 15 kr coarse print issue of 1867 to pay the letter postage rate of 5 kr and the delivery fee of 10 kr.

If the telegraph station also correctly paid the express delivery or messenger fee with stamps, such telegrams were to be treated in every respect as registered express letters. However, if the express delivery or messenger fees were not paid the envelope was marked “Expresßgebühr vom Adressaten zu entrichten” (express charge to be paid by addressee). Such telegrams were also to be forwarded as registered letters and the fees collected from the addressee.

Telegrams which were handed in unfranked or were found in mailboxes, were to be franked with appropriate postage-due, without surcharge, and in every respect treated as ordinary letters. Express delivery was therefore not made.



Telegram of 29th July 1877, from the telegram forwarding station at Zwettl, franked as a registered letter and handed over to the post office for forwarding to the addressee at Gross Gerungs where a telegraph station did not exist. Franked with 3x2 + 3x3 kr, 1867 issue fine print, to pay 5 kr postage for long distance delivery and the registering fee of 10 kr.

From 1st April 1880 telegrams that were deposited by the telegraph station marked "Poste restante" were no longer treated as registered but only as franked letters - except when the sender had paid the registering fee and the telegram was so marked when handed over to the post office. Further, telegrams forwarded by mail beyond the telegraph line were no longer to be treated as registered but only as franked letters. Telegrams which were mailed without franking were to be franked with the appropriate postage-due, without surcharge, if destined to an inland location.



Un-registered telegram, bilingual pre-print, German - Bohemian, from Brünn to Pernstein franked by the telegraph station at Nedwieditz as an ordinary letter with 5 kr, 1867 issue fine print, and handed to the post office for forwarding to Burg-Pernstein, where no telegraph station existed.

After 1st April 1880 unfranked telegrams were no longer delivered. However, if the telegraph station posted the telegrams with the express delivery or messenger fee paid by applied stamps, the telegrams were delivered as registered express letters.

On 1st January 1884 the telegraph and postal services were merged. The complicated systems for transferring telegrams between two separate but co-operating organisations came to an end.

Dates	Summary of procedural rules for the forwarding of telegrams by postal service
February 1851 - September 1859	Registration obligatory, to be paid by the sender in cash
October 1859- May 1865	Registration obligatory; postage registration and express fees to be paid by the sender, to be franked by forwarding office with stamps; from 22 nd Jan 1862 also "Poste restante" telegrams as registered letters, their fees paid either by the forwarding telegraph office with stamps or by the addressee in cash.
May 1865 - January 1870	Registration optional; registered telegrams treated as before, forwarding of unregistered telegrams as ordinary letters (to October 1866) or express letters, fees collected from the recipient (from October 1866 to January 1870).

Dates	Summary of procedural rules for the forwarding of telegrams by postal service
January 1870- April 1880	Registration obligatory, postage and registration to be paid by the sender, delivery fees (express, messenger, runner) were paid by addressee in cash (from September 1877 to April 1880, either by the forwarding telegraph office with stamps - if the sender had prepaid - or paid by the addressee in cash). Exception: from September 1877 telegrams not franked by the sender were treated as ordinary letters, without express delivery.
April 1880 - end of December 1883	Registration optional; if the sender paid registration and delivery fees (express etc) and therefore franked by the telegraph forwarding station with stamps, telegrams were delivered as express letters, otherwise as ordinary franked letters.
From 1.1.1884- 11.11.1918	After the merger of the postal and telegraph administrations, telegrams were treated as ordinary, post-paid, letters; and if correctly paid by the sender also as registered express letters.

Valuation of franked telegrams handed over by the telegraph administration to the postal service for forwarding.

Issue	1850	1858	1861	1863/64	1867 **	1883
Local Service	--	--	--		2000	LP
Distant Service	--	--	--		1500	LP
Foreign telegram	22500			--	--	--
Registered local service	12500				2500	--
Registered distance service	10000		6000		1750	--

** doubled if used in Hungary

Colorful franking, multiple franking, payment for express delivery fees or messenger fees by stamps etc command considerable increases.

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The Airmail issue of 5th May and 12th November 1947

by A Taylor

A seemingly simple question on this issue has prompted further researches: “**What type of aircraft is depicted on each stamp?**”. This has been completely ignored to date; indeed the official descriptions are written as if all the stamps showed the same aeroplane! This article brings the available information together. Three main sources of information have been used: the Postverordnungsblatt; the accompanying “black-print text” (a fine example of purple prose!); and John Giblin’s translation as printed in Austria 37 of 1976 of Kosel’s 1948 publication on this issue. I have also pestered many of my philatelic friends.



Austria issued seven stamps in 1947 for use on air mails: they are catalogued as ANK 820-826 = Michel 822-828 = SG 1017-1023. The values and dates are:

Face	Colour	Issued	ANK	Printed
50 g	brown	12 Nov 1947	820	755,000
1 S	red-brown	12 Nov 1947	821	755,000
2 S	dark-green	12 Nov 1947	822	755,000
3 S	purple-brown	5 May 1947	823	720,000
4 S	green	5 May 1947	824	735,000
5 S	ultramarine	5 May 1947	825	740,000
10 S	dark-blue	12 Nov 1947	826	755,000

The issue was announced in Post- and Telegraphenverordnungsblatt (henceforth PTVOB) Nr.10 dated 12 May 1947 which contained section 38 “Flugpostmarkenserie” dated B.M.Zl.15.331 of 15 April 1947 (“*BMZl.15.331*” is *Bundesministeriumzeile 15 331* and means “item 331 in section 15 of the Ministry’s filing system index for that year”!). It says:

The Air Mail Stamp series begins with the 3, 4 and 5 S values and is issued for the payment of the air mail surcharges. The stamps are line-engraved and printed on ordinary white stamp-paper in sheets of 50 by the Austrian Staatsdruckerei; their perforation is 13¾ x 14¼ per 2cm. The designs originate from the painter and graphic artist Heinrich Blechner; a detailed description is found in the attached essay [*moved to the details for each stamp, below.*].

The Air Mail Stamp series is only valid for the payment of the air mail surcharges; these can also be paid with ordinary stamps. The stamps become available, and acquire franking validity, at 13:00 hrs on 5th May 1947. The stamps will also be given to new-issue subscribers at the same time provided that they submitted their order by the 20th February 1947. Any stamps remaining from the first delivery, once these subscribers have had theirs, can be sold over the counter. Subscribers who applied after the 20th February will receive theirs later. In urgent cases such subscribers can be satisfied from the reserves of the post office; if these are insufficient the stamps are to be requisitioned immediately from the Wertzeichenlager of the Postzeugverwaltung [= *the central warehouse of the postal administration*]. For the Air Mail Stamps, special cancels are permitted.

The “attached essay” gave some further general details. The new series of air mail stamps featured landscapes from each federal state and showed “the best known types of commercial aircraft” (“bekanntesten Verkehrsflugzeugtypen”). Given the air mail rates, the sales price for the whole series would be rather high; hence the P&T had decided to issue the planned series in parts. The first values of this series would be the 3, 4, & 5 schilling stamps.

The designs for all the values originated from the painter, poster- and graphic-artist Heinrich Blechner (born & died in Vienna; 7.3.1895 - 21.3.1983), who also produced the designs for the commemorative issues on the occasion of the Vienna Spring Exhibition in 1947. The stamps were line-engraved in portrait format; the overall size 38.5 x 29.8 mm; the picture 34.5 x 25.8 mm. At the base is “Österreich” in white, while across the top is “Republik”. The value and currency abbreviation are in white on dark background, in the left lower corner.

The first-day covers, franked with the 3, 4 or 5 Schilling stamps after 1 p.m. on 5th May, were flown at the earliest on the next day and were cancelled with the

old pre-1938 airmail hand strikes when despatched from Vienna 1 or the provincial capitals. Actual transport by air only took place from Vienna; items posted in the provinces had first to be transported by road to Vienna.

From 5th May, the first day of issue, existing correspondence cards with an 8g stamp were used. The latter, however, were issued in advance to the larger bulk customers, before being sold over the official sales counter, and are partly found with the private overprint: "Retour a l'expediteur / First Day of Issue / Ersttag 5-5-47 / Per Flugpost / Par Avion / By Air Mail."

There is an inconsistency, in that many first-day covers exist for this issue, flown to various foreign countries, and franked solely with the new airmail stamps contrary to the PTVOB above. Perhaps the dealers complained that having to frank with airmail stamps for the airmail surcharge, but with ordinary stamps for the surface component, was tedious and the result inartistic! Further investigation by the Postgasse staff has revealed PTVOB Nr.12 dated 26 June 1947, section 45 of which (dated B.M.Zl.16.191 of 29 May) says that all charges for items sent by air (surface, air, registration, express...) can now be paid by airmail stamps, or ordinary stamps, or both, or indeed in cash.

PTVOB Nr.37 dated 23 December 1947 announced the remainder of the issue in section 161 "Flugpostmarkenserie" dated B.M.Zl.42.290 of 12 December 1947. This cited PTVOB No. 10/1947 and stated that the Air Mail Stamp series was continued with values 50 g, 1, 2 and 10 S, issued on and valid from 13:00 on 12th November 1947. A detailed description was attached. The stamp manufacturing process and the issue's high and artistic standards were to be as before; the designs again originated from Heinrich Blechner. The subscriber qualifying date was 15 August 1947; special cancels were again permitted.

First day cancellation took place from Vienna 1; partly with the airmail cancellation of 12th and partly with that of 13th November at 3 a.m. These first day covers were flown at the earliest from Vienna on 13th November.

Because of their longer postal validity the first three values were sold in much larger quantities. The remaining values were not used as much, in spite of the larger numbers issued, since they were only useable until the currency conversion of 10th December 1947. Genuinely used pieces of the four later values on airmail letters are to be regarded as decided rarities; at the most 1-2% of the total issue were used thus. Beware of cancelled-to-order on loose pieces. Trials and essays in black and other colours are known. All seven values of the air mail series were invalidated on 9th December 1947 in connection with the currency reform.

Detailed description of each stamp

(based on the Blackprint Texts)

50g brown:

The 50 g stamp was engraved by Herbert Toni Schimek and depicts an old windmill on the side of the Neusiedlersee at St. Andrä am Zicksee near Frauenkirchen in Burgenland, a characteristic sight of this area. A commercial machine passing through the cloudy heavens marks the stamp as Air Mail.

1S red-brown

Georg Wimmer's engraving of the 1 S stamp shows the Heidentor at Petronell, half way between Vienna and Bratislava. This is the site of the old Roman settlement of Carnuntum, founded by the Emperor Tiberius in 19 AD as the seat of the Governor of the Province of Pannonia. The ruin presented on the picture is one of the most important Roman building remains of our homeland. On its purpose and meaning, the research of the last decades has still not reached total enlightenment; also the name of its builder is not now known. Over that remnant of a bygone time surrounded by riddles and mysteries sails the airplane, one of the supreme technical achievements of our time, in proud flight.

2S dark-green

With the 2 S stamp, engraved by Rudolf Zenzinger, is represented the federal land of Carinthia. The picture shows us the Stadtturm (the tower of the town hall) of the small old town of Gmünd, which celebrated the 600th anniversary of its existence in the spring of 1946. The ancient town still retains its old wall and gates and is a centre for the Dolomites. It lies in the scenically attractive Maltatal whose further course leads to the ascent of the Hochalmspitze (3355m) and the Ankogel (3263m), the most extensive ice-clad peaks of the eastern Hohe Tauern. To the left of the tower an airplane climbs steeply in a cloudy heaven.

3S purple-brown

The 3 shilling stamp was engraved by Rupert Franke. It shows the Schiederweiher near Hinterstoder in the Salzkammergut; Hinterstoder is a summer resort situated in a fine valley, overlooked on the west by the sombre cliffs of the Totes Gebirge; and is the starting point for the ascent of the Große

Priel (2514m), the Kleine Priel (2134m) and the Warscheneck (2389m), all in the Totes Gebirge.

In the foreground of the design we see the Schiederweiher, a high mountain lake, surrounded by deciduous trees which are reflected therein; behind it dark fir forest; to both sides the valley entrances step back, leading ones view forwards over softer mountain ridges up to the gullied slopes of the highest peaks, which emerge from eternal ice and snow. Over the mountain tops a commercial aeroplane slips through the cloudless heaven.

4S green

The 4 shilling stamp was engraved by Herbert Toni Schimek. It depicts the church and village of Prägraten in Osttirol, which is the starting point for the ascent of the Grossvenediger (3660m) from the south and the Dreiherrnspitze (3499m) in the Hohe Tauern. Not overly distant lies the Grossglockner, the supreme elevation of the Eastern Alps, and at the same time the highest mountain of Austria, with the famous Hochalpenstrasse. The Vienna Boys Choir spend the summer months in their own home in Prägraten.

The design shows in the foreground the Virgenbach, retained on the right bank by a wall, while on the left bank between slender trees we see a view of a mountain church; in the far background the ice-clad Central Alps. Over a cloud-bedecked heaven flies a commercial machine.

5S ultramarine

The 5 schilling stamp was engraved by Rupert Franke. It leads us once more into the high mountain world of the Alps, this time in the Tennengebirge in Salzburg. Illustrated is the Torsäule, almost 2600m high, on the path leading from Bischofshofen over the Arthurhaus to the Hochkönig (2938m). In the foreground we see an expansive snowfield, which rises slowly against the pyramid of the black-clad Torsäule. On the left of the summit the aeroplane slips past.

A plate error exists on the 5 schilling stamp; the 12th stamp in the sheet, which is known by the description of “filled in valley”. However, all the other small marks on other stamps are definitely associated with accidental plate marks, which perhaps occur on one or more sheets, but which are not on the whole issue or on the same part of it.

10S dark-blue

On the 10 S stamp, engraved by Rupert Franke, the artist has presented the baroque Karlskirche in Vienna. It was commissioned by Karl VI, and constructed after the plans of Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and his son Josef Emanuel in the years 1716-1727, to give thanks to Saint Karl Borromäus for the extinguishing of the plague in Vienna in 1713.

We see in the foreground a temple-shaped columned portico, in whose pediment are found sculpted scenes from the plague era. The pediment is crowned with the statue of the church's patrons, faintly visible on the picture. The portico is flanked on each side by enormous columns adorned with reliefs from the life of St. Karl Borromäus; they are modelled on the Marcus Aurelius and Trajan columns in Rome, and one is left with an overall impression reminiscent of St Peter's in Rome. The columns, each 33.18m high, can be ascended through internal spiral staircases. Partially visible at the left and right of the church front are towers with passages, whose formation reminds one of ancient Roman triumphal arches.

The church is a richly articulated oval structure in the Baroque style, with a wide facade. In the background one discerns the mighty dome, crowned by a gigantic lantern on the roof of which is a cross. From the roof and the dome one enjoys a wonderful prospect over Vienna. On the left, a slender aeroplane sails past the dome.

So what are the planes?

What follows are the views of several aeronautically-minded colleagues including at least two pilots. There is no record in the Austrian archives, and everybody agrees that the artist was working from drawings or photographs, not from real life. So these identifications could be wrong...

50 g brown:

Sud Ouest S.O. Corse II. French airliner, built from 1947

1 S red-brown:

- (a) Lockheed "PAN AM Constellation L-049"; it had four engines and a triple fin tail. Pan American opened a New York-Gander-Shannon-London-Brussels-Prague-Vienna service in June 1946, which should

provide the context. First flight cachets are illustrated with the outline of a Constellation.

- (b) Could well be Miles Marathon [although someone else says he used to fly in them and the engines are the wrong size!]. First flight May 19, 1946. British airliner. Early aircraft had twin fins. Production aircraft had triple fins.
- (c) Junkers JU90-400?

2 S dark-green:

Bristol Beaufighter, RAF warplane

3 S purple-brown:

Cunliffe-Owen Concordia. British airliner, first flight 1947, only two built!

4 S green:

Many people agreed that this has the tail configuration and the high wing of the Airspeed AS57 Ambassador. This was probably a reference to BEA's London - Vienna service. BEA called this plane the Elizabethan in their service.

5 S ultramarine:

- (a) Lockheed Electra (the type in which Amelia Earhardt disappeared!);
- (b) Sud Ouest 308 Bretagne. Program started during WW2

10 S dark-blue:

It's a glider!

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“AUSTRIAN” STAMPS FOR WESTERN UKRAINE

by Inger Kuzych ⁽ⁱ⁾

Usually five successor states are listed as having been formed entirely or in part from former Habsburg lands at the close of World War I: Austria; Hungary; Czechoslovakia; the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (which would be renamed Yugoslavia in 1929); and Poland. Some Austro-Hungarian lands were also ceded to Italy and Romania. However, one additional state that is almost always overlooked is Western Ukraine.

The Western Ukrainian National Republic (WUNR) was established on 19 October 1918 by the Ruthenians (Ukrainians) who made up the overwhelming majority in the eastern part of the Austro-Hungarian crownland of Galicia. The new state was officially proclaimed on 1 November 1918 in the Galician capital of Lemberg. However, Western Ukraine soon found itself at war with newly independent Poland, which claimed all of Galicia for itself

Throughout the winter months the fighting was desultory, but in May of 1919 the Poles launched an offensive that by mid-July drove Western Ukrainian forces into Eastern (Greater) Ukraine. During its almost nine month existence, the WUNR Government produced over 100 distinct Western Ukrainian stamps, mostly as overprints on remaining Austrian stamps. Today, these are some of the scarcest - and most fascinating - of all European stamp issues.

Recently I came across a short, unattributed article entitled “Westukraine” in *Germania-Berichte* (Germania Reports) dating from mid-1919 (while Western Ukraine was still in existence), which provides information on a number of the Western Ukrainian stamp releases. Particularly highlighted are two issues created by the Vienna State Printing Office for Western Ukraine. I have supplemented the translation below with explanatory endnotes where necessary.

Westukraine

The territory between the Sian and Zbruch Rivers, that is the former East Galicia from Peremyshi to Ternopil (Fig 1), is inhabited by the Ruthenians, a branch of the Ukrainian race. After the break up of the Danube Monarchy ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾, this land declared itself the republic of Western Ukraine and considers itself a component of the large Ukrainian Republic ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾.

For months battles have raged between the Poles and Ukrainians, particularly over the possession of the city of Lemberg ^(iv), the only city with an artificially

maintained majority Polish population. The Ukrainians were absolute masters of the city for only three days. During this time a provisional Ukrainian stamp issue - of either three or four values with a primitive coat of arms overprint - was ostensibly released (^v). On the other hand, it has been maintained that these stamps were not produced in Lemberg but instead in Stanyslaviv (Stanislau), the provisional seat of government (^{vi}). In any case, it is not possible to ascertain anything definite about this stamp release, and it will be necessary to wait for more peaceful times before one can acknowledge it as official.

In a related matter, another provisional release was ordered from the Vienna State Printing Office. The stamp shortage in Western Ukraine is gradually making itself felt. The only place where an efficient print shop for the production of new stamps might be found, namely in Lemberg, is currently in the hands of the Poles. The Western Ukrainian Government had no alternative but to turn to the Vienna State Printing Office with which it placed an order for the production of an illustrated stamp series depicting the Western Ukrainian countryside (^{vii}). An order for the delivery of these stamps was accepted by German Austria (^{viii}) in return for promised compensations - items under discussion included petroleum and foodstuffs.

The production of a new stamp release requires considerable time, especially when it is carried out by a first-class establishment such as the Vienna State Printing Office. The prevailing view was that the new illustrated series could not be ready for delivery before the beginning of July 1919. On this basis, the Western Ukrainian Government turned to the State Printer once more and asked for the production of provisionals, namely the overprinting of the familiar Ukrainian coat of arms - with which we are acquainted from the provisionals of Greater Ukraine (^{ix}) - onto circulating (current) Austrian stamps. Additionally, each of the four corners would contain a letter, one of the initials of the official name of the new state.

The State Printer carried out this assignment in its usual, excellent manner, and created these stamps with a deep black overprint using a very good stamp imprint. The white trident crest appears uncoloured in a 13.5 mm high black shield. In the four corners of the stamp one finds the Cyrillic letters **З.У.Н.Р.**, that is Z.U.N.R. = Zakhidna Ukrainska Narodna Republika - Western Ukrainian National Republic. The [stamp] set contains all the values up to 10 Kronen-Marks (Fig 2) (^x). Supposedly, only 7,000 pieces [of each value] were printed. The issue is supposed to have entered circulation in early or middle May [1919] (^{xi}). A large portion of this overprinted issue was purchased from the Western Ukrainian embassy in Vienna by four Vienna stamp dealers. Meanwhile, should the Poles attain still further [military] successes, the completed illustrated series will become unnecessary (superfluous), since there will no longer be a country in existence for these stamps (^{xii}).

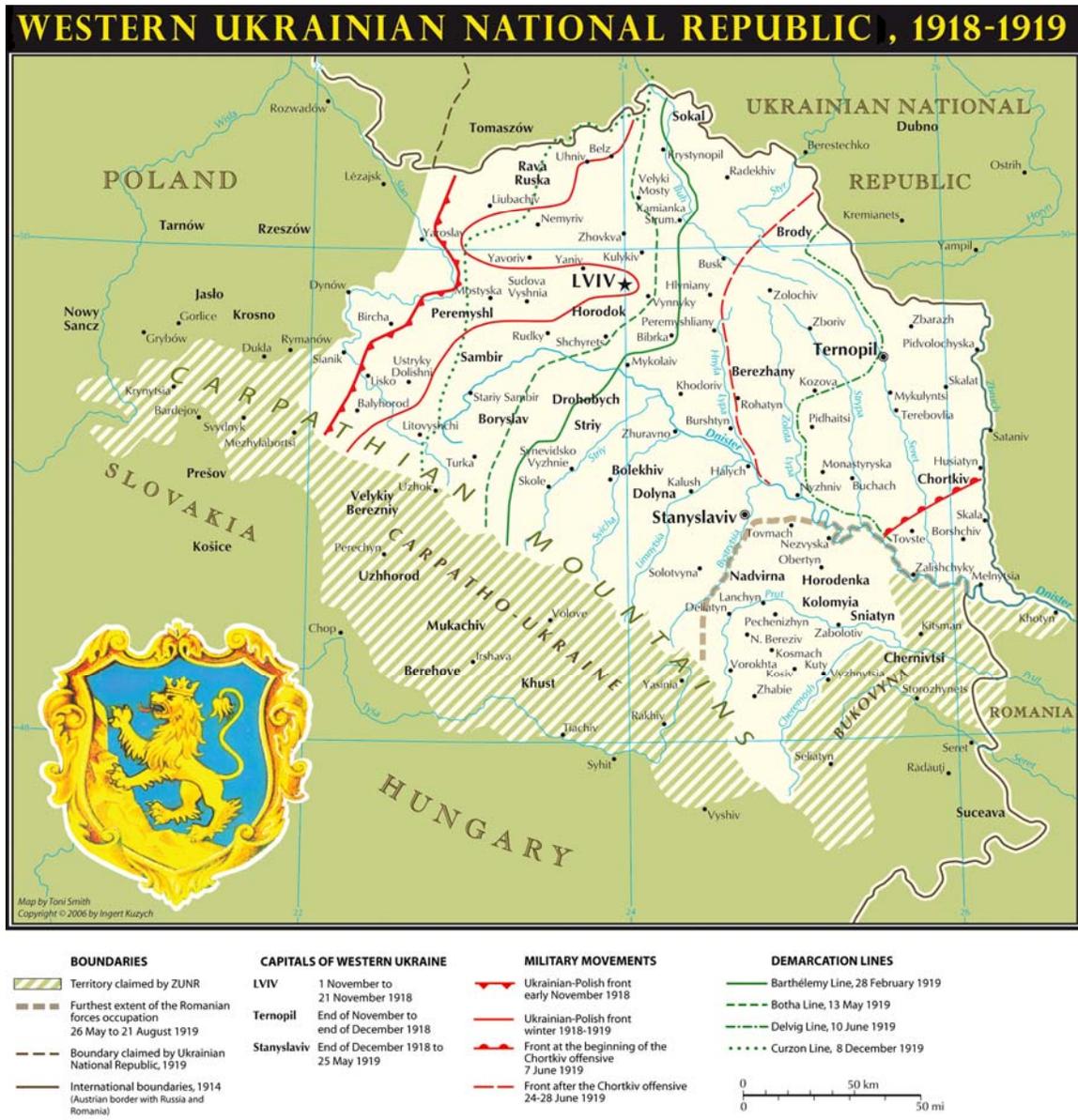


Figure 1. A map of the Western Ukrainian National Republic, 1918-1919. Copyright © 2006 by Inger Kuzych.

Some Details of the Austrian-Produced Stamps

The Third Stanyslaviv Issue. The above announcement-article does an adequate job of introducing the overprinted provisional stamp set - the Third Stanyslaviv Issue - and not much further elaboration is really required, other than to list the Austrian stamps that received the distinctive trident-in-shield overprint. The 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 40, 50, 60, 80, and 90 heller values, as well as the 1 krone, were from the definitive stamp set first released in September of 1916. The high-value 2, 3, 4, and 10 kronen stamps were made from the set printed on granite paper in late 1918-early 1919. Finally, the four stamps of the Kaiser

Karl set of May 1917 (15, 20, 25, and 30 heller) also received the overprint and brought the total number of stamps in the set to 19.

The Stanyslaviv Issues

Third Issue – Overprinted Austrian Definitives



Complete set of the 19 values making up the Third Stanyslaviv Issue. Prepared at the State Printing Office in Vienna; delivered in two shipments on 8 and 13 May 1919. Overprinted in sheets of 100.

Figure 2. A page from the author’s exhibit of Western Ukraine showing the trident-in-shield overprint and an entire set of the Third Stanyslaviv Issue.



Figure 3. A registered letter sent locally within Stanyslaviv displays three of the Third Issue stamps.

The Third Stanyslaviv Issue saw widespread use during May of 1919. Fig 3 shows a registered letter sent on the 16th of the month with 90 heller worth of franking (40 heller paid the letter rate and 50 heller the registration). The item was sent to either Hermann Fischer or one of his agents who was then in Stanyslaviv along with several other Vienna stamp dealers. The news of new Western Ukrainian stamps had caused a sensation among Vienna dealers in the spring of 1919 and several of them either travelled personally or sent their representatives to the Ukrainian city. Others, as mentioned in the article above, procured stamps directly from the Western Ukrainian embassy. This stamp set is one of the most common from Western Ukraine and sells for about 30 euros.

The Vienna Issue. We can next turn to the unissued definitive stamp set prepared by the State Printing Office. Referred to as the “illustrated series” in the article above, it is today known as the Vienna Issue. Although scenes from the countryside may have originally been envisioned for these stamps, the final series consisted of three different heraldic images, each appearing on four different stamp values (Fig 4). The 5, 6, 10, and 12 sotyky stamps depict the Arms of Kyiv (the Archangel Michael); the 20, 25, 40, and 50 sotyky values

show the Arms of Ukraine (the Trident), while the 90 sotyky and 1, 2, and 3 korona stamps present the Arms of Western Ukraine (the rampant lion).



Figure 4. Western Ukraine's Vienna Issue.

This change in the stamp format was undoubtedly due to the pressure of time. Designing a dozen different landscape scenes would have added weeks or months to the stamp production effort. However, by using the same basic design concept for all the stamps and only substituting one of three coat-of-arms images, the entire process was simplified considerably.

The stamp design created by the Vienna State Printing Office draws a great deal of inspiration from earlier Austrian stamp releases, particularly the Jubilee Issue of 1908 and the Franz Josef 80th Birthday release. Although the Western Ukrainian stamps are not as elaborate as these antecedents, they display many of the Art Nouveau (German Jugendstil) elements of those sets. The floral pattern that appears both on the inside and outside of the circular inscription, as well as the undulating thickness of the lettering and numerals, is pure Jugendstil. It is truly a tragedy that such an attractive stamp set could not have been placed into circulation.

One would expect that these stamps would today be readily available since they were delivered to the Western Ukrainian Government but never placed into use. However, their final fate mirrors that of the WUNR Government itself. Following the occupation of Western Ukraine by Poland in 1919, the status of the former Eastern Galicia was brought up repeatedly at the Paris Peace Conference. The Supreme Council of the Peace Conference recognised the occupation as only temporary. A treaty that would have allowed Eastern Galicia to remain under Polish administration for 25 years followed by a plebiscite was rejected by the Poles. Finally, after more than three years of wrangling, the Conference of Ambassadors in March of 1923 allowed Poland to retain the territory with the stipulation that its inhabitants be allowed their autonomy. Although the Poles agreed to this requirement, they soon set about trying to polonize the region and the subsequent inter-war period saw a great deal of unrest - as well as bloodshed - in Eastern Galicia.

When the Western Ukrainian Government learned of its fate on 12 March 1923 it set about liquidating itself. As part of this process, almost all of the Vienna Issue stamps were systematically burned. A few sheets of each value were retained, however, and with the passage of time these eventually entered the philatelic marketplace. Today, the set retails for about 225 euros.

References

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2. Kuzych, Ingert and Ron Zelonka. "Unambiguous Usage of Stanyslaviv Issue Stamps." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 96 (2006): 36-43.
3. Ferchenbauer, Ulrich. *Osterrieich 1850-19 18*. Vienna: self published, 2000.
4. Stachiw, M. and J. Sztendera. *Western Ukraine: At the Turning Point of Europe 1918-1923*. Two volumes. New York: Shevchenko Scientific Society, 1971.
5. "Westukraine." *Germania-Berichte*." No. 7/8 (1919): 74 (in German).
6. See also ANK Öst Spezial catalogue, 2006/7, pp339-340.

End-Notes

ⁱ Dr Ingert Kuzych is President of the Ukrainian Philatelic & Numismatic Society: see www.upns.org. Article © him.

ⁱⁱ The "Danube Monarchy" is the Austro-Hungarian Empire

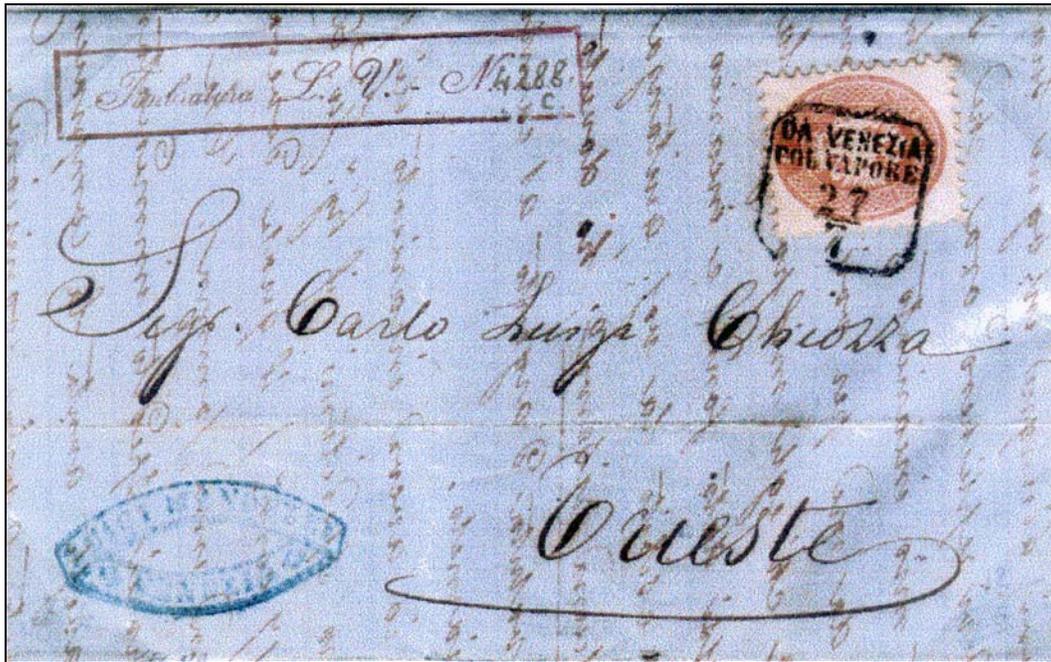
-
- ⁱⁱⁱ The Ukrainian National Republic, also referred to as Greater Ukraine, declared its independence from Russia on 22 January 1918.
- ^{iv} Lemberg was referred to as Lwow by the Poles and Lviv by the Ukrainians. The latter is its present-day appellation.
- ^v The fighting for Lviv began soon after Western Ukraine declared its independence on 1 November 1918. The stamp issue mentioned is today known as the Lviv Issue; four definitive Austrian stamp values (3, 5, 10, and 20 heller) received overprints depicting a rearing lion, the symbol of Western Ukraine. Although delivered on 20 November 1918, the stamps were never put into circulation because of the street fighting in the city. The Ukrainians withdrew from the city during the night of 21-22 November, but kept the city besieged through the winter of 1918-1919.
- ^{vi} The reason for the confusion is that the Lviv Issue stamps were eventually put to use in Stanyslaviv on letters mailed in December of 1918
- ^{vii} Described in greater detail in the paragraphs following this translation
- ^{viii} For almost a year after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in November 1918, the newly reconstituted Austrian lands were known as German Austria. Following the signing of the Peace Treaty of St. Germain on 10 September 1919, the name of the new republic became simply Austria. [See the Austrian Law of 21 Oct 1919, SGB 484.] Interestingly, the name of German Austria (Deutschösterreich) was retained on Austrian postage stamps until 1921.
- ^{ix} Greater Ukraine began to ukrainianize Russian stamps during the summer of 1918 by overprinting them with the Ukrainian trident emblem. This policy carried on into 1919.
- ^x This overprinted stamp set is today known as the Third Stanyslaviv Issue; in total 19 values were created. See further details below
- ^{xi} Recent research has revealed that some values (the 12, 20, and 50 heller as well as 2, 3, 4, and 10 kronen) entered circulation in Western Ukraine in early April 1919 (earliest known date is 8 April). The remaining 12 values were released in Stanyslaviv on 8 May 1919.
- ^{xiii} This concluding statement is prescient since Western Ukraine lost its struggle with Poland by the summer of 1919 and the illustrated stamp series, today referred to as the Vienna Issue, never was put into circulation. Additional information appears below.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS and SNIPPETS...

Korrektions Korner

Austria 157 page 56: the year that was added in manuscript to the postcard from Feldbach was 1872, not 1812 or 1912. (Thanks to E.S.!)

Dear Editor,



This is described as a cover from Venice to Trieste; it is franked with an L&V 5 Soldi adhesive of the 1863 issue. The reverse is blank, and the writing that is visible is a mirror image on the front. The boxed marking is “Timbratura L V N4288c”; Timbratura is the Italian for “franked” and the 4288c is in pencil.

The date is 27 July 1866, which is 3 days after Venice came under Italian administration. A suggestion is that the boxed marking was permission for the continued use of what had just become foreign stamps.

Can anyone confirm or correct these suppositions?

Geoff Frost.

Dear Editor,



Question: “What are the markings on this; why the telegraph label?”

It's an air mail from Sofia in Bulgaria to Vienna in 1935. Austrian cancels in DT order are:

5.VI.35.16 1/1 WIEN 1 / FLUGPOST a *

5.VI.35.1620 TELEGRAPHENAMT WIEN 1 / R/c

5.VI.35.1640 T A 10 WIEN 129 / * R/a * thrice

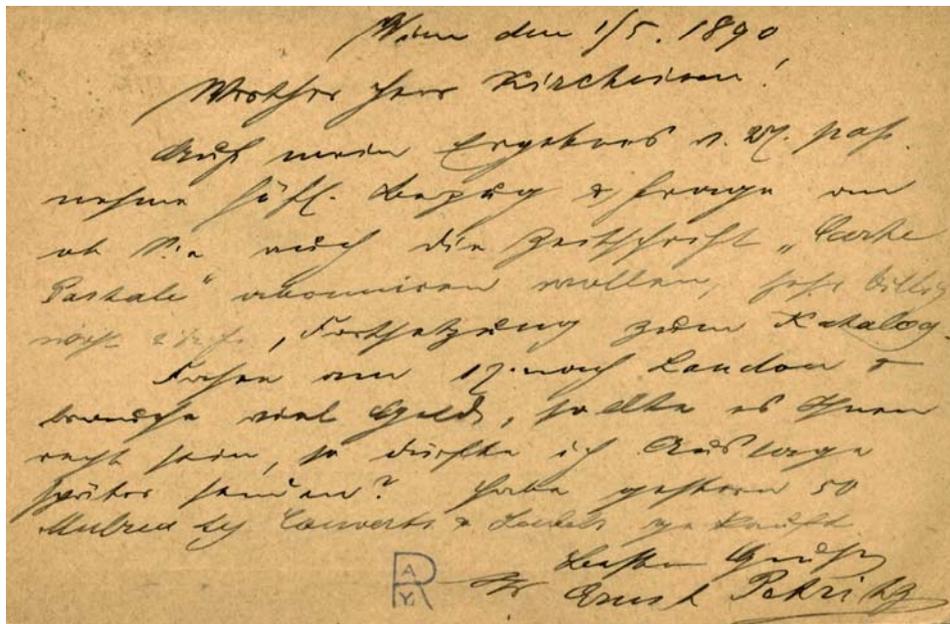
And a great big red 129 :)

Diagnosis: Arrived 5th June at Aspern; treated as express because it's an airmail; taken (in 20 minutes: it takes much longer today!!) to Telegraph Zentral; office-addressed and sent by pneumatic post to W129 which is Wien 129 Webergasse 14 in Bez. XX where the address also is.

Subsidiary question: why the label? It's the standard sealing-a-telegram label. Underneath it (it's loose) is a tear or cut and the pencilled comment “Beschädigt eingelangt; amtlich verschlossen” which means “arrived damaged, officially sealed”.

Allan Barlow**Can you read this?**

(asks SS.) No, of course I can't! But it provides an interesting snapshot of the past; and I know people who can read it.



It seems to be written by a dealer in postal history to a client; most of it is decipherable and says:

“Wien am 1/5 1890” /

Werther Herr Kircheisen! / Auf (???) Ergebnis v. 27. pas. / nehme höfl. Bezug

u. frage an / ob Sie noch die Zeitschrift "Carte / Postale" abonnieren wollen, sehr billig / (macht, noch ???) 2 fr.fr, Fortsetzung zum Katalog. / Fahre am 17. nach London & / brauche viel Geld, sollte es Ihnen / Recht sein, so dürfte ich Auslage / später senden? Habe gestern 50 / Mulready Couverts & Labels gekauft. / Beste Grüße, Ernst Pohritz.

Possible translation: Vienna, 1st May 1890 / Dear Herr Kircheisen / I refer to the result of the 27th of last month, and ask if you would also like to subscribe to the journal "Carte Postale", very cheap, only 2 French francs, a continuation of the catalogue. / (I) travel to London on the 17th and need lots of cash. Would it be OK with you, if I send payment later? Yesterday I bought 50 Mulready envelopes & labels. / Best greetings, Ernst Pohritz.

[1] "Werther" is an old style of greeting; it's "wert", more familiar when used in "Wertbrief"!

[2] reading "v. 27. pas" as "of the 27th of last month", pas being the French "passé" used as an 'elegant variation' on the German 'letzten Monat'.

[3] "Labels" are of course Penny Blacks"!



Incidentally,

Did you realise that Austria was the first country to show a mobile phone on a postage stamp?



Congratulations to:

- ☺ Bill Hedley, whose display "Austrian mail in the age of Napoleon" gained 1st place in the recent Kent Federation 16pp Postal History competition; there was a strong field of 15 entries.
- ☺ Colin Tobitt whose "Austrian Postage Due rates with 1922-1925 Issues" gained 2nd equal place at the same event.

- ☺ Dipl Ing Carsten Mintert on his very recent marriage!
- ☺ The East Midlands and East Anglis Philatelic Federation held their annual convention at St. Ives, Cambridgeshire on 21st April. The winner of the Aerophilatelic class was Joyce Boyer with “Across the Atlantic” showing the expansion of airmail services across the Atlantic illustrated using Austrian material including Zeppelin, catapult and Do-X Dornier items. The photo below shows Joyce collecting her award from Mrs. Jane Moubray, a Patron of the Federation.



You too can feature in this section! Enter something, do well, tell the editor. Nothing to it, really...

Stars (and maybe stripes)



A small project is being considered, to investigate the many types of stars, blobs etc found on post-WWII foreign airmail – an example is above.

Learning from past experience, however, it seem prudent to ask if anyone knows of the erudite treatise, or perhaps a magazine article, that has already discussed the matter in detail... please get in touch with the Editor.

New Issues - 2007 part 1

By Andy Taylor

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

New Year's Concert 2007 - Zubin Mehta



0.75€ FDC: 1 Jan 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber.

Zubin Mehta was born in Bombay/Mumbai on 29 April 1936, and grew up in a Parsi family. At the age of 18, Mehta came to Vienna, where he studied piano, composition and the double bass at the Academy of Music. In 1958 he won the Liverpool International Conducting Competition. Mehta spent thirteen years as Music Director in New York, and also worked in Montreal, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Israel. The Vienna State Opera House made this popular conductor an honorary member. Most recently, Mehta was the General Musical Director of the Bavarian State Opera House for eight years. In 2007 he conducted the New Year's Concert in Vienna for the fourth time.

Flowers - Alpine Flowers



0.55€ FDC: 26 Jan 2007; Issue: as needed; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The Alps are home to a rich vegetation of their own. It is not only the mountain hiker who is so frequently amazed at the blaze of colour, there are also many songs that sing of the flowers in the mountains. Many of these flowers have survived ice ages and migration from continent to continent, only to find themselves now threatened in their very existence by the hand of man. The three plants on the stamp are without doubt three of the most famous and most-loved: the Alpine Rose, the Blue Gentian (inedible although so often depicted on schnapps bottle labels!), and of course the Edelweiss.

Flowers - Christmas Rose



0.75€ FDC: 26 Jan 2007; Issue: as needed; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The Christmas Rose is a member of the ranunculaceae family and is probably the best-known of the roughly 25 hellebore varieties that are found from Western Asia to Southern and Central Europe. It originates from the Southern Alps and flourishes on loose stony preferably moist clay soils rich in lime, nutrient and duff, in deciduous, mixed and pine woods.

Flowers - Spring Flowers



1.25€ FDC: 26 Jan 2007; Issue: as needed; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The Liverwort, *Hepatica nobilis*, a member of the ranunculaceae family, thrives on lime, with its blue stars making a delightful contrast to the brown leaves on the beech forest floor. The Tall cowslip, *Primula elatior*, has a pale yellow blossom and prefers moist meadows, thin deciduous woodland and grassland with higher shrubs. Daphne, *Daphne mezereum*, grows to a height of 1.5 metre, and is a protected fragrant plant from the thymelaeaceae family. All of these are or were used in traditional and homeopathic medicine; and are rather poisonous in higher doses.

Mankind and Technology

2.75€ FDC: 15 Feb 2007; Issue: 1.250,000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Chad Baker; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The stamp is self-adhesive, and comes in a box with a roll of 25. No details of the design are available.



Lower Austrian Provincial Exhibition 2007 – Fire and Earth



0.55€ FDC: 16 Feb 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

Fire and earth is the thematic focus of the 2007 Lower Austrian Provincial Exhibition, taking place at two venues simultaneously. For centuries, Waidhofen an der Ybbs was the centre of the Eisenwurzen region; there has been an iron industry in the Ybbs valley since the 12th century, processing the iron from the nearby Erzberg. Together with the nearby Seitenstetten monastery, St. Peter in der Au is the venue for the presentation of a journey through the cultic significance of earth in various cultures, creation myths and death cults.

100 Years of Scouting

2.20€ FDC: 22 Feb 2007; Issue: 450,000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Günter Reichenpader

The four stamps illustrate the principles of the scouts movement. Each stamp bears the movement's symbol, the lily, while the background is made up of the words of the scout's promise as a continuous text. The stamps feature Baden-Powell, a camp fire, a tent, and a guitar.



There are around 85,000 scouts in Austria.



Hunting and Environment - Roe Deer

0.75€ FDC: 23 Feb 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing Style: Photogravure; Design: Mag. Valentin Wurnitsch

The roe deer is the smallest and most frequent type of deer in Europe. It is to be found from the plains to the high mountains, from the north of Scandinavia to Siberia in the east. The mosaic-like structure of our

landscape, mixed agricultural and forestry areas, provides the roe deer with a favourable habitat. It can make particularly good use of the forest edge areas with their thick growth of under wood. It is a pronounced follower of civilization, and comes close to human settlements. The stamp is issued to mark Jaspowa, the Trade Fair for Hunting, Sports, Weapons, Fishing and 4-wheel drive, which takes place every two years.

Liechtenstein Museum Wien: Zaganelli



1.25€ FDC: 5 Mar 2007; Issue: 800,000; Printing Style: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design & engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Issued as a minisheet of 8

The “Portrait of a Lady” was probably painted around 1500, and is today attributed to the Italian painter Bernardino Zaganelli da Cottignola (1470 – 1510). It shows a young woman in a red dress with a fine hairnet, a head band and a pearly necklace with a pendant made of precious stones. Attention is drawn to the features of the woman’s face, the skin being modelled in subtle shades of grey. The light comes from outside, shining on the pearls and caught in the precious stones of the pendant. The naturalist approach primarily concentrates on the tangible details, while the large areas of the woman’s clothing lack structuring, a typical sign of the early renaissance. Particularly noticeable is the neutral, dark background.

No Violence against Women



0.55€ FDC: 8 Mar 2007; Issue: 700,000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Michael Wegerer

International Women's Day on 8 March is now celebrated by women around the world as "their" day, commemorating their hard-won victories while at the same time drawing public attention to the many inequalities in society. In Austria, one woman in five is a victim of violence at least once in her life. The Austrian Post Office, in coordination with the Telecommunications Workers' Trade Union, has given priority to the campaign against violence.

Customs - Easter Rattles



0.55€ FDC: 9 Mar 2007; Issue: 800,000;
Printing Style: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma

The Ratschenbuam – mostly altar-boys and girls – roam the streets in country districts from Maundy Thursday to Easter Saturday. According to an old tradition, the church bells in Catholic regions are not rung on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Saturday but are replaced by rattles that call the faithful

to prayer. On Easter Saturday, according to an old tradition, the rattlers ask for eggs or Easter gifts.

Patron Saints - Klemens Maria Hofbauer



0.55€ FDC: 15 Mar 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing Style: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Maria Schulz; Engraver: Mag. Robert Trsek

Klemens Maria Hofbauer worked as a baker's boy in Znojmo to finance his studies. He joined the Redemptorists in Rome, was ordained at 34, and worked in Warsaw until the Redemptorists were ejected by Napoleon. In September 1808, he came to Vienna, where although 97% Catholic in terms of baptism religious life was at a low point during the age of anticlerical enlightenment (Josephinism).

Under police observation, Hofbauer preached the gospel as a means of reviving the faith of the Viennese. He died on March 15 1820, aged 69, and was buried at Maria Enzersdorf. In 1862, Hofbauer's body was transferred to the Church of Maria am Gestade. He was canonised by Pope Pius X in 1909, and has been the patron saint of Vienna since 1914.



The Lead-Up to WIPA 2008 - Gloriette

0.75€ + 0.20€ FDC: 16 Mar 2007; Issue: 540,000;
Printing: Photogravure; Design: Charly Frei.

Second in the series leading to WIPA on 18-21 September.

Mourning



FDC: 17 Mar 2007; Issue: 10,000.000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Stefan Klampferer; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

In response to many requests expressed over some time, the Austrian Post Office is issuing a definitive in the form of a Mourning Stamp featuring a pair of roses. It does not bear a nominal value, which means that it can always be used for the standard rate for the first postage class irrespective of any change in postage charges.

Congratulations



FDC: 30 Mar 2007; Issue: 5.000,000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Thomas Kostron; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The new Congratulations Stamp is a charming reference to any happy occasion, which it highlights with a cheerful drawing of a bouquet of flowers. The stamp does not have a nominal value. It always corresponds to the standard rate for the first postage class, even if there is a change in postage rates.

Animals - Fire Salamander and Crayfish

5.50€ per set of 10; FDC: 31 Mar 2007; Issue: 300,000; Printing Style: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**.

Self adhesive stamps in a carded set of 10, showing the “Fire Salamander” (*Salamandra salamandra*) which is found in most of Central Europe and elsewhere; and the omnivorous “River Crayfish” (*Astacus astacus*)

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THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO DECODING AUSTRIAN PRE-PHILATELIC COVERS

By Keith Brandon

PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Author's Preface.

It was only about five years ago that I started to seriously collect pre-philatelic covers of the Austrian Empire. It was a natural extension of my existing interest in postmarks on classic Austrian stamps. At first I was mainly interested in the town postmarks, but soon wanted to know about the other markings on the covers, and their origins, destinations and contents.

I started as a complete novice, but have since learned much about Austrian pre-philatelic postal history from books and articles, from fellow members of the APS, and from close examination of covers in my collection.

However, I am not a linguist. I understand very little German and no Hungarian. Therefore I cannot easily read the covers in my collection or most of the published literature on the subject.

I have, though, learned a number of tricks and short-cuts for decoding old Austrian letters. This series of articles is aimed at other English-speaking collectors who wish to follow me down the fascinating path of Austrian pre-philatelic postal history, but have perhaps found the material intimidating. This series is not for experts. Many members of the APS know far more about this subject than I do, and they should stop reading now. The articles are for beginners, especially those who do not speak German. I hope to pass on what I have learnt while it is fresh in my mind and before I too become an "expert". I hope that this series will inspire and encourage those of you who collect more recent subjects to take a look at the Empire before June 1850.

Before you read on, I strongly recommend that you re-read the article in AUSTRIA 154 "For New Friends of Old Letters" by Hubert Jungwirth. This gives an excellent introduction to how pre-philatelic mail was carried, postal charges, registration, etc. I won't be covering the same ground. I will be concentrating on how to decode and read the important information on a cover.

1.2 What do we need to know about pre-philatelic covers?

Every old letter is different and has its own story to tell. Philatelists are generally concerned with only the postal aspects of this story, rather than a word-for-word translation of the contents. Usually your objective will be to identify any postal markings on a cover, and also to add some interest to the particular cover in question. This is likely to be the case whether you are studying the cover for your own amusement or intending to display it publicly.

These are the aspects you are likely to want to know about a pre-philatelic cover, and these are what I am going to try to help you decode:

- ❖ type of mail (e.g. military, commercial),
- ❖ origin of mail (where it was written, when and by whom),
- ❖ posting of mail (where and when it was posted),
- ❖ destination of mail (where and to whom it was addressed),
- ❖ postal charges levied on the sender and the recipient,
- ❖ other postal markings.

This would be easy if all covers looked like this:

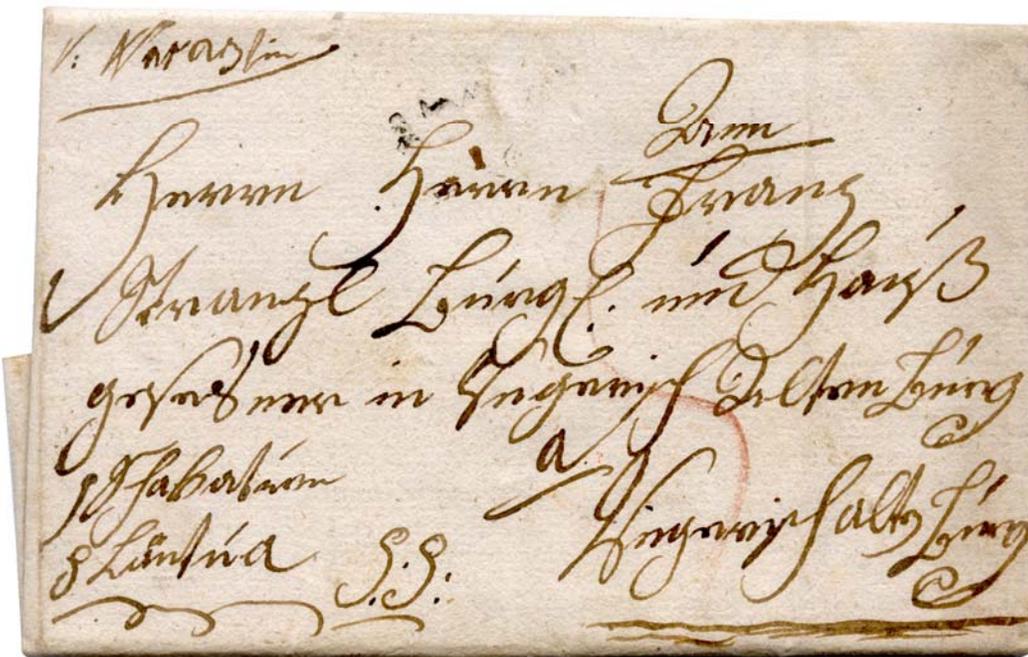


We can see at a glance that the cover comes from Ragusa, is going to Trieste, and was posted on 18 March. A Trieste arrival cancel on the reverse gives us the year, 1843. Thus all the basics are clear and obvious, leaving us only to check the rate of “24” and translate “col vapore” (into “by steamship”).

If all covers were like that, our task would be easy. (But not much fun!) More commonly old letters look like this.....



.....or this.....

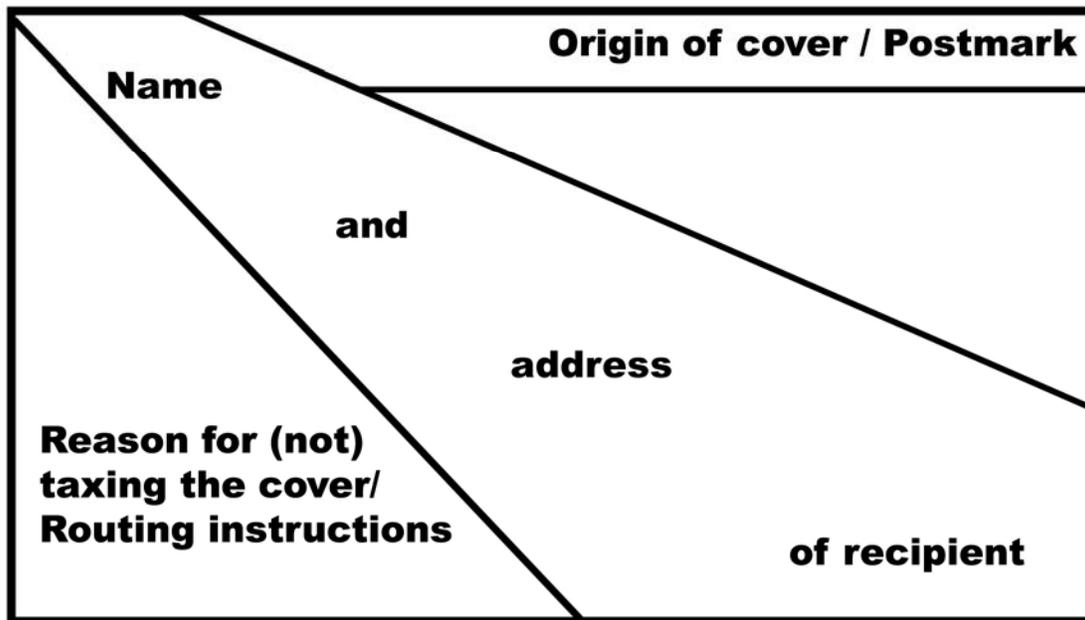


With a little practice and patience, the collector can reveal the secrets of such mail, and without the need for any great linguistic ability.

Posted in Wien on 4 April 1848, this legal letter to the municipal authority at Jägerndorf in Silesia arrived the next day. Postage was fully-prepaid by the sender, and the letter was registered. Postal charges were 18 kr plus 6 kr registration fee.

1.3 General Layout of Pre-philatelic Covers.

There are no absolute rules, but the different elements of the front of the cover commonly follow this pattern:



In addition, manuscript markings for charges due are placed wherever space can be found, as are handstamps indicating registered or pre-paid mail. Manuscript notes of pre-paid charges are usually found on the reverse of the cover, as are transit and arrival postmarks.

The Wien - Jägerndorf cover above conforms exactly to this model. The origin is top right, in both the sender's handwriting and a postmark; the address is laid out from top-left to bottom-right; and the instructional markings are bottom-left. The pre-paid fees are noted on the back.

1.4 A Word about Language.

If you understand German, it will help you read philatelic articles on this subject. However, even German and Austrian nationals have difficulty in deciphering old letters and documents. The old-fashioned German script, rendered in poor handwriting, is a challenge for anyone.

Moreover, not all covers are addressed in German. In the Italian- and Hungarian-speaking provinces, those languages are often used. Ecclesiastical mail, especially from the Catholic parts of the Empire, is usually written and addressed in Latin, including latinised names for the destination towns. Meanwhile, the more aristocratic and sophisticated Hungarians typically addressed their correspondence in French. Post from the Levant might be addressed in Greek (in Cyrillic script), or in the Turkish language and script. Other languages occasionally crop up, especially for the contents of the cover.

1.5 Types of Mail.

The main classes of mail used in pre-philatelic times were:

- ❖ personal mail;
- ❖ official mail (between local authorities, courts and government departments);
- ❖ church mail;
- ❖ military mail; and
- ❖ commercial mail.

We have to remember that in pre-philatelic times most of the population were illiterate, and in any case had few reasons to write to anyone. Personal mail tends to be between members of the landed gentry, and from businessmen or the military abroad to their families at home. If the contents of the cover are present, then personal mail is usually fairly easy to recognise because the letter will start with a familiar greeting such as “Liebe Fritz!” or “Cher Papa”. All other types of mail will have a much more formal salutation. Personal mail tended not to be retained for very long, and is therefore relatively scarce.

Government and local government agencies, on the other hand, tended to archive everything for posterity. As well as inter-governmental mail, most of the surviving military and church mail was addressed to government and local government authorities. A considerable amount of archived official mail has come on to the market in recent decades, particularly from the Czech Republic. Thus we can find considerable quantities of mail addressed to quite small places (such as Jamný and Dürnholz) quite out of proportion to their importance. They just happen to be from the archives that have been “liberated”.

There are a number of key words and phrases that will assist in the identification of administrative / legal, church and military mail respectively, and this will be covered in a later article.

Commercial mail to a firm is usually addressed “Herren” (or “Signori” in Italian). This is equivalent to the “Messrs” that we used in Britain until recently when writing to Companies. Again, more about this in a later article.

The next three episodes of this series will deal respectively with origin of the cover, date of the cover, and destination of the cover. None of these is quite as straightforward as it may at first seem!

THE BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO DECODING AUSTRIAN PRE-PHILATELIC COVERS

By Keith Brandon

PART 2 - ORIGIN OF THE COVER

This article sets out to help you establish where and by whom a particular piece of mail was written.

If we are lucky, the cover will contain, say, a pre-printed official notice or commercial invoice, leaving us no handwriting to decipher. Handwritten documents are more of a problem.

2.1 The Dateline.

If the contents are present, then the starting point is the letter inside the cover. Most administrative/legal, church, and military mail, and some commercial mail will finish with a dateline that will translate as something like “from the Law Court in Brünn on 21 September 1846”. This will usually appear immediately above the signature. If it is present, and if we can read it, this tells us all we want to know. Some commercial mail will have the sender’s name and address at the start of the letter, and often the date as well. Personal letters and mail from the Italian-speaking areas also usually have the date at the start of the letter (as they would here in Britain). The following examples show typical datelines:

- (a) Graz, den 25 März 1844 (in German, above the signature)
- (b) Kassau, 5 August, 1830 (in Hungarian, at end of letter)
- (c) Moor in Ungharia li 2 Agosto 847 (in Italian, at top of letter)
- (d) Castel Nuovo li 26 Febbraio 1831 (in Italian, above signature).

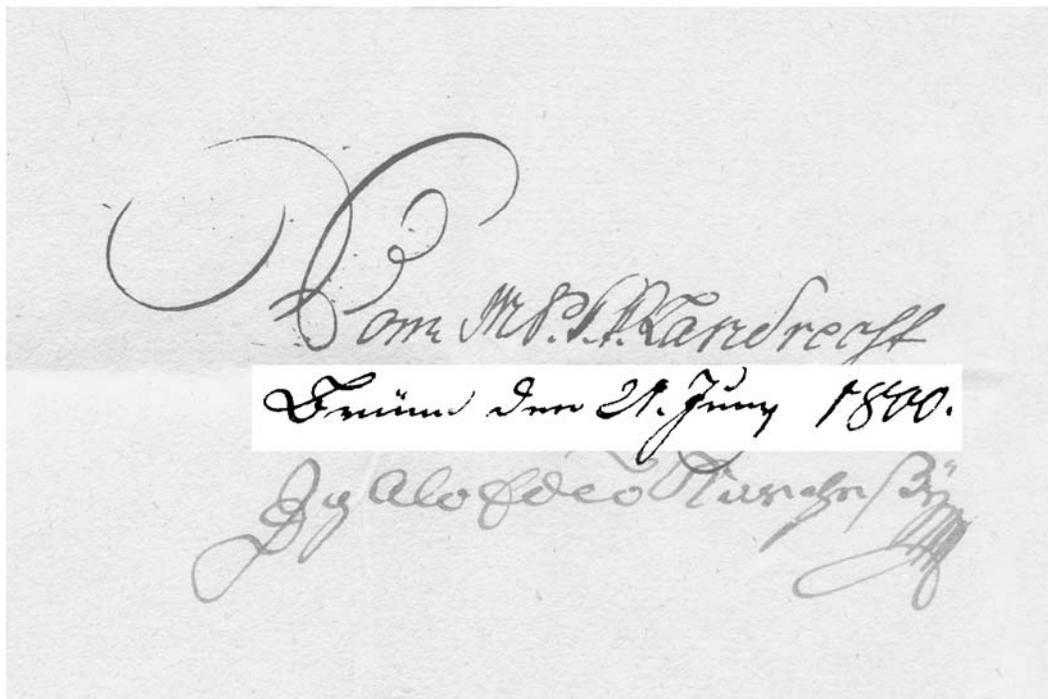
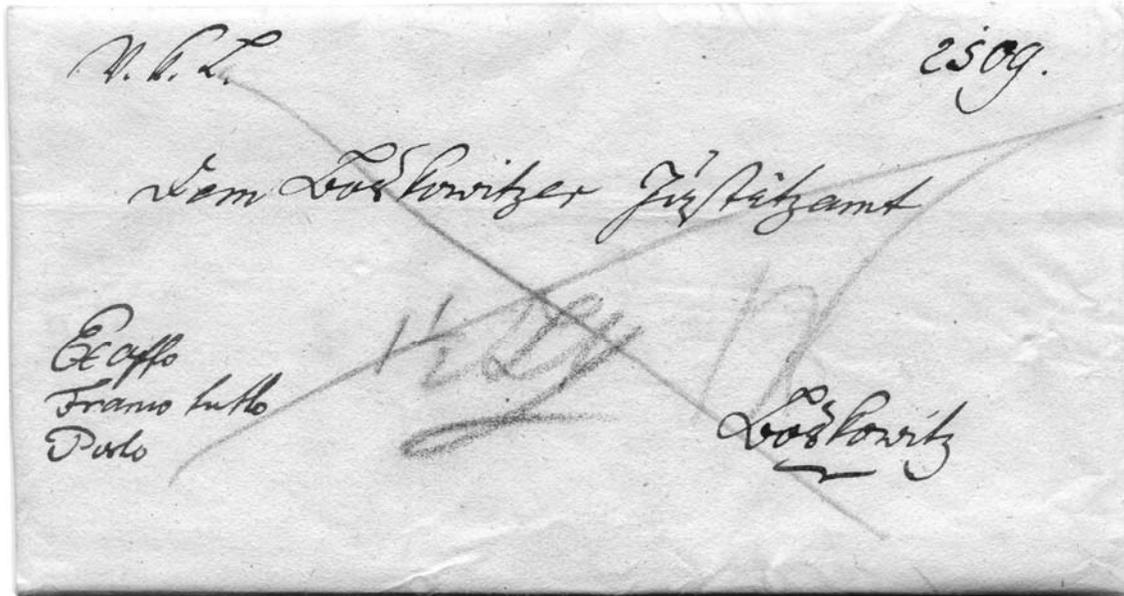
pfacht mit dem Kaufman übermiltelt, den die Hülligen
 Tag = und Monzallentung zu 25 Lw. C.Mo: unfehligeft zu.
 Jan konzepten zu wollen.
 A. k. Konzeption d. Aufhalten Konzeption d. 25. März 1844
 Freygraff

der beyer beletet el vanam Lajos is famtalan
 per tobalan
 Kedves Külsim nel
 Hattig tihel d. d.
 The C
 Pannon 5^{te} August.
 1830

Inclito S. R. Tribunale Provinciale
 di
 Novara in Ungheria li 2. Agosto 1847.
 Vicenza
 Non essendo pendente presso lo scrivente la co

alle quelle istanze del D. Cuziegato, si prega nuovamente
 la ben sperimentata cortese adazione del prelodato giudice
 Tribunale di far si che il pagamento in discorso sia dall'indica
 to Culliet, senza remora verificato.
 Castel Nuovo li 26. Febbrajo 1831.
 L. G. G. Amunna

From 1790 until the end of 1817, post offices in the Austrian Empire ceased to use postmarks (with very few exceptions), and so the dateline is particularly important for determining the origin of covers from this period. In this example there is no indication anywhere on the outside of the cover of where it originated. Fortunately we can read the dateline inside: "Brünn, 21 June 1800".

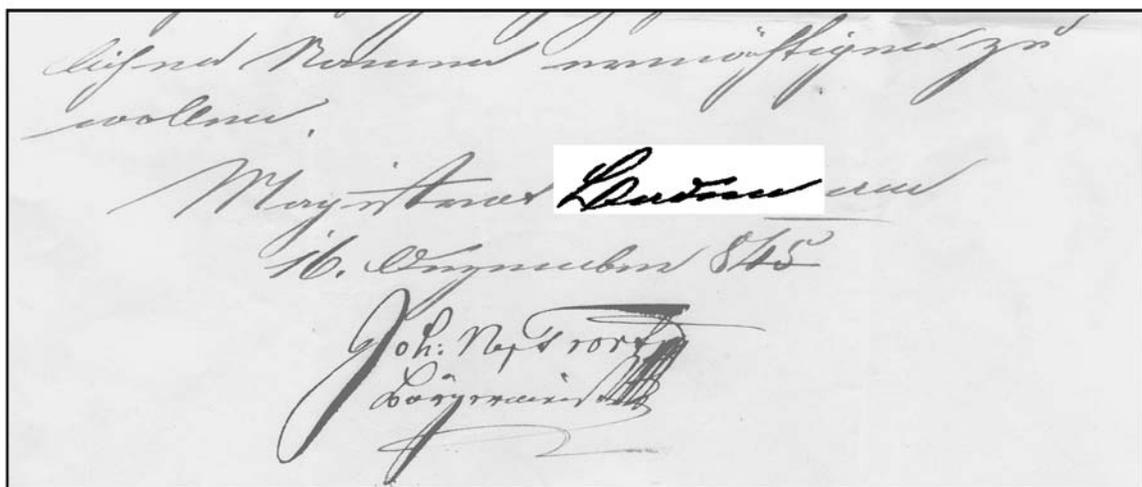


So the first place to look is the dateline, but often it is difficult to read the writing. The next place to look is the postmark if there is one.

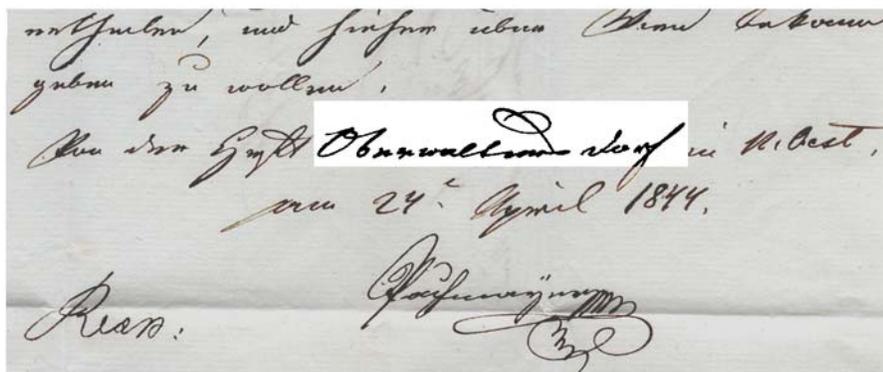
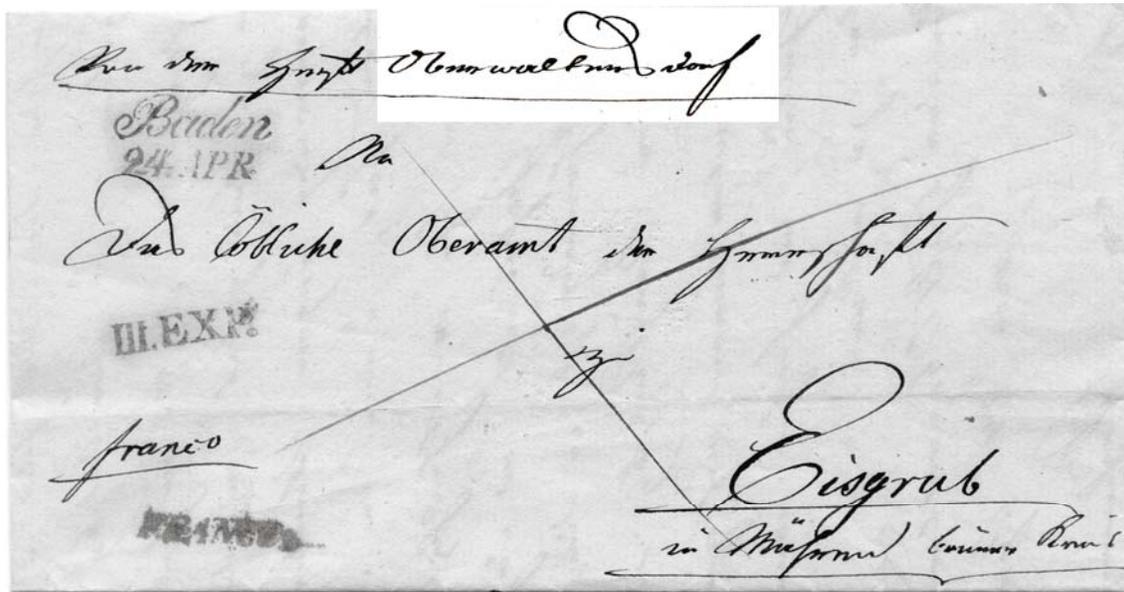
2.2 The Postmark.

We can't be sure that the letter was written in the place it was posted. Very often it will have been written in a small village or an estate which did not have a post office. In such a case, the letter would have been taken to the nearest post-town for posting. Nevertheless, the postmark, where it exists, can help us identify the place of writing.

In the following example, I could not at first read the place in the dateline or in manuscript on the front of the cover. However, the cover is postmarked Baden, and once you know that, then it becomes obvious that the letter was also written in Baden when you look again at the dateline.



In the next example, I again couldn't read the place in the dateline or in manuscript on the front of the cover. However, in this case it is certainly not Baden, the place it was postmarked; there are far too many letters in the name.



So, we must look for clues elsewhere. We know that the letter would normally be posted in the nearest post-town, so examination of a map can give us the answer. In this example, we are looking for a village near Baden (where it was posted), with about 15 letters, starting with "Oberw..." and ending in "...dorf". The gazetteer of a modern Austrian road-map quickly throws up Oberwaltersdorf, about 5km east of Baden. Looking back at the dateline of the letter, we can now see that Oberwaltersdorf fits well. Thus, we have been able to solve this one without needing to be able to decipher the handwriting in old German script.

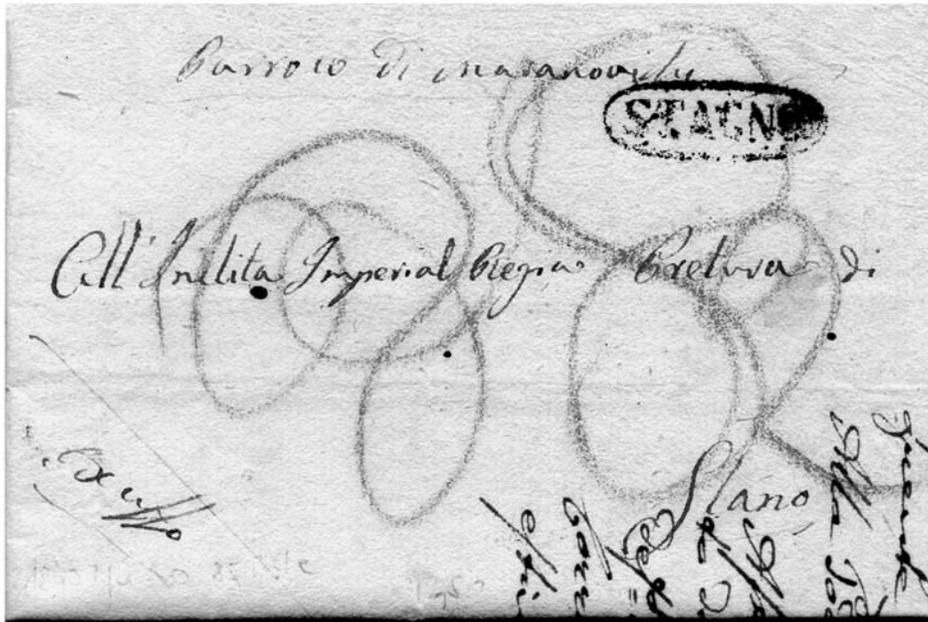


The example on the next page is a little more difficult. Again it is postmarked in Baden, but was written in a place about 10 letters long, ending in “....dorf bei Baden”. In this example the first letter of the name was not clear (to me), and so there was no choice but to study the map around Baden, looking for place names of the right length ending in “....dorf”. There are a few of them, but the one that fits best is Weikersdorf, a village about 25km south of Baden. Not convinced? I’ll show you in section 2.4 how you can cross-check this.

Using maps is the most productive when dealing with villages in modern Austria. These will usually not have changed their names over the years, and can be found in a large-scale road atlas with a gazetteer. However, you will not find an old German name on a modern map of, say, the Czech Republic, and the Czech name is probably quite different to the former German name. Further, the town may no longer exist. It may have been absorbed into a nearby town, or may have become the site of an open-cast mine or a reservoir.

For such regions, you need to find pre-1918 maps, when the place names were given in “official” German, but often the scale is too small to show small villages. Pre-1918 railway timetables and Baedeker Guides can also be useful in finding small villages if you know the post-town they are near.

This 1840 cover is postmarked "STAGNO" (in Dalmatia), quite a small place itself, but the dateline shows that the letter was written in Maranovići, a tiny village (population 127 in 1972) on the island of Mljet, greatly adding to its value and interest.



Honorasi il sottoscritto di prevenire essa Inelita
 Croata che nel giorno 28 Corrente ha pagato
 da presente a minor vita Antonio Lazar
 da Coritti di età d'anni 73 lasciando in
 vita, un figlio, e due figlie tutti tre sono
 maggiori, ed una nipote di qui suo figlio
 Biagio che è morto li 11. Dicembre 1838, a
 nome Francesca che fu nata li 13 Marzo 1829.

Maranovichi li 30 dicembre 1840.

Niccolò Hajduk Barroio

The first cover above is sent from the Decanato (Deanery) of Umago, and tells us that the letter, though posted in Buje, originated in Umago. The other two covers bear the handstamps of the senders' organisations in Brünn.

If the cover has lost its contents, and if there is no legible place of sending written on the front of the cover by the sender, is that the end of the road? No, there are still more places we can look.

Many organisations closed their covers with a wax or paper seal. Sometimes the seal comprises just a heraldic element, but in many instances the name of the organisation will be present (sometimes in Latin), and this will often include the place in which the organisation resides.



The wording on these seals is

(top left) Werkstätte, K.K. Eisenbahn Station, Gratz

(top right) Christophe Ohmyer, Zimmermeister in Gratz.

(bottom left) K.K. Banngericht in Untersteyer.

(bottom right) Wiener Verpflege Magazin.

So we now know that these four covers originated from Graz, Graz, Untersteyer and Wien respectively. Even if there is no other useful information contained in or on these covers, a few minutes with a German-English dictionary will inform us that these letters were sent by the workshop of the Imperial Railway Station in Graz, by a master carpenter in Graz, by a criminal court in Lower Styria (*but see endnote*), and by the Catering Corps in Wien. These useful snippets of information can add colour when covers are written up.

GERMAN ADJECTIVAL ENDINGS

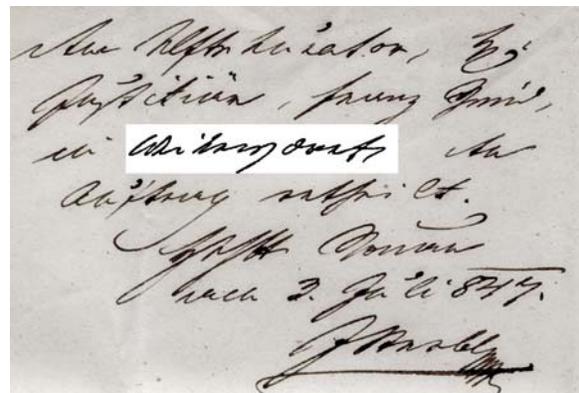
German adjectives gain an ending when they precede a noun. This is why Wien has become Wiener in one of the examples above. Germans say: “der Wein ist kalt” (= “the wine is cold”), but “der kalte Wein ist hier” (= “the cold wine is here”). In decoding German-language place-names, it is therefore often necessary to remove a letter or two in order to recognise a town name. The usual endings are: -er, -en, -e, -em and -es.

The word “sigillum” often appears on seals such as these; it is simply the Latin for “seal”.

2.4 The Recipient’s File-Note.

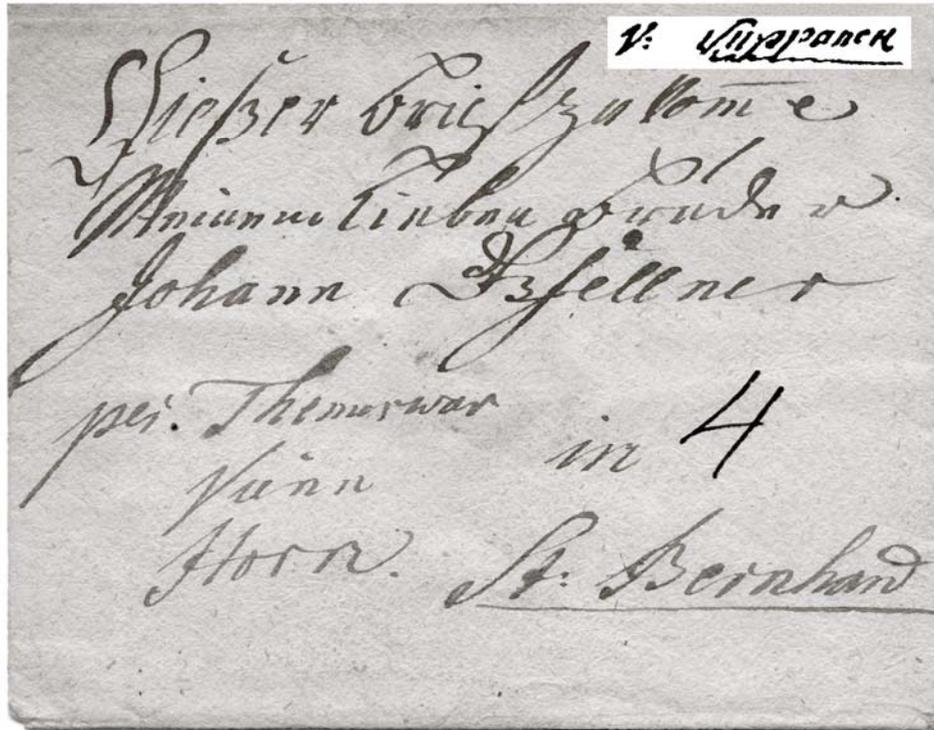
There were no photocopiers or carbon paper in pre-philatelic times, and so the recipient would often note on the back of an incoming cover the gist of his reply. He might note something like: “replied to the Temesvar Herrschaft on 15 June and told them where they could stick their proposal”. If we can read the place-name in this, we now know that the cover originated in Temesvar. This is a useful ruse when the recipient’s handwriting is easier to read than the sender’s.

Let’s have another look at the cover from Weikersdorf that we saw in section 2.2. Was the first letter really a “W”? It’s a bit ambiguous. Fortunately, the addressee has made a note on the back of the cover. We don’t need to try to translate this, but we can see on the third line the word “Weikersdorf”. In this different hand, the name is clearer than in the sender’s writing, and the “W” in particular is much clearer.



2.5 The Route.

Finally, the cover's route may help us narrow the search. The cover shown has a manuscript "von Vippanek" or "Vuppanek" or "Sippanek" or "Suppanek, but I could not find any of these possible names in any of my catalogues.



However, mail from the Hungarian half of the Empire often shows the cover's route on the front at the bottom-left. We can see that this one travelled to St. Bernhard (in Lower Austria), via Temesvar, Vienna and Horn. Knowing that it started somewhere in the Temesvar region, I looked at the map for that area and still couldn't find the place. So, I next asked a fellow member of the APS who I knew was an expert on this part of the Empire. He was able to tell me that the cover originated from Suppanek, a small town north of Orsova. That enabled me to locate it; it is now called Jupalnic, and has been incorporated into an expanded modern Orsova. It is unlikely that I could have tracked this one down without using the route markings on the cover.

2.6 Summary.

With reasonable luck, you will now be able to describe the origin of a particular cover in the following terms:

“Official mail sent by the local authority in Heidenreichstein, and posted at the nearby town of Schrems”.

In the next instalment, we will look at dating the cover. This is not always straightforward, and again a little detective work is sometimes necessary.

Here’s a puzzle for you to think about for next time. This cover came from the estate of John Giblin, former President of the APS. It has no contents, and no information on the back. The postmark gives us the day and month of posting, but not the year. And yet, JG was able to date this cover to 1843. How did he do it? Find out next time!



Editorial PS: *Be wary of modern dictionaries! A medium-sized one will suggest that “Banngericht” is a Church court concerned with excommunicating persons who cast spells. The cover is 1829, and the K.K. Banngericht in Untersteiermark (Lower Styria) was actually a State criminal court in Cilli/Celje with power to punish by fine, prison, or death.*