

# AUSTRIA

## Edited by Andy Taylor

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**To join the Austrian Philatelic Society, email or write to the Membership Secretary, whose address is on the previous page.**

## EDITORIAL 159

By Andy Taylor

Twice recently I was forced to contemplate a “what-if” scenario, when I returned from family visiting, turned on the computer with which I produce “Austria”, and was presented with a “catastrophic failure” message. I read once that the traditional Japanese Haiku poetic form had been applied to Windows error messages, with results that seem horribly appropriate:

Yesterday it worked. Today it is not working. Windows is like that.	Three things are certain: Death, taxes and lost data. Guess which has occurred.	Stay the patient course. Of little worth is your ire. Your computer’s dead
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What to do? Ringing an expert seemed a good start, and on both occasions he was able to fix it. I have had to pursue a more robust remedy (“third time lucky” is only true in pantomimes) and following some three days of copying and loading I have a nice new black box and all is well: or at least well enough. I’m not the only person thus afflicted: allegedly Andrew Lloyd Webber lost the only copy of his latest musical when his Turkish Van cat walked over the keyboard.

And what, I hear you cry, has this to do with Philately? Nothing. And everything. Do you merely accumulate material in shoe-boxes, or do you make lists, carry out research, exchange messages with others, keep copies of useful documents, write down your results and share them with others? The value of a large unsorted box of Austrian philatelic material is about one Euro per kilogram. Insurers want details; yes, you can make a list with pen and paper, but using a digital camera is considerably simpler.

Then, how and where do you keep this information? Having a copy plus a meticulous routine for keeping it up-to-date is essential, but you need to decide what disasters you wish to protect against. Computer disk failure – maybe have a second physical disk in the same computer. Malevolent file-erasing program (such as teenagers accidentally download), the computer catches fire, someone steals it – maybe keep your copies on tape, CD etc. Your house burns down – keep a copy of the data elsewhere? [note that the “small print” of every “free on-line data store” says they can at any time delete your data or cease to provide you with the service]. A flying saucer from Betelgeuse lands on your house and flattens it – this scenario you may well decide not to provide for. There’s no single best solution, but careful forethought can save much heartache. And note that much of these considerations apply even if your records are hand-inscribed on vellum, or chiselled upon granite. [*There are however no plans to publish Austria in such formats.*]

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You wouldn't want your lifetime's work to disappear before your eyes! Or indeed for your collection to vanish: the latest issue of my insurance policy makes it clear that if my possessions are damaged because I have stored them inappropriately then this is entirely my fault and is not covered. Market-stall copier paper may be cheap, but is perhaps not the best choice for postal stationery or mint blocks of the First Issue. A re-reading of the article in Austria 154 "How to look after your Collection - A Basic Guide" is recommended.



The APS was represented at Midpex, attracting several visitors and selling numerous publications in spite of the Great British Summer Weather. Our plans continue to advance for a more extensive appearance at Spring Stampex 2008 and at WIPA2008; our Festschrift will be launched in the spring.

So, a final Thought for the Quarter: how many new APS members have you recruited this year?

And another: congratulations to our President on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday 😊

***Yes, it's a shorter issue than usual. Please help me to make the next one longer: write an article!***

## NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

### *Die Briefmarke:*

**Issue 4/2007:** Postal History is part of History, cf 1938-45; WIPA/Prag co-operation; thematics: Edelweiss; 1868 telegrams with Botenlohn; postage dues in payment for identity cards; new issues; **interview with Hannes Margreiter** (*in his "Las Vegas hat"*); the historic post office display at the Fleischmarkt Post Office; new and old Registration labels; German-Austrian Philately (3); the half-payment system, 1722-1817; PKMI publications; society, foreign & other news; readers' letters; etc.

**Issue 5/2007:** Ovebria2007 programme; Dorotheum's 300<sup>th</sup>; Tatjana Westermayr becomes President of ÖBMHV (*the dealers association*); results of vote for 2006's best and worst issues; reading old handwriting; new issues; on sending stamps by post; ÖBMHV (2); the 1867 issue and the Szigetvár provisional; printing faults: the philatelist's friend; society, foreign & other news; many & varied readers' letters; plate-faults catalogues; etc.

**Issue 6/2007:** Baden-Powell and Scouting; Ovebria2007; meetings & exhibitions diary; interview with Dr Götz, managing Director of Öst. Post; thematic: Einstein; Maria Schultz; about the new issues; special cancels at special post offices (eg a philatelic exhibition) will henceforth have 'v' as the 'counter letter'; ÖBMHV (3); "postal history is a part of history" (2); forged Fiume 1<sup>st</sup> issue cancel (on Ebay!); society, foreign & other news; books; readers' letters; catalogues; etc

**Issue 7/2007:** overview of philately of what is now Croatia; interview with Werner Schindler (WIPA2008 General Secretary); "Philately is alive!" by Dr Pfalz; Youth-groups; bilingual-inscription Italian stamps for Südtirol; about the new issues; "postal history is a part of history" (3); the mysterious case of the 8-groschen postcard; upon the beauty of old letters; old and new stamp machines; society, foreign & other news; books; readers' letters; catalogues; etc

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.*

**Issue 78:** (*most pictures in colour*) Money transfer and the taxes thereon: beware of forged cancels on 25K & 50K stamps; forwarded Postsparkasse mail; Early Austrian Postmark Errors by Brandon K (!); costumes series papers; 1945-59 special tariffs for Czechoslovakia & Hungary; wants lists; auction; etc.

## ***Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- u Zensurpost***

**Rundbrief 88:** news about members; queries & answers; censored packet cards??; 1918 arrangements for Ukraine food: postal spin-offs; more about Przemysl; KuK Militär Polizei; forged Feld- and Etappen-post cancels; book reviews & for-sale list; etc.

**Rundbrief 89:** news; programme for their week-long annual gathering (!); numerous queries & answers (including POW camps in India & Cylon); FPO numbers;

## ***Stamps of Hungary***

**Issue 169: June 2007:** News & views; editorial appeal for articles; book reviews: Fiume and Srem; 1918 Airmail (emphasising the Hungarian aspects; 18pp); how the “1900 & later currency changes” were actually implemented.

## ***Militär und Philatelie***

**Issue 221:** Personal Stamps with a military theme, continued; book reviews; meetings and awards; etc

**Issue 222:** Schwechat airfield in and just after WWII incl British occupation; etc

## ***Czechout***

**Issue 2/2007:** reports of meetings; book reviews; post-WWI Silesian plebiscite stamps (esp. Teschen); the Vienna Technical Museum; techniques of stamp printing; new issues; etc.

## ***Germania***

**May 2007 vol 43 no 2:** World Heritage Sites; an extensive article on the Hamburg Tram Post; post-WWII mixed frankings in Dresden; etc

## ***Wiener Ganzsachsen- Frei- u Poststempelverein***

**Issue 2/2007:** AGM report; “Gesamtpostkurs” (mail sent in sealed bags; distinctive cancels)

## ***The London Philatelist***

**May 2007:** Romanian postage due markings and their forgeries (*Summary for APS: some but not all of the postage due markings used in Romania from 1869 to 1881 on Austrian mail, addressed to Hauser and Loewenthal at Braila or Bucharest, are forged. Ed*)

## ***PhilaJournal***

**Summer 2007:** The mysterious case of the Viennese Poste Restante.

## ***Ukrainian Philatelist***

**Vol 55 Nr 1 (97):** The “ephemeral state” of Western Ukraine; The Third Stanyslaviv Issue

## **Additions to the Library**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Pp</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Pub</b>	<b>Tx</b>
341A	Österreich 1945: Drittes Reich, Kriegsende, Second Republic: part 1	A history of the period, with contemporary documents & photos	512	Fritz H Sturzeis	2001	G
341B	Ditto part 2		576		2007	G
413	Směnečný Kolek v Českých Zemích	Bill of Exchange Tax in the Czech Countries, 1686-1918	40	Jiří Kořínek	2007	Cz
414	The postmarks of Fiume, 1805-1945	Well illustrated	164	J G Gilbert	2007	E
415	Das Letzte Aufgebot des Kaisers von Österreich, Die Standschützen Vorarlbergs im 1. Weltkrieg 1915-1918		140	Franz Kemmer	2006	G
416	Kämpfe ums Trentino in Ersten Weltkrieg		114	Oskar Schilling	2006	G
417	Rayon Limitrophe Grenzporto im Österreichisch-Schweizer Grenzverkehr	During many periods up to 1982, a special reduced postage rate was charged for mail between specified	124	Emil Rosé	2007	G

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
		Post Offices on the Austrian-Swiss border. Many are marked "RL"; to be sure the lists must be checked				
418	Stempelhandbuch der k.u.k. Truppen in der Türkei	A listing and valuation of Fieldpost cancels used by Austro-Hungarian troops in Turkey in WWI	106	Eva Schmiedt	2007	
419	Katalog der k.u.k. Feldpostämter und deren Einsatzgebiete mit Truppen und Kriegsereignissen	A listing of Fieldposts with numbers and details of what each served.	274	Heinz Nagel	2007	
420	Der Bahnhofbriefkastenstempel usw	"Railway Station Letter Box" cancels	166	Ing Robert Lipp	2006	G
421	Banat and Bačka	Monograph on the postal history of Banat & Backa which along with Srem form the Vojvodina province of Serbia	107	Tønnes Ore	2006	E

Book 341 has been re-numbered to 341A.

A recently-resigned APS member has given your Editor a copy of "Banat and Bačka" by Tønnes Ore which he has placed in the Library; it is book 421 and complements book 412 on Srem. A review of this Monograph appeared in Austria 157 p16.

## Book Notes and Reviews

### ***Library book 415 “Die Standschützen Vorarlbergs im 1. Weltkrieg”***

When the Italians declared war upon Austria-Hungary on 23 May 1915, South Tyrol was unguarded; only Customs and Gendarmerie with small groups of troops were available to defend it. In this emergency the Standschützen from Vorarlberg and Tyrol as well as volunteer groups were sent as last reserve to the front for defence against the Italians. The battalions had often only the strength of a company; the Italians were however deceived by the intensity of their activities and did not attack the weak troops immediately. In the summer of 1915 the Standschützen were reinforced by the German Alpenkorps.

### ***Library book 416 “Rayon Limitrophe Grenzporto im Österreichisch-Schweizer Grenzverkehr”***

In 1914 the whole of Europe was lusting for war; all hoped that they would win it in a few weeks. Nobody expected a 4½ years struggle with 9½ million dead and many more sick and wounded of whom many died or survived only as cripples; nor 5 million prisoners of war, of whom also hundreds of thousands did not survive. Also in the hinterland many fell sick and died because of shortages of food; this doesn't appear in the statistics. In the literature reports on fellowship and heroism prevail: the reality was entirely different

***Andy Taylor***

### ***Library book 420 “Der Bahnhofbriefkastenstempel” By Ing Robert Lipp***

This latest addition to the library listing “Railway station letterbox cancellations” will be of interest to both collectors of cancellations and railways. The usual style of cancellation that includes B.H. or Bahnhof in the wording do not come from railway station letterboxes and do not therefore appear.

The introduction includes copies of the various Instructions for the letterboxes and other general information including the Euro equivalent ascribed to the points value. This is followed by list of the nine types of cancellation depending of style of letters, numbers period of use etc with each type being illustrated by line drawing in the text and many by coloured copies of actual items (the very first such illustration is one I shall be looking for). Although I think of these

cancellations as “boxes with the corners cut off” there are, as always, some exceptions to this.

The catalogue lists the various cancellations in alphabetical order and gives any alternative names used. This is followed by the province before and after 1918, the German region during the Ostmark and post 1945 area as applicable - if the letterbox was removed in say 1910 then only details to that date are given. Then follows a list of the cancellations by type, name, style of letters, size, colour, period of usage and finally the points value.

To complete the book there are lists of the German-new and new-German names for the stations in the post 1918 Countries, tables of the number of letterboxes by province in different periods and number of cancellations of each listed type. Finally there are lists of the towns where the boxes were found in each of the periods so that if you interest is only in one area you can go direct to these towns and not have to look through the entire book to find them - a big advantage since for my collecting area of Tirol and Vorarlberg there are less than 50 out of a total of over 900.

***Joyce Boyer, Librarian.***

*Here are some real-life examples:*



### ***“The postmarks of Fiume, 1805-1945” by J G Gilbert***

This recent addition to the APS Library is published by the Italy & Colonies Study Circle. It is an excellent study of all different types of postmarks, from the early period, covering Napoleonic times, Austrian administration (1815-1876) and Hungarian postal administration till 1918. This includes all shipping markings, railway cancels, WWI Field Post, censor marks, and British Army occupation.

The chaos after November 1918 is next, including S.H.S. stamps “used” here for 1 day; Italian army occupation; D’Annunzio and the Legions; the Free State; and the final incorporation into Italy. In WWII, Italy occupied the Kupa zone; Germans likewise in 1943; finally Tito and his Partizans occupied Fiume and all of Istria, changing Fiume’s name to Rijeka. Today it is in Croatia.

This is a book covering all the different postmarks from 1800 to 1946, superbly written and beautifully laid out. It revealed to me that the S.H.S. cover dated 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1918 franked with the 10 Fil and 20 Fil Karl stamps (illustrated on page 45) was not issued in Croatia until the 18<sup>th</sup>; however these covers were prepared in advance for propaganda purposes – a snippet of invaluable information!

This book is a must for all Fiume collectors. Thank you, Mr Gilbert!

***Brian Madeley***

*[Brian tells me that he is thinking of spending his own money on a copy. Praise comes no higher... Ed]*

## **From the Membership Secretary**

We welcome as new members: 1262 John Harden of Sutton Coldfield; 1263 Dan L. Goldman of San Antonio, Texas; 1264 James S. Cox of Shakopee, Minnesota.

We mark the death of Member No 800 Mr LE Stiles of Walthamstow at the end of January 2007

We record the resignations of 4 members including Long Standing Member Harry Stern from Bucks, nr 504, who regrets that “he cannot attend meetings and has not touched his collection for some time”; and of Mr O C Rowland of West Sussex, nr 1107, “due to ill health and old age”.

***John Anthony***

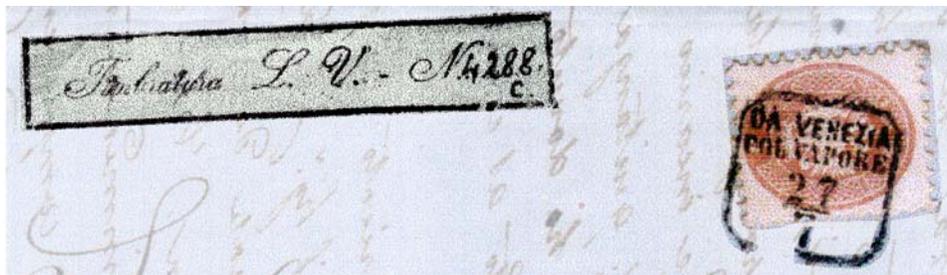
## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS and SNIPPETS...

### *Korrektions Korner*

Austria 158 page 72: the Editorial Note refers to the bottom left seal on page 69, not the Giblin cover on page 72.

### *Geoff Frost's Cover*

This is a cover from Venice to Trieste, franked with an L&V 5 Soldi adhesive of the 1863 issue, cancelled “DA VENEZIA / COL VAPORE / 27/4”. There is a boxed marking “Timbratura L V N4288c”; Timbratura is the Italian for “franked” and the 4288c is in pencil. 27 July 1866 is 3 days after Venice came under Italian administration, and it had been suggested to Geoff that the boxed marking was permission for the continued use of what had just become foreign stamps. He sought confirmation or correction.



Henry Pollak observes that “4288c is the number of that cancel in Edwin Mueller’s great 1925 original work on classic cancels of Austria.” [In the 1961 edition of Mueller the cancel is 312b in the L&V section. Ed] “So it is not likely to have anything to do with the late usage of the cancel.” Your Editor suspects it is an excellent example of dealer vandalism.

### *Could you read this?*

In Austria 158 I gave as the best reading of the illustrated card: “...Habe gestern 50 Mulready Couverts & Labels gekauft.” duly translated as “Yesterday I bought 50 Mulready envelopes & labels.” with the comment that “Labels” are of course Penny Blacks! True; but...

John Whiteside says that the alleged “Labels” is most unlikely, as the ‘b’ is unlike any other ‘b’ on the card. He suggests “Lokals”, and points out that the card is dated 1 May 1890 and there was a large exhibition in London on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1859 to celebrate 50 years of the Penny Black! The “Lokals” may well be Penny Blacks or Mulreadies with British town cancellations, which the writer had bought in Vienna and hoped to sell in London at a profit.

## *"When the eye deceives"*

I was browsing the Internet late one night, looking through the offerings for Austrian postal stationery, quickly flicking from one cover to another. Suddenly, I hesitated and thought that perhaps the last item I just passed, the one schilling airmail envelope issued in 1948, did not appear just right. I went back and looked again, longer this time, and I got excited. I had never read about nor seen anything quite like the printing error that confronted me on my computer screen. The cover was as shown in Figure 1. This item had been sent from Wien on 18 October 1949. It had been censored in Wien with Krueger censor stamp VM7a. [Our member, Richard Krueger's book, "Censorship of the Civil Mails in Occupied Austria, 1945-1953."] It also had a brown striped sealing tape, 29 mm wide, plus a "Telegraphcentralstation, Wien" handstamp on the reverse.



What had caught my eye on the first pass was the letter "S" in place of the numeral "1" at the right bottom of the imprinted stamp, directly underneath the airplane wing! It was a "Buy It Now" offer, and I did not hesitate. I purchased the cover for the sum of \$1.50. The stamp on the airmail envelope should have been similar to the imprinted stamp on the Adolf Kosel First Day Cover shown next.



My new purchase arrived from Canada 10 days later. It indeed seemed to be an unknown printing error, on first glance, but under close scrutiny, using a magnifying glass, all was revealed. What had appeared to be the letter “S” was really nothing more than part of the inner circle of the cancellation. I let out my breath slowly. The one and only printed letter “S,” instead of the numeral “1,” did not exist. I dutifully added this “exciting” discovery to the other 20 copies of this stamped airmail envelope in my collection. It is listed as No. 2 in the Higgins & Gage, Michel, and Schneiderbauer catalogs.

***Salvatore J. Rizza***

***You want HOW #### MUCH??***

***A view from the other side of the counter...***

At a stamp fair recently I had a bit of an argument with a customer who picked out a stamp from my stock book, which I had priced at 40p. “But it is only catalogued 50p -you should not charge more than 20 or 25p for it”, he told me. I explained to him that even if it cost me nothing, I probably lose money on selling him that one stamp at 40p. He looked at me as if I was absolutely crazy and walked away shaking his head. And I am sure many of you will be surprised at my statement, too, but allow me to try and explain how I come to the conclusion that selling a 40p stamp to my customer is losing me money.

Every stamp we sell has to undergo a number of steps while in our care, such as: initial valuation, offer and purchase, usually as part of a lot or collection. Then follows quality check and possibly cleaning off paper, washing off old hinges etc. before rough sorting, cataloguing and fine-sorting which may include checks of paper, perforation, watermark, shade, tagging and so on. Each of these tasks takes time - sometimes only a split second per stamp per task, sometimes several minutes each. But that is not the end. Stockbooks to receive the new stock need preparation, including the writing of price-tags with catalogue numbers etc, alternatively better stamps are individually written up and put on stock-cards. Overflow goes into an equally prepared reserve stockbook. Then we need to tell our customers what we have: preparation of price-lists, offers, special lists, advertisements need to be drafted and printed. Alternatively we have to plan, book, then travel to exhibitions and stamp-fairs to offer our wares. Selling a stamp also takes time and often a lot of patience, after all the client will want to examine it or choose from several on offer. Mail orders need careful picking and preparation, presentation on stock-cards, invoicing, payment checking, posting, banking of cheques etc.

All this takes a great deal of time, and I believe the very minimum of time we spend on each and every stamp we sell is 3 minutes, many stamps clocking up many times that. If I value my time at a conservative £15 an hour (compare that with your car-mechanic's or plumber's hourly rate!) then these minimum 3 minutes per stamp cost me 75p. Add to that the initial cost of the stamp and hopefully a little profit, then you will understand why we subsidize each stamp that we sell at under, say £1 each, in other words, we lose money on it. And out of any profit we eventually may make, we still have to pay insurance, tax, VAT, postage, buy stationery, cover bank charges plus many more incidental expenses. And I occasionally need to eat.

Still thinking of becoming a stamp-dealer?



### ***Food for thought...***

According to a recent survey, the age profile of the membership of VOePh (that is, nearly all philatelists in Austria who are members of a society or club) is:

0 – 30	2%
31 – 50	14%
51 – 70	55%
71+	30%

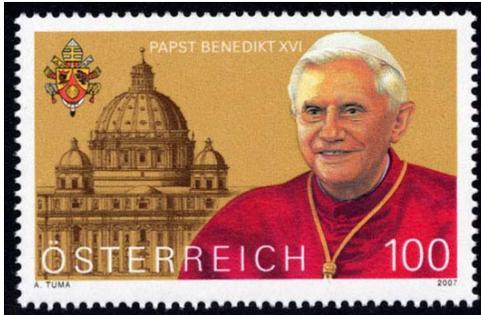
Comparable data for the APS is not available 😊

## New Issues - 2007 part 2

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 ruthlessly abbreviated.

### 80th Birthday of Pope Benedict XVI.



1€ FDC: 12 Apr 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.

It is two years since the German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected Pope, choosing the name Benedict XVI. He is the 265th Pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church and the 8th Pope from Germany.

### Animals - Whiskered Bat - Five Stamps



€0.55; FDC: 20 Apr 2007; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Type: Self Adhesive Stamps (on a roll of 100).

The whiskered bat is a small European bat, found around human habitation and around water. It prefers to hunt flies and mosquitoes in small valleys with deciduous trees and flowing water. Pesticides and insecticides are toxic to these helpful little animals.



### Flowers - Violet

1€ FDC: 27 Apr 2007; Definitive stamp, issued as needed; Printing: Offset; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The stamp shows the Blue, Common, English or Sweet Violet, *Viola odorata*. The violet is one of the roughly 400 species of the viola genus of which 29 (21 violet and 8 pansy) occur in Austria.

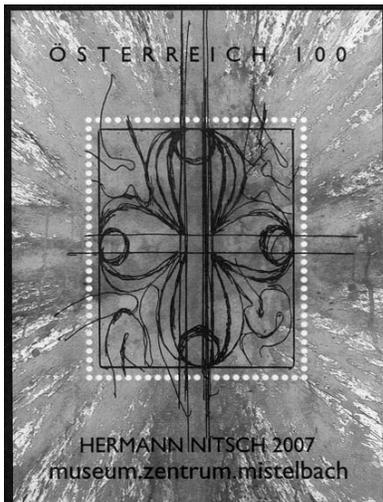
## 80th Anniversary of the Samaritan Federation



€0.55; FDC: 18 May 2007; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design and engraving: Mag. Robert Trsek.

The 80th anniversary celebrations of the Austrian Workers' Samaritan Federation (ASBOe) are to be held from 18 to 20 May on the Vienna Town Hall Square, an occasion that is commemorated by the Austrian Post Office in the form of a stamp showing the fresco from the Franciscan Monastery in Schwaz depicting the Good Samaritan.

## Modern Art in Austria - Hermann Nitsch



1€ FDC: 25 May 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design & engraving: Hermann Nitsch. [*The design is a black quadrefoil on a blood-stained background, and loses most of its effect when reproduced here. Ed*]

“My work is meant to be a school of life, of perception and of sensitisation.” This is the basic approach that characterises Hermann Nitsch’s artistic production, the focus of the largest public exhibition of the artist’s works to date in the new Hermann Nitsch Museum from 23 May 2007.

## Formula 1 Legends - Block 2007



8x€0.55; FDC: 29 May 2007; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The design is 4 rows of two landscape-format stamps with a large black/white chequered border.

This block features racing drivers Gerhard Berger (who comes from Austria) and Phil Hill, Clay Regazzoni, Juan Manuel Fangio, John Surtees, Mika Häkkinen, Graham Hill, & Emerson Fittipaldi (who don't).

## ***Locomotives Series - 100th anniversary of the Mariazell Railway***



€0.55; FDC: 31 May 2007; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinaweil; Engraving: Prof. Gerhart Schmirle.

The Mariazell Railway, one of the most attractive railway routes in Austria, is a remarkable 760 mm narrow gauge railway. It was the first Austrian railway line to be opened with steam haulage then subsequently electrified, and is important both as a means of local transport and as a tourism attraction.

## ***850th Anniversary of the Basilica at Mariazell***



€0.55; FDC: 1 June 2007; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

Mariazell is one of the most important Marian pilgrimage centres in central Europe, and can boast a more impressive past than almost any other place of pilgrimage in the world. According to legend, Mariazell was founded on 21 December 1157 by a monk from the St. Lambrecht monastery who constructed a “cell” and placed a statue of the Virgin Mary in it which is still worshiped today as Magna Mater Austriae.

## ***UEFA EURO 2008™***



1.10€ Block issue; FDC: 5 June 2007; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The UEFA European Football Championship 2008 is to be held in Austria and Switzerland from 7 to 29 June 2008. The Austrian Post Office as National Sponsor of UEFA EURO 2008™ is issuing a block showing the UEFA EURO 2008™ mascot “Trix and Flix”. The two figures are dressed as footballers in red and white, the colours of the two host countries. Their spiky

bright red hair recalls the mountains of Austria and Switzerland. The block's border is bright green.

### ***Day of the Stamp 2007***



3.95€ 2.65€+ 1.30€surcharge. FDC: 15 June 2007; Issue: 660,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The stamp shows the express steamer “Wien” based on a painting by the marine painter Harry Heusser from 1912. It was Lloyd’s custom to have all its new ships portrayed by famous painters. The “Wien” was built in 1911 and used for express services between Trieste and Alexandria together with its sister ship the Helouan. During the First World War, the “Wien” was used as a hospital ship and after the war fell to Italy, where it was in service with Lloyd Triestino until it was sunk in 1941.

Sending mail by sea had a 100-year long tradition in Austria, which only came to an end at the end of the First World War. It began in 1797 with the usurpation of state administration in Dalmatia. At the same time, the postal system was also being developed. Initially, private coastal shipping, the only rapid connection along the coast, and the Austrian Navy were used for transporting the mail. Later, the Post Office used its own ships (post sailing boats).

The foundation of the Österreichischer Lloyd steam shipping company in 1836 in Trieste was also the start of the age of sea mail. The Lloyd ships were in operation in the Adriatic and the eastern Mediterranean, and one of the first regular mail voyages with Lloyd steamers was on the Trieste -Constantinople route. After the Suez Canal was opened, the Lloyd liners also served the major ports in the Middle and Far East. Österreichischer Lloyd was obliged to handle mail business for the account of the relevant regional postal administration. A contract dated 13 June 1837 regulated the transportation of mail by ships of Österreichischer Lloyd, but the mail was collected by the Austrian Imperial and Royal Post Offices in the ports and the ships were allowed to fly the Imperial and Royal Post Office flag. From 1845, the Lloyd ships carrying the mail were granted the status of Imperial and Royal Post Offices, leading to separate ship postmarks. The postmarks bore (replaceable) place names in Italian only and the text V.L.A. (Vapore Lloyd Austriaco). From 1869, Ship Post Offices were established on the Lloyd ships in the Adriatic, such as Ship Post Office No. 1 on the Trieste-Corfu section. Lloyd operated its own agencies in the ports of the Eastern Mediterranean, where Lloyd Post Offices were also established.

## **Famous Paintings of Austrian Collections 4th value: Angelika Kauffmann - Self-Portrait**



2.10€ FDC: 15 June 2007; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design & engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel; Block issue

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of her death, Angelika Kauffmann is the subject of a major exhibition in the province of Vorarlberg and in particular Schwarzenberg in the Bregenz Forest, the artist's home village. She was born on 30 October 1741 in Chur, and displayed her extraordinary talent for painting at a very early age.

A period of 15 years spent in London was a time of rich creativity and social success, and she was particularly successful with her portrait painting. Her influential patron, the painter Joshua Reynolds, brought her into contract with many important personalities. She was the only woman amongst the 22 founder members of the Royal Academy in London. Another self-portrait is in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Later, she settled in Rome, where her studio became the meeting place for influential art lovers. Her prominent admirers included Goethe and Herder. Angelika Kauffmann died in Rome on 5 November 1807, and her grave is in the church of San Andrea della Fratte. Described as “perhaps the most cultivated woman in Europe”, she enjoyed an international recognition far beyond the frontiers of her home country.

## **Europe 2007 – Scouting**



0.55€ FDC: 16 June 2007; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Offset; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**

Scouts are the largest movement for children and young people in the world. 38 million members in over 200 countries of the world have a single aim: helping children and young people to become committed and critical adults. The organisation welcomes people of all skin colours and all religious communities with a peaceful philosophy.

## 250th Anniversary of the Birth of Ignaz Joseph Pleyel



1€ FDC: 17 June 2007; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraver: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel

Ignaz Joseph Pleyel was a highly-talented composer in the second half of the 18th century and at the beginning of the 19th. Mozart wrote to his father in 1784 “it is good and fortunate for music that Pleyel is capable in his time of replacing Haydn for us.” Pleyel was born in Ruppertsthal, Lower Austria, on 18.6.1757. With the assistance of a patron he was first of all able to study with Johann Baptist Wanhal, followed by a thorough education with Franz Joseph Haydn, before becoming Kappellmeister with his benefactor the Hungarian count Ladislaus Erdödy in Bratislava. In 1783, Pleyel became assistant and, from 1789, Domkappellmeister at the Cathedral in Strasbourg. In 1788 he married the by then very successful composer Gabrielle Levebvre. In 1791, he accepted an invitation to conduct professional concerts in London. Arrested by the Revolutionary Guard in 1793, he saved his life by writing a dramatic Revolution Cantata to the French Revolution. In 1795, he and his family moved to Paris, founding a music publishing company in 1797 and a piano manufacturing business in 1807. His instruments had an excellent worldwide reputation, with Chopin finding them to be “Non plus ultra”. Pleyel is buried in a grave of honour in the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris.

## Shrek III.



0.55€ FDC: 21 June 2007; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Dreamworks Animation Llc; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

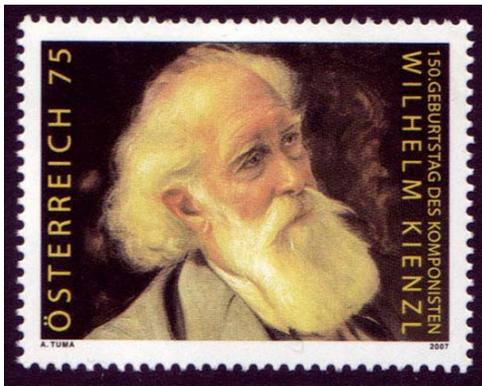
The Austrian Post Office is marking the return to the screen of this loveable hero with a commemorative that will delight both children and the young at heart. In the original version, the voices of the computer-animated figures are provided by famous actors such as Julie Andrews.

### ***Essl Museum - Box of 25 Stamps***



0.55€ FDC: 2 July 2007; Issue: 4,525,000; Printing: Photogravure; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Type: Self Adhesive Stamps. The Museum Essl is situated in Klosterneuburg near Vienna and known for its collection of modern art with more than 6000 pieces.

### ***150th Anniversary of the Birth of Wilhelm Kienzl***



0.75€ FDC: 13 July 2007; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.

The Austrian composer, Kapellmeister and author Wilhelm Kienzl was born on 17 Jan 1857 in Waizenkirchen, Upper Austria. After completing his training, Kienzl moved to Vienna in 1874. He had a distinguished musical career, and in 1920 composed the first national anthem for the First Austrian

Republic to a poem by Dr. Karl Renner, “Deutschösterreich, du herrliches Land”. He died in Vienna on 19 October 1941.

### ***Series Locomotives - The Bregenz Forest Railway***



0.75€ FDC 4 Aug 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraver: Prof. Gerhart Schmirl.

The Bregenz Forest Railway, a typical Austrian 760 mm narrow-gauge railway, provided access to the area of the Bregenz Forest that had previously only been reachable from the Rhine Valley via mule tracks. It ran from the Vorarlberg capital Bregenz through the wild and romantic valley of the Bregenzer Ache to Egg, the largest town of the Bregenz Forest; then on to Andelsbuch through the Bersbuch Forest, terminating after 35km in Bezau.

## ***Nude on Stamp 4th Value: Man***



0.55€ FDC: 24 Aug 2007; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Astrid Bernhart.

Astrid Bernhart, born on 25 February 1964 in Graz, attended the College of Applied Arts in Graz, where she studied graphic art. After three years as free-lance graphic artist, she moved to Vienna in 1987 to study at the Academy of Fine Arts. She attended Professor Anton Lehmden's master class, which she passed with distinction.

## **“SOLD OUT” Austrian Euro-stamps**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Face</b>	<b>Date</b>
Euro-Einführung	13.08	01 .01 .2002
Euro-Einführung	3.27	01 .01 .2002
Tag der Frau	0.51	08.03.2002
Caritas	0.51	26.04.2002
Teddybar	0.51	14.06.2002
Pandabaren	1.75	14.04.2003
Eisenbahn 2. Wert	0.75	06.06.2003
Salzachbrücke Oberndorf	0.55	12.06.2003
Jahr der Bibel	0.55	20.06.2003
Kinderbriefmarke	0.55	12.09.2003
Dankeschön / Tom Tom	0.55	19.09.2003
W. Schlager - Tischtennis-WM	0.55	25.09.2003
Elisabeth" Das Musical	0.55	01.10.2003
Licht ins Dunkel	0.55	11.11.2003
175 Jahre Bosendorfer	0.75	19.11.2003
Europa 2004 - Ferien	0.75	04.06.2004
K.K. sudliche Staatsbahn	0.55	19.06.2004
Arnold Schwarzenegger	1.00	30.07.2004
Hermann Maier	0.55	25.09.2004
Stephan Eberharter	0.55	20.01.2005
Hl. Florian - Schutzpatron 00	0.55	04.05.2005
60 Jahre Befreiung Mauthausen	0.55	06.05.2005
Europa 2005 - Gastronomie	0.75	28.05.2005
Heiliger Joseph	0.55	10.06.2005
Tagpfauenauge	0.55	15.07.2005
200. Geburtstag Adalbert Stifter	0.55	21.10.2005
800 Jahre Deutscher Orden	0.55	18.11.2005
Mozart in Wien	0.55	27.01.2006
Europa 2006 - 50 Jahre CEPT	1.25	03.03.2006
Amerling "Mädchenbildnis"	1.25	06.03.2006

# FRANKED OFFICIAL FORMS AND POSTAL STATIONERY (“GANZSACHEN”) FOR MONEY TRANSFERS

This article is based on pp 977-985 of “Ferchenbauer Österreich 1850 - 1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Wien 2000” as translated by J Allen Lovell for the APS(USA) Journal, vol 2 issue 2; 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. **Note that this article does not extend to the other types of forms discussed on Ferchenbauer pages 986 onwards.**

## INTRODUCTION

In the following sections, an overview of money transfers through the postal service (that is, with franked official forms or postal stationery) will be presented. Also, information about printing varieties, fees, and valuation guidelines are included in the individual sections; which are divided into the following categories:

### **POSTAL SERVICE**

- ❖ Postal Money Orders (Postanweisung)
- ❖ Tax Payment Forms (Steuer-Einzahlungsscheine)
- ❖ Postal COD. Cards (Postnachnahmekarten), Postal Collection Orders (Postaufträge), Postal Collection Cards (Postauftragskarten)
- ❖ Postal Savings Cards (Postsparkarten)

### **POSTAL SAVINGS BANK (Postsparkasse):**

- ❖ Franked Payment Coupons (Erlagscheinabschnitte)

It must be stressed that the numerous forms and the often-changing usage instructions and government regulations are available only to a limited extent. This publication cannot, therefore, be considered ultimately authoritative. Much room exists for future research.

## ***MONEY TRANSFER SERVICE***

(Postal stationery and forms for the transfer of sums of money)

### ***1. Postal Money Orders (Postanweisungen): Pre-History***

Already in the pre-postage stamp era, money letters (Geldbriefe), money packets (Geldpakete) and money containers (Geld-Colli) could be sent by the Fahrpost. They were subject to numerous and constantly-changing requirements and rates. From 1<sup>st</sup> October 1850, amounts up to 50 Gulden could be sent through Central Post Offices (Postdirektionskassen) and through certain local post offices (Geldanweisungsamt) whose employees were government officials. Over time, the maximum permitted amount increased to 1000 Gulden, and in the Lower Austrian Central Post Office, up to 5000 Gulden. The fees for this service corresponded to the rate for sending paper money, reduced by the cost of sending a simple letter.

The sender received an “Anweisung” that had been separated from an “Aviso”. The sender forwarded the “Anweisung” to the recipient by letter mail. The “Aviso” was transmitted from the sender’s post office to the post office that served the recipient. The recipient went to the receiving post office with the Anweisung, which was then matched up with the Aviso. If the two documents matched and were in order, then the Anweisung was paid. There were many directives that regulated this process. The fees for this service had to be paid in cash.

### ***Postal Money Orders -- General***

On 15<sup>th</sup> March 1867, Domestic Postal Money Order service (using non-imprinted forms) was introduced. This was before the 1867 postage stamp issue. The domestic Money Transfer (Geldanweisung) service (for which fees were paid in cash) continued to be associated with the Fahrpost, while the Postal Money Orders were delivered through the letter mail. In A. Castinelli’s book, “Der ausübenden Staats-Postdienst in Österreich” (the Functioning of the State Postal Service in Austria) [Prague, 1968], the regulations of “Geldanweisungen” using the letter mail are listed. Later handbooks on the postal service deal with the rules concerning Postal Money Orders.

Internationally, whether Postal Money Orders were permitted and how they were handled (letter mail or parcel post) was governed by postal treaties. Mostly, they were letter mail. For example, in the postal treaty with Switzerland

(15<sup>th</sup> July 1868), Postal Money Orders were considered letter mail. Also, according to Article 19 of the Postal Treaty with the North German Federation, Bavaria, Wurttemberg and Baden (signed 13<sup>th</sup> November 1867, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 1868), money transfers were treated as letter mail.

In the Postal Union Treaty of Berne (General Postal Union), international money transfer service was not regulated. It was left to bilateral agreements between countries. Only with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Treaty on Postal Money Transfer Service (signed in Paris 4<sup>th</sup> June 1878, effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 1879), was the service adequately regulated. Over time, it spread to practically every UPU member county. The international Postal Money Transfer Service received a new set of rules in 1897 from the Washington UPU Congress (signed 4<sup>th</sup> July 1897, effective 1899). A number of countries received exemptions from the rules and special treaties were made subject to UPU oversight.

The First World War brought a number of innovations, such as money transfers with POWs and with soldiers in the field. There was, of course, both temporary and long-term cessation of services with certain countries.

A large number of steadily changing directives regulated the domestic and foreign money transfer service. The following explanation is only a summary of the most important regulations, fees, forms, and postal stationery. To obtain details, one must consult the official Postal Directives (Postverordnungsblätter).

The Postal Money Order service can be divided into three periods:

- ❖ After 15<sup>th</sup> March 1867 until 30<sup>th</sup> April 1870: use of forms without stamp imprints. Sometimes the fee is paid with postage stamps, and sometimes in cash.

*[NB: the next two parts of Ferchenbauer are NOT translated here. Ed]*

- ❖ From 1<sup>st</sup> May 1870 until April 1879: use of imprinted forms. Fees are paid by postage stamps only.
- ❖ From about the end of 1878 until the end of the monarchy (11<sup>th</sup> November 1918): return to the use of the unimprinted forms, with a year-long overlap with the previous period. Required fees paid with postage stamps.

The following is a sequential, logical, and simple explanation of the Postal Money Orders Service and the forms and postal stationery used.

## ***Official Postal Money Order Forms: Postal Money Order Forms Without Stamp Imprints***

With the Decree of 13<sup>th</sup> January 1867 (PVO No 5/1867) from the Minister of Trade and Economics, new regulations, as well as rate reductions, were established for the domestic Fahrpost service. These went into effect on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1867. On 25<sup>th</sup> February 1867 (PVO No. 9) the use of unimprinted Postal Money Order Forms was instituted.

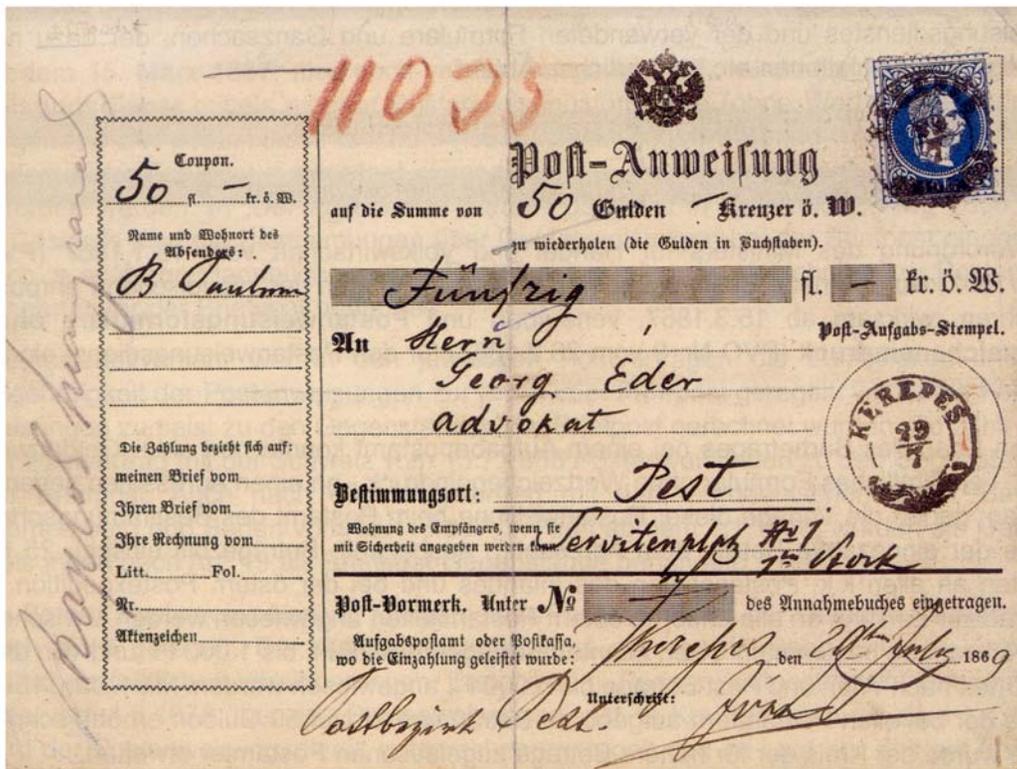
By paying cash at a post office, a Postal Money Order (a non-imprinted official form) could be mailed to a recipient. The recipient could then present this form at the destination post office, and the amount was paid out in cash. Amounts up to and including 25 Gulden could be sent from any domestic post office (as well as the Austrian post office in Belgrade) to any other Austrian post office. Between certain offices (named in the Decree), amounts between 25 and 1000 Gulden could be sent. Also between these named post offices and Vienna or Pest, up to 5,000 Gulden was permitted. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1868 the permissible amount for all post offices was raised from 25 to 50 Gulden. Also, over time the list of offices authorized to handle the larger amounts gradually expanded.

The official form was printed on yellow card stock with the Austrian Imperial eagle and crown over the caption, "Post-Anweisung." In addition to the main part of the form, which contained the amount and the recipient's name and address, there was also a section called the "coupon," which, in addition to information about the sender, could contain instructions for payment.

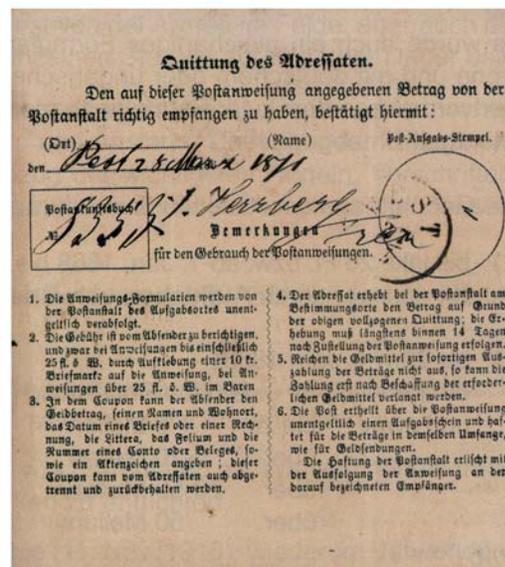
There was also a corresponding form with the Hungarian coat of arms and crown of St. Stephen. The text was printed in either German or Hungarian, depending on the language of the text on the reverse side. These forms were distributed to postal patrons without charge.

The sender had to pay the fee in advance. The following fees for Postanweisungen were charged:

- ❖ Up to including 25 Gulden (from 1 January 1868 50 Gulden) without regard to distance - 10 kr. This was paid by attaching postage stamps.
- ❖ Until 1<sup>st</sup> January 1868, the fee for amounts between 25 and 50 Gulden varied by distance: up to 5 miles, 13 kr; 5-20 miles, 18 kr; 20-50 miles, 20 kr; over 50 miles, 30 kr. These fees were paid in cash.
- ❖ Over 50 Gulden: the fee was the same as a parcel post shipment of the same value. The fee was paid in cash.



“Post-Anweisung” dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 1869. Sent from Kerepes, Hungary, to Pest. The amount (50 Gulden) was the maximum amount allowed to be sent from this post office. Note the 10 kr fee and attached coupon. (Form No. 1: Austrian Coat of Arms and German text). Except for an example of a late use from Bohemia (1874), usage of such forms has been documented only in the Hungarian half of the empire and in the Military Border Area.



“Post-Anweisung” dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1871. Sent from Szeplak, Hungary, to Pest. The amount sent was 10 Gulden and the fee was 5 kr. (Late use of the first form with Hungarian coat of arms. Front and back shown.)

The sender was given a sender's receipt (Aufgabeschein, DS No. 165, later 158-165 in multiple languages), which served as proof of payment. Over the years, this receipt underwent many changes.



“Aufgabeschein” (Sender’s Receipt. DS No. 165) for a 2 Gulden money order sent from Randegg to Vienna.

After 15<sup>th</sup> May 1875, a return receipt (Retour-Recepisse) could be attached, in which case, the letters “RR” would be written on the money order and a corresponding additional fee listed in the Sender’s Receipt.



“Post-Anweisung” with a 10 kr Return Receipt fee. Here, the stamp for the extra fee was paid with a postage stamp with a hand cancel, “Rückschein.”

Postal Money Orders were sent by letter mail and were handed over to the recipient in exchange for a Delivery Receipt (Abgabeschein). These documents (DS No. 168, later 180-189: see footnote <sup>1</sup>) changed many times over the years.



“Abgabe-Scheine” (Delivery Receipt) for a money order on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1889 from Vienna for 5 Gulden 30 Kreuzer. Text is German and Polish.

After 20<sup>th</sup> May 1868 (PVO No. 18), Postal Money Orders up to a maximum of 500 Gulden could be sent by telegram. On 15<sup>th</sup> November 1872 (PVO No. 57/1872), special forms “Postanweisung Per Telegramm” (Telegraphic Postal Money Orders) (DS No. 379, later 166-173) were authorized. These forms were printed on white card stock with blue text and required franking with postage stamps. The text was either German alone or German and another of the Empire’s languages. The forms were given to patrons without charge. Later, they were redesignated “Bedeckungs-anweisung zur telegraphischen Postanweisung.” They went through a number of versions and were similar in appearance to the forms used by regular Postal Money Orders (domestic and foreign).

In addition to the regular fees, the sender of a telegraphic Postal Money Order also had to pay an additional fee (in cash):

- ❖ 10 Kreuzer for the transmittal of the form from the sending post office to the telegraph office, if both were not in the same building.
- ❖ The Telegraph Fee. A minimum charge of 24 Kreuzer and then 2 Kreuzer per word. For a money order telegram between 200 and 500 Gulden, an additional fee of 64 Kreuzer was charged. This was because regulations required that a confirmation of receipt be telegraphed back to the sending office.

<sup>1</sup> “DS” means Drucksorte and is the form’s reference number assigned by the printers. There were at least three major “renumber all forms” exercises.

The Postal Money Order (whether telegraphic or not) was delivered to the recipient's address. The recipient then took the form to the receiving post office and the transferred amount was paid.

If the recipient did not live in the town where the receiving post office was located, he or she was required to sign the Delivery Receipt when the money order was delivered. As before, the recipient was then required to present the form to the delivery post office for payment. The recipient was required to sign an acknowledgment of receipt of the funds. The "Coupon" could be separated and given to the bearer.

For Postal Money Orders whose recipients could not be located or could not be paid within 14 days, it was returned to the sender without cost and the money refunded. If sent to a "post-restante" address, the time period was 3 months, later shortened to 2 months.

Post-Anweisung per Telegramm | Poštanska naputica berzovavom

auf 500 Gulden Kreuzer ö. W. / verhu 500 forintih novčicah a. vr.

(zu wiederholen die Gulden in Buchstaben. / ponovi forinte pismenai).

Adress: *Vinguerenti* | fr. 5. W. / fr. 5. W. / novč. a. vr. / novč. a. vr.

Naslov: *Spizioneri* | Post-Aufgabe-Stempel. / Pošt. poslo predatno.

Bestimmungsort: *Trieste* | **GELD-ANWEISUNG** / **30** / **1874** / **SPALATO**

Wohnung des Empfängers: Stan prima: | Raum zum Aufkleben der Briefmarken. / Prostor za nalepljenje bilježovkah listovnih.

Post-Merk 22 | Poštanski predbilježni br. *214*

Telegraphisch angewiesen: — Berzovavno doznačeno:

Eingehoben an Expresse-Gebühr . . . . . fl. 15 fr. / Primljena pristojba za dostavu po ekspresu . . . . . for. novč.

Eingehoben an Boten-Gebühr . . . . . fl. . . . . fr. / Primljena pristojba za glasnika . . . . . for. novč.

Aufgabssamt oder Postoffice, wo die Eingahlung geleistet wurde: *Spalato* den *30* *Oktober* 18*74* / Predatni ured ili pinezhieta poštanska, kod koje je uplatjeno:

Name des Postdirections-Bezirkes: *Jara* / Ime kotara poštanskoga ravnateljstva:

Unterschrift der Postbediensteten: *Markov* / Pošpis službenika poštanskoga:

"Post-Anweisung" by Telegram. Sent on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1874 from Spalato to Trieste. The maximum of 500 Gulden was sent. Text is German and Illyrian.

Postverwaltung. – Administration des Postes d'Autriche.  
**Bedeckungsanweisung.**  
**Avis d'émission.**  
 Schrift einer telegraphischen Postanweisung  
 Copie d'un mandat télégraphique  
 Wien *I* am } 28. Jänner 1914  
 le }  
 Brüssel - Bruxelles Land } Belgien  
 Pays }

Nr.	Annahmenummer Numéro du mandat	Name, Vornamen, Stand und Wohnung des Empfängers Nom, prénoms, qualité et domicile du destinataire	Betrag der Post- anweisung Montant du mandat
	<i>I 4718</i> <i>4718</i>	Herr C. Lauer 15, rue Anoul, 15 Brüssel - Bruxelles	Fr. 1000.-  in der Währung des Bestimmungslandes En monnaie du pays de destination

Einzelstempel  
 Eingezahlter Betrag  
 Montant versé *958* K *h*  
 Ort *Wien* am } *28* *14*  
 A } le }  
 Unterschrift des Absenders  
 Signature du destinataire  
*4718* *28* *14* *I*  
 15

BRUSSEL  
 6-7  
 30  
 1  
 1914  
 BRUSSEL

(X/1907.)

“Bedeckungsanweisung” sent from Vienna to Brussels on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1914. Two 2-kr and a 1-kr stamp pay the 5-kr fee for a telegraphic money transfer of 1000 francs. The form is for international use and has German and French text

226  
 RECHNUNGS-DEPARTMENT  
 ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST-UND TELEGRAPHEN-VERWALTUNG  
**Bedeckungsanweisung**  
 für  
**Telegr. Postanweisung** auf *18* K *h*  
 in Worten:  
*Alpen Kronen* K *h*  
 An *Herrn Josefa Kristan*  
*Lindweg 3a am Graben*  
 Bestimmungsort: *in Graz.*  
 Straße und Hausnummer: *30 hl Oberstr.*  
 Gut für *18* K *h*  
 Annahmepostamt Nr. *50*  
 Tag der Einzahlung: *20/1/1900*  
 Postdirectionsbezirk: *Graz*  
 Unterschrift des Absenders:  
*Zur Wissen*  
*Kathrein*  
*ad Lamming*

Abchnitt.  
 (kann vom Empfänger  
 abgetrennt werden.)  
 ST. KATHREIN  
 20  
 8  
 00  
 A.D. LAMMING  
 Inanspruchnahme Betrag  
*18* K *h*  
 Name, Wohnort und Wohnung  
 des Absenders:  
 ST. KATHREIN  
 20  
 8  
 00  
 A.D. LAMMING  
 Stempel des Bestimmungsortes  
 ST. KATHREIN  
 20  
 8  
 00  
 A.D. LAMMING  
 Unterschrift des Postbeamten:  
*W*  
 Z. S. 106. Deutsch. (Kulage 1900.)

The missing 30-heller stamp was attached 5 months later! Probably this was an express delivery fee that was collected from the sender later.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1868 (PVO No. 22), new versions of Postal Money Order forms were issued. Those issued for areas subject to the authority of the Imperial Austrian Ministry of Trade, as well as the Military Border Area, were as before on yellow paper. Those issued for use in areas subject to the Royal Hungarian Trade Ministry were printed on green paper. The (unimprinted) forms issued for Hungary bore the Hungarian coat of arms and the crown of St. Stephen. The text was either in German or Hungarian. These forms were used until their supply was exhausted. By authority of PVO No. 11/1871, they were replaced, on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1871, by the issue of Postal Money Order forms with the first Hungarian stamp imprints.

Drucksorte Nr. 379.

**Coupon.**  
(Auf dem Coupon, welcher abgetrennt werden kann, dürfen Mittheilungen jeder Art angesetzt; bei Zeitungspränumerationen darf auch die Adressschleife aufgeklebt werden).

fl. 50 kr. ö. W.

Name und Wohnort des Absenders:  
*Silberleit  
ner Anna  
von hier*

**Post-Anweisung**

auf die Summe von 50 fl. 00 kr. ö. W.  
zu wiederholen (die Gulden in Buchstaben)

*Silberleit* fl. 00 kr. ö. W.

An *Ignaz Bradi Andor* Postaufgabs-Stempel

*Postrestants*

Bestimmungsort: *ih. Post*

Wohnung des Empfängers, wenn sie mit Sicherheit angegeben werden kann: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-Vormerk. Unter Nro 4 des Annahmehbuches eingetragen.  
Aufgabsamt oder Postkasse, wo die Einzahlung geleistet wurde:  
*Szegtöcsen* den 9/10 1869

Name des Postdirectionsbezirktes: \_\_\_\_\_ Unterschrift: *Silberleit*

“Post-Anweisung” for the Hungarian administrative area with German text

From 15<sup>th</sup> December 1871 (PVO No. 45), Postal Money Orders could be sent “express delivery” for an additional fee

Besides the regular fees, an express fee of 15 kr was charged for a delivery in the same locality as the receiving post office. If the recipient lived outside that town, a messenger deliver fee of 50 kr per mile (of 7½ kilometers) was also charged. These fees were at first paid in cash.



Two 25-Kreuzer (fine print) stamps on a telegraphic Postal Money Order with a 15 kr express fee and return receipt.



The 30 kr fee for the Postal Money Order paid with postage stamps. The express fee was paid in cash.

# Parcel Post to Austro-Hungarian station-ships in China after the Boxer War

By Fred Pirotte

## *1. Foreword*

The official publication “Instruktion für die Behandlung des Postsendungen der in Fremdem Gewässern befindlichen K.u.K. Kriegsschiffe - Marine Normalverordnungsblatt XXXVII” provided for the sending of batches of letters known as “dépêches”, but not for parcels. Parcels from Austro-Hungary to destinations in the landed detachments or on board warships engaged in China had to be sent by the international parcel post.

An arrangement existed between the Austrian and the German postal administrations whereby parcels could be forwarded to the postal agency of Shanghai in China via the German shipping line *Bremenhafen - Shanghai*. Once in China, the facilities of the German postal agencies were used, either Peking or Tientsin when the recipient was in a landed detachment, or the German postal agency of Tongku when the recipient was on board an Austro-Hungarian warship.

## *2. Postal Procedure*

The parcel had to be presented to the clerk of any Austro-Hungarian post office together with a completed international parcel card. Such a parcel card is shown below.

The parcel card was printed on both sides in the native language (German) and also in French in accordance with the rules of the UPU. The card is divided into three sections.

The section at the left is headed “Abschnitt - Coupon” (cuttable-off coupon) for the sender’s name and address. Normally, the coupon received the hand-stamp of the despatching post office and at the destination the coupon was cut off and given to the addressee along with the parcel, the rest of the card remaining with the postal administration.

On the section at the right of the card were affixed the stamps and, in manuscript, the amount of the postage collected, determined by the weight of the parcel. The card was named “Begleit Adresse - Bulletin d’expédition” (despatching form). In the right-hand corner was the square imprint of the arms value of 10 heller, the revenue charge, with the year date 1899.

**Abchnitt. — Coupon.**  
 (Nun vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden.)  
 (Toit être détaché par le destinataire.)

**Beleit-Adresse. — Bulletin d'expédition.**

Wobei — Ci-joint .....

Zahl der Zolldeklarationen  
 Nombre des déclarations en douane { .....

**Wertangabe**  
 **Valeur assurée** { .....

An — A .....

**Bestimmungsort**  
 Lieu de destination { .....

**Straße und Hausnummer**  
 Rue et N° { .....

**Gewicht**  
 **Poids** { .....

kg. g. Beförderungsweg }  
 Acheminement {  
 kg. g. Zollgebühren \*) }  
 Droits de douane \*) }  
 kg. g.

1) Von dem Eintritts-Zollnachlässungsamt des Bestimmungsortes auszufüllen.  
 2) Cadres à remplir par le bureau d'échange d'octroi du pays de destination.

Wenn ein Aufkleben der Postmarken über zur Aufgabe der eingeschobenen Karte.  
 Application des timbres-poste ou indication de la taxe perçue.

Porto }  
 Port de }  
 Beförderungsgebühr }  
 Droit de }  
 tage }

**Total**

Fig. 1 Parcel card - front side. Fig. 2 Parcel card - Back side.

Eingangskontrollamt } N°  
 Régies d'arrivée

Stempel des Empfangsamt.  
 Timbre du bureau distributeur.

Beförderungs-Bemerkung }  
 Distribution

**Quittung des Empfängers. — Récépissé du destinataire.**

Der Unterfertigte bestätigt den Empfang { des } auf der Vorderseite der gegenwärtigen Begleitadresse bezeichneten { der } Pakete.  
 Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu { le colis désigné } au recto du présent bulletin.  
 { les colis désignés }

A ..... am ..... 190  
 le

(Unterschrift: — Signature:)

**On the front the following sub-headings were also printed:**

- “Anbei - Ci-joint” (enclosed) for details of the parcel contents;
- “Zahl der Zolldeclarationen - Nombre des déclarations en douane” (number of customs declarations).
- “Werthangabe - Valeur assurée” (insured value);
- “An” (to). The name of the addressee;
- “Bestimmungsort - Lieu de destination” (Destination);
- “Strasse und Hausnummer - Rue et N°” (Street and house number);

**At the bottom of the card was a section for official use with:**

- “Gewicht - Poids” (Weight) of up to three parcels giving the weight of each in kilogrammes (kg) and grams (g);
- “Beforderungsweg - acheminement” (route to be followed);
- “Zollgebühren - Droits de douane” (customs fee).

**The back of the card was reserved for arrival details:**

- “Eingangs Verzeichnis - Registre d’arrivée - N°” (Reference number on the registration book);
- “Stempel des Abgabe Postamtes - Timbre du bureau distributeur” (Dated postmark of the forwarding post office);
- “Bestellungs Vermerk - Distribution” (Delivery note).

**At the bottom of the back is:**

- “Quittung des empfangers - récipissé du destinataire” (Acknowledgment of receipt by the addressee);
- “Der Unterfertigte bestätigt der Empfang des/der auf der Vorderseite der gegenwärtigen Begleitadresse bezeichneten Packetes/Packete - Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu le colis désigné / les colis désignés au recto du présent bulletin”. (The undersigned certifies to having received the parcel / the parcels referred to on the front of this dispatching form);
- “A ..... am /le ..... 190..” (To .....on .....190..);
- “Unterschrift - Signature” (Signature).

The back of the card would receive the hand-stamps of the dated transit postmarks of the post offices concerned with the forwarding of the parcel.

### 3. A Parcel Card used during the Boxer War, 1902.

Many years ago, I bought two sets of documents associated with parcels posted to a sailor on board SMS Maria Theresia on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1902. SMS Maria Theresia was the last warship of the Austro-Hungarian Squadron in the Far East remaining in China up to September 1902. The sender of the parcels was one Alessandro Pietruck, living at 12 Piazza del Foro in Pola. Both parcels were sent on 20.02.1902.

I shall try to explain the different annotations and hand-stamps which can be found on such parcel cards and associated documents, considering parcel 1.



Fig. 3 Parcel card of Parcel 1 - Face side.

The card received a hand-stamp of the Pola postmark over the imprinted value as well as at the left.

**On the card, the sender wrote:**

- ❖ Contents of the parcel: *Ein Kiste* - (one box);
- ❖ The number of accompanying customs forms: 2;

- ❖ The name and address of the addressee:

*An das K.u.K. Cdo SMS Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia*

*Für Franz Albrecht, K.u.K. Untermaschinenwärter*

*Shanghai,*

*China*

The charge, determined by the weight, was computed on a Customs Duty Form and the amount handwritten on the postal form by the clerk: 5 Kr. 50 heller. At the top of the front part of the postal form was affixed the small printed label of the despatching post office, POLA 305, the 305 being the reference number in the parcel registration book.

When in transit at Wien, a large oval hand-stamp was applied on the imprinted value and on the back was added (twice) the reference number 86966 / 02. WIEN.

A customs duty form was affixed to the parcel card.

		K	h
Nachnahme . . . . .			
Zoll: Laut Zollausgabe-Nachweisung Nr. . . . . Zoll (Stempel-, Punzierungsgebühr)			
Verzehrungssteuer . . . . .			
Porto: Porto (Provision) . . . . .		4	30
Verpackungsgebühr . . . . .			
Verzollungsgebühr . . . . .			10
Bestellgebühr . . . . .			
Summe .		5	50

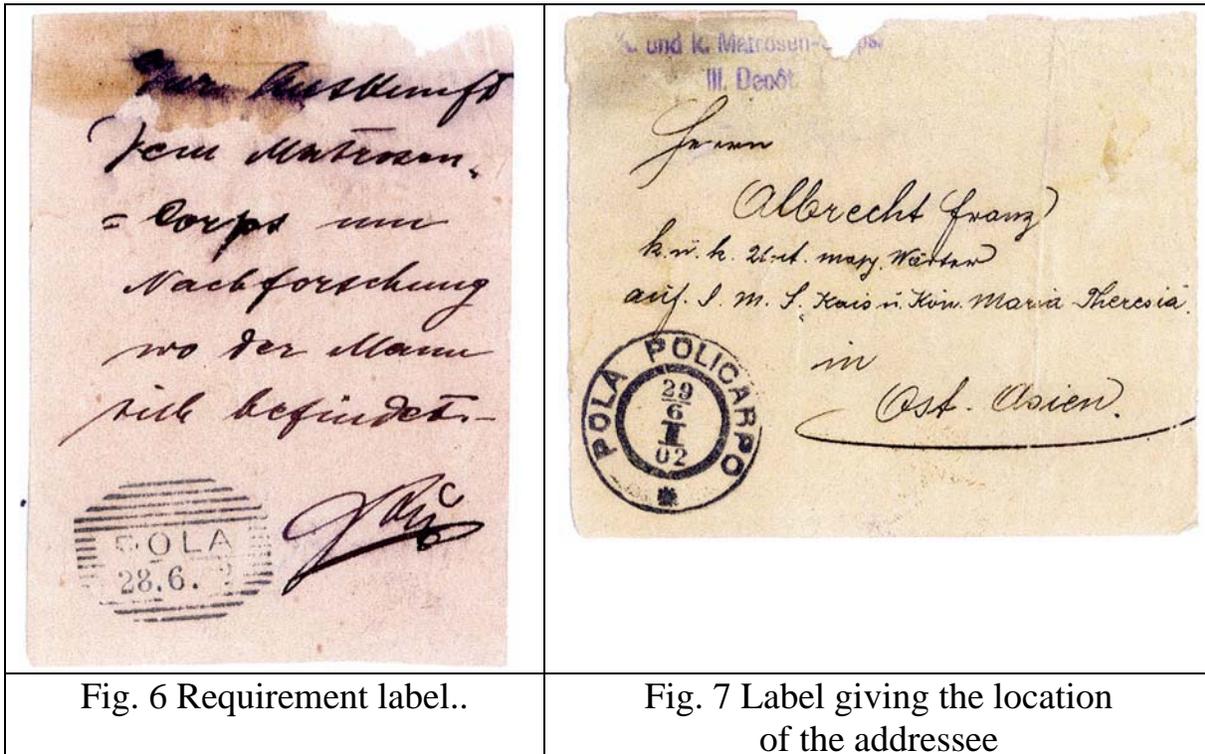
D. S. Nr. 416. (Auflage 1901.)

On the back of the parcel card the dated postmarks enable the route of the parcel to be identified, thus Berlin 23.02.02; German PO Shanghai 19.04.02; German PO Tongku 26.04.02. SMS Maria Theresia was at Tongku from 21.04 to 09.05.02. The parcel was presented to the postal officer of the warship who was not able to deliver it. The postal officer wrote on back of the form “*Empfänger befindet sich jetzt in Pola*” (“recipient is now at Pola”) and returned the parcel to the German PO of Tongku where a small label was affixed with the handwritten note: “*Nachzusenden nach Pola*” (“return to Pola”).

The dated return itinerary was: German PO Peking 28.04.02, German PO Bremen 22.06.02 with handwritten note “*Zu Bremerhafen Zoll eingegangen*” (entered through the customs office at Bremen harbour). German PO Berlin S.W. 23.06.02.

On arrival in Wien a small printed label of the WIEN 77 post office was affixed on the bottom right corner of the front; it received the hand-stamp of the dated postmark 24.06.02. Austrian P.O. POLA 26.06.02.





The parcel was returned to China through Wien and Germany. This route is confirmed by the following: the label WIEN 77 is cancelled by two black ink lines; Berlin is handwritten on the label with a blue pencil; the dated transit postmark of this second, successful attempt to reach Franz Albrecht in China is clearly present on the separated part of the postal form. Franz Albrecht signed for receipt of the parcel at the bottom of the form.

***And now it's your turn, dear reader. See how you get on with the card from the second parcel! It's not as difficult as it seems; the routing was the same, as are most but not all of the dates. Ed***

**Pola** **294**

**Abchnitt. — Coupon.**  
 (Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden.)  
 (Peut être détaché par le destinataire.)

**Timbre d'origine.**  
 20.2.02

**Name und Wohnort des Absenders:**  
 Nom et domicile de l'expéditeur:  
 Alexander  
 Petrus  
 Lola  
 Liara del  
 Porto 4 12

**Bestimmungsort / Lieu de destination:**  
 nachweisenden nach  
 Pola

**Gewicht / Poids:**  
 kg. g. Beförderungsweg / Acheminement  
 kg. g. Zollgebühr / Droits de

**An —** *Maria Theresia für Herrn Hans Albert*

**Stempel:** POLA 20.2.02

Fig. 8 Parcel card of Parcel 2 - Face side.  
 Fig. 9 Parcel card of Parcel 2 - Reverse side

*Empfänger befindet sich jetzt in Pola*

**Eingang-Verzeichnis / Registre d'arrivée** *13/18*  
*No 144*

**Bestellungs-Bemerkung / Distribution** *25/41*

**Stempel:** TONGKU 26.4 02 DEUTSCHE POST  
 POLA 25.6  
 BREMEN 22.6.02 12.11  
 FEKING 28.4 02 DEUTSCHE POST

**Quittung des Empfängers / Récépissé du destinataire**

Der Unterfertigte bestätigt den Empfang der auf der Rückseite der gegenwärtigen Begleitadresse bezeichneten *Parfete*

Le soussigné déclare avoir reçu les colis désignés au recto du présent bulletin.

A. *...* am *...* le *...*

(Unterschrift: — Signature) *...*

**Vertical stamp:** 86963/02.WIEN

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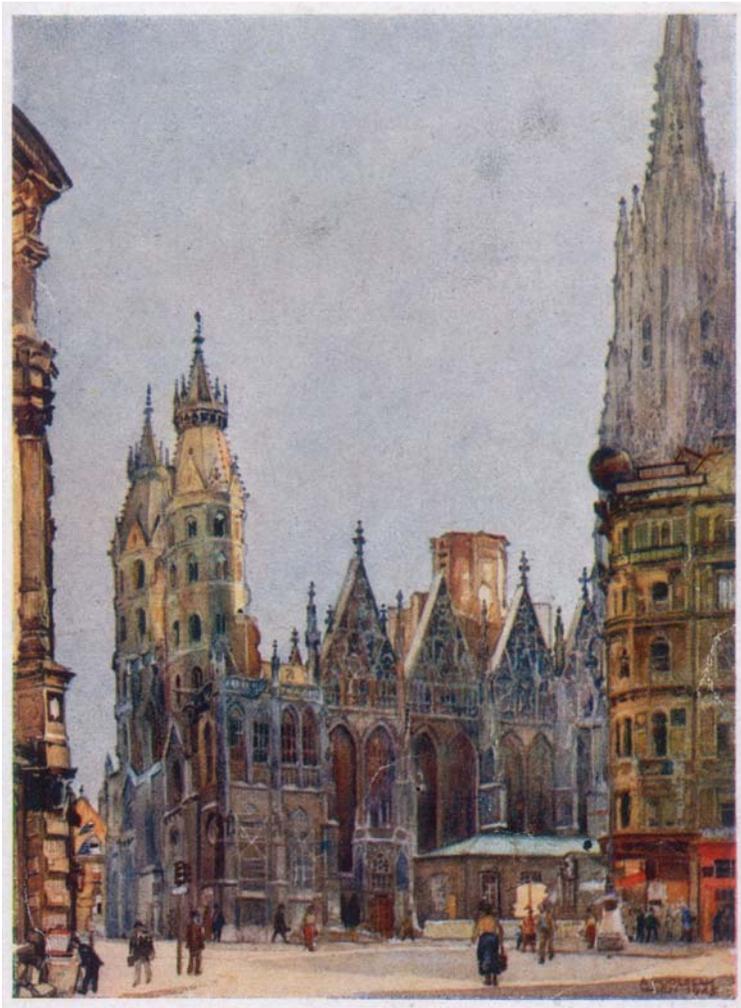
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## VIENNA IN 1946

By Gerry Roberts

I first saw Vienna on a gloomy winter's day - 29th January 1946 to be precise. The reason: I was an infantry officer serving in the Hampshire Regiment, in 46 Div. I had been with them from North Africa onwards. We were in the army of occupation, first at Bleiburg in Karnten and then in Furstenfeld, Steiermark. Both pleasant little places but a little peripheral so we were quite excited at the prospect of going to an actual city. This therefore is a



little reminiscence of that period long ago when we were in the Kaiserstadt. First impressions were of a dark and gloomy place, cold with snow still on the ground. Some of the damaged buildings were dangerous, with masonry falling to the ground in windy conditions. Not surprising as the city had taken a pounding in 1945 when the Red Army captured it. Ten days of fighting had seen over 20,000 houses destroyed, we were told. Despite this I soon became intrigued. I could see that Vienna was mainly a baroque city, with Stephansdom being the main gothic building.

The city had been divided into four zones of occupation, with the old city, that part bounded by the Ring and the Danube canal, being regarded as international. It was a mirror of the situation in Austria as a whole. We British were occupying Styria and Carinthia and the French were in Tyrol and Vorarlberg. Salzburg and Upper Austria (south of the Danube) went to the Americans, and Russia was in Burgenland, Lower Austria and Upper Austria (north of the Danube). In Vienna itself, we could pass freely throughout but avoided the Russian sectors. One day I was swanning around (as they say) and had the use of a jeep and driver. I wanted to

visit Klosterneuburg and see the Abbey there so off we went. We parked the vehicle by the Abbey and walked around the corner. To our surprise there were a lot of Russian soldiers being drilled; I suddenly realised that we had strayed out of Vienna and shouldn't be there at all. But it was too late; we were confronted by three Russian soldiers with tommy guns. Off I was marched to the local HQ and it was several hours before they let me go (after signing a statement in Russian). My camera film was confiscated: so we kept away from the Russians.

My battalion was stationed in an old barrack off the Landstrasse Hauptstrasse (once called the boundary between western and eastern Europe) which was in the 3rd District. I was allocated a flat at a house in Barmherzigengasse 8. It was dusty and shabby but had two bedrooms and a drawing room with a grand piano. Nearby was an enormous flak tower, a concrete monstrosity. I visited Vienna many years later and it was still there. To get into the city centre, you could take a tram (these were running freely) and change into another going left at the Ringstrasse (I can't remember ever paying a fare). Or you could walk along the Rennweg and thus have the doubtful pleasure of seeing the very intrusive memorial to The Unknown Russian Soldier (known to the locals as The Unknown Thief or The Unknown Rapist). That was in Schwarzenbergplatz.

I soon found that the State Opera House was very badly damaged and not functioning. St Stephens Cathedral, too, was very much out of action, its famous roof and the great bell being on the ground. The Viennese made early efforts to repair and renew these great buildings. The Cathedral was rebuilt between 1948 and 1962, the provinces defraying the costs of various sections. For example,



the city paid for the new roof, Tirol for the windows, the bell was supplied by Upper Austria and so on. What was really buzzing, thank goodness, was the opera scene. The Staatsoper was performing nightly in the Theater an der Wien and in the Volksoper. I had never been to an opera before being in Austria but I soon became an addict and went many times. This has

enriched my life ever since. I had kept a number of programmes from those days but can only find one - it is one of an evening's ballet at the Volksoper dated 26 April 1946. One memory that sticks in my mind is of the collection of men (no young ones) who quietly lined the walls of the Volksoper's foyer; we would gather there for a smoke at the interval and when the recall bell was rung, we would extinguish our cigarettes. This would be the signal for all the men to

rush forward, holding little boxes, and the cigarette butts were carefully collected and placed in them.



Elizabeth Schwartzkopf (a German) took several leading roles - she was obviously a rising star. Theater an der Wien was (and still is) a beautiful little theatre that saw the first performance of Magic Flute, Fidelio and Fledermaus. It is opposite the Naschmarkt in District IV and is so named because it is built over an underground waterway, the Wien. The Volksoper, further north beyond the Votive Church had its glory days a hundred years ago when the Viennese operettas were all the rage. Tickets were quite cheap and readily available to the forces; whether civilians could purchase them I do not know but I certainly took some as my guests occasionally.

Another much visited place was at Freyung 4; it was the Kinsky Palace, the British Officers Club. These palaces, homes of the eighty great families that formed the Emperor's court, are all in the Innere Stadt. At Freyung 3 is the Harrach Palace, later an art gallery. On entering the Kinsky Palace through the great door, you see two inner courtyards, filled in my day with jeeps. On the left, you enter the house and a great staircase leads you up to the first floor, the *piano nobile*. These stairs were lined with stone cherubs, putti. These provided an irresistible attraction to irreverent officers who wished to park their cigarette ends in the cherubs' bodily orifices. On the first floor there was, of course, a bar, a dining room with small orchestra, and lounges. I remember impressive ceiling paintings. It was a disappointment, when I revisited the place more recently, to see that it has fallen into disrepair.

Very noticeable, both in city and country, was the absence of young or youngish men. Those who had survived the fighting were in POW camps, mainly in Russia. This may have explained the popularity of our troops with the young ladies. In Vienna, nearly all the shops were closed - they had nothing to sell. Most of the coffee houses were closed and there were certainly no restaurants for civilians. The great hotels had been taken over by the military; the Bristol and Imperial in the Kärntner Ring being full of Americans and Russians (or perhaps it was the other way around). The British had the famous Hotel Sacher, behind the Opera House. I had the good fortune to stay there for three nights and it was very interesting. Life for civilians in the spring of 1946 was very hard; the food ration was 1200 calories a day. When Marshall Aid started arriving the following year, things got much better.

Traffic in the city was minimal. The trams and the Staatsbahn were working but no civilian vehicles were seen in the streets. Plenty of military vehicles were running around. This was the time of the four Military Policemen in a jeep. They were often seen. One morning, two MPs turned up at our HQ and asked to see the commanding officer. I must explain that some months before we were allotted a number of German POWs who did various tasks for the troops. They wore denims and were strictly confined to barracks. When we went to Vienna on garrison duties, they came along. The MPs told our Colonel that they had had occasion the previous evening to speak to a party of Hampshires, who were getting a bit noisy, somewhere in central Vienna. They found to their surprise that quite a few did not seem very British - in fact they didn't even speak English. So what was it all about, then? Well, the CO soon discovered that the soldiers in one of the companies had become very friendly with their prisoners and felt sorry for them. So they dressed them up in borrowed uniforms and took them out for a knees up. There they were, with Hampshire cap badges, regimental flashes and medal ribbons. This shows the soft heart of the British soldier - a few months before, they were doing their best to kill each other.

Our garrison duties in Vienna were not too onerous. We had to provide a presence where required, and mount a guard at HQ in the Ringstrasse. I think we deserved a fairly easy time after campaigning since end of 1942. I myself was overseas for a total of five years and bore two wounds, so I intended to enjoy my stay and see what was available. We went to some balls at the Kunstlerhaus, one being a masked ball - that seems very old-fashioned now but everyone seemed to enjoy it. That is, apart from a man who was taken ill during the evening; we were asked to take him to the hospital in our jeep, but he died on the way. We made good friends with the French, who were installed along the Mariahilferstrasse and by the Westbahnhof. on the way to Schonbrunn. I visited that great summer palace in the company of a French officer, who gave me a lecture on Napoleon and L'Aiglon. The French were upset because the British High Commissioner had set up his office in the room where Napoleon used to issue his orders. The Palace seemed unharmed but the Gloriette on the hill at the end of the park was damaged. The nearby Zoo was functioning.



Another damaged icon was the Ferris Wheel in the Prater, across the Danube canal. This was on the ground, a victim of the fighting. It was of course repaired but when it was set up again, only one half of the original number of carriages was included. Do you remember the famous scene in *The Third Man*, set in the

revolving wheel? That was an anomaly. Indeed, much of *The Third Man* was shot in Prague.

Another place that I really enjoyed was the Art Gallery in the Kunst Historiches Museum in Maria Theresien Platz. Only went there once, but I did appreciate the Brueghel paintings - *The Peasant Wedding* and *The Seasons* were there. I also recall the Rembrandt self-portraits.



I crammed quite a lot into my fairly short stay in Wien, and on looking back I can appreciate how the Viennese were doing their best to return their city to normal - and they were cheerful and friendly. I came away with an affection for the city and its history and I have read much about it since. Also, I came away with a love of opera and, eventually, a stamp collecting interest which is still with me - but please do not mention all the collecting opportunities which I ignored!

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

By Keith Brandon

## *PART 3 - DATING THE COVER*

### **3.1 Introduction.**

Together with the place of origin and the destination, the date is one of the vital elements in the story of a cover. Apart from its intrinsic interest, knowledge of the date allows the collector to check that the correct postal rate for the period has been used and to determine how long the letter took to reach its recipient.

Importantly, identification of the date of posting also enables us to establish whether a cover truly belongs to the pre-philatelic period. There are many classes of official mail (so-called “ex-offo” covers: see sidebox) which were excused postal fees, both before and after the introduction of adhesive stamps on 1 June 1850. Thus a stampless ex-offo cover is not necessarily pre-philatelic.

Post-1850 ex-offo covers are collectable, but are not as popular as those from the earlier period. Many philatelists only collect stampless covers dated before 1 June 1850 and covers with adhesives thereafter. Unstamped ex-offo covers from after that date are the poor relations, and are usually less valuable than those from the pre-philatelic era. If you are contemplating buying an ex-offo cover, then you need to know the year of posting in order to establish a fair price.

#### **EX-OFFO MAIL**

Certain institutions were excused postage fees, or were able to levy them on the recipient. These included the government, local government, royal court, judicial courts, the military and several other categories. Because these institutions were not obliged to pre-pay postage, it follows that their mail did not bear adhesive stamps after 1 June 1850.

To ensure that such mail was not taxed, the sender wrote in the bottom-left part of the cover the phrase “ex officio”, or, more commonly, the abbreviation “ex offo”. Alongside this can often be found the justification for the non-charge, such as “in causa criminali” (“on criminal-court business”), and instructions for charging the recipient where appropriate.

Italian-language mail often used the equivalent phrase “d’ufficio” (or “d’uffo” or simply “d’u”). The Hungarian equivalent was “hivatalbol” (or “h’bol”).

The following cover, from Cattaro (in Dalmatia), was written on 25 May 1850 and postmarked on 29 May. A file note on a flap tells us that it was received in Perchtoldsdorf (in the Vienna suburbs) on 7 June 1850. It would have passed into the philatelic era somewhere around Trieste! If this letter had been posted a couple of days later, it would have been a stampless ex-offo cover rather than a pre-philatelic one, and would have been less desirable to many collectors.

*Cattaro am 25/5 850.*

*Dateline: Cattaro 25 / 5 / 850*

*Vom h. h. Sr. Glep. 49 & 50. Regimente  
An  
Die löbliche Amtverwaltung  
Perchtoldsdorf  
vorne Widonbauern  
Eusffo*

*CATTARO  
29. MAG.*

*Postmark: CATTARO / 29. MAG.*

*N. C. 792 pras. 7. Juni 850.*

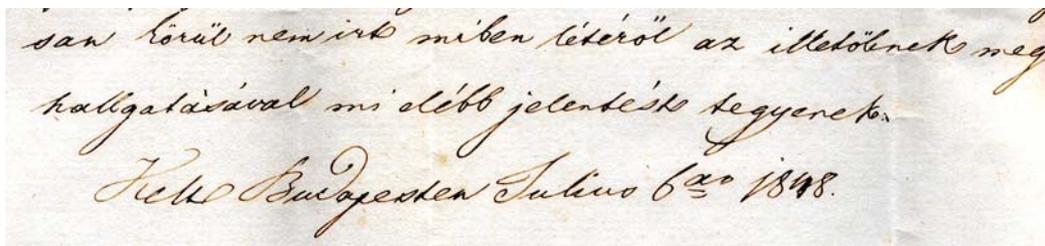
*File note: pras. 7 Juni / 850*

Fortunately, dating pre-philatelic covers is usually straightforward. The dateline in the contents will tell you when the letter was written, including the year. The postmark often includes the date of posting. If the postmark is undated and there are no contents, then it can be more difficult, but not impossible as we will see.

### 3.2 The Sender's Dateline.

The letter inside the cover will usually start or finish with a dateline, such as: “Wien, the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, 1828”. Where the contents have survived and the date is legible, this will tell us when the letter was signed. Almost always, such a dateline will include the year (not usually included in the postmark), and this will help confirm that the cover is indeed pre-philatelic.

The date is usually written in the form “21<sup>st</sup> September 1846”, i.e. day in numbers, month in text, year in numbers. Hungarian datelines are often in the form month-day-year, but again the month is written in text, and so confusion is unlikely.

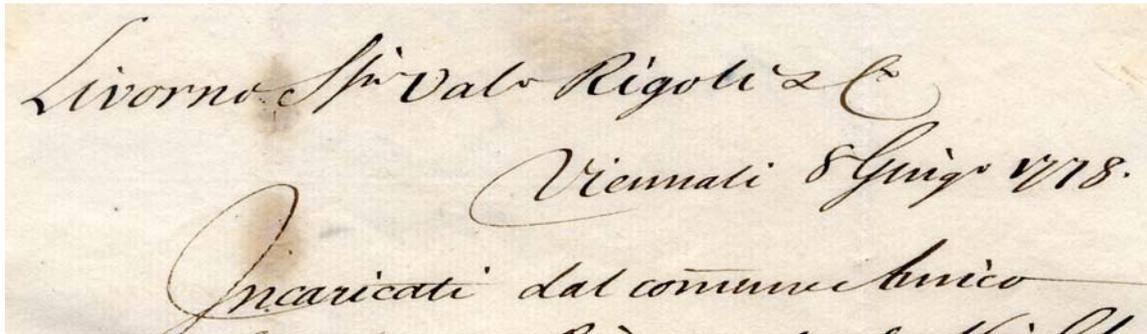


*Dateline in Hungarian order of month / day / year: Budapest, Julius 6 1848.*

Mail from the Austro-Hungarian Empire can often be found written in Italian, Latin or French, as well as Austrian or Hungarian. To save you searching for your old schoolbooks, the chart on the next page shows the months of the year in those five languages as well as English.

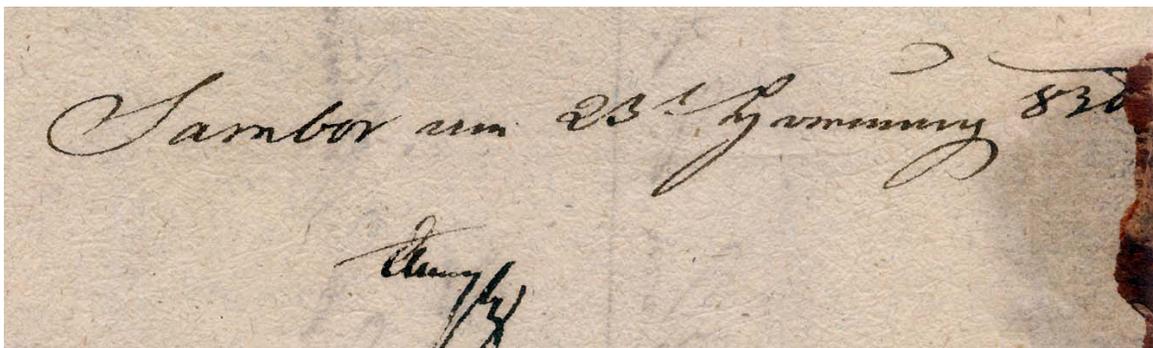
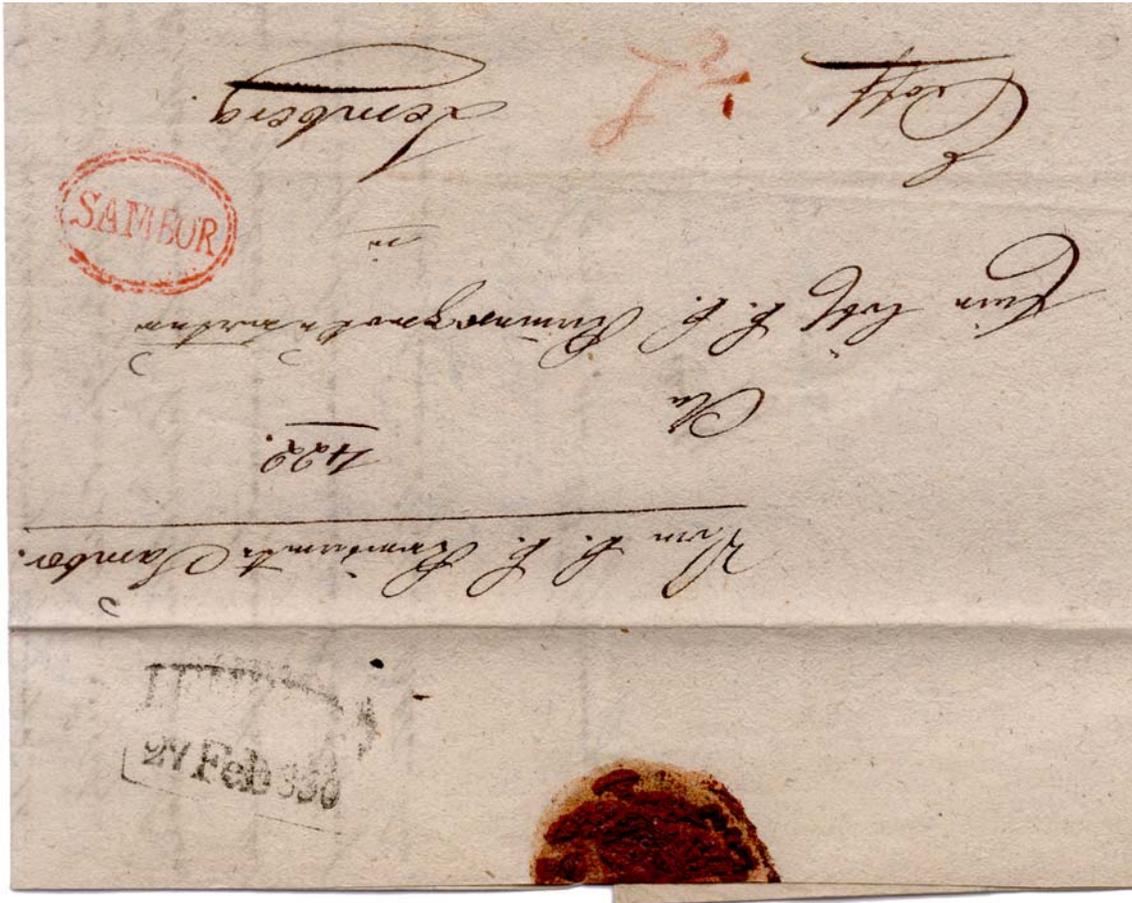
The alternative German spellings for January, October and December are both commonly found on pre-philatelic mail. I have seen “May” on German-language mail from Galicia. “Hornung” (for February) was already archaic by this time and is rarely seen. I have never seen the Latin “Quinctilus” (for July), but it is in the dictionary and so I have included it.

Although the next cover has a Wien dateline, the letter was written in Italian, and the date therefore as 8 Guig<sup>o</sup> 1778 (abbreviation for Giugno = June).



<b>THE MONTHS IN SIX LANGUAGES</b>					
<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>GERMAN</b>	<b>HUNGARIAN</b>	<b>LATIN</b>	<b>FRENCH</b>	<b>ITALIAN</b>
January	Januar, Jänner	Január	Ianuarius	Janvier	Gennaio
February	Februar (also Hornung)	Február	Februarius	Février	Febbraio
March	März	Március	Martius	Mars	Marzo
April	April	Áprilius	Aprilis	Avril	Aprile
May	Mai, May	Május	Maius	Mai	Maggio
June	Juni	Július	Iunius	Juin	Giugno
July	Juli	Július	Iulius (also Quinctilis)	Juillet	Luglio
August	August	Auguszt(us)	Augustus	Août	Agosto
September	September	Szeptember	September	Septembre	Settembre
October	October, Oktober	Október	October	Octobre	Ottobre
November	November	November	November	Novembre	Novembre
December	December, Dezember	December	December	Décembre	Dicembre

The cover from Sambor has a clear arrival backstamp of 27 Feb 1830, but the writer has used the uncommon form "Hornung" in the dateline.



Sambor am 23 Hornung 1830

This example from Tarnopol shows a latinised dateline. “Decembris” is a case-ending for “December” rather than an alternative spelling.

ad N<sup>o</sup> 50100 elocata et a Fisco R. sub 4 Augusti a. c. ad N<sup>o</sup> 15127 extabulationis consensu de realitate Rim Kuczerovskiana traditus habeatur. -

Tarnopoli die 29 Decembris 1845.

Tarnopoli die 29 Decembris 1845

The names of the months in these six languages all come from the same Latin root, and are therefore usually easy for the English-speaker to identify. Sometimes a little care is needed in decoding the dateline because of abbreviations, old-style script and poor handwriting. A few clues:

- ❖ the month-names are often abbreviated. In particular, the last four months are often expressed as 7ber, 8ber, 9ber and 10ber (or Xber) respectively. At a quick glance this can mislead; one has to remember that 9ber is not the ninth month but the eleventh. In Italian, the abbreviations are 7bre, etc., and the Latin version is 7bris, etc..

Bolzano Sig. Giorgio Antonio Monti

Trieste 31 7bre 1784

Favoriti con la grama via 21 Jhale operiamo

Dateline: Trieste 31 7bre 1784, i.e. 31 September 1784, in Italian.

Von dem Magistrat der k. k. Reichs- und Erbstat Wien, am 18 8bris 822.

Kaiserlich

Dateline: Wien 18 8bris 822, i.e. 18 October 1822, in Latin.

Lindgauer'sche Buchhandlung  
am 22. gber 849.  
Franz Riederer

*Dateline: Butschowitz 22 9ber 849, i.e. 22 November 1849, in German.*

Kegyeleget esderve mij teßrelettel  
Komáromba Xber 21 841

*Dateline: Komárom Xber 21 841, i.e. December 21, 1841, in Hungarian order.*

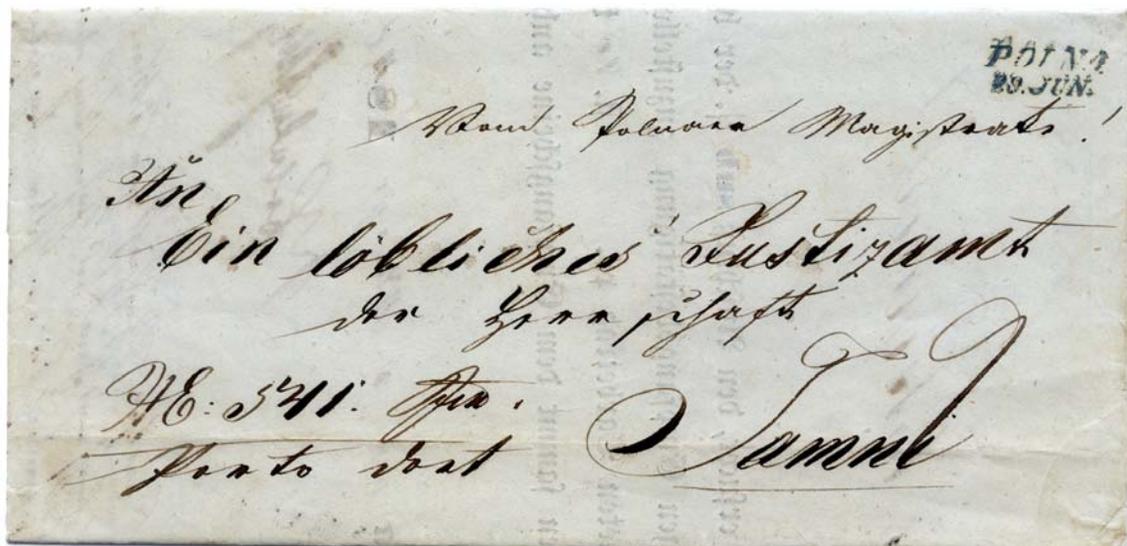
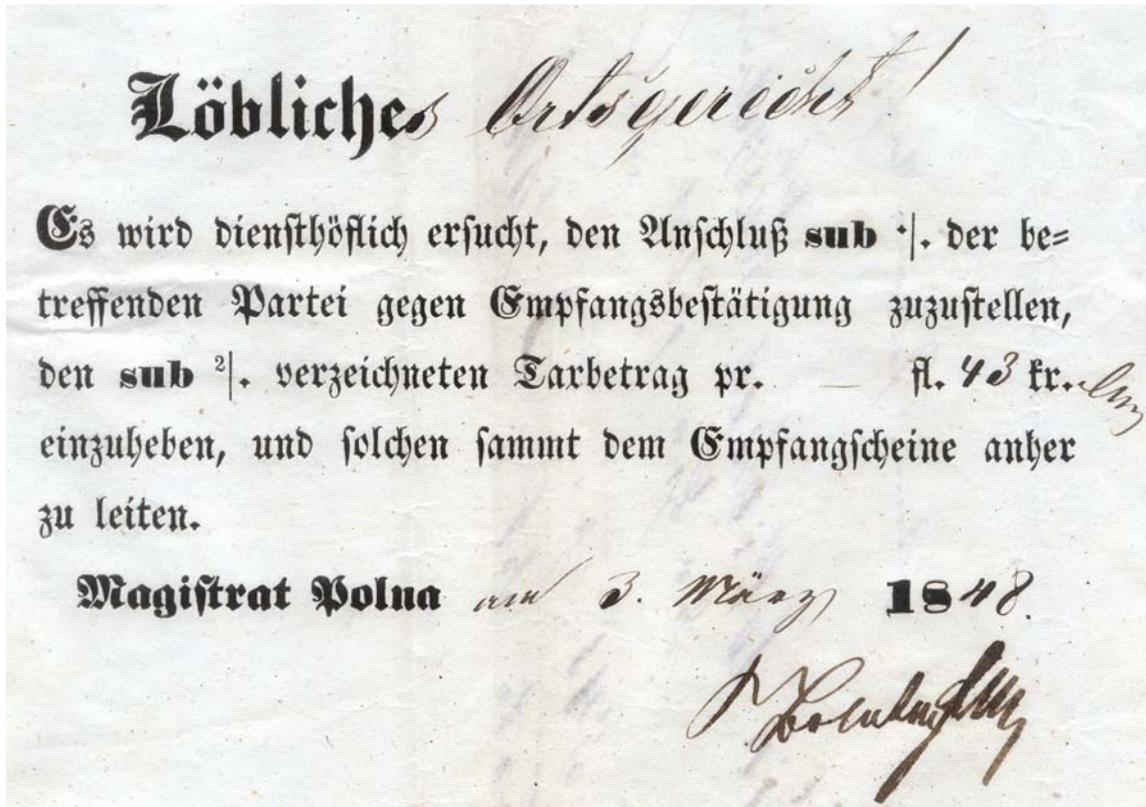
un benigno compatimento, dopo il bacio riverzate delle sue sacrate mani  
mi do l'onore di protestarmi  
Capodistria 20. xmbre 1829. Di V. S. Illma, e Rma

*Dateline: Capodistria 20 xmbre 1829, i.e. 20 December 1829, in Italian.*

- ❖ Mai and März can be confused in handwriting; watch out for the umlaut. So can Juni and Juli and an abbreviated Januar / Jänner. Often there is another date (in the postmark or the recipient's file note) that will clarify the month.
- ❖ for months beginning with a "J", an "I" is often used in its place.
- ❖ during this period, it was conventional to omit the "1" at the beginning of the year, and to overline the remaining three figures. Thus 1761 becomes  $\overline{761}$  and 1832 becomes  $\overline{832}$ . Several examples of this have already been shown.

### 3.3 The Postmark

Letters were not always postmarked on the day they were written or signed, and the postal historian will also be looking for the date posted. This printed notice from Polna, for example, is clearly dated 3 März 1848, but the postmark on the front shows that it was not posted until 29 Jun, nearly 4 months later.



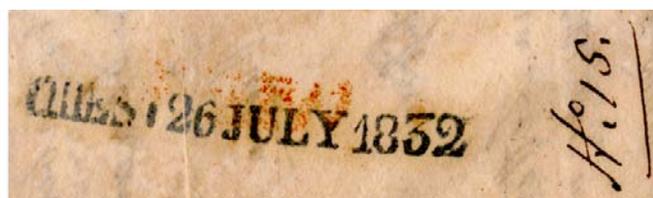
Typically, dated postmarks were introduced in the Austrian Empire in the 1830's, though some earlier ones exist. Dated postmarks of the pre-philatelic period include the day and month, but usually not the year, although again there are many exceptions.



*The dateline has been cut off this letter, and the Trieste 1842 postmark is the only indication on this cover of the date of sending*

The arrival date can often be found on the reverse of the cover. On earlier mail this was usually done in manuscript or with a simple datestamp. Later a full town-and-date stamp was used, often the same one that was used to postmark outgoing mail. The same is true of transit postmarks.

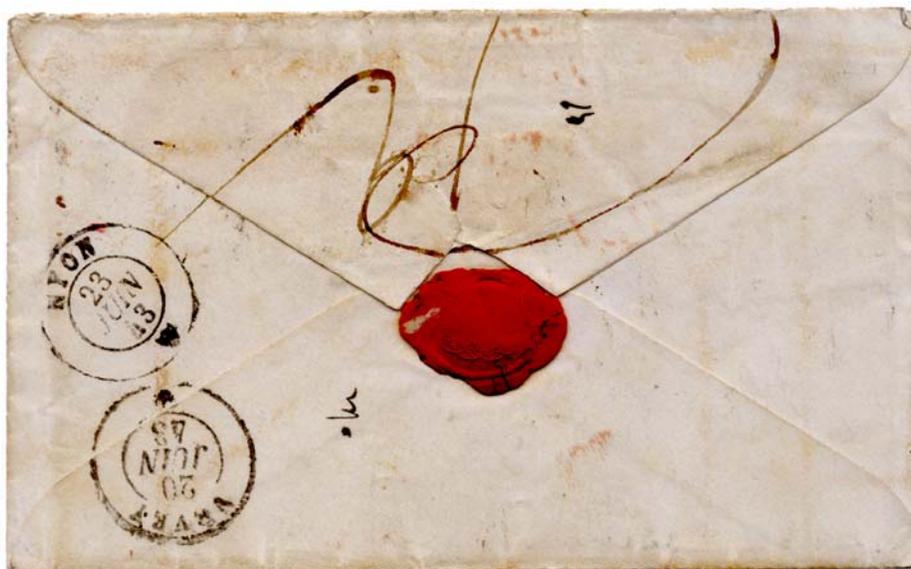
Again arrival and transit marks usually lacked the year part of the date, and this has to be found elsewhere in the letter. A minority of these marks does include the year, and this can sometimes be the only means of dating a cover without contents. Arrival and transit postmarks are most likely to yield year-dates on mail sent to overseas countries where this was the norm.



*TRIEST 26 JULY 1832. An uncommon example of an Austrian arrival postmark with the year included in the date.*



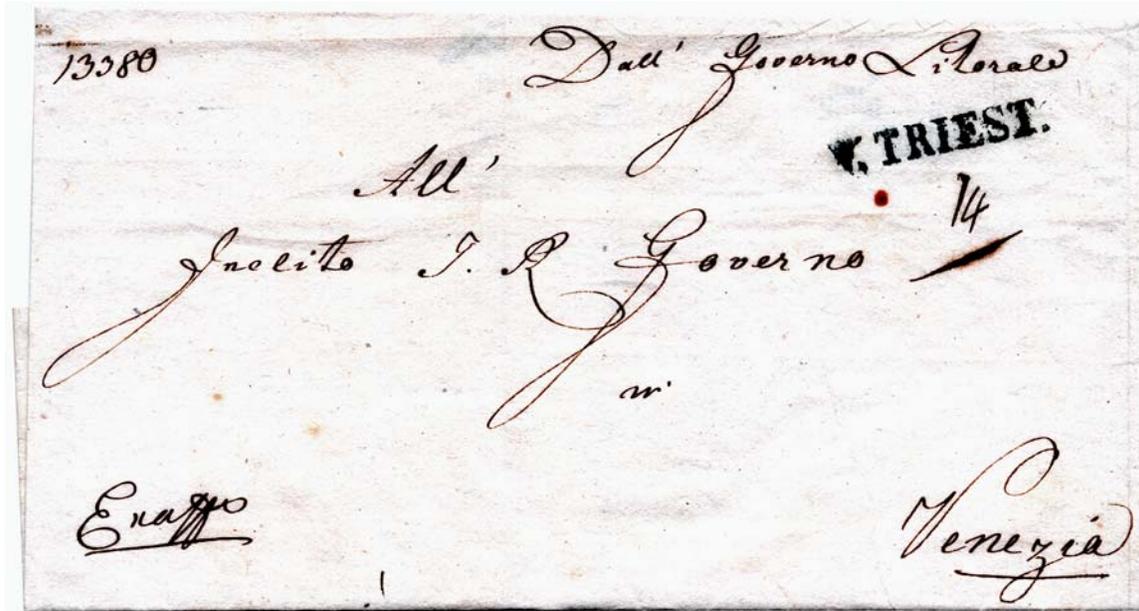
*This cover from Wien to Italy has no contents and no date. Fortunately the Italian arrival postmark for Livorno Station includes the year 1848 (with the “4” inverted!).*



*This empty envelope from Wien could not be dated without the Swiss transit marks from Nyon and Vevey on the reverse, both including the year “43”.*

### 3.4 The Recipient's File-notes.

With the exception of personal mail, it was common for the recipient to note on the flap of an incoming cover the date he received it. If the contents have been removed, this can often be the only source of the date of the cover, particularly the important year. The phrase usually used for the date received is “pras”, often abbreviated to “pr.” or just “p”.

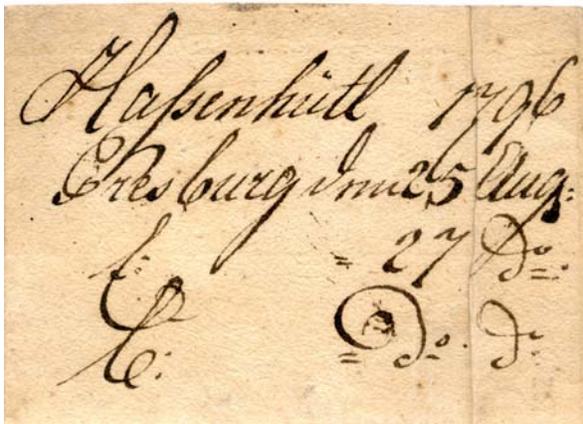
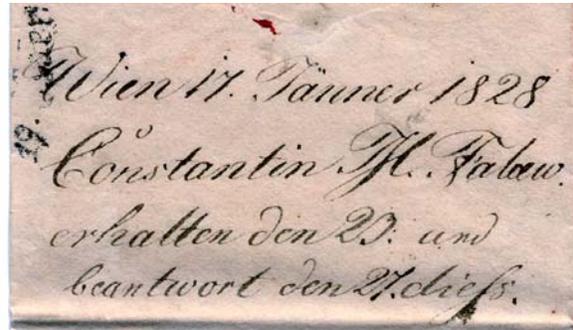


8 15 Lug. 1820

*This cover is missing its contents, and the TRIEST postmark does not include a date. Fortunately, the recipient has recorded on the back of the cover the date: 15 LUG 1820. (LUG. = Luglio = July)*

Many clerks used a three-date formula on incoming covers, and this is extremely helpful to postal historians. The three dates showed (a) when the letter was sent, (b) when it was received and (c) when it was answered or filed. When the contents of the cover are missing, this information may still exist on one of the cover-flaps.

This example shows the system quite clearly. On the cover flap we see (a) the name of the sender and his dateline “17 Jänner 1828”, (b) “erhalten 23<sup>rd</sup>” (= “received”) and (c) “beantwort 27<sup>th</sup>” (= “replied”).



“Erhalten” etc. are not normally written out in full, but the system is always the same. So, this cover from Pressburg was sent on 25 August, received on 27 ditto, and dealt with on “ditto, ditto” (i.e. 27 August).

The next example, from Linz, was written on 5 xber 1828, received on 6<sup>th</sup> and actioned on the 8<sup>th</sup>.



Once you understand the three-date system, it can often be the most informative part of a cover.





### 3.5 Research

I finished the previous article with a question for you. How did John Giblin attribute a year-date to this cover? There were no contents, and nothing on the reverse. All John saw was what you see now, with the date 13 November.



JG researched the addressee, Prince Charles Liechtenstein, Lieutenant-general. The Prince was a famous military leader, and John established that he was promoted to a full General during 1844. So the letter can't be dated later than November 1843. Similarly, John deduced from his earlier promotions, and where his unit was stationed that the letter could not have been sent before 1843. Brilliant! And John Giblin wasn't even a Google user!

There aren't too many instances where you can find a cover's date from this type of research, but they are particularly satisfying.

I have a cover with an indistinct year in the recipient's file-note; it could be 1827 or 1837 or even 1897. The cover has been redirected several times and has six different postmarks, none of which includes a year-date. However, by using a postmark catalogue, it was possible to ascertain that the letter was from 1837 because some of the six postmarks were not in use in 1827 or 1897.

### 3.6 Notes and corrections

Professor Richard Zimmerl has written from Vienna to offer a better explanation for one of my identifications in Part 2. The cover on page 66 is not (as I stated) from Weikersdorf am Steinfelde. Weikersdorf bei Baden was in fact the home of the Weikersdorf Herrschaft, and has now been incorporated into the City of Baden. The Herrschaft was located in Schloss Weikersdorf which is now a hotel. Indeed, it is the same hotel that the APS stayed at for WIPA 2000!

I would like this series to be interactive, and welcome any comments and questions from readers. I can address these in an addendum to future articles. Ideas for future instalments will also be most welcome. Please send your suggestions to the Editor or myself; the addresses are inside the front cover.

The next article in this series will help you decode the destination of a cover.



## Auction No. 87 Realisations

17	£7.00	75	£16.00	134	£7.00	251	£3.20
18	£7.00	78	£26.00	139	£4.00	252	£2.20
19	£7.00	79	£18.00	150	£2.20	253	£4.20
20	£7.00	81	£17.00	151	£3.20	256	£1.00
21	£12.00	82	£28.00	152	£2.20	258	£1.00
32	£9.50	90	£12.00	175	£12.00	259	£1.40
33	£9.50	91	£15.00	176	£8.00	264	£5.00
34	£7.50	92	£17.00	177	£20.00	270	£6.00
35	£8.00	93	£13.00	178	£25.00	271	£10.00
36	£7.00	96	£10.00	179	£8.00	272	£8.00
38	£9.50	98	£9.00	180	£15.00	276	£42.00
39	£8.50	112	£7.50	181	£22.00	277	£7.00
41	£5.00	113	£8.00	182	£20.00	278	£10.00
42	£5.00	115	£8.50	185	£15.00	279	£3.40
44	£10.00	116	£13.00	186	£8.00	280	£5.00
46	£4.50	117	£5.50	191	£7.00	281	£5.00
49	£9.00	118	£5.00	200	£30.00	284	£16.00
51	£16.00	119	£5.00	203	£50.00	285	£2.00
52	£18.00	120	£8.00	204	£100.00	287	£7.00
53	£4.50	121	£7.00	205	£36.00	288	£12.00
54	£8.00	126	£6.00	206	£45.00	289	£17.00
62	£5.00	127	£6.00	221	£3.00	290	£1.50
66	£18.00	128	£6.50	222	£3.00	291	£18.00
67	£18.00	129	£6.00	235	£5.00	297	£4.00
73	£13.00	130	£6.00	245	£6.50	299	£1.20
74	£15.00	132	£8.50	248	£18.00	301	£2.00
				249	£48.00	303	£15.00
				250	£1.50	304	£15.00

**NOTE: the Auctioneer is unavailable during the week 22 – 29 September.**