

# AUSTRIA

## Edited by Andy Taylor

No 160	CONTENTS	Winter 2007
Editorial		2
Leedsfest Reports		4
On being a Commissioner		16
Notes on Publications		18
New Issues for 2007, part 3		21
Auction 88 realisations		24
Advert: Tyrolphila		25
DDSG		26
DDSG Colour Plates		i-iv
Advert: Wardrop & Company Ltd		33
Station Ships in the Far East, first instalment		34
Beginner's Guide to Decoding Austrian Pre-Philatelic Covers Part IV		51
"A Celebration of Austrian Philately"		64
Advert: Rodolphe de Maleingreau		OBC

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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 160 ♦

By Andy Taylor

**I**t's nearly our Anniversary Year, and what will (and will not) be happening is almost upon us! The Festschrift is almost ready to send to the printers. The frames for our display at Stampex are full - indeed we'll have to rethink some of them: we must make room for the First Issue! And we intend to have a formal presence at the International Philatelic Event WIPA2008 in Vienna next September.

It has been interesting to be a member of "Team APS" producing articles for philatelic magazines. Their requirements differ from ours in ways that are at first confusing. For example, we have had to learn that editorial matters take precedence: the length, the presentation especially of illustrations, and above all meeting the deadline. "Ensuring the absence of deliberately misleading material plus mention of the most important facts" has to take precedence over "including every aspect of the subject in every detail, so that the article becomes the world's most authoritative treatise".

We have submitted to various magazines both in the UK and in Austria brief articles on "The future of Philately"; "A Classical Overview"; "About the APS & its Plans for 2008"; "Austria the grandfather"; "On Collecting Austria"; "Personal Stamps"; "Pneumatic Post"; "Postage Dues"; and "Mysterious Case of the Vienna Poste Restante". All are aimed at attracting new members rather than impressing existing specialists.

The British Science Museum are bidding for £50 million of Lottery funding to create Europe's largest museum, to be called "Inspired", near Swindon. Part of the plan is for a museum for the British Postal Museum and Archive's large objects such as postal vans and letter boxes. There will be a public vote on an ITV programme early in December. Please watch the programme and vote for "Inspired". Who knows: success might encourage Austria to follow suit ☺

I understand that the entry dates for "Harrogate 2008" have changed. Consult their website <http://www.harrogate2008.org.uk/>, which as I write is about to be relaunched. And let's have a large number of Austrian & related entries!

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♦ The editorial reflects the opinions and prejudices of the Editor, and does not represent the Austrian Philatelic Society's formal position or opinion on any of the subjects discussed.

The minutes of the 2007 AGM, and an up-to-date copy of the Rules of the APS, have been enclosed with this issue of 'Austria' – if yours are missing please contact the Editor.

One can find many interesting items in the on-line Wiener Zeitung. The issue for Tuesday 13 December 1927 led me to look for famous people born that day.

**Wiener Zeitung**

224. Jahrg.      Herausgeber und Eigentümer: Die Bundesverwaltung

Redakt.: 1., Währgr. 13, Fernspr. 79.243, 79.244; Direkt.: 1., Währgr. 13, Fernspr. 79.245; Druckerei: 1., Währgr. Straße 20, Fernspr. 79.238; Verlagsort: Wien 68,000	<b>Dienstag, 13. Dezember 1927 / Nr. 283</b>	Bezugspreise: Obere Jahrg. monatl. 3 S 40 g, mit Postl. Untere Jahrg. ob. Postverbindung monatl. 4 S (Standard 6 S) Einzelpreis: In Wien 20 g, mit Postverbindung 30 g.
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**Amthlicher Zeit.**  
**Henry D Pollak ist Heute geboren.**  
 Der Bundespräsident hat mit Entschliessung vom 5. Dezember d. J. die ordentlichen Professoren der Technischen Hochschule in Wien Ing. Josef Eckert, Oberbaurat Ing. Robert

Das 18. Stück enthält unter  
 Nr. 65 die Kundmachung der Landesregierung vom 24. Oktober 1927, Z. 2950/VI, betreffend die Einhebung von Verwaltungsabgaben in der Gemeinde Lamprechtshausen;  
 Nr. 66 die Kundmachung der Landesregierung vom 4. November 1927, Z. 2899/VI, betreffend die Beiträge der ausserföhrten Gemeinden zu

**Landtag.**  
**Niederösterreich.**  
 Tagesordnung der heutigen Sitzung, Beginn 1 Uhr nachmittags: Mitteilung des Einlaufes, Antrag des Beratungsausschusses, die Ortsgemeinde Auersthal zur Marktgemeinde zu erheben. Gegenentwurf über die Einhebung von Verzinsungsabgaben durch

The list includes Pope Sixtus V (1521); King Eric XIV of Sweden (1533); King Henry IV of France (1553); Yongzheng, Emperor of China (1678); Ernst Werner von Siemens, German engineer (1816); and Nicholas McCarthy, guitarist of the group most confusing to Austrian philatelists, Franz Ferdinand (1974). To that list we add APS Honorary Life Member Henry Pollak, whose impact on our shared hobby (or is it an obsession) began in 1927 and has increased monotonically ever since. Happy 80<sup>th</sup>!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome new members: 1265 Dr David Studholme of Norwich; 1266 Mr A. D. Martin of Plymouth; 1267 Mr Alexander Watt of Falkirk; 1268 Mr Edwin Muller of Leusden, Netherlands; 1269 Mr Frank McDonald of Dublin, Ireland; 1270 Mr Adrian Keppel of Kirkcudbright, Scotland; 1269 Mr Frank McDonald of Drimnagh, Ireland; 1270 Mr Adrian Keppel of Dundrennan, Scotland

## APS@Stampex

**Wed 27 Feb – Sat 1 Mar 2008**

**Business Design Centre, Islington, London**

**The APS will be there – will you?**

## LEEDSFEST 2007

By Keith Brandon

This year was the second of our two visits to a hotel just outside Leeds. The weather was mild for October, and “foreigners” from the south were surprised to discover that sunshine does reach Yorkshire! We had a high turnout of twenty-three philatelists and nine partners. The latter enjoyed the visit to Harrogate arranged for the Saturday.



As usual, most of the time was devoted to members' displays. A varied range of interesting and high-quality subjects are reported in detail in the next article. I must single out the keynote display, given this year by Gerrit Matthijssen, a leading member of the Nederlandse Academie voor Filatelie, whose comprehensive collection of covers fascinated everyone present. I am grateful to Alan Berrisford for again supplying the display frames, and to Martin Brumby for conducting the auction.

The Fest auction is now in its third year, and continues to improve in terms of both the quality of lots offered and the money taken. This year 60% of the lots sold for a total of £1300, of which £260 was to the benefit of Society funds.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the end of the Fest, and the Committee were pleased that 18 members stayed on to contribute to this.

I have now completed my two-year stint as Festmeister, and am handing over the reins to Brian Presland. He will be arranging the 2008 Fest on the weekend of 31 October to 2 November “somewhere in the south of England”. He and I both hope to see a record number of members there for what is sure to be another most enjoyable weekend.

## LEEDSFEST 2007: THE DISPLAYS

By Andy Taylor

*These notes were handwritten by the Editor (so may well have missed important aspects) apart from the displays by Henry White for which he sent me typed descriptions. The paucity of illustrations is caused by the impossibility of taking a reproducible photograph through two layers of shiny protective plastic!*

### **Bill Hedley – Fahrpost**

Fahrpost is basically coach mail; it began in 1750 and was separate from the ordinary letter post (Briefpost) until about 1890, although the services converged. The Fahrpost dealt with passengers, valuable items, and parcels. The display showed mainly receipts for Fahrpost-transported items.



This is a ticket for one person for the journey on the Mail Coach from Pest to Nagyvárad, undertaken on Christmas day 1866. The fare was 7 Forint 50 Kreuzer.

### **Hans Smith - Bosnia before the Military-Post Period**

In 1880, the Austrians started a formal postal service in Bosnia. Before that, paid messengers were used to take mail into Austria where it was forwarded by the Austrian postal system. Most items are disinfected against cholera. Latterly Turkish postage stamps were used. When the Austrian army entered Bosnia in 1878 it accepted civilian mail into its military system.

### ***Gerrit Matthijssen - Postal Labels (Registration and Express) in Bosnia & Herzegovina***

The first registration label known used in Bosnia was dated 1 April 1903. Four different types are recorded. Express labels appeared in 1909; they were the same design as in Austria but perforated. Express fees on parcels were paid for by adhesive stamps affixed to the parcel card; it was much later before the parcel postage was thus paid.

### ***Clive Murray - Austrian Occupation of Montenegro***

Basically, as the Austrian army advanced the Montenegrins retreated. The display was of Etappenpost offices, which the Austrians introduced behind the front. Many items were registered, and the display also showed contemporary photographs of the towns.

### ***Yvonne Wheatley - Austria used in Czechoslovakia***

This display was notable for the clearly-struck cancellations on the carefully-selected items.



### ***James Hooper - WW1 Civil Censor Marks***

A wide variety of censor markings was shown. Several had “operator errors” such as a card to Switzerland rejected as “inadmissible country” which it wasn’t; and a packet card with a censor mark supposedly reserved for use on letters. This usage is actually to indicate that the contents of the packet had been censored; the card was prepared by the postal clerk not the sender.

In Part 2 James showed rare packet markings and wax seals.

### ***John Pitts - Montenegro***

We saw stamps genuinely used on cover from the Austrian Lloyd office in Antivari; this is extremely rare although postal stationery from that office is less rare. Beware of forged expertising marks!

### ***John May - Austrian Personal Stamps***

John showed both stamps and booklets – and a hardback book containing stamps and extensive text, one of a series being issued by the Austrian Post Office, which he had just received.

### ***John Whiteside - Railway Freight Documents to 1925***

These are large, complex forms with numerous cancellations and markings, often in three or more languages. There was a tax, of course; that for “third party transfer of goods” which was 5 Kr except for a special rate of 1 Kr for journeys up to 38 km (5 German Miles). Red forms are for dangerous goods eg dynamite; black-on-green are for food. “MAV” is the Hungarian State Railway and “CSD” the Czechoslovakian.

### ***Henry White - Postal Stationery Cards, 1925-38***

Henry White showed the effect of post-WWI on Postal Stationery cards after the change from Krone to Groschen. Between 1925 and 1938 there were still five rate changes. Old PSCs had to be used in the first (1925) period and picture bearing cards did not appear until 1927, the third period. This issue showed great indecision as to what colour was intended; whilst Michel lists three shades for each of the 10, 18 & 24 groschen values, at least ten are easily distinguished for the 10 groschen ranging from blackish-brown picture & stamp to chestnut brown picture & very pale brown stamp. A change in the imprinted stamp from simple single-headed to a more elaborate double-headed eagle was made around 1933 and this was used on new blue airmail cards.

### ***Geoff Richardson - Scouting***

Scouting in Austria began in 1912; there are two National Associations who often fail to agree! A few stamps and very many special cancels have been produced, the first in 1936.

### ***Joyce Boyer - Silent Night***

The display's title refers of course to the well-known carol! Numerous special cards, cancels, commemorative and personal stamps have been issued. Joyce also showed the Christmas Train cancels from the local railway.

### ***Alan Berrisford - Austrian TPOs***

These were arranged by route and service number; the catalogues do not cover all that can be found and research in the Vienna Technical Museum library is most fruitful. Services varied from short (6 km) to long (750 km). Sometimes the number changed en route although the physical train remained the same.

In a second phase of the display, Alan noted that when TPOs began in 1850 their numbers were allocated in bands; the highest was 737 but there are gaps. Trans-border TPOs exist.



This is the inside of a typical TPO, now used on the “Nostalgiebahn” between Kitzbühel and Zell-am-Zee. Mail receives a cachet, not a TPO cancel.

### ***Barry Clark - Czech T.P.O / Postablagen Combination Postcards***

We saw cover, cards, maps and timetables (station lists), all contributing to the picture of an integrated service. Several stations were also Postablagen, and applied their cancel to mail beside or on the stamps.

### ***Andy Taylor - Tram Cancels***

Andy explained that although mail is believed to have been carried by or even posted in boxes on trams within Austria, no regular service used any manner of indication that this had happened. TPOs are on heavy railways; lines such as the Stubaitalbahn for which cancels do exist are not classed as trams “within the meaning of the Act”. So, his display was of cancels marking aspects of tramway operations. Vienna is justifiably proud of its public transport, and holds a “Day of the Tram” each year. The employees Trades Union has a big social club with a philatelic section, which produces a commemorative cover suitably cancelled to mark the occasion. The display showed many of these.

Andy had also taken the opportunity to experiment with mounting the display on A3 sheets; one page did require this. He received many useful comments on this manner of presentation.

### ***Joyce Boyer – Mail across the Atlantic***

Joyce covered Zeppelin mail to the USA, some taken onwards to South America; also mail services direct to South America by Zeppelin or Dornier.

### ***John Whiteside - Internal Parcel Cards of 1905-18***

These cards come in 8 language versions, with German, bilingual and trilingual issues. The rates depended on distance (classified into Zones) and weight. Civilians were allowed to send up to three parcels to the same destination on one card – and frequently did so, splitting a heavier parcel into ones under 5 kg to qualify for a special cheaper rate.

### ***Henry White - Kleinwalsertal & Jungholz***

Henry continued his study of the SONDERTARIF system for the Kleinwalsertal by covering the same arrangement for JUNGHOLZ, similarly situated in a mountain-locked valley to the east in the Tirol. He was able to show that the currency change from the schilling to the Euro had not made for harmonisation of postage rates and rendered the SONDERTARIF unnecessary. In fact a special yellow ‘Erganzungsmarke’ 45c stamp was issued on 22.1.2003 for postcards from KWT to Germany. Finally recent trial mailings of covers & postcards to Austria, Germany and the UK from RIEZLERN proved that though harmonisation still does not exist, as the Postdirektor at Riezlern confirmed, the SONDERTARIF system ended on 31st October 2006.

### ***Clive Murray - Austrian Occupation of Albania***

We saw mainly Scutari feldpost cancels, on a wide variety of cards.

### ***John Pitts - Development of Austrian Telephone Service***

John showed Telephone Cards, which were a prepayment for the service. A special group of cancels was introduced for leaseholders of telephone kiosks, eg the Ottohaus up the Raxalpe.

### ***Bill Hedley – Pressburg***



Bill showed a variety of items from Pressburg/Poszony/Bratislava, beginning with a letter from a French POW in 1809.

### ***Geoff Richardson - Day of the Stamp***

This display concentrated mainly on multiple frankings.

### ***Joyce Boyer - The Euro Definitive***

Joyce displayed the first issue; supplementary stamps; OPAL labels; the yellow makeup stamp in different values; and the flood relief overprint. The recent Second Issue featuring flowers, and self-adhesive issues, were also included.

### ***Hans Smith - Capodistria***

This town was in Austria, and is now Koper in Slovenia; it was founded in classical Greek times. Hans produced a letter from the Doge of Venice to the Governor, handwritten on vellum in 1463 (!!!); we also saw mail from the adjacent towns and villages.

### **The Competition: “A Subject beginning with P”**

As always the linguistic ingenuity of the APS came to the fore. The winner was Keith Brandon with “Prater”; second John Pitts with “Porto plus Provisional”; third Gerrit Matthijssen with “Postal Labels”. An anonymous entry on “Phiume” was disqualified.

Keith Brandon’s winning display concerned the Prater Park in Vienna, perhaps best known for the appearance of its “Big Wheel” in Orson Welles’ classic film “The Third Man”. A selection of postcards and covers described the history of the park from its opening to the public in 1766 to its anniversary in 1966.





This is one of John Pitts examples, and presents a mystery! It is 1917 Porto-overprinted definitives used as emergency franking in 1917: this counts as “Provisional”. The item was sent from the KuK Military Bedding Store in Brünn to Kunowitz in Moravia. The addressee is “The honourable the wife of the Forest Administrator of the Principality of Liechtenstein”. The franking of 100 heller is inexplicable. Numerically it is 25h inland registration fee + 15h inland postage for first 20 grams + 60h inland postage for remaining weight: 240 grams at 5h per 20 gram = 100h. It would thus weigh between 240 & 259 grams. The problem is, what could the contents possibly be? Neither paper nor postcards of that weight will fit the envelope: it would have to be a thin metal plate such as an engraved printing block for visiting cards!

The next report was paraphrased by the Editor from the speaker’s script.

## The Sunday Morning Display: “The postal consequences of the Austro-Hungarian military presence in the Balkans” presented by Gerrit Matthijssen.

Gerrit had divided the period into four subdivisions. All were extensively illustrated by examples, many rather rare.

1. The Field Post (Field Post Service) during the occupation;
2. The military post in B&H after the normalisation, but only where the military was involved;
3. The field post in the Balkans during WWI;
4. The End of the Dual Monarchy.

His story starts in 1878. The Ottoman Empire had controlled a large part of the Balkans for several hundreds of years; but it was very weak and the European Great Powers started to take an interest in this area. Serbia – a vassal state of Turkey – declared war on Turkey in 1875 and the unrest in the Balkans culminated in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878.

Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Turkey participated in The Congress of Berlin (in 1878) which settled the Balkan question (for the moment...). Article XXV of the resulting treaty is important for us; it states that “The Provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be occupied and administered by Austria-Hungary” and that “Austria-Hungary reserves the right of keeping garrisons and having military and commercial roads in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar”. But the occupation itself proved to be not as easy as was thought. A relative large army of over a quarter of a million soldiers was necessary.

Austro-Hungarian troops crossed the Bosnian border on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1878 under the command of Field Marshal Phillipovic. At first only the 13<sup>th</sup> Army Corps consisting of three Infantry Divisions was involved. In August other formations were mobilised (2<sup>nd</sup> Army with three Army Corps and two divisions). The 18<sup>th</sup> division crossed the borders of Herzegovina on the 1st of August under the command of Field Marshal-Lieutenant Jovanovic.

### ***The Field Post Service during the occupation***

A Fieldpost Service was operated between 1878 & 1879. It included the forwarding of letters, newspapers, money orders, and in special cases also the sending of parcels. The actual execution was by field post offices:

- a) a main field post office was allotted to the Army headquarters;
- b) field post offices (“Feldpostleitung”) to (Army) Corps;
- c) field post offices by mobile units (divisions) (“Feldpost-Expositur”) and
- d) base field post offices on communication lines (“Etappen-Postämter”)

To some extent civilian usage of the field post was possible from 1st January 1879. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1879 the field post service was extended to the whole civilian population of this area. From this date Bosnian postage stamps and forms were introduced.

On 15<sup>th</sup> November 1879 the Field Post ended (at least formally) their postal activities in these two provinces. On 16<sup>th</sup> Nov the Field Post in this area was turned into a so-called ‘Imperial and Royal Military Post’. So it still stayed a military organisation under the supervision of the Common (= Austro-Hungarian) Ministry of War in Vienna. The ‘k.u.k. military post offices’ received new handstamps in February 1880.

## ***Military Post 1914-1918***

We were shown only the military presence in B&H during this period, not the accompanying civilian use of these post offices. Gerrit's first example was a parcel sent by Fahrpost - careful study of the rates was needed to detect that it had been sent by a military person. He followed with official (military) mail which was free from postal charge. Special postal stationary cards for official mail, free from charge, were issued in B&H.

Some post offices or auxiliary post offices ('Postablagen') were located in military camps, like the military camp in Sarajevo. One has to take care with money letters as these were not charged as letters but as 'Fahrpost'. However international money letters (letters with declared value) were charged as a letter.

In the Sanjak three Field post offices were in operation under the supervision of the Postal Directorate in Sarajevo; there were also Turkish post offices. To some extent the military post was free of charge (marked with the 'FRANCO' handstamp) while private mail had to be franked. The tariffs to Austria or Hungary were the same as to other foreign countries.

In 1882 the military authorities announced that the Bosnians were now liable for military service. This aroused much unrest, and in 1882 uprisings started in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina (and Dalmatia). Troops were sent to these regions and three field post office were opened. At first they received cancellers with numbers I to III, later with place-names. But conscription was unavoidable and B&H regiments were built up.

Fourteen "Mountain Brigades" were stationed in B&H (and Dalmatia). In the k.u.k. monarchy large manoeuvres were held during peacetime, and field post offices were opened for training purposes. Gerrit showed one for the 7<sup>th</sup> Mountain Brigade; the post was not free from charges.

## ***Fieldpost during WWI, 1914-1918***

The murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo (28 June 1914) was followed by the Austro-Hungarian declaration of war on Serbia one month later. The army was partly mobilised on that day. Complete mobilisation followed on 4<sup>th</sup> August; war was declared on Russia on 6<sup>th</sup> August. The Field post organisation started work and made use of an elaborate system of field post offices during the next four years.

The third (and largest) part of the display dealt with the presence of the military in the Balkans during World War I and was not restricted to B&H proper. Gerrit's first example was a Hungarian type of FPO with the earliest known date (5 August 1914) of a field post cancellation. Many others followed!

The 5<sup>th</sup> Army crossed the Drina river on 12<sup>th</sup> August. The 36<sup>th</sup> ID (FPO 44) formed part of this Army. They met (somewhat unexpectedly) very strong resistance from the Serbians. Some days later the Army had to retreat to Bosnian soil. The 6<sup>th</sup> Army was grouped near Zvornik.

A second attack began on 6-8 September but wasn't a success either although they kept a bridgehead near Zvornik. At the same time Serbians and Montenegrans counterattacked in south-eastern Bosnia. During the last days of October they were driven back to the other side of the Drina.

The third offensive started in November. By mid-November the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Army were in Serbia, and Belgrade was conquered. The third offensive failed again and from 12<sup>th</sup> December 1914 the Austro-Hungarian troops retreated to southern Hungary, regrouping in Syrmia and Slavonia. Only some troops (and also FPOs) were left in Bosnia.

In B&H a new 62<sup>nd</sup> ID (FPO 103) was formed in south-eastern Bosnia, which was with a new, combined (German and Austro-Hungarian) Army in South-Hungary under the command of Field Marshall Mackensen. A main field post office was activated in Sarajevo.

In the newly occupied countries a Field Post Service was set up. It could be used by civilians as well, but only in Serbia did civilians make use of this facility. We can find postal cards and letters posted at the post offices in Bosnia-Herzegovina by military persons during the attacks on Serbia in 1914. It was not allowed to use the normal date handstamp with town name for this kind of mail. Cancellations with the 'FRANCO' handstamp can be found as well as one with a ringed number.

### ***The End of the Dual Monarchy in October 1914.***

October 1918 was the last month of WWI; and rang in the end of the k.u.k. Fieldpost. Gerrit showed a late usage with a scarce item that had a high field post number. The Austro-Hungarian military presence in B&H (including the Military Post) ended formally on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. On that day the highest-ranking commander in B&H left Sarajevo and Bosnia.

## THE DUTIES OF A BRITISH COMMISSIONER FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION <sup>(1)</sup>

By Yvonne Wheatley (Bradford PS; British Commissioner at BRNO 2005)

**H**ow does one become a National Commissioner for an International Exhibition? There is only one criteria, commissioners must be collectors. One must have a compliant spouse and be prepared for a lot of paper work; stamina is essential.

My name is on the list of National Commissioners and when the Philatelic Trust is asked to nominate a commissioner for an exhibition, the Trust will make its selection from the list. As soon as I am appointed this is the timetable of events.

1. Advertise the exhibition in the philatelic press. The Organising Committee of the exhibition will send me Bulletin 1 which I have to send out to those who have expressed an interest in exhibiting.
2. Then comes the despatch of Bulletin 2 with the application form. On receipt of completed forms I have to make sure they are filled in correctly and the exhibitor is qualified to enter.
3. I send these forms to the Organising Committee by their deadline. As soon as this happens there is frantic activity when collectors wake up and ask me to process late application forms.
4. Next there is a long gap until the successful applicants are named. During this time I am busy responding to all those hopeful exhibitors who want to know when they will hear if they have been accepted!
5. I notify all the applicants of their fate.
6. I collect the exhibition fees and call in the literature entries. These have to be sent to the Organising Committee in good time to allow the jury to read them.
7. I have to send out the paper work consisting of an inventory. Each exhibitor has to list the number of stamps/covers/other items on each album page. Everyone has the same instructions but the different ways of interpreting them never cease to amaze me.
8. I fix a date at Charterhouse Street, London for calling in the entries. An exhibition with a large number of successful entries requires two days. On the appointed day I attend at the Trust's offices where I receive a steady stream of exhibitors to hand in their entries. Unfortunately it is never a

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<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from the November 2005 edition of the newsletter of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association, by kind permission of their Editor

steady stream and everyone arrives at the same time!

9. Each entry is examined by me to ensure that each page corresponds with the inventory.
10. The same day I pack the entries into metal trucks, usually three in number. I prepare a duplicate set of papers to go with the exhibits in case there is a problem and I cannot travel to the exhibition as someone else would have to go in my place.
11. I have to arrive at the exhibition a few days in advance of the opening. It is a matter of clearing customs if I am travelling to a non-EU country. The trunks and personal luggage are checked in. The weight of the trunks will exceed the baggage allowance so there is excess to pay. The trunk cannot be left unattended so Richard always accompanies me.
12. Once we arrive in the host country we are met and taken to the exhibition site. There every album sheet has to be examined in my presence against the inventory by customs or two members of the Organising Committee.
13. We might be required to mount our entries but this is unusual. Once mounted we check every exhibit to ensure it is correctly mounted. After that they are examined daily to ensure the frames have not been damaged or subject to sunlight.
14. Every day of the exhibition I have to attend a Commissioners meeting.
15. If the expert panel want to examine any sheets more closely I have to be present when the frames are opened and secured.
16. Towards the end of the exhibition exhibitors will be given the chance to discuss their exhibits with the jury members who judged it. We attend this session to obtain a critique for those exhibitors who are not present. I can then give a report to help the owners in their development of the exhibit.
17. I attend the Palmares, (the award ceremony) hoping that any special prizes won by our exhibitors will not be too difficult to bring back!
18. Dismounting and signing off each exhibit and repacking the trunks. These are always heavier on the return journey as there are medals and catalogues to bring back.
19. Customs formalities to leave the host country and again on entering the UK if appropriate. It is always a relief to see the trunks appear on the carousel at Heathrow!
20. Another day at the Trust offices to hand back the entries to the exhibitors.
21. Write reports for the philatelic press.

The closing date for an exhibition is usually a year ahead of the opening so the whole exercise takes between 18 months and two years. At one time while I was still working I had three exhibitions in various stages on the go at one time!

## NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

### Additions to the Library

Peter Cybaniak has presented us with the latest volume in the series that he and Roman Dubniak are working on. The opportunity has been taken to revise the library listing of them all, so it now reads:

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
193	The Postal History of Ukraine  [Fully illustrated; no valuations]	193A: K.u.K. Ukrainische Legion: 1914-18 cancellations, cards etc	102	R Dubniak & P Cybaniak	1990	E
		193A-1a: Ukrainian Legion Postcards, types 1-6	78		2004	E
		193A-1b: Ukrainian Legion Postcards, types 7-17	80		2004	E
		193B: K.u.K. Ukrainische Legion: Field post cards 1914-18	106		1992	E
		193C: A-H army in Ukraine; censor handstamps 1914-1918	144		1997	E
		193D: Postcards of the German Buh Army	56		2004	E
		193E: Postcards of supporting organisations	76		2006	E
		193F: The Czechoslovak Army in Ukraine 1914-1920, Book 1	100		2007	E

### *Die Briefmarke:*

**Issue 8/2007:** The exhibition at Gmunden; new definitives & new foreign rates; Erich Bober, the outgoing President of VÖPh, looks back; WIPA1933; “Leophila”; thematic: fire brigades & fire-damaged mail; thematic: Albania; prephilatelic ordinary and express mail systems; details of new issues including “official personal”; costumes-series postcard rarities; Prague 1 & 18 red cancels; society, foreign & other news; books; readers’ letters; catalogues; etc

**Issue 9/2007:** Thematic: fungi; report from FIP exhibition, St Petersburg (“not all was bad”); WIPA1933(ii); details of new issues including “official personal”; thematic: Albania (ii); Kolo Moser; Hitler-head forgeries; many ½- or 1-page articles on diverse interesting topics; society, foreign & other news; books; readers’ letters; catalogues; etc

**Issue 10/2007:** Results of the elections for VÖPh Officers (President is Mag Anton Tettinek); interview with Ö.Post Generaldirektor Weiss; thematic: Space flight; details of new issues including “official personal”; a rare Postage Due item from Romania; pre-philately: “franked to the border” letters; Austria-Czechoslovakia mail after WWII; forgeries on Ebay and elsewhere; report from Gmunden (“all was good”); many ½- or 1-page articles on diverse interesting topics; society, foreign & other news; books; readers’ letters; catalogues; etc

The reply to a reader’s letter about the “supplementary 4 cent franking stamp” includes something new to me: “it has been a Post Office requirement for many years” that items to receive a Special Cancellation must be franked with at least the standard-letter inland rate [55 cents as I write]. Without that “the item is philatelically worthless”.

### ***Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.***

**Issue 79:** (*most pictures in colour*) Philately & the Internet; interview with Dr Haas; post between Steiermark & Wien in mid-1945; book reviews; new Wien-61 cancel; embossings where one would expect perfins; rates queries; etc.

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

**Rundbrief 90:** news, awards gained, birthday greetings; numerous queries & answers; packet censoring; 1914-18 COD packets; the Great Wollersdorf Explosion (18.6.1917); Przemyśl to Siberia & back (POW cards); FPO numbers; book reviews etc.

### ***Stamps of Hungary***

**Issue 170: September 2007:** News & views; Semmelweiss; the Adria line & Capt. Peterdi; WWI submarine mail; the vessels of the Danube Flotilla after 1918; Qs&As; etc.

## ***Militär und Philatelie***

**Issue 223:** News of modern issues, exhibitions and activities; the war with Romania 1916-18; Wien-Schwechat 3; etc

## ***Germania***

**August 2007 vol 43 no 3:** World Heritage Sites; Leipzig & Dresden local posts; German Post Offices in China; questions & answers; local group reports; etc

## ***Wiener Ganssachsen- Frei- u Poststempelverein***

**Issue 3/2007:** 1946-1946 air mail surcharge to Denmark: an empirical study

## ***The London Philatelist***

**Oct 2007:** International Reply Coupons

## ***Südost-Philatelie***

Vol 101-102/2007: a Napoleonic-era letter to Sarajevo; registered mail and the Montenegrin Post; Austrian and provisional postcards in SHS from 1919; fiscal adhesives on foreign packet cards, 1938-43; the cancellations of Triest B; and much else.

## ***Jugopošta***

Vol 83 Sep 2007: the packet will continue; foreign trips cancelled; articles urgently needed; mini-monograph (*micrograph? Ed*) on Places of official use of bisected Slovenian stamps of the 1919/20 issues; auctioneer's report.

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## New Issues - 2007 part 3

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.

The Flower stamps are the first of a new definitive series.

### Flowers - Common Dandelion



0.04€ FDC: 25 Aug 2007; Issue: 1,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

There are 30 dandelion varieties in Europe; 18 varieties and many sub-varieties are found in Austria. The Austrian dandelion has deep roots, and is a pioneer plant that appears in the meadows, along paths and rubble areas in April and May. It is used as a substitute for chicory root, as an edible plant and for medicinal purposes. It increases the secretion of digestive juices and gall, and is a powerful diuretic.

### Flowers - Scotch Laburnum



0.10€ FDC: 25 Aug 2007; Issue: 2,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

Scotch Laburnum is a native of the southern alps, the karst and the mountains of the north-western Balkan peninsula. Today, the Scotch Laburnum has made itself native to southern Carinthia and Styria, and blossoms from May to June, preferring rocky slopes in areas of high air humidity, pine forests and flat beech woods. Almost all the plant parts of the laburnum species, but particularly the seeds, contain extraordinarily poisonous alkaloids (such as cytisine). For children, even 2 seeds can be dangerous, while chewing branches and eating blossoms or seeds can be fatal. The plant is used in homeopathy for nervous-depressive complaints, illnesses of the digestive tract, dizziness, meningitis and illnesses of the central nervous system.

### Flowers - Guelder Rose



0.65€ FDC: 25 Aug 2007; Issue: 20,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by Österreichische Staatsdruckerei.

The Guelder Rose gets its German name, the Common Schneeball, or snowball, from the blossoms that resemble snowballs. It flourishes in humid undergrowth, riverside meadows and on the banks of streams. The fruit is spherical and red when ripe, but poisonous when raw.

### Flowers - Gentiana ciliata



1.15€ FDC: 25 Aug 2007; Issue: 5,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

Gentianopsis ciliata with its narrow blue blossoms with four delicately ragged crowns flowers from August to November on chalky medium dry grassland and rocky neglected grassland from the valleys up to an altitude of 2250 metres. Gentian schnapps is made using the roots of the Yellow Gentian. Drugs made from gentians are used for digestive problems and lack of appetite, as well as

for the liver and the gall bladder.

### Flowers – Clematis



1.40€ FDC: 25 Aug 2007; Issue: 5,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

These mostly woody climbing shrubs are to be found in many parts of the world, but prefer the northern temperate zone. Their twining tendrils allow them to gain a hold almost anywhere. The most common of these ornamental plants with the larger blossoms originate from China and Japan. They are partly or even fully hardy plants [Not in my garden! Ed], and are best planted in a shady spot with well drained

and humus-rich soil. The shoots can take the sun but should not be pruned too drastically.

### **White-tailed Eagle: Austria-Serbia joint issue**



0.55€ FDC 7 Sep 2007; Issue: 960,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Mag. Helga Herger.

The huge riverside forests along the Danube are home to the white-tailed eagle, and represent the link behind the joint Austria-Serbia issue. Efforts by a number of nature protection organisations have led to a decisive improvement of the conditions needed for the white-tailed eagle over the last few years. The habitat of the white-tailed eagle is primarily on cliffs, bays, large inland lakes and rivers. The white-tailed eagle has a wingspan of up to two and a half metres, with a powerful prominent beak and an almost white, wedge-shaped tail. Its truly imposing appearance is indeed confirmation of the choice of this bird for the Austrian coat of arms.

### **Art Nouveau - Josef Hoffmann**



2.65€ FDC: 14 Sep 2007; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design & printing: Cartor Security Printing; Block issue.

Josef Hoffmann was born on 15.12.1870 in Brtnice, in what is today the Czech Republic, and attended the Higher State Craft School in Brno. After one year working in the building industry he began his studies at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts under Carl Freiherr von Hasenauer and Otto Wagner.

In 1897 Hoffmann and a number of like-minded artists formed the Sezession. The Wiener Werkstätte founded in May 1903 had a radical influence on Hoffmann's life and on art in Vienna. Together with Kolo Moser and with the financial support of the industrialist Fritz Wärndorfer, Hoffmann headed an arts and crafts co-operative that created new designs for everyday objects, which were then produced with a high degree of precision. Beauty and individuality were another of his trademarks. The early works of Hoffmann were characterised by simplicity of form and geometrical abstraction, and a frequent motif in his works was the square. Over the years, his cubist and abstract designs gradually transformed into more moderate forms. Later, Hoffmann fell back on classical stylistic elements, anticipating the features of art deco. His aim was always the unity of design, and so he also designed the interior furnishings for his major architectural projects. In the 1920s, Hoffmann gave up his role as

head of his studio for health reasons, but his creativity continued unabated until his death in 1956.

Hoffmann's life work covered all fields of artistic activity. As the initiator of the Vienna Sezession, he set the standards for the development of art in the 20th century. As founder of the Wiener Werkstätte he revolutionised arts and crafts. And as an architect and designer he was a pioneer of the Viennese Jugendstil. The Republic of Austria honoured Hoffmann's work by awarding him the Grosse Österreichische Staatspreis.

The stamp shows a detail from a necklace designed by Josef Hoffmann in 1916. The links of the chain are 2.5 cm wide, the chain itself is 129 cm long. It is made of gold and ivory, and was produced in the Wiener Werkstätte. This piece of jewellery, once owned by Otto Primavesi, is now amongst the treasures of the Museum of Applied Art in Vienna.

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15	£8	52	£8	110	£7.50	178	£22
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29	£14	59	£5	112	£16	185	£7
35	£15	60	£7	113	£9	186	£7
39	£16	67	£6	123	£5.50	190	£4.50
40	£35	68	£5.50	124	£5.50	198	£4.50
41	£27	75	£7	132	£22	209	£3.50
42	£17	81	£6.50	138	£6.50	210	£2.50
43	£18	82	£12	139	£6.50	218	£7.50
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## THE MAIL OF THE FIRST K.K. PRIVILEGED DANUBE STEAMSHIP TRAVEL COMPANY (D. D. S. G.)

This article is based on pp 1281-1292 of "Ferchenbauer Österreich 1850-1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog, Wien 2000" as translated by George Taubei for the APS(USA) Journal, vol 2 issue 4; and is reproduced here by kind permission of all concerned. [*The original valuations are in Euros-of-2000 and have been omitted. Comments like this, in italics inside square brackets, are A Taylor's.*]

The company was founded in the year 1830 and its ships not only travelled the Danube to its estuary, but also maintained lines to the Black and Aegean seas. In the year 1845 the D.D.S.G. was restricted to Danube river ship traffic (a line to Odessa remained). The shipping line service beyond was maintained by the Austrian Lloyd. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Danube was the most important commerce and postal route between the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria on one hand and the areas of Russia and the Osman realm, situated on the Black Sea, on the other.

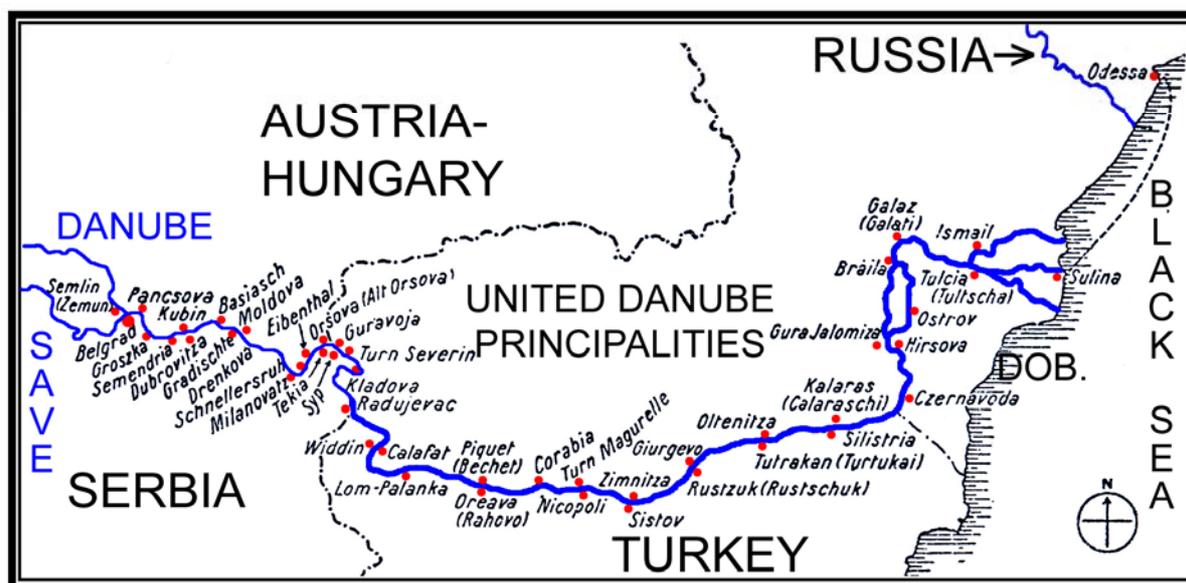
Serbia, which had already attained considerable independence in 1830 under the hereditary prince Milan Obrenovic, nominated by the Sublime Porte [*effectively, the Turkish Government*], acquired large areas through the Berlin Congress and reached full independence (Proclamation of 1 August 1878). On 6 March 1882 Serbia was finally proclaimed a kingdom under Milan I. The two Danube principalities Moldavia and Walachia were united in a personal union by Alexander Cuza at the beginning of 1859. The united state of Romania was proclaimed on 8 December 1861, with permission of the Sublime Porte. In mid 1866 Prince Karl I was enthroned and on 21 May 1877 the absolute independence of Romania was declared.

In October 1878 the Berlin Congress awarded Bessarabia to Russia. The area had belonged to the principality of Moldavia since 1856, until on 25 November 1878 Romania occupied the Dobrudscha (the area between the Danube and the Black Sea, north of Silistria). After the uprising in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1875, an uprising against Turkish rule also followed in Bulgaria. As a result of the Turkish-Russian war a Bulgarian principality, obligated to pay tribute to the Osman Empire, was established by the Berlin Congress; it consisted of the area south of the Danube from Radujevac to the Black Sea. At the end of 1885 the province of East Rumelia, until then Turkish, was also united with Bulgaria.

During the time of Turkish rule in the countries of the lower Danube postal service was totally non-existent. The D.D.S.G. maintained regular ship traffic, and added to people and freight transport more and more letter exchanges. This

happened particularly between individual agencies on the lower Danube and with Austro-Hungary, where the letters had to be turned over to the postal service at the border for further dispatch. In the year 1846 the D.D.S.G. obtained the sole right for mail transportation within its operational area from the government postal service administration. Beyond that the D.D.S.G. carried mail on the river Sava where its right bank lay outside Austro-Hungary.

With the establishment of individual postal services by the countries achieving independence at the end of the 1870s the postal service of the D.D.S.G. became obsolete and after a short tolerance period, terminated. This happened to the agencies in Romania in 1875, in the Dobrukscha in 1879/80, to those in Serbia in 1878-1880 and finally in 1880 in Bulgaria.



The following list of agencies of the D.D.S.G, show their country locations thus: (B) Bulgaria, (D) Dobrukscha, (R) Romania, (S) Serbia, and (H) Hungary; unless otherwise stated the individual agencies were opened in 1830.

Basiach (H)	Oltenitza (R). closed 1875
Belgrade (S), closed 1878	Oreava (B), closed approx. 1880
Braila (R), closed 1875	Orsova & Old-Orsova (H)
Calafat (R), closed 1875	Ostrov (D), opened 1879, closed 1880
Corabia (R) opened and closed 1875	Pancsova (H)
Czernavoda (D), closed approx. 1880	Piquet (R), closed 1875
Drenkova (S), closed 1875	Radujevaz (S), closed 1875
Dubrovitza (S), 1875	Rustschuk (B), closed approx. 1880
Eibenthal (H), closed 1875	Schabatz (S), closed 1875
Galatz (R), closed 1875	Schnellersruh (H)
Giurgevo (R), closed 1875	Semendria (S), closed 1875
Gradishte (S), closed 1875	Semlin (H)

Gura Jalomiza (R) closed 1875	Silistria (B), closed approx. 1880
Groszka (S), opened 1875, closed 1877	Sistov (B), closed approx. 1880
Guravoja (R), closed 1875	Sulina (D), closed approx. 1880
Hirsova (D), opened 1870, closed 1875 1875 opened again 1879-1880	Syp (S), opened 1875, closed 1875 Tekia (S), opened 1870, closed 1876
Ismail (R), closed 1875	Tulcia (D), closed approx. 1880
Lom Palanka (B), closed approx. 1880	Turn Magurelle (R), closed 1875
Milanovaz (S), closed 1875	Turn Severin (R), closed 1875
Moldova (H), opened 1869	Turtukay (B), opened 1870, closed 1880
Nicopoli (B), closed approx. 1880	Widdin (B), closed approx. 1880
Odessa (Russia)	Zimnitza (R), opened 1870, closed 1875

At particular times D.D.S.G. mail was also handled at Constantinople and Smyrna, however not at the time postage stamps were in use; no examples are known from a number of locations listed above.

### *The 1866/68 stamp issue*

Value numerals with anchors within an oval lettering band on wavy background lithographed, without watermark, perforated LP (line perforation) 12 or LP 9.

Nr 1 was first issued on 15 April 1866; by the end of 1867 stocks were exhausted and Nr 2 was issued; it in turn ran out in April 1868 and Nr 3 was issued; from August 1870 Nr 4 was issued and used alongside Nr 3. All were valid for franking until the cessation of the mail service in mid-1880.

For the printing a white, hard, but very thin paper was used, which on letters and letter fragments often appears to be tinted because the letter paper colour shows through. As the gum was applied thickly and the paper was thin, light yellowish hues may also appear. At the time of the introduction of postage stamps the letter rate of the D.D.S.G. was 17 Kreuzer per letter and per Loth [<sup>1</sup>]; on 24 November 1867 it was reduced to 10 Kreuzer to make the mail service of the D.D.S.G. competitive with the Austrian foreign mail service. The stamps were produced by lithography; the stones had 100 fields (10 by 10). Three stone printing plates were used:

❖

<sup>1</sup> [Austro-Hungarian mail both internal and foreign was supposed to be measured in the Zoll (ie Customs) Loth; one Zollpfund contained 30 Loth and weighed 500 gram, so 1 Zoll-Loth = 16.67 gram. However the Vienna Loth of 17.5 gram was often used instead. Either Loth is approximately ½ oz. imperial measure. Ed.]

**Stone 1** for printing the stamps of 17 Kr (10 different fields in regular repetition: printing arrangement A).

**Stone 2** for printing all stamps of 10 Kr of Type I (also printing arrangement A). This stone, which was prepared by changing the number 17 to the number 10, was in use for a long time and therefore (especially with the 10 Kr green) colour variations and many more or less worn printings exist.

**Stone 3** for printing the 10 Kr green Type II (20 different fields in five fold regular repetition: printing arrangement B).

According to the latest research of the deceased D.D.S.G. specialist collector Julius Steindler there exists a printing arrangement C of the 10 Kr green Type I stamp where the two lowest rows of the printing stone were assembled in an irregular sequence, the other 80 fields consisting of 10 regularly repeated blocks of 8 fields. Steindler suspected that there were 7 different issues of this stamp, which allegedly could be distinguished by colour nuances.

The following chart (compiled by Prof Dr Karl Vodrazka) shows the usage date span of individual values:

Nr.	Value	Type	Colour	Perforation	Date Span
1 A	17 Kr	I	scarlet	LP12	1.5.1866 - 10.12.1867
1 B	17 Kr	I	scarlet	LP9½	21.3.1867 - 4.12.1867
2	10 Kr	I	pale lilac	LP9½	24.11.1867 - 27.10.1868
3 I	10 Kr	I	green	LP9½	10.4.1868 - 9.7.1878
4	10 Kr	I	red	LP9½	10.8.1870 - 22.5.1872
3 II	10 Kr	II	green	LP9½	9.9.1878 - 21.11.1880

**Type I** All values exist in this type. Main recognition marks are the flattened heads of all “f” letters of the inscriptions, also the coloured thin line between the two oval lines above the first “K” [*of K.K.*] and small colour specks in the wavy background in the right lower third of the stamp. (It was often claimed that the specks only occurred on the original printing; that however is not correct).

**Type II:** Only the stamp of 10 Kr green exists in this type; it was probably produced in 1878 therefore shortly before the end of the D.D.S.G mail service, this was presumably because the printing stone was badly worn by usage. This type is easily recognized by the round heads of the “f” letter. Additionally, the distance between the inscription and the thin, green line of the oval is wider than for Type I.

[*Table of prices omitted*] Blue green and moss green colour variations are to be valued higher in used condition. All prices are valid for copies of average condition (ie 1 to 2 short perfs particularly with the LP 9½ copies). Perfect perfs are worth 50% more!



### *Evaluation of multiples*

With the exception of the green 10 Kr value of Type II, of which original sheets of 100 still exist, only an unused block of 12 of Nr. 2 and a similar block of 20 of Nr. 3 Type I are known; only a few used pairs are known, some on letters.

### *Particulars of print, paper and perforations*

As explained above, the printing stones had 100 fields (10 by 10), which according to printing arrangements were assembled from 10 or 20 fields in a repeated pattern. Each of the fields show more or less recognizable flaws which are sometimes the only distinguishing features between originals and reprints. The flaws are often not apparent, particularly on used copies.

The paper used for printing has already been described above. The line perforation 12 of Nr. 1 A is regular whereas the majority of the values with LP9½ are mostly badly perforated, have omitted perforations and are more or less badly separated copies (round corners). The quoted prices are for copies with lesser tolerable perforation irregularities. Severe perforation irregularities exist. Double perforations are rare (approx triple prices).

### *Exceptional frankings*

Letters carried by the D.D.S.G. were franked with D.D.S.G. stamps on routes outside Austro-Hungary, however when they were carried through Austria or Hungary (to states beyond) they had to be franked additionally for those sections with Austrian or Hungarian stamps. Tolerated, however, were additional frankings with Austrian Levant stamps which had already been applied at the mailing office. Exchange harbours for D.D.S.G. mail (Danube upstream as well as downstream) were Old Orsova and Basiasch

Cancellation of the stamps could be accomplished by two methods; either by co-cancellation with the D.D.S.G. cancelling stamp at the agency when posted or when posted only the D.D.S.G. stamps were cancelled, the government stamps remaining uncanceled until they were cancelled by the Austrian (or Hungarian) Post when mail was handed over at the exchange harbour. The latter procedure was in accordance with regulations; co-cancellations were tolerated.

## ***Colorful and multiple frankings***

They are extremely scarce because letters heavier than 1 Loth were apparently sent only in few cases. Known are merely a few letters with pairs (or two singles) of numbers 1 A, 1 B, and 3 I. There also exists a letter with three examples of nr. 3 I.

## ***Particulars of cancellations***

Usually the stamps were cancelled with small, circular date stamps, as a rule locality cancels are somewhat scarcer. The stamping colour was predominantly blue. Hand written cancels on envelopes are valued 50% higher. Ship cancels are scarce, complete impressions on letters attracting Connoisseur prices.

## ***THE NEW PRINTINGS OF THE FIRST K.K. PR.(ivileged) DANUBE STEAMSHIP LINE COMPANY (D.D.S.G.)***

The first new printings [<sup>2</sup>] of postage stamps were probably produced around 1880 from stone printing plate 3 (Type II). The printings of the 10 Kreuzer green are actually the only true new prints because they were produced from the stone plate which was also used for printing the last issue (1879) for postal use. New stone printing plates were made for the 17 Kreuzer Type II (no originals) and the simultaneously- or later-produced new prints of the 17 Kreuzer and 10 Kreuzer Type I. By strict definition of the concept “new print” the latter would have to be classified as reprints. If they are still designated as new prints in literature it is only because they all originate from the same basic design (Type I and II) intermediate (Matrix) stone plates (Type I with 10, Type II with 20 reprint types)

The new printings of the 10 Kreuzer, Type II from stone plate 3 (= new print stone 1) were printed in sheets of 100. They consist of five side by side reprint blocks with 20 reprint blocks each. They were arranged in two vertical rows, reprint types 1-10 and 11-20. The sheets exist imperforate (rarer) and perforated, in colours of green (slight variations), pale lilac, light red and black (the latter as imperforate only).

The new prints of the 17 Kreuzer red in Type II originate from a newly produced stone plate (new print stone 2) which also had the same 20 reprint types as the intermediate stone, where the number “10” was ultimately changed to “17” on the printing stone plate.

❖ \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>2</sup> [Notes on translation. I have used the following: Neudruck = new print; Druckstein = stone plate (as in Lithography); Nachdruck = reprint; Umdrucktype,-block = reprint type, -block.]

The perforations are regular 9½ line perforations (varies to 10), the early prints of the 10 Kreuzer, green, are however also known with rough, irregular perforations, as the original Type II had. These new prints are hard to distinguish from unused originals, particularly with no or partial gum.

The paper of the new prints varies in thickness but is always somewhat thicker and softer than that of the originals. The gum is thin and smooth.

The new prints of Type I can be separated into two groups: The first group consists of the new prints from the newly made new print stone plates 3, 4, 5 and 6; to the second belong the new prints from the new print plates 7 and 8.

The new print stones 3 and 4 had probably 50 fields, the new print stones 5 and 6 100 fields each. It is however possible that the known 50-stamp sheets, printed from plates 3 and 4, are halves of 100 stamp sheets, printed with a vertical blank strip and cut after printing. New print stone 5 had like the originals five reprint blocks arranged side by side in the upper and lower half. These had 10 reprint types in two vertical rows, types 1-5 and 6-10. The new print stones 3, 4 and 6 had the reprint types in a different pattern, whereby on stone 6 the reprint Type I is missing. From these new print stones came new prints of 17 Kreuzer and 10 Kreuzer, imperforate and perforated, in colours of light red, light lilac and green (shade differences). Examples of the 10 Kreuzer green with a “cancel” by two crossed printed diagonal lines are from new print stone 5.

Most examples of the existing “proofs” (colours brick-red to brown-red, green, light to dark brown, light and dark blue, ultramarine, lilac), without gum, imperforate, mostly on thin paper, are test runs from the new print stones. Perforations are always the rough, irregular perforation (missing perforation pins), the same as the originals, Type I. These require considerable experience and knowledge to identify. The paper is always somewhat thicker and softer than the originals. The gum is thin, smooth and often hardly visible.

The new prints belonging to group two of the new printing stones 7 (17 Kreuzer) and 8 (10 Kreuzer) were printed in sheets of 100. The two printing stones had only the original reprint Types 2 and 3 from stones 3 to 6. The type characteristics had partially disappeared through rework, which had the effect of occasionally designating the new prints as reprints. The colours are more brilliant, are more varied, orange red to carmine, pale lilac to red lilac, yellow green to intense green.

Printing of the new prints was probably continued until 1900, in relatively large numbers. The perforations were made by a perforating machine which produced relatively clean and regular perforations (line perforations 9½, varying to 10). Imperforate examples also exist (same prices). The paper is of various thickness, thin to thick; the gum is thin, smooth and hardly visible.

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# STATION SHIPS IN THE FAR EAST

## PART I

*End of July 1901 – 2 November 1914*

### *1 Foreword*

After the Protocol was signed with China on 7 September 1901, the major powers decided to maintain a permanent naval presence in the Far-East. The so-called “station-ships” of these nations had two main objectives:

- ❖ to carry out a permanent political and commercial representation, not limited to China, but throughout the Far-East - the Japanese Islands, Indochina, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines Islands and Dutch East Indies;
- ❖ to be ready to give assistance to the detachment guards near the Embassies in Peking, to the foreign concessions located in many Chinese cities and seaports and, more generally, to the occidental nationals living in the seaports and along the Yangtze river (navigable up to Hankow by the ocean-going ships).

Permanent sea bases already existed in the Far-East - the UK with Hong Kong, Germany with Tsingtau, the United States with Manila, France with Saigon and Russia with Port Arthur and Vladivostok. The Austro-Hungarian Empire had no such facility. Chefoo harbour was operated during the Boxer war by the “K.u.K. Escadre in Ostasien” and this option was renewed by their ships on station. However, because Chefoo was poorly equipped, it was decided to use Nagasaki and Yokohama for logistical support.

To date, no data has been found concerning the general organisation and the activities performed by the Austro-Hungarian navy at Chefoo despite the station-ships regular visits. In Austria the official title of the station-ships was “K.u.K. Marinestationskommando in Ostasien”. However, the present author has never seen this title on private or official mail despatched from the different station-ships. Nevertheless Patka shows two one-line hand-stamps but not on cover (p442, Fig.370).

### *2 The first warships operating as station-ships*

Following the disbanding of the K.u.K. Escadre in Ostasien at the end of July 1901, and before establishing the station ships ‘modus operandi’, it was decided to place two ships in the Far East - SMS Aspern and SMS Kaiserin und Königin

Maria Theresia. The two other ships, SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth and SMS Zenta, had returned to Europe, leaving Chefoo harbour on 28.07 and 25.07.1901 respectively.

The operating dates of the station-ships in the Far-East were as follows (the second date is that on which the Malacca Straits were crossed): SMS Aspern - 28.07.1901 to 18.01.1902; SMS Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia - 28.07.1901 to 28.10.1902.

### ***3 The station-ships operating in the Far-East***

The Austro-Hungarian naval permanent presence in the Far-East ran from September 1902 to November 1914. Seven warships were involved and these are listed below with their operating dates (from and to Pola). Some of them fulfilled several missions during this twelve year period.

SMS Kaiser Karl VI 20.09.1902 to 06.10.1903

SMS Aspern 20.09.1903 to 23.11.1904

SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth 02.01.1904 to 06.12.1905

SMS Panther 10.01.1905 to 20.12.1906

SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I 14.09.1905 to 11.12.1908

SMS Leopard 20.09.1907 to 13.04.1909

SMS Panther 16.08.1909 to 15.11.1910

SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth 31.08.1908 to 15.11.1910

SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I 03.09.1910 to 15.12.1913

SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth 19.08.1913 to 2/3.11.1914 Scuttled off Tsingtao

(SMS Szigetvar 01.03.1907 to 05.05.1907)

(SMS Szigetvar 02.01.1912 to 06.03.1912).

SMS Szigetvar was not strictly a station-ship. In March 1907 and February 1912 she performed fast “there and back” cruises to the Far East approximately in the middle of the SMS Kaiser Franz Josef’s missions. The exchanges of the complement took place at Singapore between 31.03. and 7.04.1907 and at Shanghai between 12 and 14.02.1912.

The Austro-Hungarian station-ships were mainly carrying out political and commercial representation throughout the Far-East. Nevertheless they were expected to give assistance to Occidental Nationals and even land military detachments in China during the years 1905, 1911 and 1913.

## ***4. The military interventions***

### ***4-1 1905. Unrest at Shanghai.***

On 18.12.1905, SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I was at Nagasaki; telegrams arrived from the Austro-Hungarian General Consul at Shanghai and the Legation at Peking ordering her to proceed rapidly to Shanghai because of the unrest. Franz Josef I reached the mouth of the Yangtze on 20.12.1905 but had to call at Woosung harbour because of technical problems. Nevertheless a small detachment made up of 2 midshipmen and 19 men under the command of LSchLt Franz v. Stecker arrived at Shanghai by rented steamer.

In the meantime British warships HMS Astrea and Bonaventure landed 370 men and the Italian cruiser Marco Polo 150. The Italian detachment protected the Italian and Austro-Hungarian consulates. Some days later the Italian detachment was replaced by the Austro-Hungarian detachment which had been strengthened to 28 men. The foreign forces were again reinforced by 200 English (HMS Andromeda); 175 Americans (cruiser Baltimore); 70 Japanese (cruiser Tsushima); and 110 Germans (gunboats Tiger and Jaguar).

When Franz Josef I called at Shanghai on 27.12.1905, the city was practically under control but the Austro-Hungarian detachment was again strengthened and reached 2 officers, 2 midshipmen, 58 men and a machine gun. At the beginning of 1906 (Jan.16), order having been restored, the complements of the foreign detachments were dramatically reduced. By this date all Austro-Hungarian forces were back on board and Franz Josef I left Shanghai on 26 February 1906.

### ***4-2 1910. Unrest at Shanghai.***

Unrest at Shanghai from 15 to 18 April 1910 was in danger of spreading to Hankow and the Yangtze valley. The Austro-Hungarian Legation looked to SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth and SMS Panther to control the political situation. At this time Elisabeth had been calling at Shanghai since 20.03.1910 and Panther at Nagasaki. Panther was recalled from Japan and joined Elisabeth at Shanghai on 18.04.1910. From 25.04 to 26.05.1910 SMS Panther patrolled on the River Yangtze and called at Hankow from 01.05 to 15.05.1910. It was not necessary to land forces and Panther returned to Shanghai on 26.05.1910. In the meantime Elisabeth had left Shanghai on 28.04 and called at Nagasaki on 30.04.1910.

### ***4-3 1911-12. The Revolution.***

On 14.10.1911 the Austro-Hungarian General Consul at Shanghai sent a telegram asking SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I for military assistance to nationals

living at Hankow. Revolution had broken out in the Yangtze Valley. Franz Josef I left Shanghai on 18.10 and called at Hankow on 22.10.1911.

Revolution had been threatening for nine years as a consequence of the delayed promised constitutional reforms and convocation of a Parliament as well as starvation in the Yangtze valley. In October 1911 a bomb plot in Hankow was uncovered. The leaders were arrested after a bomb exploded in the Russian Concession. They were immediately put to death. This triggered a civilian uprising at Hankow. On 11 October 1911 the withholding of pay to the Chinese soldiers led to the revolt of the garrison of Win-Chang, where officers who were unable to escape were put to death. The mutineers made common cause with the civilian insurgents and set fire to the government buildings. During the following days the mutineers succeed in taking over the most important and modern Chinese arsenal at Hanyang and on 12 November began the take-over of Hankow. The revolution was not directed against the foreigners but against the Manchu dynasty.

Other nations called for assistance from the warships. At the end of October 1911, 17 warships were anchored off the city of Hankow including:

England: HMS Woodlark, Woodcock, Kinsha, Teal and Widgeon,

Japan: cruisers Uji, Sumida and Fushimi,

France: torpedo-boat Doudard de Lagrée,

Germany: cruiser Geier,

Austria-Hungary: Kaiser Franz Josef I.

The missions ashore were led by the British Vice-Admiral Winslow. It was necessary to take care of the insurgents in each of the districts of Hankow where foreign concessions were located. Military detachments were therefore landed by the warships.

On 7 October 1911, SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I landed a detachment made up of 2 officers, 100 men, two 7 cm guns and two machine guns. The insurgents and mutineers set fire to and plundered the Chinese town, but because of the prompt reaction of the detachment the concessions were not affected. On the 1st November 1911 order was restored in Hankow. SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I left Hankow and called at Shanghai on 4.11.1911.

Meanwhile the Austro-Hungarian Legation sent telegrams requesting reinforcements for the marine detachments at Peking and Tientsin. On 4 November 1911 Franz Josef I landed 2 officers and 80 men who were carried by train to Peking. The following day a detachment made up of 1 officer and 38

men was carried to Tientsin and a second detachment made up of 1 officer, 1 doctor and 42 men went to Peking, arriving on 7 November 1911.

Politician Yuan Shih Kai came out of retirement and in November was made Premier of the Chinese government. Instead of acting against the uprising, he delayed, so by the end of 1911, 14 provinces had declared against the Manchus. It was too late to save the dynasty. In December 1911 Yuan agreed to an armistice and entered into negotiations with the opponents to the dynasty. On 12 February 1912 the boy Emperor was made to abdicate and Republic was established, Yuan Shih Kai being its first President.

In the meantime the detachment sent to Peking and Tientsin had been recalled to Shanghai and re-embarked on board SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I.

One of the actions of the new government was to limit the strength of the Chinese army by decreasing its numbers. Soldiers who were dismissed regrouped in bands of about 100 men to plunder and kill. On March 1912 Franz Josef I landed a detachment at Shanghai made up of 1 midshipman and 20 men to reinforce the Tientsin detachment against these bands. This detachment returned on board the warship a short time later.

#### **4-4 1913. Summer disorders.**

On August 1912 the radical opponents took the party name of 'Kuomintang'. They obtained a majority in parliament and pursued a policy of obstruction and disruption. Yuan Shih Kai had concluded a loan with a financial group representing Great-Britain, France, Russia and Japan, the reimbursement of which was secured by the income from the salt state monopoly. This was a victory for Yuan Shih Kai and a threat to the Kuomintang which declared a "punishment" action against Yuan by organising an uprising in South China during the summer of 1913. The rebels succeeded in occupying the large city of Nanking and the forts of Woosung.

On 17.07.1913 a telegram sent by the Austro-Hungarian Legation at Peking ordered SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I (then calling at Chemulpo in Korea) to proceed to Shanghai where she duly arrived on 20.07. Numerous foreign warships were anchored off Shanghai. It was decided to land detachments to protect the international concessions. Franz Josef I landed a detachment made up of 2 officers and 50 men with two 7 cm guns. However, the regular Chinese troops promptly put down the rebellion and on 17.08 the foreign detachments re-embarked. Franz Josef I left Shanghai on 25.08 en route to Tsingtau, arriving on 27.08.1913.

## 5 - Postal history

### **5-1 Postal services in the Far-East**

Postal services on board station-ships complied with the requirements of the official publication “Instruktion für die Behandlung des Postsendungen der in Fremdgewässern befindlichen K.u.K. Kriegsschiffe 21 November 1893” (official rules with regard to handling of postal items on board Imperial and Royal warships sailing in foreign waters).

A revised edition was issued in 1905 taking into account improvements since 1901 incorporating a dated postmark with the name of the warship and additional services such as the handling of money orders etc.

Exchange of mail to and from the station-ships continued to be based on the exchange of “dépêches” between the station-ships and the sorting office located in Vienna. The procedure describing the making up of dépêches is described in Austria 138 pp 46 to 56. The most important points are summarised below.

#### ***Mail from station-ships destined for Europe***

The dépêches were posted at the civilian general post office of the port of call of the station-ship and then forwarded to Vienna by sea or land according to the international procedures in force.

#### ***Mail from the Empire destined to the station-ships***

Sending dépêches was the responsibility of the sorting post office in the Empire according to the detailed itinerary of the successive ports of call. The sorting post office had to forward the dépêches by sea or by land. Political events, e.g. the Russo-Japanese war, could affect the choice.

From end of July 1901 to end of 1902 (for SMS Aspern and SMS Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia) dépêches were forwarded by sea, being sent to Shanghai via Pontafel and Brindisi and then by English or German post-liners; or via Pontafel and Naples then by English post-liner to Port-Said then by French post-liner. The German consular post office in Shanghai was responsible for forwarding the dépêche to the appropriate Chinese coastal ports. The mean transportation time was about 20 days.

The first station-ship (SMS Kaiser Karl VI) left Pola on 20.9.02 and reached Hong Kong on 03.11.02. On 01.10.1902 the Trans-Siberian railway was opened for carrying mail from the Europe to the Far East. Mail was carried in closed

parcels or in sealed postal-sacks. Dépêches were despatched twice a week by the sorting post office Wien I to the general post office in Berlin which forwarded them to Dalny in Manchuria via Moscow, thence from Dalny to Shanghai once a week.

Because of the Russo-Japanese war the land route was no longer available after 15.02.04. The sea postal route had to be set up again. From the beginning of 1904 sorting office Wien I was replaced by Wien 76. Dépêches were sent 3 or 4 times a week to Brindisi or Naples and carried by English, German or French post-liners to Shanghai.

At the beginning of 1907, the Trans-Siberian railway was re-opened to postal traffic. The dépêches were despatched by Wien 76 to Berlin which forwarded them to Moscow, then by the Trans-Siberian to Dairen (the new Japanese name of Dalny in Manchuria), and then to Chinese and Japanese ports, through the German post agencies in China where the station-ships called. From 1907 the same procedure was applied to dépêches sent from Wien 76 to the postal facility at Peking for the Marine Detachments at Peking and Tientsin; to the station-ships, whose ports of call were restricted to Chinese, Korean and Japanese harbours; and to Austro-Hungarian warships calling at Chinese, Korean or Japanese harbours

## **5-2 Private mail**

During cruises from Pola to and from China, the sailors would send postcards, and sometimes letters, posted at the foreign post offices of the ports of call. They had to pay at the most expensive international rate but their mail was immediately forwarded. Often the sailors applied the service hand-stamp of the station-ship on the postcards before dropping it in the foreign letter box.

When in the Far-East, mail was normally franked at the internal rate with Austrian or Hungarian stamps and handled to the post-officer of the station-ship who cancelled the stamps with his dated postmark and put it in the “dépêches” which were periodically delivered to the foreign post of a port of call.

Nevertheless when calling at a foreign harbour during the missions, sailors would buy postcards when going ashore and frank them with foreign stamps. Then they would apply the service hand-stamp of the station-ship and post the card in the foreign letter-box. The purpose of this procedure was to send a “souvenir” to friends and relatives rather than to shorten the time of delivery.

## PART II - THE STATION-SHIPS

Because of the annual rotation of the station-ships it was logical that the relief of the guard detachments in Peking and Tientsin should be their responsibility.

### 6-1 SMS ASPERN

On 28.07.1901 the “K.u.K. Escadre in Ostasien” was disbanded. SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth and Zenta returned to Europe. SMS Aspern was integrated into the small squadron made up of SMS Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia, SMS Aspern and tender Shun-Yuen stationed in the Far East in accordance with the terms of the Protocol. SMS Aspern carried out representation missions in Japan, Korea and China. On 08.01.1902 she left Hong Kong for the return cruise to Europe and reached Pola on 19.03.1902.



Fig.1. Illustrated postcard from Nagasaki dated 18.11.01. Austrian stamp cancelled by the dated ship's postmark 18.11.01. Arrival Pola 22.12.01.

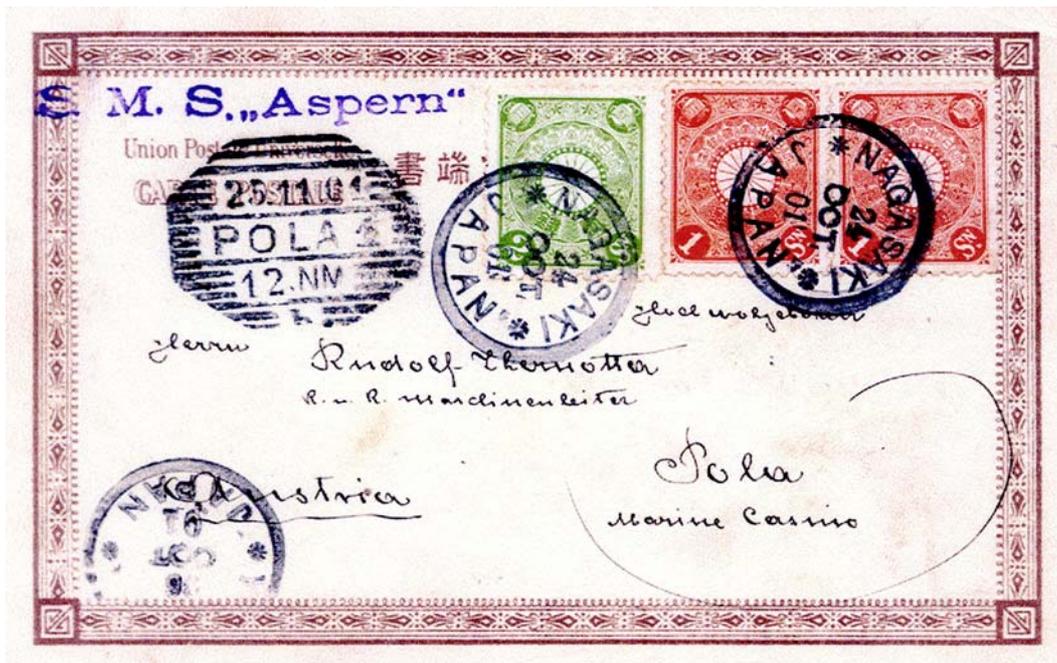


Fig.2. Illustrated postcard franked with Japanese stamps and posted in Nagasaki 24.10.01. Service hand-stamp type AS – 4. Arrival Pola 25.11.01.

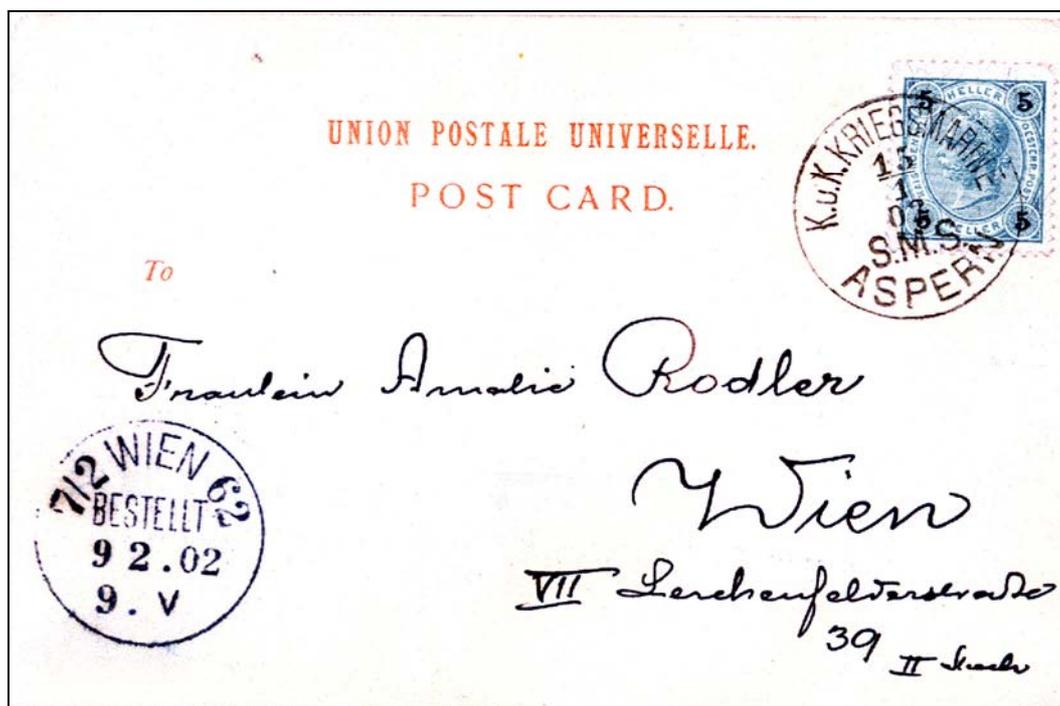


Fig.3. Illustrated postcard from Macau dated 09.01.02 during the return cruise to Pola. Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 13.01.02. Arrival Wien 09.02.02.

## 6-2 SMS KAISERIN und KÖNIGIN MARIA THERESIA

On 28.07.1901 after the “K.u.K. Escadre in Ostasien” disbanded, SMS Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia became the flagship of the small Austro-Hungarian squadron which remained in the Far East in accordance with the terms of the Protocol. From 28.07.1901 to 25.09.1902 she carried out representation missions to Japan, Korea and China. She frequently called at Taku, Chefoo and Shanghai in support of the newly created guard detachments at Peking and Tientsin. At that time the private mail to and from the detachments had to be handled by the post officers of SMS Aspern and SMS Maria Theresia. On 03.10.1902 she left Hong Kong to return to Europe, arriving at Pola on 09.12.1902.



Fig.4. Registered illustrated postcard sent from Chefoo. The free-post concession had been withdrawn 3 weeks earlier. Franked with 3 x 10 heller (= 30 Heller), 5 heller being the postcard inland rate and 25 heller the registration fee. Yellow registration label with service hand-stamp type MT-3. Stamps cancelled by the ship's dated postmark. Arrival Wien 30.09.01.



Fig.5. Illustrated postcard franked with Japanese stamps. Posted at Nikko on 05.07.02 and carrying the service hand-stamp type MT-2. Forwarded to Tokyo with Japanese dated postmark 6.07.02. Arrival Pola 12.08.02.



Fig.6. Illustrated postcard sent from Singapore Oct. 23.02 during the return cruise to Pola. It carries the service hand-stamp type MT-2. Arrival Wien 19.11.1902.

### 6-3 SMS KAISER KARL VI

SMS Kaiser Karl VI left Pola on 20.09.1902 and returned on 06.10.1903. During one year in the Far-East SMS Kaiser Karl VI called at Chinese, Korean and Japanese harbours. China was stable at this time and the station-ship did not face unrest and avoided the need to land a protective detachment.



**Above:** Fig.7. Illustrated postcard sent from Port Said 5 days out of from Pola en route to China. Egyptian franking cancelled 25.IX.02. Double circle service hand-stamp of the warship. Arrival Pola 1.10.02. **Below:** Fig.8. Illustrated postcard sent from Shanghai. Austrian stamp cancelled by ship's dated postmark, 9.3.03. Arrival Dresden 12.4.03.



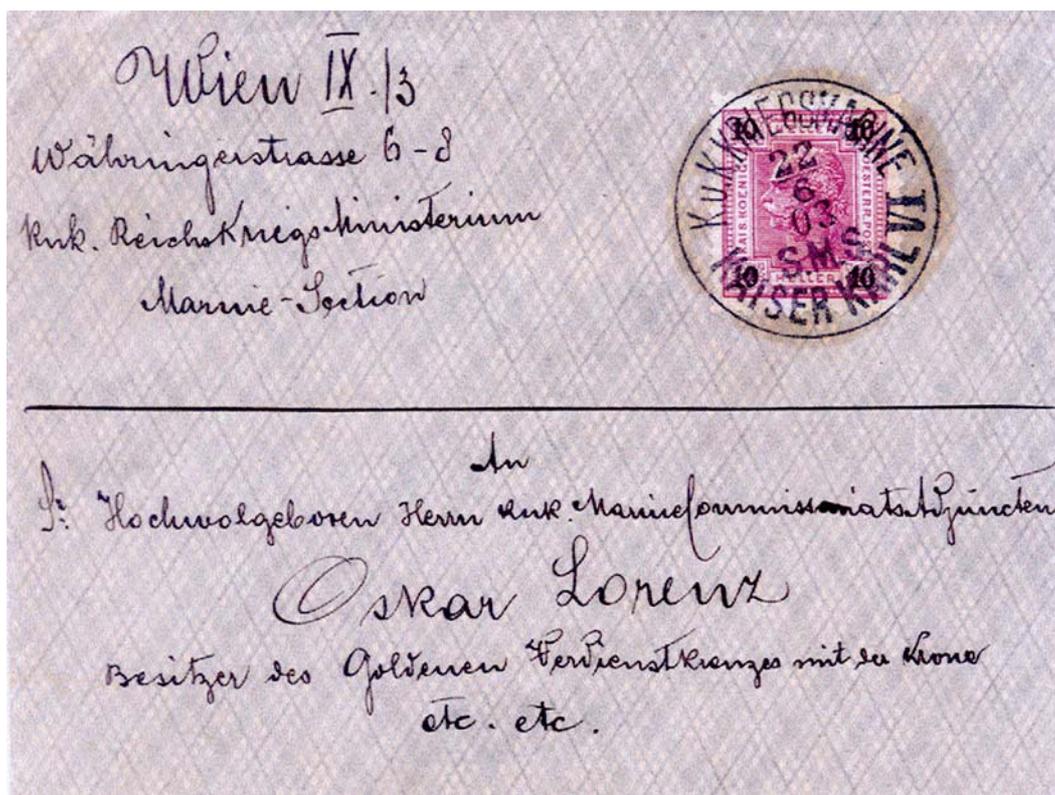


Fig.9. Letter sent from Chefoo. Austrian stamp, cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 22.06.03. On the reverse, arrival postmark Wien 03.08.03.

## 6-4 SMS ASPERN

SMS Aspern left Pola on 20.09.1903 and returned on 23.11.1904.

SMS Aspern had been included in the "K.u.K. Escadre in Ostasien" during the Boxer war. She returned to the Far-East for a one-year mission as a station-ship. Although not having to face unrest in China, Aspern was there when the Russo-Japanese war broke out during the night of 8/9 February 1904. This was a major international event in this part of the world, which impacted on Chinese policy.



Fig.10. Illustrated envelope sent from Shanghai. Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark, 2.12.03. On the reverse arrival postmark Pola 30.12.03.

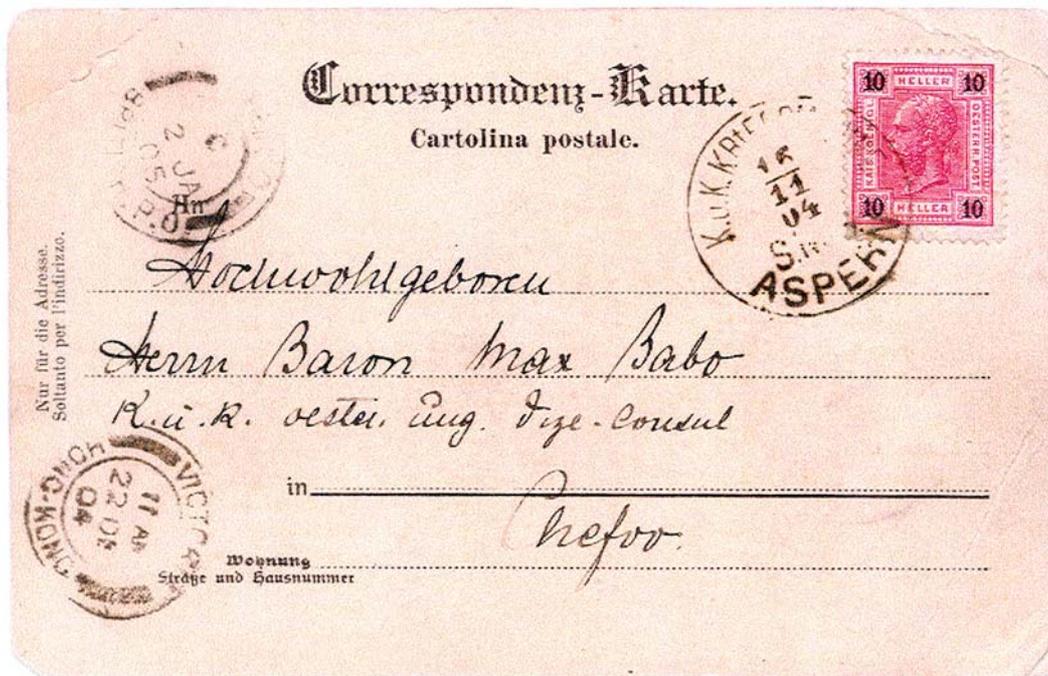


Fig.11. Illustrated postcard of Aspern sent from Chingwangtao to Chefoo. Austrian stamp cancelled by Aspern's dated postmark, 15.11.04. The card was delivered to the British post office at Hong Kong 22.DE.04. Arrival postmark at the British postal agency of Chefoo 2.JA.05.

## 6-5 SMS KAISERIN ELISABETH

On 2 February 1904 SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth left Pola on a mission to Australia and New Zealand. During the night of 8/9 February 1904 without any declaration of war, the main Japanese fleet took the Russian squadron by surprise in the roadsteads of Port Arthur, inflicting serious losses and imposing a blockade on the harbour. The Austro-Hungarian government decided to strengthen its naval forces in the Far East.

At that time SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth was calling at Batavia in Dutch Indies. Her commander received a telegram ordering her to proceed to Chefoo where she arrived 06.03.04. The mission to Australia and New Zealand was cancelled; a new itinerary was drafted and Elisabeth returned to a conventional mission in the Far-East as an additional station-ship. Note that this itinerary was sometimes disrupted as a consequence of the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war.



Fig.12. Illustrated postcard sent from Batavia (Dutch Indies) 18.02.1904. Arrival Pola 14.3.04.



Fig.13. Folded patriotic letter from Yokohama 2.6.05. Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 3.8.05. Arrival Pola 5.9.05. The folded letter is beautifully illustrated in colour (below) and shows a Geisha contemplating a photograph album. Behind her is a frame with a patriotic view of the Japanese war against Russia.



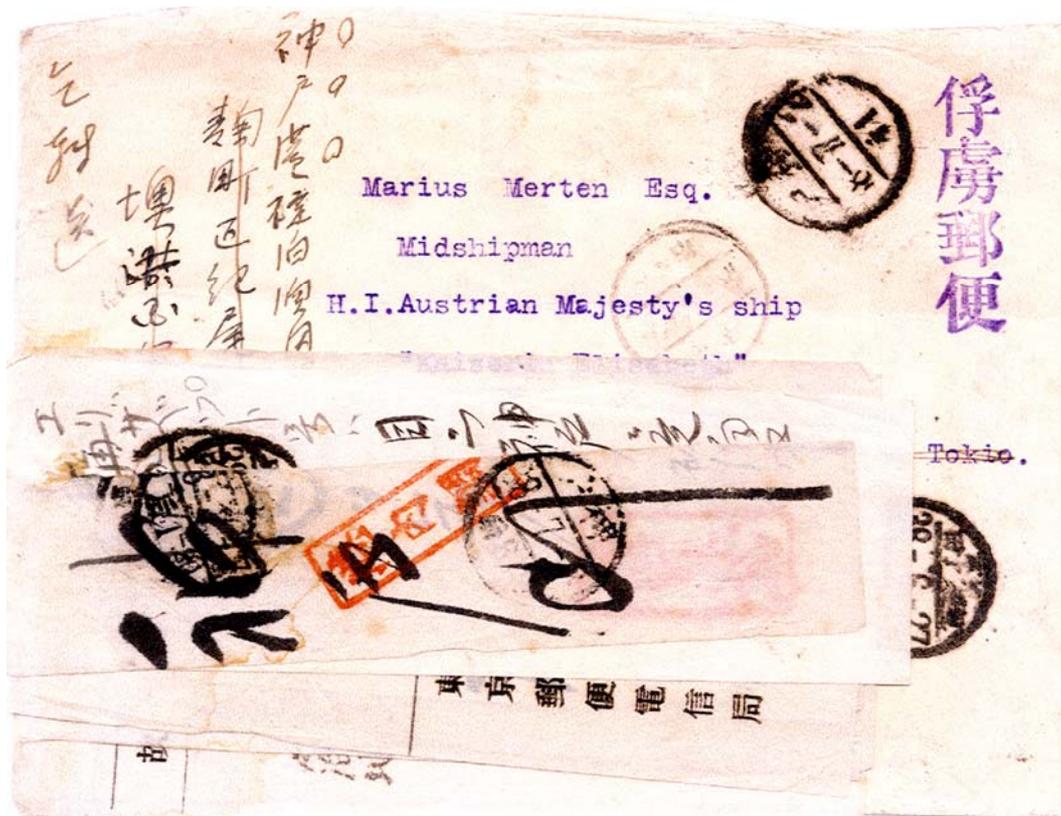


Fig.14. Letter sent by the Information Office for the POWs at Tokyo (label on the reverse) to a midshipman on board Kaiserin Elisabeth.. This letter was granted the free-of-charge privilege justified by the four Japanese characters hand-stamp. The itinerary of Kaiserin Elisabeth being disrupted by war, the letter received 7 forwarding labels before reaching the ship at Kobe.

**To be continued in a later issue of “Austria”**

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

By Keith Brandon

## ***PART 4 - THE DESTINATION OF A COVER.***

### ***4.1 Introduction***

In parts 2 and 3 of this series, we have covered the origin and date of the cover. Now we turn to the destination. This should be the easy part; the destination is always written at or near the bottom-right corner of the cover. We do not even need the contents to be present.

There can only be two areas of difficulty: problems with reading the handwriting, and problems with place-names in non-German languages. Although this series is aimed at non-German speakers, the time has come when a grasp of the characteristics of old German script will be helpful.

### ***4.2 German Script and Handwriting***

Everybody's handwriting is different. Moreover, the handwriting used by nineteenth-century Austrians has evolved such that even born-and-bred Austrians can have difficulty reading old letters written in their own language. Nevertheless, there are some clues we can look out for.

The chart on the next page, reproduced from **AUSTRIA** No. 78, shows us how upper- and lower-case letters of the alphabet used to be written in German.

The main points to watch out for are:

- the lower-case 'e', which looks like our 'n'.
- the lower-case 'c', which has very little curve to it.
- the 'h', which has a tail to it.
- the lower-case 'n', which looks more like our cursive 'r'.
- the lower-case 'r', which has an extra piece compared with our cursive 'r'.
- the lower-case 'u', which often has a curved mark above it to distinguish it from other, similar letters,
- the lower-case 'x', which looks nothing like an 'x'!

Most importantly, the lower-case ‘s’ usually has a tail, especially when used in conjunction with another ‘s’ or another consonant. Care is needed to distinguish it from a lower-case ‘f’. A double ‘s’ will often have the first one similar to an English cursive ‘s’, and the second one with a tail.

English	German		English	German	
	Printed	Written		Printed	Written
A a (ä)	A a (ä)	<i>A a</i>	N n	N n	<i>N n</i>
B b	B b	<i>B b</i>	O o (ö)	O o (ö)	<i>O o</i>
C c	C c	<i>C c</i>	P p	P p	<i>P p</i>
D d	D d	<i>D d</i>	Q q	Q q	<i>Q q</i>
E e	E e	<i>E e</i>	R r	R r	<i>R r</i>
F f	F f	<i>F f</i>	S s	S s	<i>S s</i>
G g	G g	<i>G g</i>	T t	T t	<i>T t</i>
H h	H h	<i>H h</i>	U u (ü)	U u (ü)	<i>U u</i>
I i	I i	<i>I i</i>	V v	V v	<i>V v</i>
J j	I i	<i>J j</i>	W w	W w	<i>W w</i>
K k	K k	<i>K k</i>	X x	X x	<i>X x</i>
L l	L l	<i>L l</i>	Y y	Y y	<i>Y y</i>
M m	M m	<i>M m</i>	Z z	Z z	<i>Z z</i>

The written upper-case letters are nearly always more elaborate than their modern counterparts - with more squiggles and paradiddles - and can be quite difficult to identify.

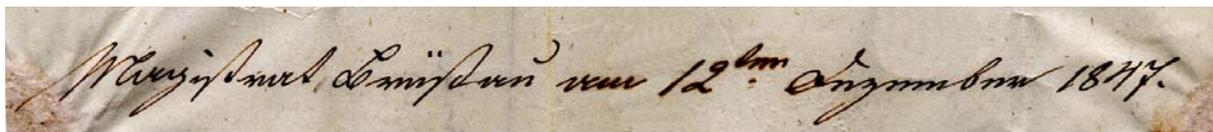
Because everybody’s handwriting is different, these “rules” can only get us so far. The trick is that there will always be some words you can identify, even though you cannot speak the language. These will help you work out how that particular writer shapes individual letters, and this will help you decode key words. Let’s look at an example.



Can you read the top line on this cover (the name of the organisation sending the letter)? And can you identify the destination town? The first line says “Vom Brüsauer Magistrat”. Frankly, the second word looks nothing like “Brüsauer” to the untrained eye, even though the Brüsau postmark should put us on the right track. However, the chart above will help you decode it, letter-by-letter if necessary.

The capital ‘B’ looks like our ‘L’, as in the chart. This is followed by the extended lower-case ‘r’, which looks like two letters. Note the two ‘u’s, the first with an umlaut, the second with the curved mark above. This curved mark distinguishes the ‘u’ from other similar letters, like the ‘a’ which precedes it. German script often leaves looped letters open at the top, whereas we would normally use a closed loop. The ‘a’ here is a good example of this, and shows why the ‘u’ needs to be separately identified. The ‘e’ then looks like our ‘n’, as in the chart.

You now have the clues to identify the destination town. The initial letter ‘L’ is in fact ‘B’, and the two ‘u’s are open-looped ‘o’s. Hence: ‘Boskowitz’. From inside the same cover, the dateline appears to have been written in the month of ‘Inznmbnu’, which I am sure you will quickly identify as ‘Dezember’.

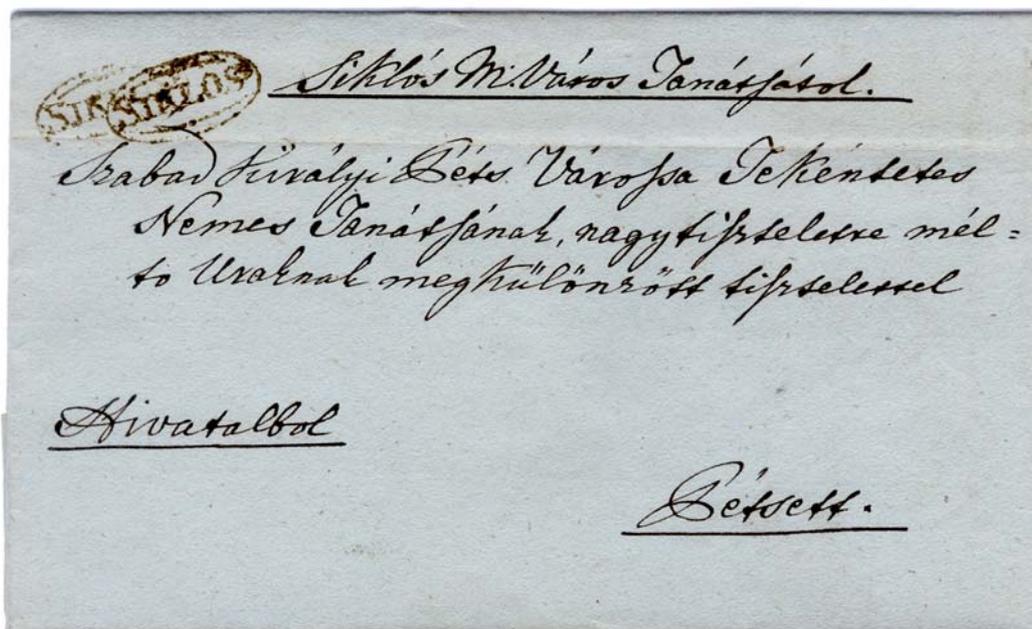


Reading archaic German script is never going to be easy, but I can assure you that it does get less difficult with practice. If you want to learn more, there is an excellent book called “Wir lesen deutsche Schrift” in the APS library (book no. 220).

### 4.3 Place-names in Non-German Languages.

I mentioned in part 1 that German is not the only language you will be faced with; Austrian covers of the pre-philatelic era are often addressed in Hungarian, Latin, Italian or French. This of course applies also to the name of the destination town, which can often be quite different to the German name.

For example, have a look at the four following covers:



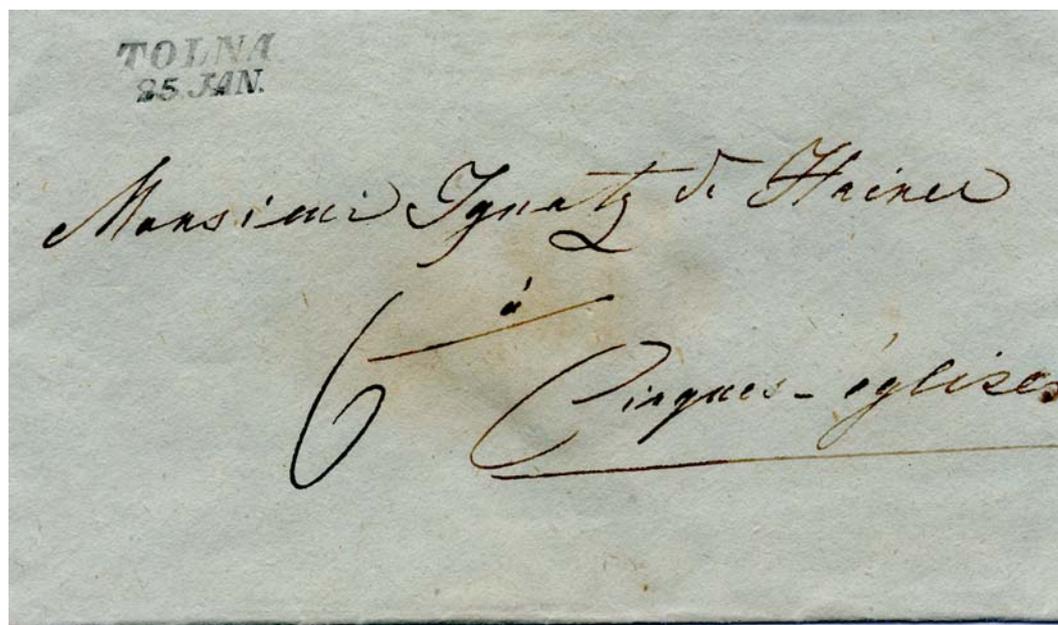
1838 cover from SIKLÓS to PÉTSETT



1820 religious mail from BRESNITZ to QUINQUE ECCLESIAE



1847 registered mail from PESTH to FÜNFKIRCHEN



1840's cover from TOLNA to CINQUES-ÉGLISES

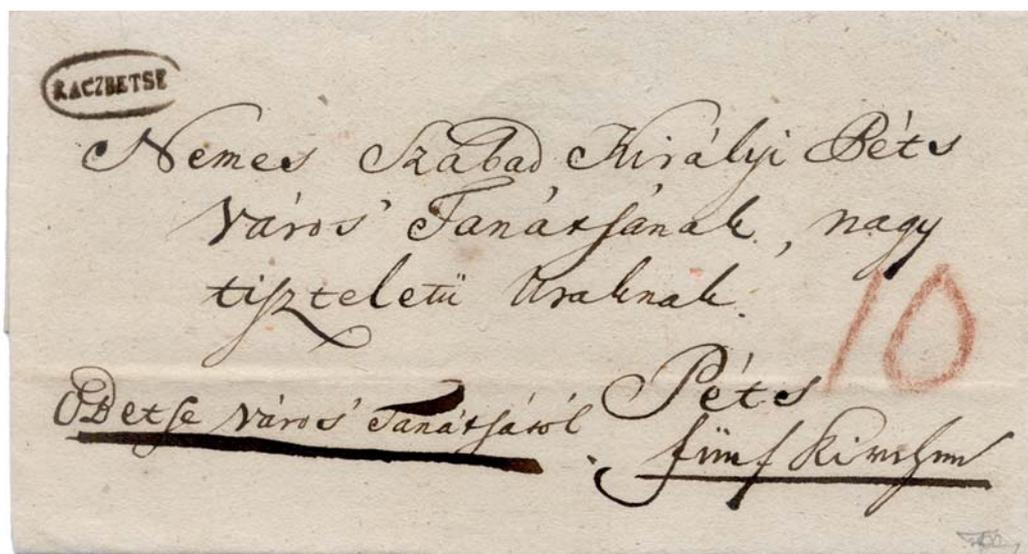
In fact they are all addressed to the same town, now known as Pécs (in southern Hungary). The first one is written in Hungarian and uses an alternative spelling of Péts, with a grammatical case-ending. The other three all translate as “Five Churches” in Latin, German and French respectively. (See side-box).

The mediaeval city was first mentioned in 871 under the name “Quinque Basilicae” (“five cathedrals”), not because the town had five such establishments but because the builders used material from five old Christian chapels to build new places of worship. In later Latin documents, the city was named “Quinque Ecclesiae” (“five churches”).

If you had one of these covers (and assuming no other clues in the correspondence), how would you determine that it was addressed to the city now known as Pécs? In this instance, dictionaries can be your key. Latin-English and French-English dictionaries will translate the second and fourth destinations as “five churches”, and an English-German dictionary can then be used to translate this into the official language of the Empire. You will then find “Fünfkirchen” in any of the standard postmark catalogues for the period.

The name “Pécs” first appears in 1235, and derives from the Slavic word for “five”. Now we can see that the city’s name in various languages has a similar meaning. The Hungarian “Pécs”, the Croatian “Pecuh”, and the Turkish “Pecuy” all derive from the Slavic for “five”. The Latin “Quinque Ecclesiae”, the German “Fünfkirchen”, the Italian “Cinquechiese” and the Slovak “Pätkostolie” all mean “five churches”.

The next cover doubles your chances because it is addressed to the city in both its Hungarian and German guises



1820 letter from RACZ BETSE to PÉTS / FÜNFKIRCHEN

Imagine the poor postal clerks in Hungary who had to understand German, Latin and French as well as their native Hungarian. An Englishman with some understanding of four languages would surely have been offered a high position in the Foreign Office rather than that of a lowly postal clerk!

For those of you who use the internet, Wikipedia’s search-box will often respond to archaic names. “Quinque Ecclesiae” and “Fünfkirchen” both take you to the “Pécs” page, but “Cinque Églises” does not yield a result. Google is always worth a try, and in this case will again identify Pécs from its Latin and German names but not from the French. You usually need to include all the correct accents for these search engines to produce the results.

There will be an article later in this series about information sources, including postmark catalogues and the internet.

The “Five Churches” example is an unusual one because the town-name is descriptive, and can be literally translated. More commonly, however, names are transliterated into a more fitting spelling for the language used. Here are a few tips to help you identify non-German place names.

- ❖ The French and Italian versions of Germanic town-names usually just adjust the spelling to a French or Italian format. Thus Wien becomes Wienne or Vienne in French, and Villach and St Veit become Villacco and San Vito in Italian. These are usually fairly easy to work out.

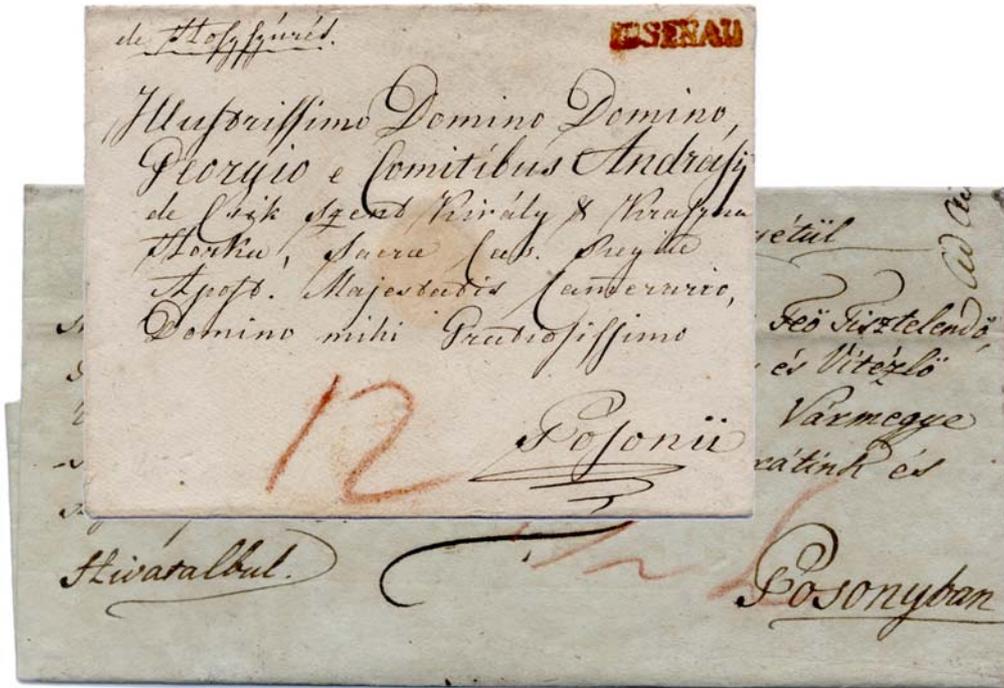


1835 Italian-language cover from Triest to S. Vito (i.e. Sanct Veit) in Carinthia

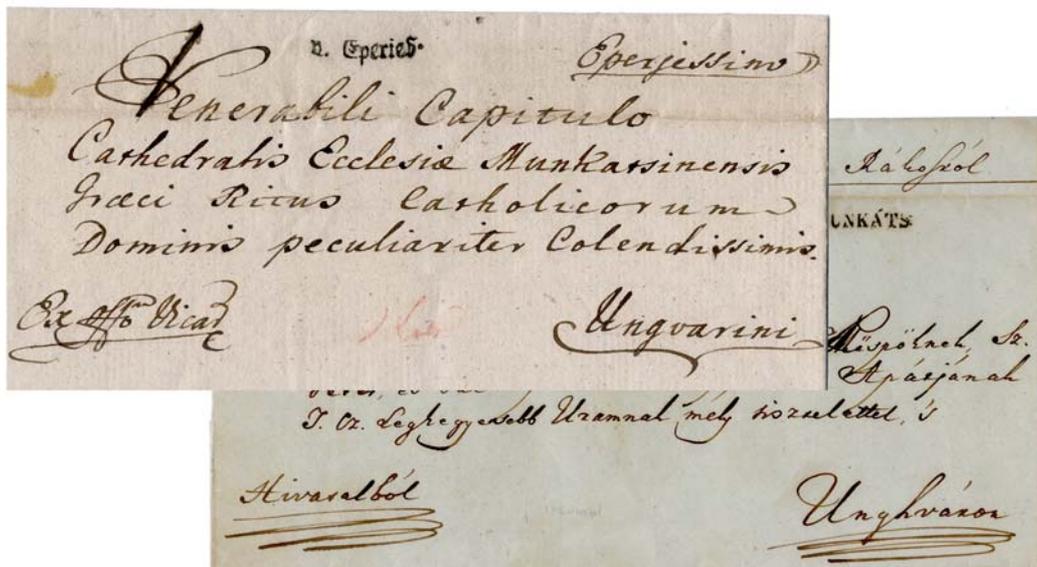


Undated French-language cover from Eperies to Wienne (i.e Wien)

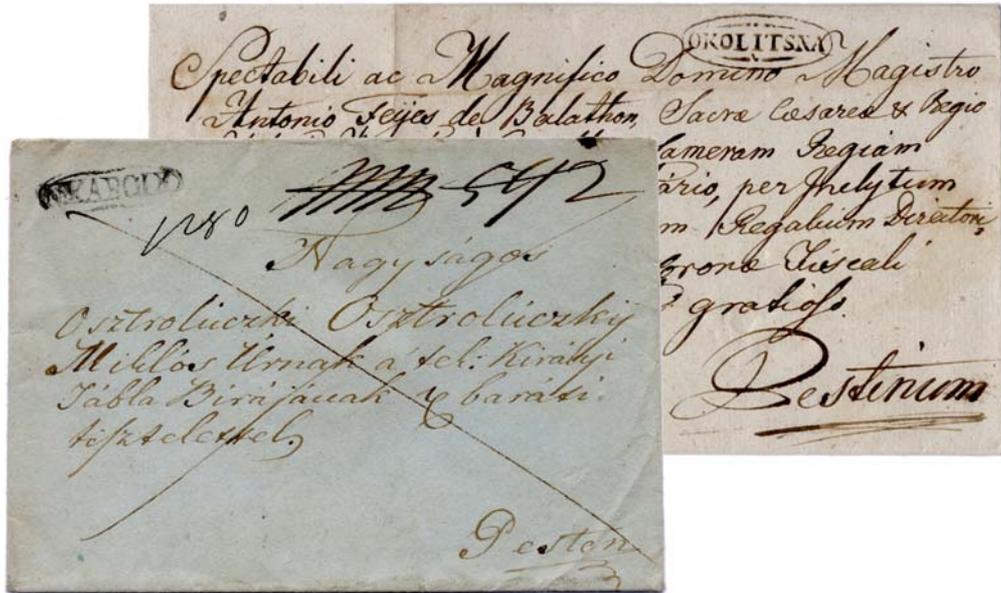
- ❖ Hungarian and Latin are languages in which the word-endings change according to the grammatical case. Thus letters addressed to a town will gain an ending to the town name. Thus, “Nagy Szöllös” becomes “Nagy Szöllösön” in Hungarian, “Comárom” becomes “Comáromii” in Latin and so on. Usually the town-name is obvious if you remove a few letters from the end, as the following examples will show.



These covers addressed to Poſonii and Poſonyban are written in Latin and Hungarian respectively, and include the appropriate case-endings. Both are to Pozsony (a.k.a. Preſsburg).

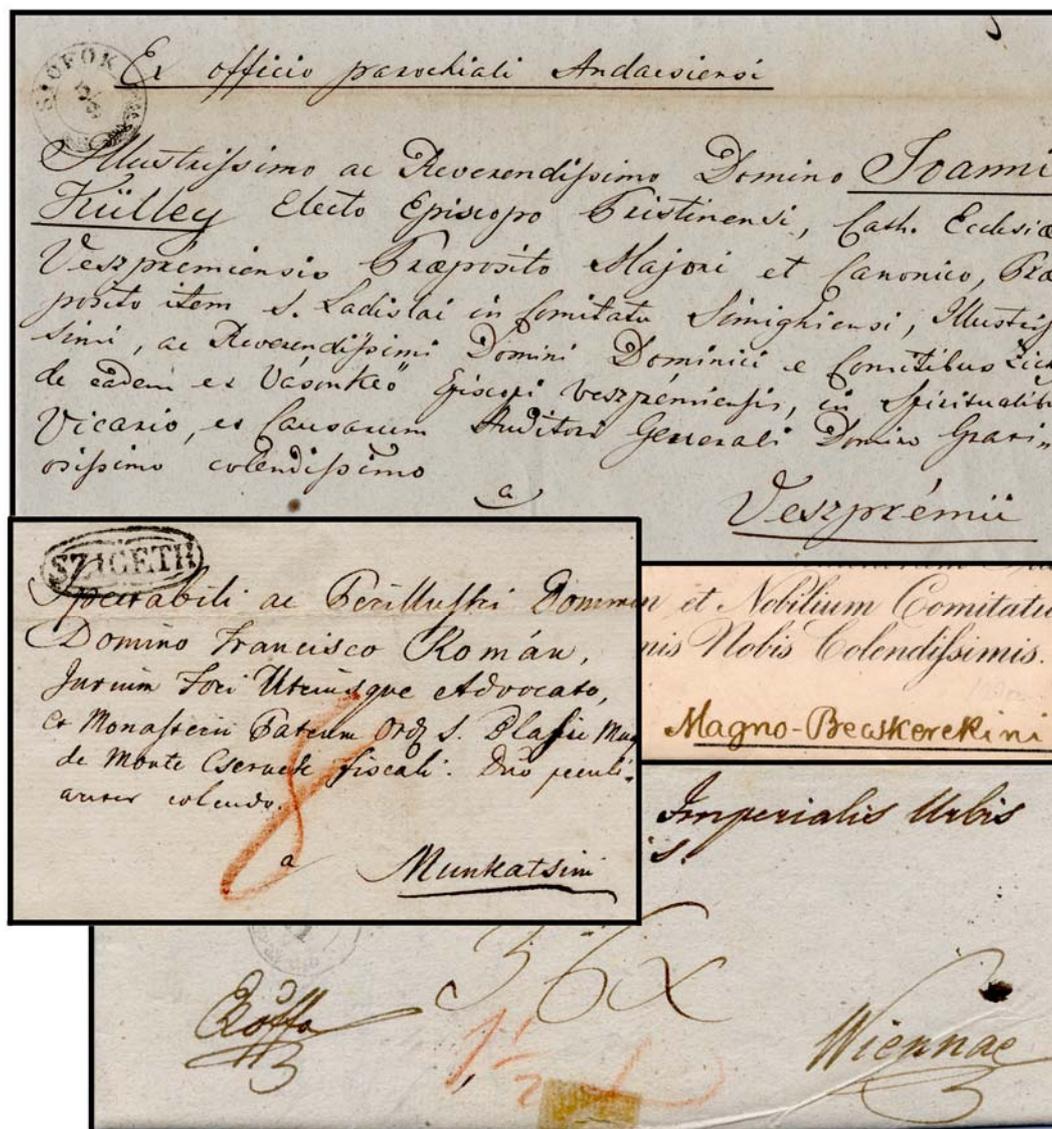


Ungvarini and Unghvaram show the case endings in Latin and Hungarian for Unghvar.



Above: These covers are addressed to Pestinium and Pesten, i.e. Pesh with Latin and Hungarian case-endings. Below: Aradan, Nagy-Becskerekom, M. Ovarom and Eperjessen are Hungarian case-endings used on covers addressed to Arad, Nagy-Becskerek, Magyar Óvár and Eperies respectively

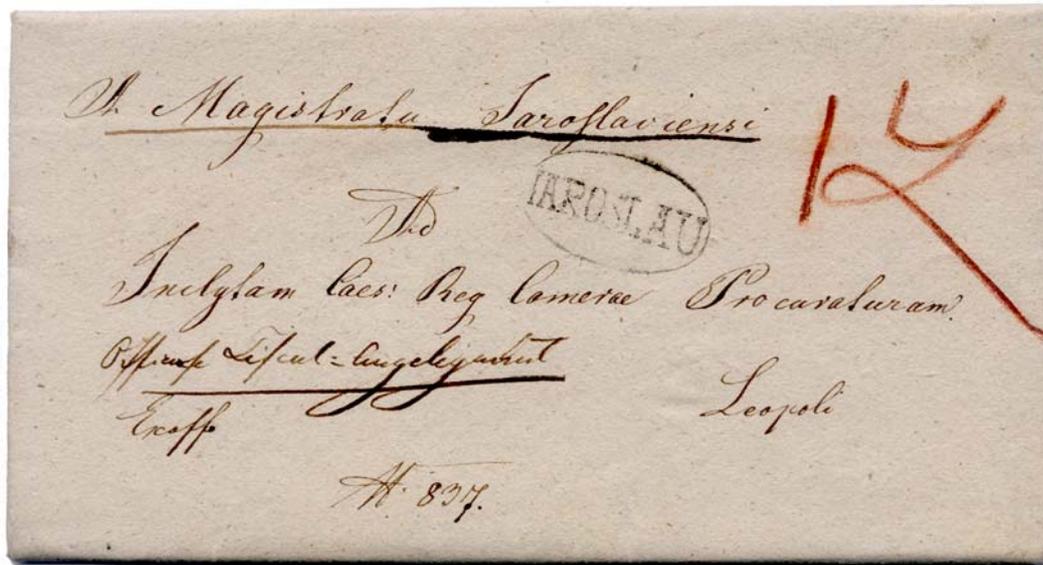




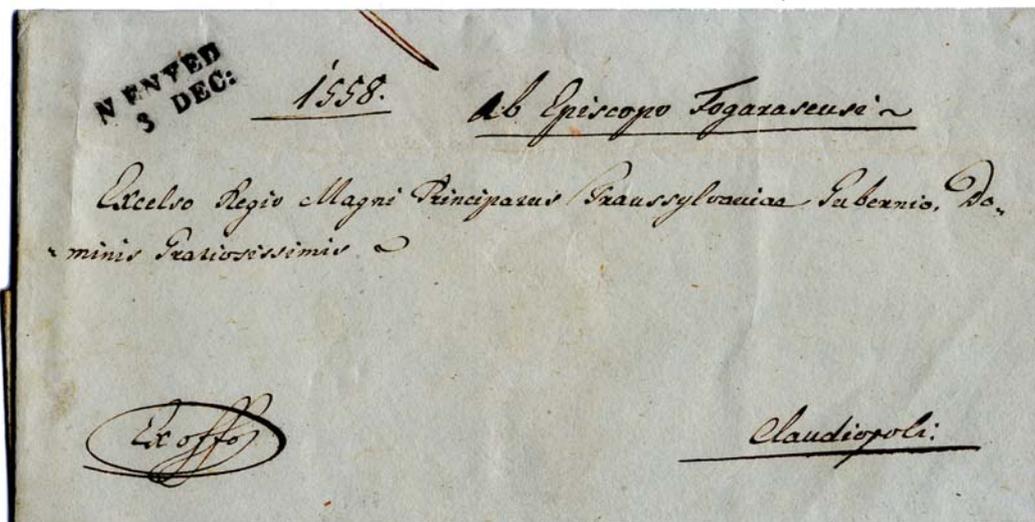
Veszpremiu, Magno-Becskerekini, Viennae and Munkatsini are Latin case-endings shown on mail addressed to Veszprem, Nagy-Becskerek, Wien and Munkács.

As you can see, it really is as simple as putting your finger over the last two or three letters!

- ❖ The Latin names used in church mail are often fairly obviously the common names ending in a vowel to “latinise” them. Many of these are “manufactured” names because there was no settlement in Roman times. Others are archaic names used in ancient times, but only by the catholic church by the time of the nineteenth century. Sometimes these are not so obviously translated into their everyday equivalents, and these have to be learnt, or clues found elsewhere on the cover. Examples include Alba Regalis (Stuhlweissenburg), Claudiopolis (Clausenburg), Leopolis (Lemberg) and Sabaria (Szombathely),



1838 cover in Latin from Jaroslau to Leopoli, i.e. Lemberg.

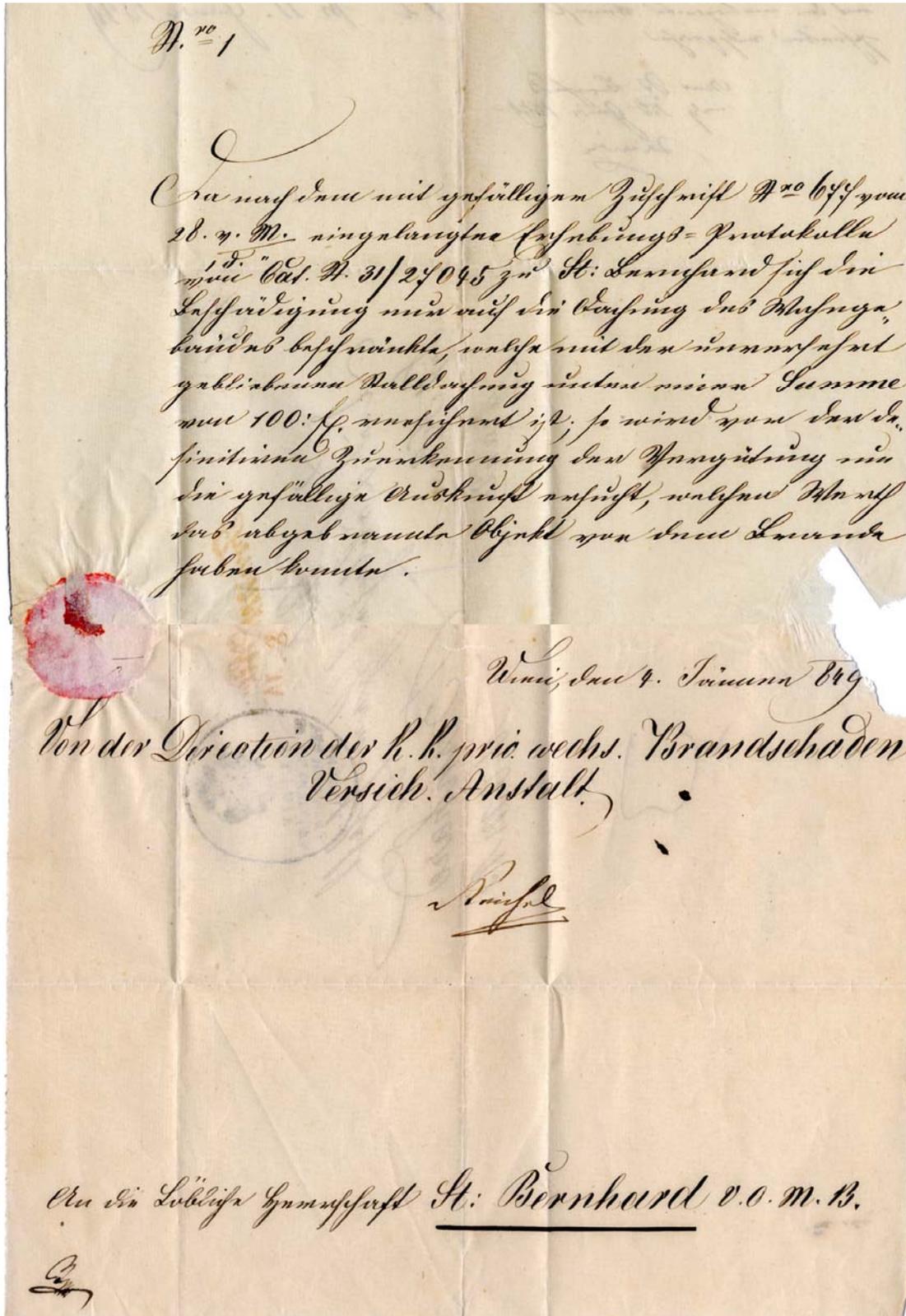


1847 cover in Latin from Nagy-Enyed to Claudiopoli, i.e. Clausenburg

#### 4.4 Other Ways of Decoding Destinations

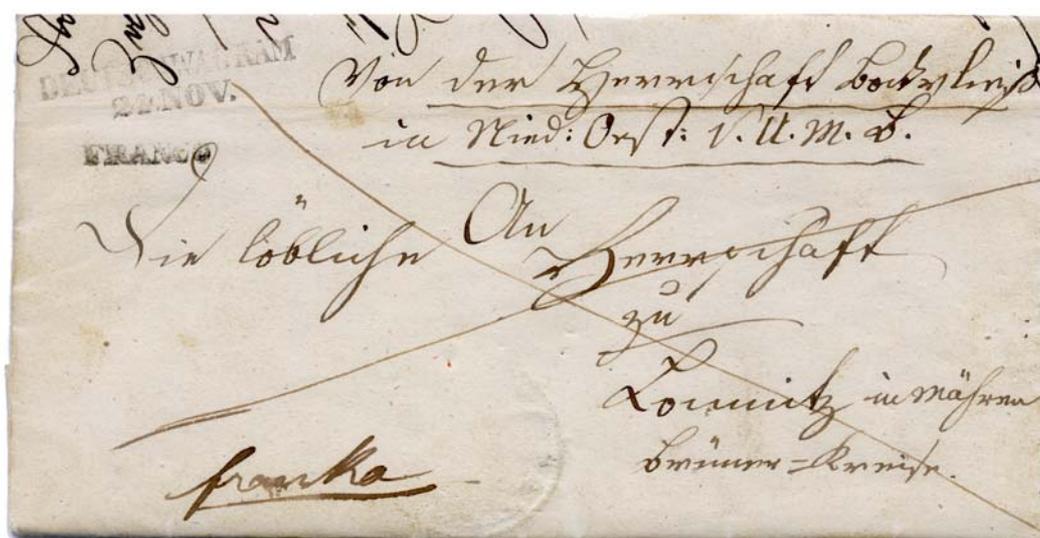
If you are still having difficulty identifying a destination, there are a few more places you can look.

- (a) If the destination town is illegible, an arrival postmark will often help.
- (b) In official letters, the scribe will often write the details of the addressee at the bottom of the letter. Of course, his hand will also normally have written the address on the outside of the cover, but sometimes his writing may be more legible in one place than another.



If the address on the front of this 1849 cover had been illegible, we could have found the recipient (the St Bernhard Herrschaft) at the foot of the letter inside.

(c) The route, the nearest post-town or the district name (Bezirk or Kreise) will sometimes be written on the front of the cover, and can help identify an illegible or ambiguous destination.



Perhaps you weren't sure if this 1843 cover was addressed to Lomnitz, or Lounitz or Bonnitz, etc. The rest of the address tells us that the place was in Moravia ("in Mähren") and in the Brünn district (Brüner Kreise). This helps us to narrow it down to Lomnitz, and to distinguish it from two other places called Lomnitz but which are in Bohemia.



This French-language cover from 1830 appears to be addressed to Pele, but I have never heard of Pele, and it may be a French name anyway. Fortunately, the route is marked on the front of the cover, and this provides us with the answer. The letter was posted in Kaschau (now Kosice in eastern Slovakia) and travelled via Tokaj in Hungary and Nagy Károly (now Carei in Romania). A few

minutes' work with a map and reference books reveals Pele, about 20 km south of Carei and now called Becheni.

The first four parts of this series will hopefully enable you better to decode the crucial parts of a cover's story:

- from whom and where the cover originated,
- its date, and
- where it was sent to.

**If you have any topics you would like me to cover, or to expand upon in future articles in this series, I'd be delighted to hear from you.**

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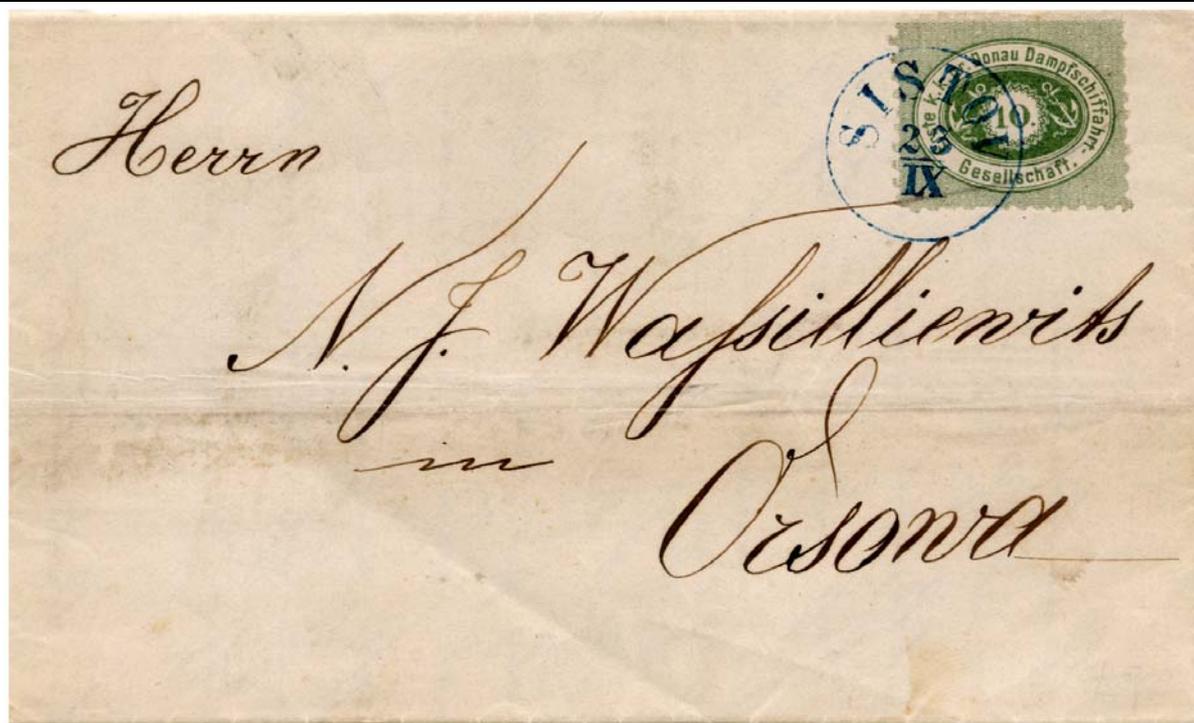
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**Letters with DDSG stamps and cancels**



Here and elsewhere, a cancellation of the same form and place as the actual one has been inserted, to show the shape.



SISTOV to ORSOVA



Above: WIDDIN agency cancel; the letter is dated 13 June 1867  
Below: MAGURELLE agency, 1 July 1867 to Galaz





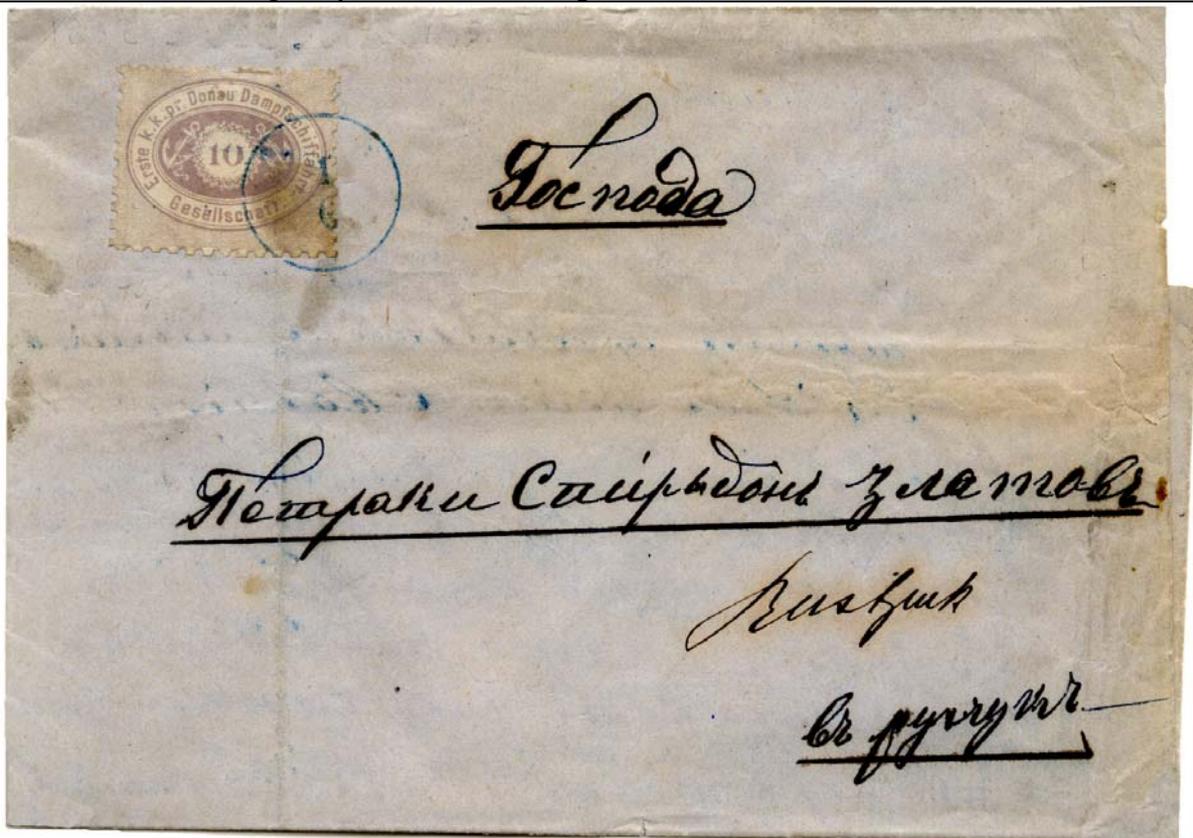
GALAZ to BRAILLA, 18 Feb 1867, with Ship's Cancel ZRYNYL



LOM PALANKA via BAZIASCH to SEMLIN



SISTOV agency cancel with separate date-cancel for 7 June 1870



The rare 10 Kr lilac.