

# AUSTRIA

## Edited by Andy Taylor

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## EDITORIAL 161

By Andy Taylor

**I**t's our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year! Such an event is perhaps an occasion for looking back and also forward. In 1948, when we were founded as the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain, your Editor attended school for the first time. New arrivals were classified as "work boys" and "play boys". I'm unsure of the criteria but I was a play boy (some readers, or their spouses, may feel that little has changed). And yes, we do look back, by studying the earliest stamp issues, by discovering and clarifying the changes in practices that were introduced over the decades, back to the 1700s or earlier. We learn a minimal, or sometimes a considerable, amount of the history and politics surrounding the philatelic aspects that interest us. And we perhaps imagine ourselves as a minor aristocrat or senior civil servant of the times – the reality being more likely an illiterate lifetime of kohlrabi farming.

But we also look forward, and in two ways. New ways of franking, despatching, handling and delivering mail are constantly introduced – and whatever contemporary comments may be, this is the philately of the future. New sources of information about the past emerge, and can overturn the previously-accepted understandings. For example, the recent availability on the internet of many of Austria's laws and newspapers has opened up many avenues of research previously open only to retired residents of Vienna and gentlemen of independent means.

And secondly, ensuring the future of our Society now requires a different approach. Passively awaiting new members is a proven recipe for failure; converting hedonists into philatelists is beyond our resources as well as our abilities. Our current belief is that persuading general stamp collectors to specialise in Austrian Philately (interpreting that widely) is likely to be the most successful approach. And if you, dear Editor of the year 2018, are reading this in preparation for composing Editorial Number 200, then perhaps we were right!

What of the more immediate future?

The Festschrift is ready for its formal launch, at 11:30 on Wed 27<sup>th</sup> February (since that's when Stampex opens). Don't forget the early-bird offer!

The APS@Stampex display is "ready to go" - indeed most of it is packed in envelopes in my office. Soon after you read this, I and it will be heading down the M1; as the displays cannot be left in an unattended car the journey will be interesting ☺ Frame- and display-erecting teams have volunteered their services

(thanks, lass and lads); the Austrian Post Office have sponsored the handout; and we look forward to being overwhelmed by prospective new members.

And we are still hopeful of having a presence at the International Philatelic Event WIPA2008 in Vienna next September.

Congratulations to Brian Presland who has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

There is (just) still time to submit your entry for "Harrogate 2008": I hope to see many Austrian & related displays there! It's the last chance for UK collectors to qualify for the "London 2010 Festival of Stamps" which, says their web site, "*will comprise a number of linked events focussed around the primary international philatelic exhibition, to be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010. It will have some 2,400 competitive frames and about 190 trade and postal administration stands.*" The Festival is in two acts, with a complete change of all displays half way through: the organisers of APS@Stampex and no doubt of every other -pex of the last decade will admire their fortitude.

The death was recently announced of Gary Ryan FRPSL, on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the age of 91. A professional lawyer, much of his private and personal life was devoted to philately, especially the philately and postal history of Hungary, his country of birth. His most distinctive achievement nevertheless was to establish beyond doubt that the 1867 issue of stamps, historically attributed as an issue of Austria, was in fact commissioned and first issued by the newly independent, autonomous postal administration of Hungary, and only later shared by Austria. In his later work he encouraged the collection and acceptance of Revenue stamps as a legitimate branch of international philately. For many years he regularly advised the F.I.P, the international governing body for the hobby, on various matters to do with the organisation and management of the hobby at the world level.

Finally, the Editor thanks the 5<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian Cavalry for riding over the hill just in time to rescue this edition from anorexia. Which of you will do the same for issue 162?

New members: we welcome nr 1271 Cedric Dry, Holtby, York; 1272 Frank Henry, Southsea, Hants; 1273 Anthony Clayton, Grantham; 1274 David K. Smith, Exeter, Devon; 1275 Mark Ebery, Orewa, New Zealand; 1276 Corrado Carli, Trieste, Italy

Retirement: 1256 Alan Barlow, Enderby, Leics through age and ill-health

## Whither the Austrian Philatelic Society?

*By Martin Brumby: President, Austrian Philatelic Society*

**A**s we enter our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year it is perhaps timely not only to reflect on the achievements of the APS and its predecessor societies but also to consider what might be the future of Austrian philately.

Since I broke my crystal ball, trying to divine the shape of things to come is even more of a problem. I'm only just 60 myself but, when I first started collecting stamps in 1960, I well remember that at least half of my schoolmates were more or less interested in stamps. Stamps were soaked off envelopes or purchased from the local stamp shop and hinged into a printed album. No "unmounted mint" nonsense - and who cared about the gum? And the nearest to a 'cover' we ever got was a First Day Cover, prepared by and posted to ourselves on the very infrequent occasions that new stamps were indeed issued!

Of course, it isn't very instructive to compare schoolboy stamp collecting in 1960 with 'serious' philately now, or even then. Or is it? The first comparison to be made is that rather few schoolchildren today are interested in stamps, and even those who are soon get fed up of spending all their pocket money trying to keep up with the torrent of new issues from the post office. They usually decide to play on a computer instead. Secondly, 'covers' and other Postal History, collected by advanced adult collectors in 1960, are now much more widely collected and are still very much in vogue, although there have been some recent signs of a resurgence of interest in 'stamps', not only those collecting 'topically (thematically)' but also 'traditional philately'. The 'unmounted' craze is still with us but it is interesting to consider some of the other collecting fads that have come along - and largely gone away again. In Britain we had 'gutter pairs', 'traffic light blocks', 'presentation packs', 'maximum cards' and of course First Day Covers. In Austria it was much the same but 'blackprints' and 'symbolzahlen' were hot items. Of course, somebody somewhere is probably still looking for this stuff. But I think it is fair to say that collectors of modern F.D.C.s, for instance, are considerably scarcer than the F.D.C.s themselves. On the other hand, twenty years ago big batches of even scarcer postal history items from the Austrian Inflation 1919-1926 or the postal history of the 1945-1947 period could be picked up quite cheaply from dealers and auction houses. And revenue stamps could be yours for a few groschen - when you could find them. Try that today!

New issues, worldwide, are hugely more prolific (and expensive) than they ever used to be. As recently as 1983, the Austrian postal authorities turned down the idea for a stamp commemorating Franz Kafka, a giant of 20th century literature, who spoke and wrote in the German language and was born in Prague (then in the Austrian Empire) and died in Kierling, Austria. “Not Austrian enough...”, apparently. There was a huge furore in 1966 when the very attractive ‘fruits’ definitives were issued and plans for a full series were hastily withdrawn. Now we are treated to a booklet for “The Sound of Music” and a stamp for Shrek III (“A commemorative that will delight both children and the young at heart...” according to <http://app.post.at/shop/>).

Of course, if the latter does indeed “delight children” and encourage them to collect stamps, then I expect it is to be welcomed (Although not by me. Harrumph!). So, being mindful of the fact that this piece was supposed to be ‘a vision for the future’, whatever next?

Firstly, some of the new issues are now so dreadful (Shreklich?) that, if in 20 years lots of people decide they want them (which I very much doubt), prices will go through the roof because nobody will have bothered to stock them. A high risk strategy for our investor friends?

Secondly, there will always be collectors wanting to form a collection of the classics. And ‘the classics’ will increasingly be considered to be pre-1918 or even 1938, rather than pre-1867, or 1883. I also expect to see more serious philatelic studies of the First Republic.

Thirdly, as ever, the appearance of ground breaking and well researched philatelic literature will continue to stimulate others to build a collection on the same or a similar theme. The Austrian Philatelic Society aims both to maintain its excellent library, and also to publish more major contributions!

Fourthly, collectors will increasingly look for material that demonstrates actual postal (or fiscal!) use rather than some collector’s or dealer’s confection. So expect to see more material claiming to be “Bedarfsbelege” or whatever! Prephilatelic letters will increase their appeal, as will nicely postmarked letters from smaller post offices. The Fahrpost (especially parcel cards and money letters) is ripe for further serious study! The scarcity of much revenue material (both stamps and documents) will be realised. When someone produces a decent handbook, especially if it’s in English, the market will develop. You will be

able to pick up the more common items more easily but the rarest material will be the preserve of the very rich (or the very lucky).

Fifthly, collectors will perforce become much more aware of the conservation aspects of collecting. There are well known issues of stamps and types of cover that present particular conservation problems. Recent 'self adhesive' issues of stamps are likely to be highly problematic (although some might not mourn their passing!).

Sixthly, computers may have been partly responsible for the fall in popularity of the hobby amongst schoolchildren. But I believe that they present enormous potential for serious collectors. There are numerous websites (Google, Wikipedia for two) which are absolutely invaluable aids for anyone wanting to research any imaginable topic. As well as eBay, almost every stamp dealer or auctioneer, large or small, will use the internet to offer their material to a worldwide market. With increasingly sophisticated search procedures it will be possible to build a collection of even an obscure subject from the comfort of your home or office - or to sell material that you no longer collect. Databases and spreadsheets will greatly simplify accumulating, sorting and exchanging data with other collectors. Finally, it will be possible for any budding author to turn out a nicely produced book detailing the results of his researches, whether on line, as a CD or even on paper. So perhaps kids playing on computers doesn't mean the death of philately: when they do start collecting in twenty years time, at least they will be able to use a keyboard properly!

What do these trends mean for the APS in the future? It is our continuing aim to be the premier English-language society for collectors of Austrian philately and postal history. Although our newsletter and award-winning Journal are published in English, we find that more than half our members live outside the United Kingdom, and that this proportion is growing. We are delighted to include among our members collectors from Romania to Japan and from Norway to Greece (we are probably collectively more polyglot than the Old Empire itself!) and hope to welcome many more.

Like most philatelic societies, we find it difficult to attract new, young members. However, we do notice an increase in active membership among the recently-retired. Improving standards of health mean that a sixty-year-old can still look forward to a further quarter-century or so of philatelic enjoyment, and of contribution to the Society. And some of the old codgers are quite nimble on the computer keyboard as well!

## THE HEROINE OF RAWA RUSKA

by Inbert Kuzych

“The peasant woman Maryna Zenoch knelt, wringing her hands and weeping in the stable of her farmstead. The house of Jatko Burins, her next door neighbor, had gone up in flames and become a desert, a smoking wreckage from which emanated an acrid stench of roasted animals and shrill cries of pain from the terribly wounded inhabitants. Any second, Maryna’s little house could suffer the same terrible fate...but it was not this worry alone that dominated the fear and alarm of the peasant woman. Her child, her only beloved child, the little Rosa, had disappeared! All the searching of the frightened mother as well as other neighbours had been in vain. The child was not to be found in the entire village – it was as if the earth had swallowed her up.

Where in truth this worthy, valorous, little Rosa Zenoch actually was during the flame-engulfed, violent hours of battle, no one would have believed! With a jug in her hand, she stood outside on the battlefield of Rawa Ruska. Since she was so familiar with the terrain, she crossed it repeatedly, going from a nearby well up to the foremost trenches where the Austrian infantry was fighting.

Back and forth, back and forth hurried the little heroine! Her jug was emptied by some of the thirstiest soldiers lying under the burning sun. And, quite matter of factly, without a whimper, Rosa Zenoch once again crossed the shrapnel showered battlefield, filled the jug at the well with clear, ice cold water, and hurried off to revive other soldiers – pining for a refreshing drink – with her precious wetness.

The trenches at Rawa Ruska were manned by several companies of the famous and successful house regiment from the imperial city on the Danube, the Vienna Noble Lads (Wiener Edelknaben) – “The Sublime and German Masters No. 4” (Hoch und Deutschmeister Nr. 4). Flabbergasted, both officers and enlisted men watched as the little Galician farm maiden, dodging hails of bullets, came up to the soldiers and cordially and with a smile presented them with their refreshment. The captain called the girl over to himself and stroked the cheeks reddened with happiness.

“Well-done, well-done, my child!” he praised the little one. But then, in a more serious tone, he continued: “But now you have to stay here in this bunker and not return to the well. You could all too easily be hit by one of the many Russian bullets!”

But Rosa broke away from the officer. "Oh, then I would be a poor Austrian!" she cried in childlike indignation. "You battle for us and are expected to put up with such an overwhelming thirst? This cannot be allowed!" And before anyone could hold her back, the girl once more grabbed her colourful, flower-painted jug and jumped out over the edge of the trench onto the battlefield.

The captain watched after the child for a long, long time. There waved her red skirt and nearby burst an enemy shell. Fire, smoke, and earth whirled upwards. The powder gradually cleared and the officer saw with a beating heart: hale and unhurt the little one going onward toward the well.

The gray-bearded Company leader folded his hands, shaking from agitation. "May God protect you, you heroine from Rawa Ruska!" he said in a quiet, tear-choked voice.

No less than seven times did Rosa Zenoch undertake the trek of life and death. Smiling, a picture of childish innocence, she went off onto the battlefield with its ghastly roar of firing... Just outside the trench of the German Masters she met her fate: a Russian shell shattered her right foot. With a cry of pain, the little heroine sank to the sod, her young blood colouring the small, white daisies that sprinkled the dark grass like bright stars.

The captain was the first to spring from cover and carry off the unconscious girl into his Company dug-out. Under the greatest of care, the Commandant of the Austrian Army Operations – to whom the heroic deeds of the little Zenoch had been reported – allowed the wounded youngster to be brought to Vienna. Maryna Zenoch accompanied her courageous daughter.

In the imperial capital of the Danube monarchy the deed of the valorous little Samaritan on the battlefield of Rawa Ruska was soon made known. The daily newspapers reported on it and from many quarters benefactors pressed in offering to help. The finest doctors volunteered their services, but sadly all efforts to preserve the wounded foot of the child were in vain. Because of the extreme danger resulting from necrosis, it had to be taken off.

Steadfastly, the little martyr Rosa Zenoch bore all the hurts; it was only when she went about the hall of the Red Cross Hospital for the first time with a crutch that her big, blue eyes filled with private tears. She thought about the meadows of her home upon which she used to nimbly run...but when she saw her mother coming, she wiped away the tears from her cheeks and smiled at her happily.

Great delights and honours were prepared for the brave Rosa Zenoch. The Emperor awarded her the silver medal of the Red Cross along with a war

decoration and donated, in addition to a considerable monetary amount, a gold chain with a diamond-inlaid cross. Archduchesses and princesses visited the simple farm girl and gifted her with dresses and silk fabric, which were a thousand times lovelier than the one in the store display in Rawa Ruska.

And so it was as Rosa Zenoch had dreamed: she wore beautiful dresses, was able to go about wide streets that were full of glitter and magnificence, and the people there did not just greet her, no, they exalted her – the Heroine of Rawa Ruska.”

Translated from *Feinde ringsum! (Enemies all around!) No. 31*, Reutlingen, Germany: Entzlin und Laiblins, 1915; pages 10-13. *Feinde ringsum!* was a series of propaganda booklets described as “Narratives for young and old from the great war 1914/15.” Pages 3-10 dealt with Rosa Zenoch’s life prior to the outbreak of World War I.

\* \* \*

Rosa Zenoch (Zenokh) was only 12 or 13 (the accounts vary) in September of 1914 when, during the Russian offensive on Lemberg, the front line moved up to the vicinity of her father’s farmhouse near Rawa Ruska (about 50 km north of Lemberg). Ignoring the bursting of shells and machine gun strafing, this Ruthenian (Ukrainian) youngster supported the defending Austrian Army soldiers in the trenches by bringing them water until she herself was badly wounded by a bursting shell. Some of the soldiers that she had shortly before assisted now came to her aid and made sure she received timely medical assistance. Although the doctors were able to save her life, she had to have her foot amputated.

The gallant actions of Rosa Zenoch did not go unrecognized. She was decorated personally by the Austrian Emperor Franz-Joseph with a war medal, a locket with the initials “FJ”, a cash prize, and a promise to provide her with a new prosthetic leg. Along with her silver medal of merit from the Red Cross, she was given the title of Samaritan, and became known as “Rosa Zenoch, the Heroine of Rawa Ruska.”

These are the basic facts of what occurred to Rosa, uncolored by the sensationalism of the months and years that followed. Additional details were provided by her mother to the Berliner Vossische Zeitung and the account was subsequently translated in The New York Times of 29 November 1914. An emended form of the translation appears below.

“We are poor farmer folk from the neighborhood of Rawa Ruska. We have only one acre of ground and a little house. Now that too is gone: the Russians burned it down and dragged my husband away – God knows where.

Daily the soldiers marched past us. We are poor and have little to eat. But Joseph, our eldest joined the Austrian Army, and always, when the soldiers knocked at the door and entered, Rosa would ask, "Is Joseph with them?"

"The soldiers spoke only German or Hungarian, and she speaks only Ruthenian [Ukrainian]. The soldiers were fearfully hungry and thirsty. Finally, Rosa learned to understand one German question, "Haben Sie was zu trinken?" ("Have you anything to drink?") And she learned the German sentence, "Ja, wir haben." ("Yes, we have.") As long as we had milk and bread, we gave them milk and bread. Then I had to go to the well and lower the pail and fetch water for the soldiers. Often the soldiers marched past our home. Then Rosa would say, "Give me the pail." and then she would run along with the soldiers and give them water."

"For days the soldiers had nothing to drink. Whenever we went out of the house, we could see them drinking out of the swamp, for there are many swamps and much sand in our country. Then, for several days, no one came there. But we heard the thundering outside and Rosa kept urging me, "Mother, draw up a lot of water!" As soon as the pail was filled, she would carry it out to the soldiers, who lay in a ditch [trench]. The soldiers [soon] recognized her. Yes, they petted and caressed her and always begged her for more water. And so she travelled all day long from the well to the soldiers and from the soldiers to the well. I often looked to see if an enemy was coming. But I never saw an enemy."

"Finally, all the soldiers knew her. She was all worn out from running her errands and carrying water [remember, her father and brother were gone, leaving the women to run the farm], and at night she could not sleep so soundly because of the noise, which was worse at night than in the daytime. Neighbours came to our house and said that the cannon could be heard much more plainly now and that the enemy must be quite close. I forbade Rosa to go out; but now and then a soldier would come to us who could hardly speak for thirst. Then I myself went out and fetched water; but Rosa runs much faster, and the soldiers all shouted the moment they saw her and they kissed her hands and blessed her. And whenever I said she must stay in the house, she would say, "But maybe Joseph is among them."

"This went on till one morning when I left the house and heard a cry behind me. When I turned around I saw Rosa falling. I lifted her up and saw her foot dangling loosely. Then I carried her to the barracks where the wounded soldiers were, far away, and the nurses carried her on a wagon to the hospital at Maheriv (Megierow) and took her foot off there. Then she was brought here to Vienna, and I with her to take care of her."

The article in *The Times* goes on to mention that Rosa Zench had carried water to the soldiers over a period of 12 days. While in the hospital she was showered

with gifts including “fruits and dainties and flowers, and many books of which she cannot read a line. There are occasional gifts of money, too, which the child’s mother, who now lives with her in the hospital ward, takes thrifty care of.”

Illustrirtes Wiener  
**Extrablatt.**

Nr. 262.      Wien, Dienstag, 22. September 1914.      43. Jahrgang.

**Uebergang unserer Truppen über die Drina.**

Die Serben in die Flucht geschlagen. — Vollständige Demoralisierung der serbischen Armee. — 12.000 Cholerafälle in Serbien.  
Prinz Georg von Serbien schwer verwundet.  
**Beforgnisse in Petersburg wegen Hindenburgs Vormarsch.**

**Rosa Zenoč, das Heldenmädchen von Rawaruska.**  
Wie sie im Kugelregen unsere Soldaten lebte.



Die heutige Nummer ist 14 Seiten stark und enthält mehrere Bilder.

The story of the *Heldenmädchen* (literally heroic girl; i.e., heroine) of Rawa Ruska became a phenomenon that would not die. Many articles, stories, and books were written about her, and at least one poem. It did not matter that most of the details about her early life were made up or that her water-carrying activities were embellished. The Austrians – who had fared poorly in the early months of the war – wanted a hero, and in Rosa they had one. Her story became a staple of wartime children’s literature.

**Philatelic Commemorations**

To date, I have come across three postcards depicting Rosa Zenoč. The first is a realistic

photograph of Rosa propped up in her hospital bed. The Red Cross medal of merit is pinned to her gown, while around her neck may be seen a necklace, likely the locket given to her by the emperor.

Another postcard (shown below) again shows Rosa in her hospital bed, but this time her image is reduced and she is surrounded by flowers <sup>(1)</sup>. The larger scene on the card depicts the heroine bringing a bucket of water to the thirsty troops.

<sup>1</sup> Also, her hair has been darkened and her facial expression made less suffering and more heroic. Ed.



A full color drawing of Rosa assisting the troops was made into an official Red Cross postcard that was sold to raise funds for the organization (Figure 4). The card was printed in 1915 by the Alb. Berger Print Shop in Vienna and was in use for the duration of the conflict. On this card, Rosa is using jugs to bring water to the troops. Her hair color is shown as brown, when in actuality it was blond.



Rosa Zenoeh was also commemorated at least twice on war souvenir labels. The first issue was a sheet of 25 different war images prepared by the firm R.P.W.J. in 1915 (perf. 9 ½ x 10). This was the second series of labels put out by the firm and it was entitled “Weltkrieg 1914” (World War 1914; see next page). The “Heroine of Rawa Ruska” appeared on label number six, shown propped up in bed and wearing one of her medals. Below this is an enlargement of some of the labels. Note that label eighteen appears to be the original photo used for the 1915 semi-postal (= surcharged) stamp showing Austrian cavalry in action (Netto 181, Scott B4). A description of

all 25 images is appended. The sheet is known in four colors: pink and black, green and black, violet and black, and pale-blue and black.



Later, the labels were marketed by the Imperial War Charity Office and to raise funds for the Red Cross. For the latter, each sheet was enclosed in an envelope inscribed “OFFIZIELLE SAMMLUNG FÜR DAS ROTE KREUZ HILFSBUREAU KRIEGSFÜRSORGEAMT – PREIS PER SERIE (25 STÜCK) 50 HELLER” (Official Collection for the Red Cross Aid Bureau, War Charity Office – Price per set (25 pieces) 50 heller). This inscription may also have appeared on the selvedge of the sheets.

The second label release featuring Rosa Zenocho is Sheet A of the *Kunstler War Scenes Issue* prepared in 1915. The set of eight multicolored war scenes may or may not have a green publishers imprint “Johann Kunstler, Leipa, Bohemia” on the back of each label (perf. 10 or 11¼). Rosa Zenocho appears on stamp number

four offering a soldier a drink (shown at the right of the previous illustration). The drawing (woodcut?) makes the youngster look like a child of about five.

I have not been able to find out what happened to Rosa after the war. Can any reader supply more information? I may be reached at: P.O. Box 3, Springfield, Virginia 22150 USA, or at: [ingert@starpower.net](mailto:ingert@starpower.net)

## References

1. Cybaniak, Peter, Roman Cybaniak, and Inger Kuzych. "Three Ukrainian Heroines of World War I." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 87 (2002): 21-25.
2. Götz, Julius. "Das Heldenmädchen von Rawa Ruska." *Feinde ringsum!* No. 31 (Reutlingen: Entzlin & Laiblius, 1915): 3-13.
3. Healy, Maureen. *Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. (Pages 229-232 describe the Rosa Zenoch phenomenon.)
4. "12-Year-Old Heroine." *The New York Times* (29 November 1914).

## Souvenir labels by position number:

1 Captured Russian cannons in front of the Arsenal in Vienna, 2 Captured Russian cannons in front of the Museum in Vienna, 3 & 4 Austrian lancer vanguard on the Russian border, 5 Transport of a wounded officer from the rail station, 6 The Heroine of Rawa Ruska, Rosa Zenoch, 7 After an engagement near Schabatz, 8 Captured Russians near Krasnik, 9 Captured Russians in Nisko, 10 Removal of Russian prisoners, 11 Requisitioned teams of horses, 12 Resting on the Russian border, 13 The two illustrious allied emperors, 14 German escort for the Austrian vehicle train, 15 Refreshment for a seriously wounded soldier, 16 Army service corps camp, 17 Russian prisoners, 18 Lancer vanguard in the field, 19 Camping husars, 20 Field bakery, 21 Austrian infantry marching through Medyice (Bosnia) 22 Officers captured by the Guards Regiment Friedrich near Krasnik, 23 A lancer regiment's horses receiving treatment for mud fever, 24 & 25 Russian prisoners digging up and baking potatoes

## APS@Stampex

Wed 27 Feb – Sat 1 Mar 2008

Business Design Centre, Islington, London

The APS will be there – will you?

## NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

### *Die Briefmarke:*

**Issue 11/2007:** Thematic: Elizabeth of Thüringen; “franked to the border” letters (2); Kolo Moser; the 45-groschen postcard; Serbian postal stationery; details of new issues including “official personal”; society, foreign & other news; books; readers’ letters; catalogues; etc

**Issue 12/2007:** Thematic: Icons; Fiume; “transiting letters”; perfins; metermarks and similar; on forgeries; details of new issues including “official personal”; society, foreign & other news; books; readers’ letters; catalogues; etc

**Issue 1/2008:** History of the Crown Jewels; Thematic: Dracula; “transiting letters” (2); the 2008 issues [*an ample sufficiency of Football ☺*] ; the 8-groschen postcard; “Multilaterale 08”, a philatelic exhibition to be held in the Austria Centre Vienna from 18 to 21 September [*somehow this seems familiar...*]; society (includes PKMI), foreign & other news; books; readers’ letters; catalogues; etc

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.*

**Issue 80:** (*all pictures in colour*) TPOs in Austria 1850-67; the 50 Soldi (Levant issue 1867); Postal rates & services to Czechoslovakia, 1945-56 (17 colour pics!!); the Mainz Forgery saga; book reviews (incl. Perfins); etc.

### *Stamps of Hungary*

**Issue 171: December 2007:** Views & reviews; Bill Hedley’s 12pp translation of the introduction to “Fahrpost in Hungary 1750-1888” which would have been similar in Austria – this is APS Library book 324.

### *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- u Zensurpost*

**Rundbrief 91:** news, AGM, birthday greetings; numerous illustrated queries & answers; “Beutekarten” fieldpost; SMS Nautilus and mail from it when in the far East; Military Hospital nr 5 at Favoriten; on apparently Red Cross “Narodny Politika” labels; WWI-era newspaper “Die Feldpost”; book reviews etc. Also several adverts in colour.

## *Czechout*

**Issue 4/2007:** Reports of meetings and of exchange-journal articles; book reviews; parcel card stickers; “International mails in wartime” and similar articles from the 1945-8 UPU Magazine\*\*; questions and answers.

\*\* the Austria-Czechoslovakia agreement effective 1.1.1947 is included.

## *Militär und Philatelie*

**Issue 224:** News of modern issues and activities; etc

## *Germania*

**November 2007 vol 43 no 4:** AGM reports; Dresden advertising postcards; German Post Office forms in Cameroon (*similar to Austrian, unsurprisingly*); Meter Marks in the Saar; questions & answers; local group reports; etc

## *Wiener Ganzsachsen- Frei- u Poststempelverein*

**Issue 4/2007:** A pneumatic mail imprinted envelope with a perfin; German postal stationery cards with foreign scenes eg Bregenz; inadequately-addressed 1930s letters with “Anfrage” marking.

## *The London Philatelist*

**Jan/Feb 2008:** Postal consequences [to Denmark] of the Danish – Austro-Prussian War, 1864 ; details of London-2010 and an appeal for 150 volunteers (not least to change all the exhibits half-way-through!!)

## *Südost-Philatelie*

**Vol 103/2007:** illustrated questions; Škofije / Albaro Vescová and Trieste Zone A; and much else.

## *Jugopošta*

**Vol 84 Dec 2007:** publications list; the 1905 Montenegro constitution and the commemorative stamps; items in exchange journals; etc.

## *Ukrainian Philatelist*

**Vol 53 No. 2 2005:** [A copy of this sold-out edition has been found and presented to us: thanks, IK] An introduction to the stamps of Carpatho-Ukraine; a catalogue of the 1939 & 1945 issues; the Carpatho-Ukraine postal stationery of 1939 & 1945; the Kolomyia provisional postal cards of 1941.

**Vol 55 No. 2 2007:** Ukraine 1917-23: postal history review; Ukrainian topics on foreign postal stationery, 1920-45; the 1920 Courier Fieldpost issue; the Kolomyia stamp issues; the Stanyslaviv issues; etc etc.

## *ANK Spezialkatalogue 2007/8*

Available from the usual outlets. 512 pages. One notable feature is the listing of the 1867 newspaper post stamp where the previous 6 subtypes are now 12, illustrated in colour. Genuinely used Red Mercuries have risen from 80K€ to 100K€, say £75,000 – I don't have one either. However prices for the First Issue are unchanged.

## *Additions to the Library*

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
342	Österreich Spezialkatalog 2006/7	Comprehensive illustrated catalogue of Austrian stamps and related material. [Also UNO Vienna issues.]	480	ANK (Netto)	2006	G
424	Schule 1945	An account of the author's life as a 6-year-old boy in post-war Vienna	22	Richard Zimmerl	2005	G
425	Dienstbuch für den Postillon (1893)	1883 Instruction Manual for Postillions. PKM Innsbruck Schriftenreihe vol 13	75	PKMI	2007	G

Item 342 "Österreich Spezialkatalog Netto" has been updated to the 2006/7 edition.

Item 424 is one of a series, produced under the auspices of the Ministry of Education who have a project to capture and pass on to schoolchildren the memories of their seniors ("Niemals Vergessen!"). This is paralleled by "talking

history”, where people speak to younger school-children; for WWII experiences this is becoming almost impossible as so few now survive.

Item 425 is a reprint of the Manual of Instructions (1883 edition) for Postillions. It lays down in great detail how they shall conduct themselves on and off duty, how look after the horses, and many things they must not do. An appendix describes their uniforms, normal and “Gala”.

### *An interesting book*

“Budapest: A Cultural History” by Bob Dent. Oxford University Press, 2007. xi + 237 pp. ISBN 978-0-195314-94-6. The author is a British expatriate journalist who has lived in the city since the mid-1980s. The book is not a tourist guide but provides knowledge of the culture and history of aspects of the inner city that visitors are most likely to experience.

## A Celebration of Austrian Philately

This is the chosen title of the “Festschrift” anniversary volume which the APS is publishing on the occasion of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The contents are:

- ❖ “*The world's first regular and first international airmail service*” by Inger Kuzych.
- ❖ “*The Austro-Hungarian Navy*” by John Beech.
- ❖ “*The Austrian Newspaper Tax*” by A Taylor
- ❖ “*Postal Use of the Austrian Lloyd's seals 1832-1905*” by Hans Smith
- ❖ “*Pneumatic Post facilities in Wien 25*” by A Taylor

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This trio of articles have been updated by Inger Kuzych from the originals that appeared in the Bulletin of The Austrian Philatelic Society of New York. They add to the background knowledge of history and politics without which, your Editor asserts, much of Austrian philately is unintelligible.

## The Age and Times of Maria Theresia as Reflected in Her Postal Decrees <sup>[i]</sup>

by Edward Shelton, with notes by Inger Kuzych

**W**hen Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor <sup>[ii]</sup> died in 1740 without leaving any male offspring, his eldest daughter Maria Theresia became heir to the hereditary domains of the House of Habsburg. Her most important titles were Queen of Bohemia and Hungary, Archduchess of Austria, as well as a string of lesser titles – valid as well as extinct – to a whole carpet of duchies, margravates, principalities, and countries covering the European map from the Rhine to the Adriatic Sea (see Figure 1). She was also known as the Grand Duchess of Tuscany by her marriage to Franz Stephan of Lorraine, the Grand Duke of Tuscany. When Franz Stephan became Holy Roman Emperor in 1745, she was from then on additionally referred to as the Empress.<sup>[iii]</sup>

All these titles may be found in the introduction to her Postal Decrees, since it was the custom to precede any laws, promulgations, etc. issued by a sovereign with their royal catalogue. However, such a listing was not a courtesy or flamboyancy of style, but was set down for a definite legal reason. **The Austrian State as we know it today, or the larger entity, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy that was known to our fathers and grandfathers, did not exist at all.** The Austria of Maria Theresia was a collection of various principalities that were semi-autonomous, had their own laws, parliaments or diets, their own forms of taxation, military levies, etc. Some of the larger units even maintained embassies amongst themselves and with foreign nations. Thus, if any edicts were issued, they had to be signed in the name of the Queen of Bohemia, and the Archduchess of Austria, and the Prince-Countess of Tyrol, etc in order to be obeyed in Prague, Vienna, Innsbruck, and the other places.

### *A Dynamic Reign*

When Maria Theresia assumed her inheritance at the age of 23, it was a vast legacy which her father had sought to protect by the so-called Pragmatic Sanction <sup>[iv]</sup> a hereditary law fortified by a string of interlocking treaties with the other European princes. Immediately, she found herself involved in a long and costly war (1740-1748) with Prussia and Bavaria in the defence of her hereditary domains. <sup>[v]</sup> Although she found herself ill-prepared both militarily and financially, she nevertheless succeeded in holding on to her inheritance.

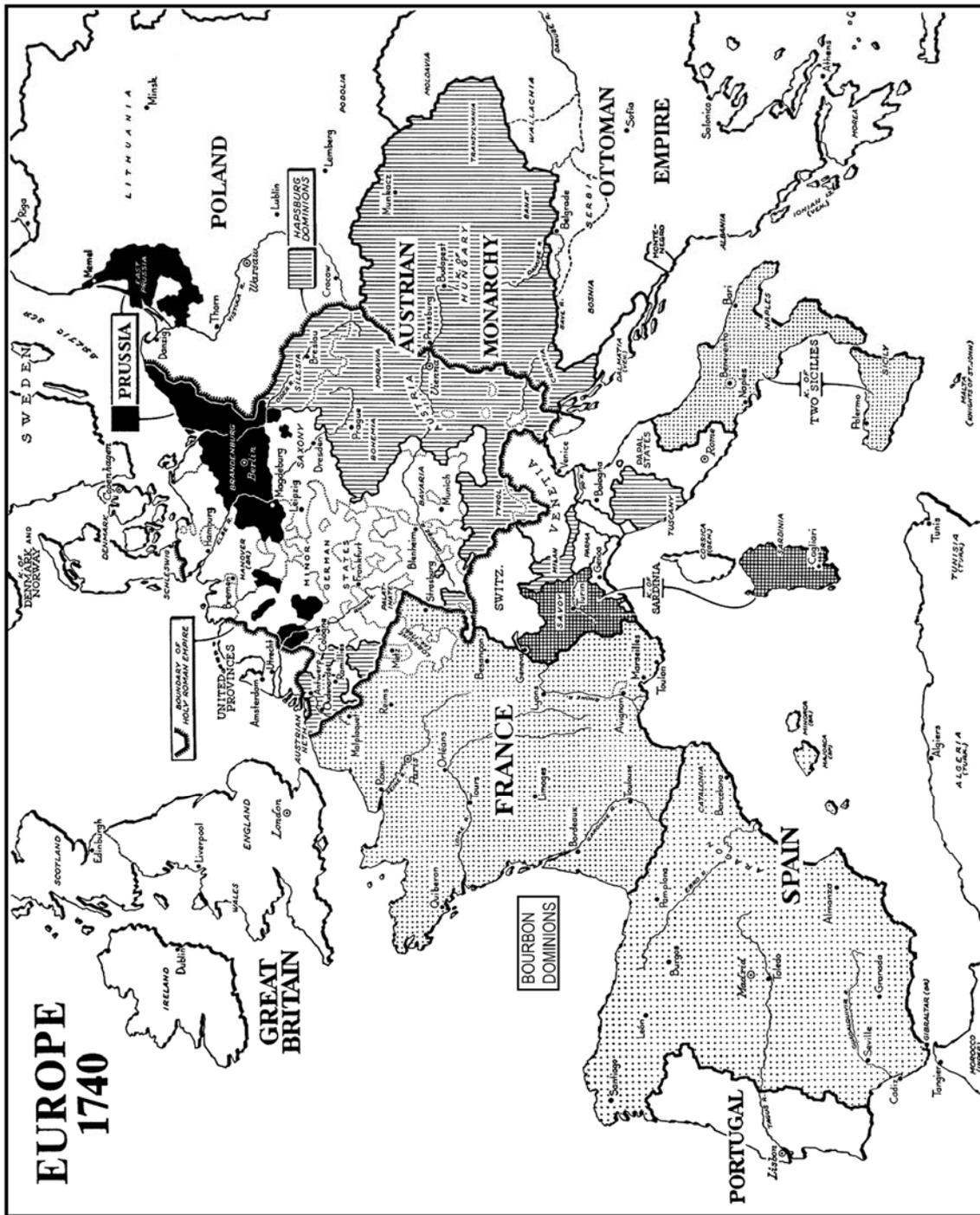


Figure 1. Europe at the beginning of Maria Theresa's reign in 1740

In these eight years she not only succeeded in attracting gifted field commanders to her armies, but also in replacing a fossilized civil administration with able administrators and officials. In 1756, under the skilled diplomatic hands of her able Chancellor Prince Kaunitz, the Grand Alliance with France was forged which not only overcame centuries-old animosities between the two courts, but gave Austria its first solid international backing in years. The subsequent Seven Years War with Prussia (1756-1763) left her domains for the

most part intact, but the province of Silesia, with the exception of a small strip around Troppau, was irretrievably lost to Prussia. In 1765, her husband Franz I, Holy Roman Emperor, died and their son Joseph II succeeded him as Emperor and became Regent in the hereditary domains (see Figure 2; this and later figures are placed at the end because of layout restrictions).

In 1772, despite her great misgivings, Maria Theresia was persuaded to participate in the First Partition of Poland. [<sup>vi</sup>] In 1778-79, at the close of her reign, her armies were again called into the field against Prussia on account of the Bavarian succession. This war did not progress very far and was quickly ended. [<sup>vii</sup>] In 1780, Maria Theresia passed away, bringing to a close a reign of 40 eventful years that transformed what had been a disintegrating accumulation of lands and feudal territories into an organic and well administrated state (Figure 3). It was not a homogeneous entity to be sure, but a well functioning heterogeneous national state. If not “de jure,” she was indeed “de facto” Empress of Austria (See Figures 3a, 3b, & 4).

As a person she was highly intelligent, quick-witted, and endowed with intuition and common sense. These natural qualities, assisted by natural charm and beauty, helped her overcome an insufficient education. Her temperament was passionate which sometimes led her to rash and unjust decisions. Basically, however, she was a warm and outgoing person, a devoted and intensely jealous wife of a handsome and amorous husband to whom she, the sovereign of an empire engaged in a life-and-death struggle, nevertheless managed to bear 16 children. Two of them became Emperors, one Queen of France, another Queen of Naples and Sicily. [<sup>viii</sup>] Although without arrogance, she was proud; and though gracious, she was also stern and obstinate. Her prejudices were numerous and often detrimental to her government. Yet it must be noted that without her unquestioning religious faith and her unshakeable belief in the righteousness of her cause, she probably would not have prevailed in her many accomplishments.

### *Postal Reforms*

Amongst the numerous and significant laws and edicts issued during the reign of Maria Theresia, these two Postal Decrees are of moderate importance. Nevertheless, to the careful student they are quite interesting. We have already noted the introductory sentences and can now proceed to discuss the actual contents.

The postal monopoly in the Austrian hereditary domains was an off-shoot of the Imperial Posts in the Holy Roman Empire operated as an imperial fief by the Thurn and Taxis family. [<sup>ix</sup>] Although the Habsburgs originally had endowed

and always supported the Thurn and Taxis as Supreme Imperial Postmasters in the Empire, Emperor Ferdinand II in 1624 sequestered the postal establishment in his hereditary domains from the German Imperial Posts and instructed the Count of Paar to operate a separate post in the Austrian domains.

While in the 17th century the mail was mainly a means of transmitting official correspondence and making a little money on the side by carrying private mail and parcels, the situation changed rapidly in the 18th century when developments in the general economic and social climate demanded better and more frequent mail service and communication.

For us, the post office of today is a place where one mails letters and small parcels and sometimes buys new issues for a stamp collection. In the 18th century, the mail was the sole and prime means of communication. It carried not only letters, but also sizeable shipments of goods as well as passengers. Parallel to this it also maintained a courier system for the purpose of government communication. As the sole means of communication, it also became an instrument for the police powers of the state. Finally, it also served as a medium of news throughout the realm.

Yet despite these vast all-encompassing activities, only a small portion of the populace availed themselves of the mails. Only government officials and well-to-do people travelled. Only those able to read and write and able to pay would engage in correspondence. Banks, large commercial establishments, etc. maintained their own private messengers. Some individuals also engaged in black-market mail and coaching operations, to the detriment of the postal establishment.

One of the main reasons for these Postal Decrees was to curb these abuses. While the first decree speaks out strongly against these practices, the second decree excluded practically anyone who tried to make a living by carrying goods and people in direct competition with the posts. Only peripheral services were permitted.

Another abuse was, of course, vested in the social conditions of the age. While “high and low born” had to avail themselves of the mails, the privileged classes nevertheless sought and received preferential treatment. Noblemen who had their estates near the post station or to whom postmasters were beholden in one or another way – in other words the equivalent of the local big shots of today – could and would indeed exert undue influence on the postmasters. The curbing of these abuses was vital lest the postal system become completely discredited. There was another reason for the strong stand against the nobility. Maria Theresia and her ministers felt that in order to make a viable and modern state out of her feudal inheritance, the privileges of the nobility had to be curbed

whenever they threatened to conflict with the interest of the state. It was also a matter of state policy to promote the middle classes, townspeople, artisans, etc. because these were the classes that produced most of the tax base. The tax exemption of the aristocratic classes was still respected, although they too were taxed eventually through indirect means. The postal system, however, was vitally essential to the development of a well-to-do middle class.

It is no coincidence that the first Postal Decree of Maria Theresia was issued in December of 1748. In October of that year, the Peace of Aix la Chapelle brought the long eight war years to a fairly successful conclusion and the internal reorganization of the realm could start in all seriousness. The strengthening of the Imperial and Royal Posts was a prerequisite to any other economic or fiscal measure.

The reason for the second Postal Decree of 1772 is evident from the weaknesses of the first Postal Decree. No doubt, the state was not yet as strong in 1748 as Maria Theresia would have wished. While establishing the basic postal procedures, she is still vague on many things, like what constitutes over-weight, or should a postmaster be allowed to drop off an aristocratic mail-coach passenger in front of his castle rather than at the post house? She is hesitant on the role of the country coachmen. In many instances she appeals to the good sense of everybody concerned, although she promises the aid and assistance of the state. The second Decree is more specific and really lays down the law.

Another item of interest is the mention in the first Decree of people who rented post horses for riding. Apparently, the roads and coaches had improved sufficiently by 1772 so that there was no further mention of this abuse. On the other hand, the Decree of 1772 is quite firm with regard to the maintenance of the postal roads. With this edict, all roads traversed by mail coaches or postal riders became public roads.

The second Postal Decree also exempts postmasters from having to quarter soldiers. Unfortunately for them, this exclusion was achieved only after two long devastating wars, which probably had made them cry out and petition the Empress. There are other choice pieces to be found in the first Postal Decree, like the strict instruction to avoid transporting of suspicious persons without proper credentials. Also, there was doubtless a shortage of male servants after eight years of war, so that the postmasters were luring postilions away from each other. Another revealing sentence found in the first Postal Decree is that a postmaster should only employ "good, honest, Catholic persons": this despite the fact that there were several sections of the realm that were heavily Protestant. This sentence shows rather clearly that this decree was not just prepared by a subordinate official for the monarch's signature, but reveals Maria Theresia's active participation in the formulation of this document as betrayed by her well-known bias. The style of the second Postal Decree is

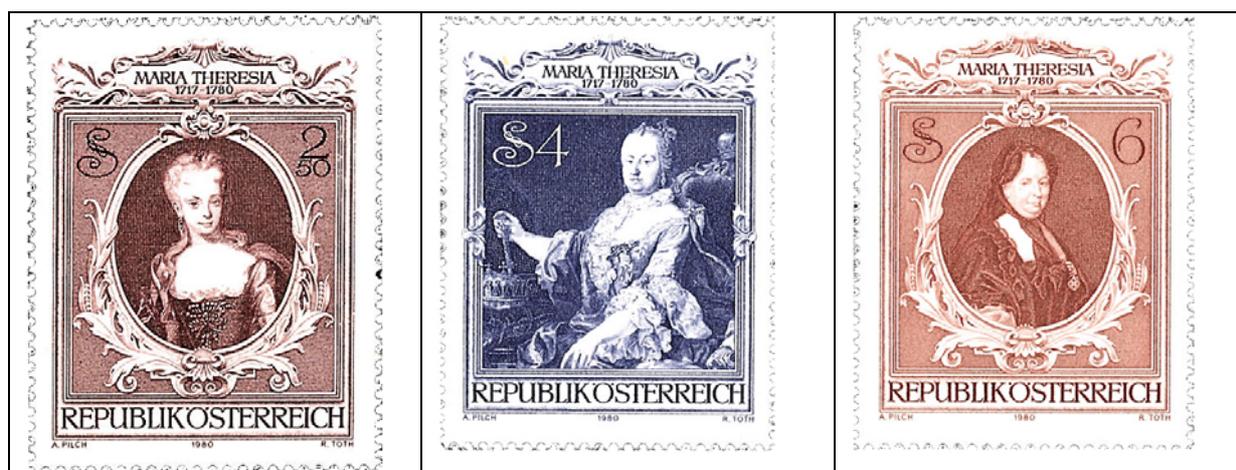
different and there was probably less personal involvement on the part of the Empress.

Before concluding, one should also discuss the persons most frequently mentioned in these decrees, the postmasters. These postmasters were important people. They should not be equated with what is nowadays understood by postmasters of local post offices. As the entire postal system was given to the Postmaster General as a feudal endowment to be handed down from father to son, so also were the regional and local postmasters hereditary positions kept in the same families. Long after the post had become an administrative governmental unit, there were still hereditary postmasters in Austria. As a matter of fact, this custom in some instances persisted into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many postmasters belonged to the lesser nobility. They were all rich and influential men. In most cases they owned the inns (“Gasthof zur Post”) where the travellers rested and they operated all kinds of businesses connected with the postal service. Archduke Johann of Austria, the younger brother of the Emperor Franz, married the daughter of a postmaster. While the marriage was morganatic [<sup>x</sup>] due to the great difference in class, it was never considered an outrage by a class-conscious aristocratic society. One must again stress the great importance the post played in the life of the people (see Figure 5). The functions of the old post are nowadays distributed among mail, railroad, telegraph, telephone, travel bureaus, newspapers, and, of course, the Internet. Postmasters were indeed important men.

What is the significance of these Postal Decrees? Apart from the historical lights they throw on life in 18th century Austria, they were milestones in the development of the Austrian postal establishment. The Habsburgs realized early on the importance of a systematized and regularly scheduled mail service. As early as 1672 and 1695, comprehensive postal decrees were issued by the General Postmaster Count Paar in the name of the Emperor Leopold I. Another postal decree was issued in 1726 by Charles VI. All these decrees, each improving upon the other according to the needs of the time, helped form and shape the Austrian posts. Other nations, too, had mails. The German Thurn and Taxis posts were a formidable enterprise whose postal routes crossed scores of sovereign principalities, free cities, and ecclesiastical states, yet no other postal establishment had to service such a vast area inhabited by so many different nations as the Austrian posts. The fact that this postal system could develop despite the great inherent difficulties is to no small degree due to the perseverance of the Empress Maria Theresia and her ministers. Conversely one could speculate that, had this postal system disintegrated into small regional postal arrangements, it would have been doubtful whether the Austrian monarchy could have survived at all. As the reign of Maria Theresia was the turning point in the development of the modern Austrian state, so were her postal orders of equal significance in the progress towards a modern postal system.

**Figures 2 - 5**

**Figure 2.** Austria has issued stamps honouring Maria Theresia on several occasions. The most recent was on 25 October 1996 on a souvenir sheet commemorating “1000 years of Austria.” She is shown in the lower-left 6-schilling stamp (Netto 2227) in front of her son Joseph II.



**Figures 3a (above) & 3b (below).** In 1980, the 200th anniversary of the passing of the great empress was marked by a special five-month exhibition at the imperial palace of Schönbrunn entitled “Maria Theresia and Her Time.”

Three stamps marking the occasion (Netto 1669-71) were released on 13 May, the opening day of the exhibit: 2.50 S showing Maria Theresia as a young woman, 4 S presenting her as Empress, and 6 S showing the dowager Empress. All three issues (along with three special cancels) may be seen on this special commemorative card.



**Figure 4.** The first stamps depicting Maria Theresia (both 2-heller values; Netto 140 and 162) were released in the early 20th century as part of Austria's first two commemorative stamp sets which marked respectively the 60th Anniversary of Rule by Emperor Franz Josef in 1908 and the 80th Birthday of the Emperor in 1910.





**Figure 5.** On the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> UPU Congress in Vienna in 1964, Austria Post issued a beautiful set of eight stamps on 15 June showing “The Post in Art.” Three of values (Netto 1187, 1190, and 1191) depict scenes that would be familiar to the postmasters of Maria Theresia’s time. The 1.20 S stamp displays a painting entitled “Changing Horses at a Post Station,” the 2.20 S value shows a “Return Journey to Vienna,” while the 3 S depicts “Changing the Horses of an Express Coach at the Bavarian Border.”

## *Endnotes*

<sup>i</sup> An earlier form of this article appeared in the Bulletin of The Austrian Philatelic Society of New York Vol. 16 No. 1 (1964): 7-11. I have emended the text, added explanatory footnotes, and inserted the map and illustrations. IK

<sup>ii</sup> The Holy Roman Empire of Maria Theresia’s time included most all of the German-speaking area of Europe as well as additional lands held by the two most powerful houses, the Habsburgs of Austria and the Hohenzollerns of Prussia. The head of the Holy Roman Empire, the Emperor, was elected to the office by a group of nine German princes (the Electors; formerly seven, but after 1692 the number became nine). The Emperor claimed to be the temporal sovereign of Christendom, ruling in conjunction with the spiritual sovereign, the pope. From 1438 onward, the title of Emperor was virtually hereditary in the Habsburg dynasty. After 1648, the Empire became little more than a loose confederation of hundreds of virtually independent states, watched over by Austria, and to a lesser extent, by Prussia.

<sup>iii</sup> As a woman, Maria Theresia could not become Holy Roman Emperor. However, five years into her reign, she was able to arrange for her husband to receive the Imperial crown. The five-year hiatus (1740-45) was the only period between 1438 and 1806 that a Habsburg was not Holy Roman Emperor.

<sup>iv</sup> When Charles VI realized he would have no son to succeed him, he drew up a document, the Pragmatic Sanction, with which he traveled to the courts of Europe and which he managed to get all the heads of state to sign. The agreement purported to ensure the territorial integrity of the Habsburg Empire when Maria Theresia eventually ascended the throne. In actuality, France, Prussia, Bavaria, and Saxony all reneged on the arrangement and sought to carve out parts of Austria for themselves. The War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748) ensued.

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<sup>v</sup> It was Frederick II of Prussia's greed at acquiring Upper Silesia – Austria's richest province – that launched the succession war. Since it was his late father Frederick William who had signed the Pragmatic Sanction, Frederick felt no hesitation in occupying Silesia – without a declaration of war – particularly since Maria Theresa, as a woman, was perceived as weak. He was joined in this perfidy by Charles Albert of Bavaria, as well as French and Saxon forces. After capturing Prague in late 1741, Charles Albert had himself crowned King of Bohemia, styled himself as Archduke of Austria, and arranged to be elected Holy Roman Emperor as Charles VII in 1742. Years of hard fighting ensued all over Europe, but when Charles unexpectedly died early in 1745, his son Maximilian agreed to withdraw from the war and to support the candidacy of Franz Stephan as Emperor in return for retaining Bavaria. The war concluded in 1748 with the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (Aachen), which basically returned conditions to what they had been before the fighting broke out. Maria Theresa and Austria had survived, driving out the many invaders, but Silesia was ceded to Prussia.

<sup>vi</sup> The lands annexed in the First Partition (which would become known as the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria with its capital of Lemberg) brought more Slavs into the Empire – Poles and Ukrainians. The Austrians generally referred to the latter as Ruthenians.

<sup>vii</sup> Joseph II, in a fit of grandiosity, put himself at the head of an army of 200,000 and marched into Bohemia to face the Prussians. The ageing Frederick, however, refused to be drawn into battle and concluded an armistice with Maria Theresa behind Joseph's back. The "war" came to be known as the "Potato War", because the Austrian soldiers, sitting through a miserable winter with no one to fight, were forced to resort to living off potatoes dug up with their bayonets in the field.

<sup>viii</sup> Holy Roman Emperors Joseph II (r. 1765-1790) and Leopold II (r. 1790-1792), Queen Marie Antoinette (Maria Antonia) of France (r. 1774-1793), and Queen Maria Carolina of Naples (r. 1768-1806) and Sicily (r. 1768-1814).

<sup>ix</sup> Franz von Taxis served as postmaster to the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I from 1489; he secured the right to carry both governmental and private mail for a fee and so founded the first public-access mail service. Taxis hired many of his relatives to operate the vast network, which would function in one form or another for almost four centuries. At one time the various branches of the family employed 20,000 messengers to carry mail and deliver newspapers to parts of Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, and the Low Countries. Over time, national postal services superseded various parts of the Thurn and Taxis system, the last section of which was purchased and nationalized by the Prussian Government in 1867. More about this postal system may be found in the article "The Postal Service of the Thurn and Taxis Princes, Descendants of the Tasso Family" by Adriano Cattani in *Austria* No. 145 (2004): 83-88.

<sup>x</sup> A morganatic marriage is one contracted usually between persons of unequal social rank (*unebenbürtig* in German), which prevents the passage of the husband's titles and privileges to the wife and any children born of the marriage.

Der  
**Römisch-Kaiserlichen**

Auch

zu Ungarn und Böhme ꝛc.

**Königlichen Majestät**

FRAUEN, FRAUEN

**MARIÆ THERESIÆ,**

Grß-Herzogin zu Oesterreich,

Herzogin zu Lothringen und Barr,

Groß-Herzogin zu Toscana ꝛc. ꝛc.

Unserer Allergnädigsten Frauen

und Lands-Fürstin

Neue

**Post-Ordnung**

In gesambt: Dero Oesterreichischen Ländern.

ANNO M. DCC. XLVIII.

---

WIEL, gedruckt bey Johann Jacob Zahn, Universitäts-Buchdruckern.

## THE POSTAL DECREE OF 1748 <sup>[1]</sup>

**S**er Roman Imperial, also of Hungary and Bohemia etc. Royal Majesty Mistress, the Mistress Maria Theresia, Arch-Duchess of Austria, Duchess of Lorraine and Barr, Grand-Duchess of Tuscany, etc. etc. Our most gracious Mistress' and Sovereign Princess' New Postal Order for all her Austrian domains. In the year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty Eight Vienna, printed by Johann Jacob Jahn, University Printers

We, Maria Theresia, by the Grace of God Roman Empress in Germany, Queen of Hungary, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, etc. Arch-Duchess of Austria, Duchess of Burgundy, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola and Württemberg, Countess of Habsburg, Flanders, Tyrol, Goricia and Gradisca. Duchess of Lorrain and Barr, Grand-Duchess of Tuscany, etc. etc.

Publicly announce with this letter, and make known to everybody that, after consulting our Court Chancelleries and offices, We have as follows partly confirmed partly renewed, and according to circumstances improved the Postal Order issued by the late High and Well-born Supreme Imperial Court and Hereditary Post Master General Carl Joseph Count of Paar, Baron of Hardtberg and Krottenstein, and most graciously approved by our most serene Grandfather Leopold the First, Roman Emperor of blessed memory, on the 16th of April, 1695.

Namely,

Firstly: every Post Administrator, Post Master and Mail Forwarder duty bound on his oath of allegiance to Our, Our Arch-Houses and the Common Weal's services, should hold and attend with his own person the mail entrusted to him nor should he absent himself for more than three days without very important cause, but be his business of such greater importance that he cannot settle and end the same within three days he will have to report obediently to the Imperial Royal Post-Directorate established in our Hereditary Domains and to ask their permission; meanwhile at home to make such arrangements that no shortcoming may pass in his postal service for which he could be held responsible.

Secondly: The Post Administrators and Post Masters should employ well-known, good, honest, Catholic people and postillions whom one can and may trust in every way because if through dishonesty, laziness, inattentiveness or other crime of a postal servant or another subject, damage, loss or other inconvenience be caused, it will be deemed the Postal Administrator's or Post Master's fault and he be held accountable; although he may in turn seek to reimburse himself from the wages and remunerations and possessions of such a postillion or servant found at fault.

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<sup>1</sup> An earlier form of this article appeared in the *Bulletin of The Austrian Philatelic Society of New York* Vol. 15 No. 4

Thirdly: they should not only carefully read all official receipts, orders or circulars addressed to them, but should also comply with them obediently in every way: contrariwise they will face real punishment.

Fourth: No Post Master should persuade the postillions or servants of another Post Master into his service by means of gifts, promises or similar inducements, even less should it be permitted to the postillions to quit their service before termination of their contracted time and without proper leave and seek other service as postillions again; also, wherever a Post Master has taken into his service such a servant who cannot show a proper leave from his previous master, both should suffer severe punishment and especially the postillion shall nevermore be employed in the postal service.

Fifth: Each Post Master and Mail Forwarder should have six good carriage or saddle horses in addition to those horses which they are obliged to keep for the ordinary mail and for the couriers and for which they are receiving remuneration to keep them in proper readiness for riding or carriage: (He should also keep at least two carriage horses with all the necessary and proper harnesses, saddles and accessories always in a state of readiness; such horses thus assigned to the postal service should not be exhausted and made tired by heavy field work and other work so that in case of sudden postal rides they are either not available or unable to perform.)

Sixth: Each Post Master and Mail Forwarder should expedite the ordinary mail twice weekly in both directions, in night and day, always on horse, never (upon avoidance of punishment of 10 fl.) on foot or other occasional opportunity, maintaining a schedule of time and hours. Notwithstanding that special posts and the couriers by reason of their urgency and importance require an accelerated forwarding, they nevertheless should maintain a schedule of time and hours at an accelerated trot, and in order that this

Seventh: more certain and definitely be carried out there should be kept a time record sheet in which one should not gain or lose at the expense of the other in the posting and scheduling of the hours, much less should the ordinary mail be kept longer in one place than absolutely necessary while the couriers should not be delayed at all; this sheet should be open to inspection by the main post offices within and outside Our hereditary domains, to be checked and supervised so that the tardy or otherwise guilty one in the absence of compelling or important reason in his excuse is immediately to be noted and by this hourly record can be punished without fail, his delay thus being well proven.

Eighth: If it happens that a postillion meets the oncoming mail, whether regular or courier, he will be obliged to take same back (to his own post) without objection. It is understood that concerning handing-over and exchange (of mail) each rider will come to an arrangement with his counterpart (from the next post) also if there are more horses from the other mail or if one happens to meet a further ride, the passengers should take care of these additional horses in the

first instance, otherwise the exchange should take place without contradiction on their part.

Ninth: Whenever a mail coach traveller or a courier shall arrive on a postal station he should immediately and without delay be provided with the necessary horses for carriage or riding in accordance with the travelling conditions prevailing in that section (payment of the post money has to be made upon mounting and not after the accomplishment of the journey). In case it should happen that because of precedence of Our services and special journey or other important reasons a lack of horses prevent a scheduled mail ride nor can other horses be found in the neighbourhood, the Post Master will have to make arrangements to keep them waiting with all due respect of their position and make the necessary effort to expedite each passenger as soon as possible in the order of their arrival. In case anyone without regard to the actual situation, whether he be of high or low estate, is unexpectedly applying violence on the Post Masters or is threatening or even actually assaulting them, the Post Masters are hereby given the right and the power under Section 5 Article VI of Our Postal General Orders published of this date to defend themselves by meeting force with force. Furthermore the authorities of each locality are obliged and bound to assist and to aid the Post Masters upon their request, contrariwise they be liable to severe prosecution and further

Tenth: The experience of several years has shown that many arguments, disputes and brawls have arisen on Post Stations because mail coach passengers have arrived from previous stations in carriages of a generally prohibited type on which they loaded large cases. Trunks and other heavy things were stowed in the front and in the back as much as possible. Besides the persons riding in the coach, they had also one or two servants sitting in the back or in the front on the coachman's seat who furthermore had used large whips of their own on the horses and the mail servants and had them driven to exhaustion. Then they had insisted that they be given as many horses for long and difficult postal roads as they also originally started out with from here (Vienna) or other main postal stations where the roads were smooth and the distances between stations were covered easily. Thus by strength of this (order) it will not only be totally prohibited (to incur) the weight of non-permitted type of coaches already mentioned in previous General Postal Orders, but also the excessive loading of baggage and servants and their use of their whips. The travellers' attention is further directed to the patent of 1st of June 1726 covering these situations confirmed by Our late most serene father, Charles the Sixth, Roman Emperor of glorious memory, according to which in proportion to overloaded coaches or larger number of persons if necessary more horses must be hired without objection, on the other hand the Post Masters should have no right to force travellers to take and pay for more horses than are deemed necessary for the forwarding of their persons and baggage.

Eleventh: In case a Post Master is deprived of men and horses due to frequent rides so that he has only a single horse on hand so shall nobody be allowed to take this (last) horse from the stable nor should he be obliged to give it up but this horse should be retained for Our own services that there shall never the need arise that a sudden courier is delayed.

Twelfth: Many post travellers persist in the mistaken and insane idea that a Post Master be obliged to forward everyone in the same manner in which they had departed from the main postal station or another post of origin; (that is) whether on horseback or riding in the coach he be continued in the same fashion. However, because of the differences of the roads which are in some places smooth and even and therefore suitable to driving while other places might be mountainous or marshy and more suitable to horseback riding a distinction must be made with regard to travel. Such things each traveller, gentleman rider or courier will reasonably consider on his own and not pressure the Post Master unjustly and unfairly and be satisfied with such means of transportation as each locality and the circumstance permit and to comport themselves in accordance with the regulations of this Postal Order- Section VI.O.Mi. and since further on

Thirteenth: It had happened occasionally that some people had ahead of time sent a travel sheet by mail or even a courier to all the Post Masters of their entire route advising that they needed more horses for a certain day of their departure although the mail rides were frequent and they had thus reserved the necessary horses and then had departed a day or two later.

The Post Masters in turn had always reserved their horses and even obtained other horses when finding themselves short of own horses and had to feed them and to pay waiting time. However, when finally such passengers had arrived they had only paid them the regular fare. It is now considered as absolutely fair that in such instances the Post Master should be paid with 30 Kr. waiting money per horse and thus be protected.

Fourteenth: In order that it be not possible that the mail might carry into and out of the country suspicious persons or fugitives from a perpetrated misdeed who wish to avail themselves of the mail service for their flight and safety, no horses should be given to anyone here (in Vienna) in the Main Court Post Office unless he can produce a letter of permission issued either by Our Imperial Vice Chancellor or by Our Court Chancellor of State; correspondingly should the Post Masters of the first and second stations deny horses to such passengers who are arriving there not by mail but by other means (and are) wishing to continue their travel by mail, unless they have with them and can produce the above-mentioned letter of permission from the Imperial Chancellery of State or they are in possession of an official passport issued here (in Vienna ) by the Main Court Post Office which permits them to be forwarded by mail regardless whether they have arrived by other means. The Post Masters have to retain this official passport for their own security. At the same time no Post Master or Mail

Forwarder from here until the sixth station should ever dare to furnish horses to strange and unknown persons who have neither come from the Mail Post Office nor through another Post Station and cannot show the above-mentioned official passport; otherwise they will not only be dismissed from their service but depending on the circumstances may even suffer punishment on their person.

Fifteenth: Just the same, a Post Master or Mail Forwarder should not take anyone beyond the ordinary mail routes or take just anyone from post to post, even on the regular route of the ordinary mail or courier roads unless it happens that a well-known personage well-established in the country wishes to be taken to his estates, manors or other places situated off the postal roads. In such a case the Post Master is permitted to do this against a fair payment in proportion to the distance but only if this can be accomplished without delay of the regular mail and not at the expense and detriment to the counterpart rider (of the opposite post) and the length and stress of the way can be mastered without undue hardship to the Post Master.

Sixteenth: With this General Order it is now prohibited for estate-bound riders, messengers and county coachmen (outside the postal system) who are also forwarding travellers, to have servants riding ahead carrying a pouch and blowing a posthorn to collect and distribute letters. Nevertheless such messengers may carry a different (sounding) horn. Furthermore all Post Administrators, Post Masters and Mail Forwarders will have to watch this very carefully that this is not violated and the transgressors are brought to punishment with the assistance of the local authorities.

Seventeenth: Inasmuch as these who live in the country and on the estates and the authorities in the towns, markets and villages as well as Our officials, all of them are noticeably desirous of prompt delivery of their mail, it is hereby sternly ordered that Post Masters and Mail Forwarders, each and all, should carefully and diligently watch the way letters carried by ordinary mail and courier especially if it is something which is recommended for special delivery and to deliver safely each and every letter wherever they may belong to. They should not overcharge anyone in the postage due and always conform to the established tariffs.

Finally and ultimately, all the Postal Administrators, Post Masters and Mail Forwarders are hereby seriously instructed that they should keep from now on this renewed and published Post Order of Ours in steady and firm observance for themselves and for their servants. They should not infringe against this Postal Order, most graciously ratified by Us, or permit others to do so. Whenever a violation is committed by a person travelling by mail, regardless whether high-born or low-born, the Post Master should not forward such passengers who have caused excesses and improprieties on his station and in case, during the voyage, there were fighting or brawls such should be reported by the postillion to the Post Master of the next station who will now by strength

of Our renewed General Postal Orders not only not continue them on their voyage but would also immediately inform Our Postal Administration with all the circumstances and witnesses which will then take all the necessary steps. In any case, the Post Masters and Mail Forwarders will be assured all possible assistance, aid and protection.

Accordingly We ratify, confirm and ordain this Postal Order by strength of this letter in the exercise of the Roman Imperial Royal and Sovereign Princely Power and in such a way that it will stay in force and always be kept firm and inviolate and continuously be lived up to by the Postal Administrators, Post Masters and Mail Forwarders who themselves are thereby vigorously protected and maintained during all times and in all circumstances. We command herewith each and all of Our Spiritual and Secular Authorities beneath Us, Our present and future viceroys, county marshalls, governors, prelates, counts, lords, squires, servants, viscounts, bailiffs, overseers, administrators, burgraves, burgomasters, judges, councillors, freemen, municipalities and all Our other loyal subjects and vassals of Our Hereditary Kingdoms, principalities and domains, but especially those who travel back and forth on the mails, whether of high estate or low estate, that they absolutely do not act contrary to the above Postal Order, ratified most graciously by Us, nor should they undertake anything against the Postal Administrators, Post Masters and Mail Forwarders and also not to trouble their people and servants and not burden them in one or another matter not to permit anyone else to inflict anything on them in whatever kind and manner as much as everyone is desirous to avoid Our severe displeasure and punishment.

This We mean indeed: Given in Our Imperial Royal Residence-City of Vienna, the 14th day of the month December in seventeen hundred and forty eight in the ninth year of Our reign.

## **Maria Theresia**

( ) L.S.

Johannes Friederich, Count of Seilern

Ad Mandatum Sacrae Caesariae  
Regiaeque Majestatis proprium

Mathias Benedict Finsterwalder

“LS” means either “Lachs-siegel”, ie “sealed with wax”, or “Landes Siegel”, ie the seal for the particular hereditary domain for which this particular copy was issued through its own chancellery although the decree was promulgated for the entire realm.

He was Chancellor of Court for Lower Austria

“Properly given by the Holy Imperial and Royal Majesty”

A Court Notary

## THE POSTAL DECREE OF 1772 <sup>[1]</sup>

**W E**, MARIA THERESIA, BY THE GRACE OF GOD  
 Roman Dowager Empress, Queen of Hungary,  
 Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, etc,  
 Archduchess of Austria, Transsylvania, Marquise of  
 Moravia, Duchess of Brabant, of Linburg, Luxemburg and Geldern, of  
 Württemberg, Upper and Lower Silesia, of Milan, Mantova, Parma, Piacensa  
 and Guastella, Princess of Swabia, Princely Countess of Habsburg, Flanders,  
 Tyrol, Hainault, Kyburg, Goricia and Gradisca, Marquise of the Holy Roman  
 Empire, of Burgau, of the Upper and Lower Lausitz, Countess of Namur,  
 Mistress of the Windisch Marches and of Mecheln, Dowager Duchess of  
 Lorraine and Barr, Grand Duchess of Toscana, etc, etc,

Offer to each and all of Our subordinate authorities, spiritual and temporal, and no less each and all postmasters, administrators, mail-forwarders, and all those appointed to and connected with the postal service as well as to those cities, market towns, tribunals, and known and unknown persons journeying to and fro on the posts, couriers, and then all the other of Our faithful and obedient subjects in all Our hereditary Austrian domains, spiritual and temporal, of whatever dignity, rank, or estate they be, likewise to each and all of Our soldiers, on horse and on foot, in quarters or on the march, who happen to see, read, or hear this Our Imperial and Royal patent, Our Imperial and Royal sovereign grace and all good wishes and herewith give one and all to understand (that)

Complaints have been made to Us how extensively to the greatest prejudice of Our royal post all kinds of abuses and disorders have crept into the postal service for some years past, diverse excesses have been committed by the travellers and in almost all points there have been violations of the postal patents and regulations issued by Our most glorious ancestors as of 8 March 1672 and 16 April 1695, yes even of Our own of 14 October 1748 which have moved Us, for the maintenance of our postal establishment and the abolition of all abuses, disorders, and excesses that have crept in, after hearing before Our court chancellors and offices, not only to renew (as is hereby done) but to strengthen as circumstances require the aforementioned general mandates and postal regulations published 8 March 1672, 16 April 1695, and 14 December 1748.

By virtue whereof, and positively, We accordingly command most graciously and seriously

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<sup>1</sup> An earlier form of this article appeared in the *Bulletin of The Austrian Philatelic Society of New York* Vol. 16 No. 1

1. Except for Our own goods, which might be posted by Ourselves or by Our subordinates, and for law courts acting in Our names and affairs, no one, whoever he be, is permitted to mail any trunks, boxes, crates, or other such things, which encumber and delay the ordinary mail, nor shall the postmasters accept such, but the mailers should be directed to the mail coach now established, where this baggage of theirs could be transported. Moreover, nowhere except at the main post offices is a passenger permitted to ride with the ordinary mail; and this permission may notwithstanding be granted to none but well known and accredited persons.

2. No less will We have duly enjoined upon each and all estates on whose territory the postmasters are settled or resident, that they impose upon the postmasters nothing beyond what they owe them on the serviceable houses and lands that they hold in tenure and that they make not the slightest demand either on their persons, which are directly subject only to Our most graciously established postal commission, or on their post horses, which are in Our service, nor have such claims made through others, wherefore also postmasters have to submit to no kind of compulsory service except that which goes with ownership of a serviceable house or premises. But in case postmasters, in spite of this Our most gracious command should be wronged by anyone, they are to complain first to Our most graciously established postal commission, which will then not fail to provide a suitable remedy and transmit the requisite decision to the authorities.

3. We ordain and command that each and all, whoever they be, who make use of the post, travelling on horseback or by coach, on no account are to take with them or carry with them the ordinary or extraordinary mail that may happen to be at a station and ready to be dispatched, as also the passengers are to refrain completely from all threats and activities against either the mail forwarders or their servants and are to give no occasion for other serious conflicts. In case of one or other misdeeds, blows, or wounds they are not to be transported by other posts but in addition, as will be cited at length in paragraph 5, are to be subject to a fine or corporal punishment. And although, as a result of the postal mandates most graciously issued already, in times past, it was severely forbidden that a traveller should let his servant on the coachman's seat have any whips or stick, yet on the contrary this violent excess, subject to maximum penalty, still continues nevertheless, according to trustworthy report, and the servants are wont to keep striking with big whips at both the postboy and the horses and consequently to gallop the latter almost out of breath and to overdrive them. Therefore We want to be assured that this unpermitted abuse has been completely abolished, that henceforth no servant on the coachman's seat, no matter to whom he belongs, shall venture to carry a whip, still less to use it against the postillion or the horses, since moreover in the contrary case the passenger cannot be transported until the whips have been left behind in the post-house but also, if an excess should really be committed, shall be held

responsible for making good the damage caused, even to the extent of actual detention of his person. On the other hand all postmasters are always to transport promptly and well the parties travelling by post, as soon as they arrive at their station, and have them conducted by a good road and in good weather at a full trot to the next post station, and to that end they shall always maintain qualified horses, as in case of a justified complaint the postmaster concerned would be strictly fined 10 florins, which would be deducted from the pay he receives from the public treasury.

4. We will have hereby expressly decreed and prescribed by all local authorities, cities, market towns, and tribunals, that in future the postal administrators, postmasters, and mail-forwarders shall be spared when soldiers pass through from all billeting in their post-houses, guard duties, and other personal burdens (which exemption, however, may not be extended to serviceable houses possibly owned elsewhere), nor shall a money equivalent be demanded of them on that account, but they shall be left free from all these and similar extraordinary taxes, since apart from that the said officials stand ready day and night at Our imperial and royal disposal and to meet military needs and must exert themselves more than others and thereby also are moved to so much the more eager and diligent attention to their duties. But if they be carrying on a civilian occupation at the same time in their post-houses, in this case they shall be liable for all payments, under whatever name, which are required of Our freeman and subject who carries on the same occupation, but remain free of billeting or billet tax.

5. We will have it positively forbidden that henceforth anyone, whoever he be, be permitted and allowed to take by threat of force one or more horses from the stables or to compel the postmasters to do so or else to treat them and their people with insulting words, threats, blows, kicks, wounds, or in some other unbecoming manner. But if anyone should in spite of this warning commit such an outrage and wantonness and be convicted, he is to pay besides making good the possible damage an irremissible fine of 100 florins, and anyone who is unable to pay shall be liable to undergo corporal punishment and so make atonement. We then herewith not only most graciously grant to the mail-forwarders the need and defence against those who use force but also enjoin hereby formally and sternly all authorities and tribunals in the cities, market towns, boroughs, and other places to furnish assistance to the postal administrators, postmasters, and mail-forwarders on request, upon furnishing this Our General Mandate against such passengers as use force, and thus make certain its due execution, and report the damages and the punishment, even if they must seize the aforesaid passengers. On the other hand, if they should refuse such requested help, they shall be liable themselves not only to pay to Our subordinate authorities the penalty incurred but also to make good the damages caused to their postmasters and their menials in consequence; and in addition they shall also be unsparingly punished by Us.

6. And if it should sometimes happen that persons of distinction or even common folk travel by post and need more horses than the postal administrators and postmasters are obliged to keep, in this and similar cases it is hereby strictly enjoined upon all local authorities and tribunals and especially upon the district officials that they come regularly to the help of the postmasters and mail-forwarders without any refusal and urge their citizens and subjects to lend them the needed horses without any evasion, to produce them at the post office, and harness them in return for payment of the post fee, in which case the postmaster concerned shall be entitled to set aside per horse on a single post 6 kreuzer, on one and one half posts 9 kreuzer, and on double post 12 kreuzer for the parties furnishing help, and no one, in the towns and markets, should be excepted from giving this assistance, including the country workmen and actually no one except the owners of those estates to whom We have this confirmed with Our most high resolution of the 3 of March 1759. Furthermore, experience has shown that at the last post stop before the chief cities the passengers have been sending a horseman ahead to find a lodging and that sometimes he does not get back for 4 or 5 hours, so that the horse sent on ahead has had to remain whole half-days worn out and without fodder or may even have been ruined. So We command that in future no riding horse shall be provided at the last post stop for such advance riders unless the passengers themselves leave the post stop simultaneously with the advance rider.

7. And since also by obstruction of old customary post paths the ordinary mails and stages have been much retarded to Our and the public's detriment because of the detour that has to be taken, We most graciously ordain that not only shall those post paths and roads that have been used to date and are still unobstructed remain unobstructed but also that these which have already actually been obstructed and closed shall on demand and proclamation of one or another postmaster be immediately reopened and constantly left open, that all such post paths and roads be kept in constantly good condition, that to that end the necessary repairs be provided for in time by those responsible, as also that in case the roads and ways are so damaged on account of wet and bad weather or flood waters that the mails cannot conveniently get through either by day or by night the post servants be let through on byways and ridges, yes that they themselves in case of need be empowered to break through hedges, whereas the peasants are not to dare to make them the least trouble on that account at their entrance or exit, for violation of which order they shall be most severely punished. Yet it is self-understood that only in extreme emergencies are the post servants to travel through the byways and ridges and perhaps even break through the hedges, because, if they do so without need, they themselves will be most severely punished on account of these excesses, and the postmasters too in this case have to be responsible for their postillions and servants.

8. And because by so frequent loadings of big trunks and heavy valises and by so severe and swift overriding of the mails beyond the usual the horses become

spavined, inefficient and often even foundered, We will have it herewith strictly enjoined that according to established custom there be accepted for carriage by post from a person travelling by post any trunks, chests or valises that weigh not over 40 or at most 60 pounds, for each horse, and that, since one or another out of wantonness or maliciousness or excessive hard riding may make a horse inefficient or even founder him, such person be obliged to give the postmaster satisfaction on account of such damage, in addition that no one be authorized to use the horses had from the preceding post farther than to the next post, but each shall be made to change horses at each post as well as on the way.

9. We strictly order that country coachmen, horse lenders, and messengers shall no longer presume to collect or distribute any letters but shall be made to conform most exactly in every respect to the messenger patent published by Us 14 December 1748 and thus avoid the penalty therein provided.

Accordingly none of those travellers shall carry with them letters or parcels for others and thereby encroach upon the supreme postal establishment. A violator shall be punished by a fine of 1 florin for a letter and 4 florins for a parcel, except for emergencies, which are to be declared to the postmaster at the next post stop and for which he is to give the declarer a certificate.

Furthermore, messengers and country coachmen are in all strictness forbidden to divert travellers from the post at stops or on the way, to carry a post horn secretly or openly, to transport persons with mail pouches tied on to servants that ride ahead, and, as has hitherto happened, to change horses on the way; but such drivers shall transport their customers whom they convey from this or that place with horses of one sort to the destination for which they were hired. Passengers in turn shall not be permitted to desert the mail and take another opportunity unless they have stayed 3 days in one place or circumstances required them in the absence of a regular mail route to betake themselves to an estate lying off the post roads, in which case they are to have the choice of availing themselves of the post or of another authorized vehicle, because We expressly forbid all innkeepers, freemen, and peasants in the country to transport travellers on the post road for money with covered wagons or light carriages, except with Zeissel wagons (under which term are to be understood only such as have no seat and are provided with no cover other than reed roofs) may they drive for money. We decree also that innkeepers are not permitted under any pretext whatever to give a passenger a riding horse, because in that case, if an innkeeper, freeman or peasant should be caught with a passenger on the post road or travelling through a post stop or intentionally driving around it, the first postmaster who meets him is entitled to unhitch his horses, and such horses shall ipso facto be forfeited, in which case the postmaster will have to file a report with the established postal commission. But, in order that this Our legislative intention be the better administered, all local authorities shall be

obliged to render the speediest assistance to the postmasters under the penalty noted above in paragraph 5.

But if a passenger should plan to depart from a place where there was no post or country coachman, then the freeman, peasant, or innkeeper shall be allowed to convey him for money to the nearest post stop, even with light carriages and covered wagons. The same privilege shall be accorded to freemen, peasants, and innkeepers in case a passenger should wish to travel outside the postal road system from a place where no post or country coachman is available to another place that does not lie on a post road and from which the post road cannot be entered. It is in this sense that We intended the resolution issued 18 November 1751.

10. We most graciously ordain that, in case necessity and Our supreme interest should require establishment of new post stops or transfer of old ones to other locations, the postmasters, if they are not themselves provided with dwelling and stable space, be irrefutably assigned quarters suitable for the post and sufficient stabling in return for payment of a reasonable amount and be assisted with good will, likewise that, if they should wish to buy for themselves a house or premises of their own for various uses of their household, the purchase be not made difficult for them.

In conclusion, We are certain that everyone will know how to observe all these listed rules and stipulations and so guard himself from harm. Given in Our capital city of Vienna on the 8 day of the month of February in 1772 in the thirty second year of Our reign.

## **Maria Theresia**

L.S

*(See discussion for the 1748 Decree)*

Henricus Comes a Blumegen,	Count Henry Blumegen, Supreme
Reg(enti)ae Boh(em)iae Sup(rem)us &	(regent) of the Bohemian Regency and
A(ltae) A(ust)riae pr(im)us	First Chancellor of Upper Austria
Cancell(ar)ius	

Ad Mandatum Sacrae Caesariae	Properly given by the Holy Imperial
Regiae Majestatis Proprium	Royal Majesty

Florian von Pergenstein	a court notary
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LISTING of the Postal Stations that are 12 or 13 miles distant from each capital city in the I R. German hereditary domains from which as well as from other villages situated beyond them Country Coachmen, Carriage Lenders and Innkeepers with stables and other carriage people are permitted to carry out relief and exchange of horses within the limits of this postal patent.

From Vienna towards Bohemia at Znaim  
 Do towards the other side at Göfritz  
 Do towards Moravia at Pohrlitz  
 Do towards Upper Austria at Kimmelbach  
 Do towards Styria at Merzuschlag

N.B. The Austrian Territory toward Hungary extends on one side through Fischamend only to Haimburg, on the other side through Achau only up to Wimpassing

From Prague towards Vienna at Jenickau  
 Do on the other side towards Vienna and Linz at Tabor  
 Do towards Saxony at Peterswald, Komotau, Brix  
 Do towards Karlsbad at Liebkowitz  
 Do towards Eger & Gleutsch at Rockizan  
 Do towards the Laussnitz at Gabel  
 Do towards Silesia at Königgrätz  
 Do towards Moravia at Chrudim

From Brünn towards Vienna at Wolkerstersdorf  
 Do towards Silesia at Hof and Braunseiffen  
 Do towards Bohemia at Littau & Iglau

From Troppau towards Poland at Bielitz  
 Do towards Moravia at Prossnitz

From Linz towards Vienna at Mölk  
 Do towards Salzburg at Frankenmarkt  
 Do towards the Roman Empire at Passau  
 Do towards Bavaria at Ried  
 Do towards Styria at Kasten  
 Do towards Prague at Budweiss

From Graetz towards Linz at Eysenärtz  
 Do towards Vienna at Merzuschlag  
 Do towards Laibach at Ganowitz

From Laibach towards Grätz at Feistriz  
 Do towards Trieste at Triest itself  
 Do towards Gorizia at Cernicza  
 Do towards Fiume at Fiume itself  
 Do towards Klagenfurt at Klagenfurt itself

From Klagenfurt towards Laibach at Laibach itself  
 Do towards the Puster Valley at Greiffenburg  
 Do towards Vienna & Grätz at Judenburg

From Gorizia towards Trieste at Triest itself  
 Do towards Laibach at Upper Laybach

From Trieste towards Gorizia at Gorizia itself  
 Do towards Laibach at Laybach itself

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

By Keith Brandon

## *PARTS 3 & 4 – ADDENDA*

### *Addition to Part 3 – "Dating the cover" (Austria 159)*

#### **3.3.1 The Julian and Gregorian Calendars**

Austrian correspondence with countries still using the Julian calendar can cause some confusion for the uninitiated. The Julian calendar was in general use in Europe from the time of the Roman Empire until 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII advocated its replacement by the Gregorian calendar. This was quickly adopted by most Catholic countries, rather later by Protestant states, and much later by followers of the Orthodox church.

Thus we find the Gregorian calendar adopted in 1582 in the Republic of Venice, the Holy Roman Empire, Spain, Portugal and France. Habsburg Austria quickly followed in 1583 and Hungary four years later. Bohemia and Moravia initially resisted the "catholic plot", but fell into line in 1584. Prussia toed the line in 1610, and Protestant Germany in 1700, followed by Tuscany, England and Scotland in the mid-eighteenth century.

Russia (and Serbia) did not change over until 1918, following the 1917 "October Revolution" (which took place in November in Gregorian Europe!). Greece in 1923 and Turkey in 1926 were the last major European countries to adopt the Gregorian system.

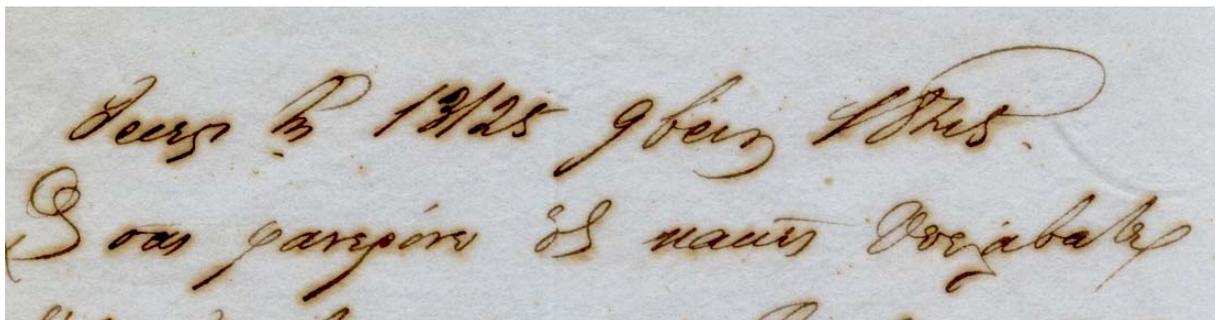
In 1582, the Gregorian calendar was ten days ahead of the Julian, but they continued to diverge by 1 day every 134 years. In 1700 the difference became eleven days, in 1800 twelve days, and in 1900 thirteen days (where it will stay until 2100). Thus most of the pre-philatelic mail you will come across from "Julian" countries will be twelve days adrift of Austria. The most common Austrian mail using the Julian calendar is correspondence with Greece, Turkey, Russia and Serbia.

The cover on the next page was posted in Trieste on 25 November 1845, and arrived in Syra (an island in the Cyclades) on 18 November, apparently seven days before it left Austria. However, Greece was still using the Julian calendar, and the letter arrived on the Gregorian 30 November, five days after it was

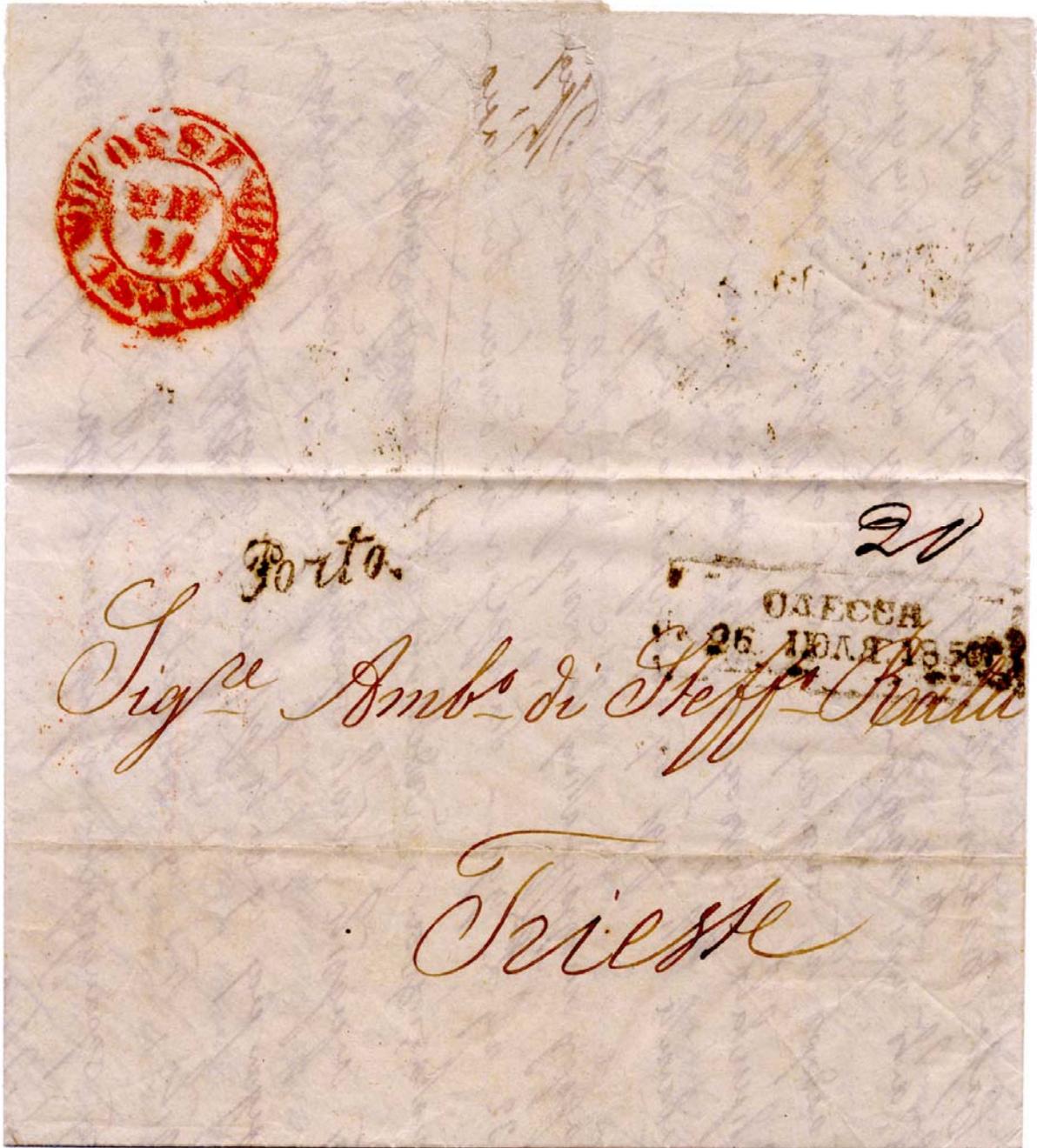
posted. Unusually, the writer dated the letter on both systems: "13 / 25 9ber 1845".



Above: the front and back of the letter; below: the dateline inside it.



The second example shows incoming pre-philatelic mail from Odessa dated 26 July 1850. (Russia did not introduce adhesive stamps until 1858). It was postmarked that day, and received in Trieste on 17 August, i.e. 5 August on the Julian calendar. The journey therefore took ten days.



## ***Additions to Part 4 - "The Destination of a Cover" (Austria 160)***

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

Manuscript numerals used to mark postal-rates on covers can also be difficult to decipher. The chart below shows how each number is typically written by postal clerks at speed. Of course, everybody's handwriting is different, but I have found that this chart works in the majority of difficult examples. The 2, 3 and 9 need particular care, because they all look like our 9s.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

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

Instead of the town-name, the address on local letters often ends with "hier", "loco" or "qui". These all mean "here", in German, Latin and Italian respectively.

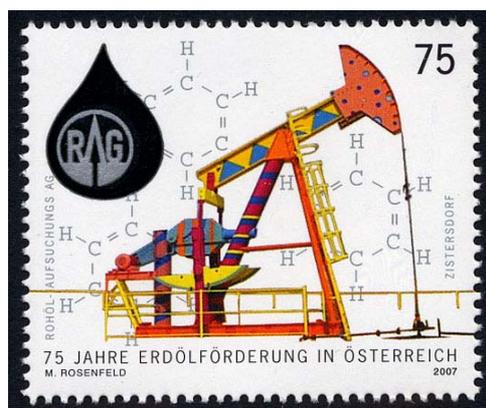
## New Issues - 2007 part 4

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.

*Featuring Austria's first scratch'n'sniff stamp!*

### 75 Years of Oil Production in Austria



0.75€ FDC: 17 Sep 2007; Issue: 1,200,000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Type: Block issue

Oil deposits are found in the Weinviertel in Lower Austria, around the town of Zistersdorf. The first commercial oil production was in 1931, the oil being pumped via a pipeline to the Zistersdorf railway station and by train to the refinery in Vienna's Floridsdorf district. Oil and gas are still pumped today in the Marchfeld region and further north.

Incidentally, the typical smell of oil has been “captured”: rubbing the image of the drop of oil (top left of the stamp) releases the authentic aroma.

### 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Friedrich Gauermann



0.55€ FDC: 20 Sep 2007; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinaweil; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel.

Friedrich Gauermann, the most popular painter of the Biedermeier age, was the painter who dealt most intensively with nature in its most original manifestations. He made countless studies of landscapes, animals and people, which he made into impressive pictorial compositions in his studio. Born on 20 September 1807 in Miesenbach in Lower Austria, he attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna for only a short time, and was largely self-taught, undertaking a number of study tours through the Austrian Alps. His style was based on the Dutch landscape painting of the 17th century, and he was the founder of Vienna landscape naturalism. In 1861, he was made a member of the Vienna Künstlerhaus. He died on 7 July 1862 in his studio in the suburbs of Vienna, and is buried at Miesenbach.

## Patron Saints - St. Rupert



0.55€ FDC: 24 Sep 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing Style: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Maria Schulz; Engraving: Mag. Robert Trsek.

On 24 September, the citizens of Salzburg celebrate the day of the patron saint of their province and city. Rupert of Salzburg was born around 650 in Worms. In 696, Rupert founded St. Peter's, now Austria's oldest monastery, on the ruins of the Roman settlement Juvavum. He also founded the convent on the Nonnberg. The economic basis for the monastery was its extensive estates, and the right to mine salt in

"Hala", now Bad Reichenhall.

## Niki Hosp



0.55€ FDC: 29 Sep 2007; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber.

Nikole Hosp was the overall ladies' Alpine World Cup winner in the 2006/07 season. Born on 6 November 1983 in Bichelbach in the Ausserfern in Tyrol, she has won many medals at European and World Championships.

## Animals - Stag Beetle



0.75€ FDC: 10 Oct 2007; Issue: 10,150,000; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Type: Self Adhesive Stamps. This issue is available as a strip of five and in a box of 100 stamps.

The stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) can reach a length of 75 millimeters - it is the largest beetle occurring in Europe. The antlers are particularly remarkable as they can be nearly half of the body length. Old oak forests form the habitat of the beetle. From June to August they search for a partner, and fights between the males are common.

### **Michael Blümelhuber - Master Steel Carver**



0.75€ FDC: 12 Oct 2007; Issue: 420,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Prof. Friedrich Mayr; Engraving: Kirsten Lubach.

Michael Blümelhuber was born 1865 in Unterhimmel (Christkindl) near Steyr and died 1936 in Steyr. He is referred to as the greatest master of iron and steel carving. A master workshop for steel carving, the Provincial Art School, was set up at Steyr, to which Blümelhuber moved in 1910 and which is now the “Specialist school for metal design”. Blümelhuber’s main works were primarily symbolic sculptures. His most famous piece is the Linz Cathedral Key, cut from a solid steel block weighing over 2 kg.

### **Christiane Hörbiger**



0.55€ FDC: 13 Oct 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing Style: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber.

Christiane Hörbiger is one of the most successful actresses in the German-speaking world, despite her parents wish that she should become a pastry-maker! At 19 years old she appeared at Vienna's Burgtheater, but left the city to establish an independent career in Heildelberg, Munich and Zurich. For 25 years, Christiane Hörbiger played the great roles of theatre literature on the most famous stages in the German-speaking world. Her comedy, her charm and her incomparable style have made her the incarnation of the “Grande Dame”. The precision of her acting brought her success in the worlds of film and television.

### **Vienna State Opera - Queen of Spades**



0.55€ FDC: 28 Oct 2007; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

This is the first of a series linked to the television broadcasts of the Vienna State Opera House opening nights. The idea of experiencing the highlights of opera at home has proved a great success and is to be continued in future years. The first issue is Tchaikovsky’s opera “Queen of Spades”. The first stamp of the new series shows the stage design by Johannes Leiacker.

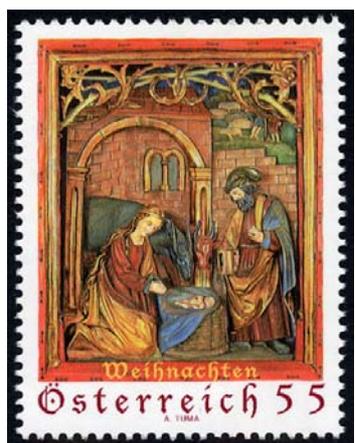
### **Christmas 2007 – Wall-icon**



0.65€ FDC: 9 Nov 2007; Issue: 3,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The 65 cent 2007 Christmas stamp shows the birth of Christ depicted on an icon from the Church of St. Barbara in Vienna's 1st District. Once the chapel of a Jesuit college, the church was transferred to the Greek-Catholic community in 1775 and is today a part of the complex of buildings that includes the Austrian Post Office headquarters. It serves as the main church for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic community in Austria, and is an example of the centuries of links between Austria and the Greek-Catholic Church and the Ukraine.

### **Christmas 2007 - Oberwöllan Altar Painting**



0.55€ FDC: 23 Nov 2007; Issue: 8,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.

The presentation of the birth of Christ on the altar painting of the Gothic winged altar of Oberwöllan has been selected as the motif for the 2007 Christmas stamp. This precious altar dates from 1519 and, following renovation, is now on loan to the Diocesan Museum in Klagenfurt. The chapel of St Peter and St Paul of Oberwöllan in the district of Arriach is one of the most valuable mountain churches of Carinthia. Built in the 14th century, the Romanesque core of the church was extended during the late Gothic and the Baroque. The mighty tower with archery ports recalls its earlier function as a walled defensive church.

### **50th Anniversary of the Haus des Meeres**



0.55€ FDC: 29 Nov 2007; Issue: 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber; Printed by: Cartor Security Printing.

The Aqua Terra Zoo known as the Haus des Meeres (the House of the Sea) is housed in a former World War Two flak tower. This reminder of the past is over 50 metres high and its roof terrace enjoys the best panorama over Vienna. Its six storeys are home to over 5,000 living animals, from tropical fish, Mediterranean animals, snakes, lizards and crocodiles to colourful

birds and apes that are free to roam around the Tropical House.

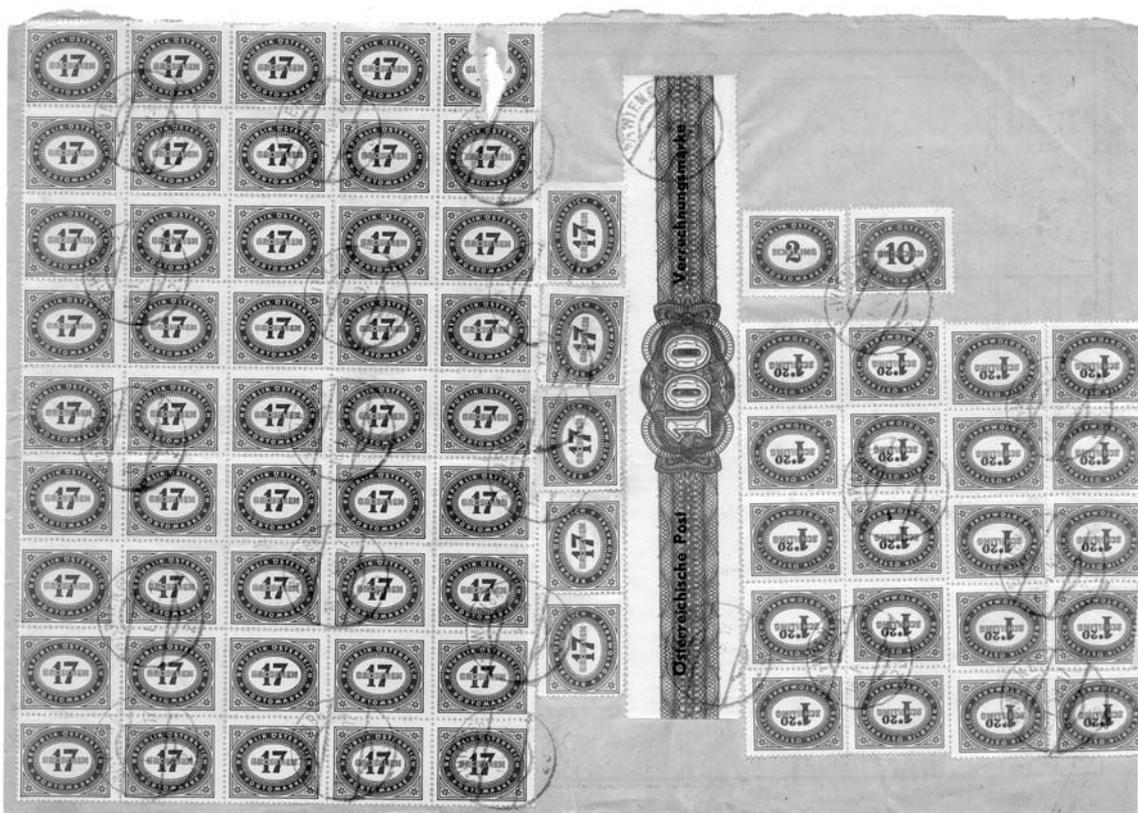
### **Thomas Gottschalk - Bet you that**



0.65€ FDC:8 Dec 2007; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

Europe's most successful show, “Wetten, dass ...?” (“Bet you that ...?”), still today attracts an audience of millions thrilled by world-famous stars, the special charm and wit of Thomas Gottschalk- entertainer, professional showman - and the spectacular bets. Candidates who can do something particularly well bet that they can prove this before the eyes of millions of spectators. The idea was a success amongst the public, and the programme has been running ever since its first broadcast on 14 February 1981. Thomas Gottschalk took over the role of presenter from the 14th programme.

### **And from a slightly earlier time**



A souvenir of Wienfest 2007 – a Zusammenfassung Post Office form dated January 1949 accounting for cash of 134.60 Schilling with a 100 Sch Verrechnungsmarke plus dues of 50x0.17 & 20x1.20 & 2 & 0.1 making 134.60! Even though the original is A4 the adhesives overlap the sides – one can see why the system was abolished.

## TERSE TELEGRAM TELLS TRAGIC TALE

by Inger Kuzych

Recently, I was able to obtain an interesting telegram to add to my ever-growing Lemberg (Lviv) collection and exhibit. The 24-word message was sent on 29 May 1906 from Monte Carlo, Monaco to Lemberg – then the capital of the Crownland of Galicia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The missive spells out a sorrowful tale. Although all of the German text is run-on without punctuation, it should be read as three sentences.

Gattung des Telegrammes: -- Rodzaj telegramu: Für Telegramm 	Eingangsnummer Liczba nadejścia Ч. надійшла 1751 = fibich hotel georges leMBERG ( autriche ) =	Die Telegraphenverwaltung übernimmt hinsichtlich der ihr zur Beförderung oder Bestellung übergebenen Telegramme keine wie immer geartete Verantwortung. Zarząd telegrafów nie bierze na siebie żadnej zgoda odpowiedzialności za telegramy oddane mu przesyłki lub doręczenia. Управління телеграфів не бере на себе ніякої відповідальності за телеграми віддані до відправки або доручення.
Dienstliche Angaben: -- Dopisek z urzędu: Урядові замітки:	Telegramm -- Telegram Телеграм aus -- z -- a	Aufgenommen von Odebrano z Відобрано з am dnia durch przez 190 um o Uhr godz. M. m. pol. pol. (Mittag) (пол.)
de monaco 277 33 29 4 30 s		
Bruder durch verschluckung morphines vergiftet soll morgen auf Anordnung des avocat general ( Staatsanwalt ) beerdigt werden bitte fuer Anordnungen sich an dieusen wenden zu wollen = polizei direktion +		
D. S. Nr. 789. Deutsch-polnisch-ruthenisch. (Auflage 1906).		

“[Your] brother through the swallowing of morphine was poisoned. Due to be buried tomorrow by order of the avocat general (district attorney). For these arrangements, please contact...[?] [signed] Police Headquarters”

The remainder of the last sentence does not make sense the way it is written and must have been composed by a non-native who did not speak German well. The tri-lingual telegram form (German, Polish, and Ukrainian) is made out to a Mr. or Ms. Fibich staying at the Hotel Georges, then one of the most grand in the city of Lemberg. What may well have happened is that the person’s brother committed suicide, perhaps despondent over gambling debts.

The message was received at the Lemberg telegraph station housed in the Main Post Office building. The circular blue “T” marking in the upper left corner was characteristically used at this telegraph facility.

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

By Andy Taylor

### *Korrektions Korner: Austria 159*

The Review on page 9 of Austria 159 was indeed of library book 416, but the title thereof is “Kämpfe ums Trentino in Ersten Weltkrieg” as the table says, not what I printed.

The cancellation of Geoff Frost’s Cover on page 12 is dated 27/7, as said in words and clearly shown in the illustration: NOT 27/4 as I said in the second line.

Your editor was somewhat surprised to receive numerous emails and letters following up the statement in Austria 158 that “*much of ‘The Third Man’ was shot in Prague*”. They all say “not so; it was all in Vienna” – but my surprise is that hardly ever do I receive so many communications when the topic is philatelic! It cannot be that everything printed in “Austria” is correct, surely? I know we win prizes, but not for omniscience....

### *K.K. Austria 160*

The article “Stationships in the Far East” was of course written by Fred Pirotte, whose name disappeared under the “PART I” line. At the top of page 48, K.E. left Pola on 2 January 1904 and not on 2 February; and on page 49 the patriotic letter had been written from Yokohama on 2.8.05. and not on 2.6.05

At the top of page 12, “Military Post” covered 1879-1914 not 1914-1918; and at the bottom of page 15 the End of the Dual Monarchy wasn’t quite as soon as printed but was in October 1918.

### *Hello there!?*

A member rang me, urging me to “publish letters and responses as these show more than anything else the vitality of the society”. I’d be delighted to oblige: so, Enthusiast of Epping and Disgusted of Dagenham, you write it and (assuming it’s philatelic and legal) I’ll print it!

## *A letter from Smyrna*

JD sent me a copy of a cover posted in Smyrna on 2 November 1866 to Manchester. It carries 2 x 15 Soldi and a 5 Soldi, all of the 1864 L&V issue. The cancel is a single-circle SMIRNE with day & month but no year. There is a red **P.D.** marking (with the ink spreading over the paper) of a type seemingly predating those in Tranmer pp 100, 103. Also there is a “LONDON / xx / PAID / yy / 5 NO 66” marking, where ‘xx’ may be ‘R’ and ‘yy’ is probably ‘A’. Above the central line of the rather inadequate address is “Try T Levy ...” in faint pencil, and to the left “S.G. 27 @ 5/- each”. [Could it be an order for British 2d blue stamps?]



He seeks answers to:

- 1 What is the significance of the largish reddish-brown “14” at lower left?
- 2 And of the marking in the bottom left corner, which looks like a smaller “14”? (The white lines are a computer artefact)
- 3 The “PD” mark is “not in Tranmer”; is this significant?
- 4 And where would it have been applied?

***Dear Editor,***

I wanted to let you know how much I have been enjoying Keith's Beginner's Guide to Decoding Pre-philatelic covers. I hope he can be persuaded to write further articles.

I have been impressed with the content of 'Austria' and there have been a number of articles which have interested me. In that alone, my membership of the Society has been worthwhile. The publication is very professional and it should do well at Praga2008.

I was also pleased to see your contribution with Keith's article in Stamp Magazine. Good publicity for the Society and the Stampex exhibition!

***Yvonne Wheatley***

***WWI Forgeries***

Alf Weiner wrote: Do you have a copy of the American Philatelist, November 2006? Please look at page 1057. The advertisement for the spy forgeries is intriguing to me. I collected forgeries for many years. No, I do not intend to spend \$650 for a set. I would like additional information about these stamps and I was wondering if you have any? Do you or any of your colleagues have these stamps?

HP says: "The basic information on the 10 heller English espionage forgery is in Mueller's Die Postmarken von Oesterreich, on pages 318 and 319. This was written in 1927, when only the 10 heller was known. The explanation of the likely method of production is quite good. In Mueller's little bilingual specialized catalogue published in 1952, the 5 heller is also listed. We don't know when the 25 heller Kaiser Karl was discovered. If it were important, a search through the Postmarke 1927-38, plus possibly the Mercury Stamp Journal, might lead to more information."

***1938 puzzles***

AH comments that Wurth's book "Sonderpostämter in Österreich" on page 35 lists for 1938 two Deutsche Reichspost cancels with no illustration:

Nr 40: Radkersburg, 6-7 August, "Treffen der Freiheitskämpfer"

Nr 42: Franz-Josefs-Höhe, Farbares Postamt.

Does anyone have any details of these events, or an illustration of the actual cancellation?

## Lemberg??

IK writes: The cover below (registered, I believe) was sent from Brody via Vienna to Michelsdorf on 27 April 1804 (the same date appears on the letter inside). I think it was returned and arrived back on the 20th of May. I don't understand the orange-brown notations. Was the item returned via Lemberg? Does the 8/6 refer to the postal charges for the sending (8) and return (6)? What is the meaning of the symbol in the center of the cover? The skimpy, German-language description that came with this cover mentions "notabenezeichen". I can't find what that means. What exactly does "gegen recepise" mean? (Something like "as per registration"?)



JLW comments:

The letter is from Brody (in Galicia), which is the border point of the Austrian and Russian empires, north-east of Lemberg on the route to Rovno and thence on into Russia. It is addressed to, I think, Micheldorf, which is in Upper Austria, south of Linz. It is thus consistent with the **pWien** endorsement.

It was never returned. The three-line endorsement on the back is a typical "filing" note of the receiver of the letter. It reads **Brodi den 27 April 804. Ab. Goldenberg. Ant. den 20 May.** It came from someone named Goldenberg and was answered on 20 May. Obviously no question of any return.

**gegen Recipisse** = against a receipt. Retour has then been added, probably by the postal clerk at Micheldorf to show that a Retour-Recipisse, or proof of delivery, was required. At this time, there was a charge of 3kr, payable by the receiver.



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## STATION SHIPS IN THE FAR EAST

*By Fred Pirotte*

### PART II continued

#### 6-6 SMS Panther

SMS Panther left Pola on 10 January 1905 for a mission to Australia and New Zealand, replacing the cancelled mission of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth.

Because of unrest in China when returning from her mission and visiting Bangkok (06.12 to 23.12.1905), SMS Panther was diverted to strengthen the naval forces in China as an additional station-ship. Having landed a protective detachment, SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I stood off Shanghai harbour in support.



Fig.15. Illustrated postcard sent from Bangkok during the representation mission between 6 and 23.12 1905 before the ship was diverted to strengthen the naval forces in the Far East. Franked with Siamese stamps cancelled by the postmark of the head post office of Bangkok. Service hand-stamp of SMS Panther.



Fig.16. Envelope from Haiphong (Indochina). Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark, 29.2.06. Arrival Wien 4.IV.06.

### ***6-7 SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I***

On 14.09.1905 SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I left Pola to become station-ship in the Far East where she replaced SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth who had left Hong Kong on 11.10.1905 to return to Europe. Franz Josef I met Elisabeth at Singapore from 17.10 to 21.10 1905.

For her first mission Franz Josef I called at Nagasaki on 19.11.1905. The officers received a telegram ordering them to proceed rapidly to Shanghai because of unrest. The warship had technical problems and had to call at Woosung, the necessary landing detachment being carried on a steamer to Shanghai.

On January 1906, order having been restored at Shanghai and the protective detachment re-embarked on board, Franz Josef I left Shanghai on 26.02.1906 and recommenced representation missions limited to China, Japan, Korea and Siberia (Vladivostok). Because of the duration of the mission in the Far East (3 years), it was found necessary to set up a special procedure to relieve the guard detachments in Peking and Tientsin. SMS Szigetvar performed a fast "there and back" cruise in the Far East and met Franz Josef I at Singapore where an exchange of detachments took place between 31.03 and 07.04 1907. Franz Josef I carried on with the mission until 31.10.1908 when she left Hong Kong to return to Europe. She met the station-ship SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth at Chingwangtao from 21 to 23.10.1908, and reached Pola on 16.12.1908.



Fig.17. Letter sent to Agram (Croatia). Hungarian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 10.04.06.



Fig. 18. Envelope sent from Chemulpo (Korea). Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 05.08.06.

## 6-8 SMS Leopard

SMS Leopard left Pola on 20.09.1907 and returned to Pola on 13.04.1909. During her 15 month mission Leopard carried out several representative missions to China, Japan and Korea. She missed the unrest in China.



Fig.19. Letter sent from Shanghai. Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 10.2.08. Arrival Pola 29.2.08.



Fig.20. Picture postcard with photograph of SMS Leopard and handwritten caption "SMS Leopard in Kobe am 18.VIII.1908". The postcard was written when the warship was sailing between Colombo and Aden during the return cruise. Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 1.4.09.



Fig.22 (above). Illustrated postcard showing SMS Panther, from Hong Kong 6.XI.09. Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark, 8.11.08.

### **6-10 SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth**

On 31.08.1908 SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth left Pola to become station-ship in the Far East. She reached Chingwangtao in China where she met SMS Kaiser Franz Josef returning to Europe. Elisabeth carried out several representation missions in China, Japan, Siam (Bangkok), Indochina (Saigon), Dutch Indies (Batavia and Soreabaya) and Philippine Islands (Manila). On 20.03.1910 she called at Shanghai where she faced unrest. It was not necessary to land protective forces, so Elisabeth left Shanghai for representation missions in Japan.

Elisabeth left Chefoo on 09.09.1910, having on board officers and men from the guard detachments of Peking and Tientsin whose complement had been dramatically decreased. She called at Singapore on 3.10 where she met SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I. SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth reached Pola on 15.11.1910.



Fig.23. Envelope sent when at sea between Mitsuhara and Itsukushima. Austrian stamp cancelled by the ship's dated postmark, 20.5.10.



Fig.24 Large registered letter probably sent from Kobe. Yellow registration label with handwritten “K. Elisabeth”. Registration number modified: 53 becoming 352.

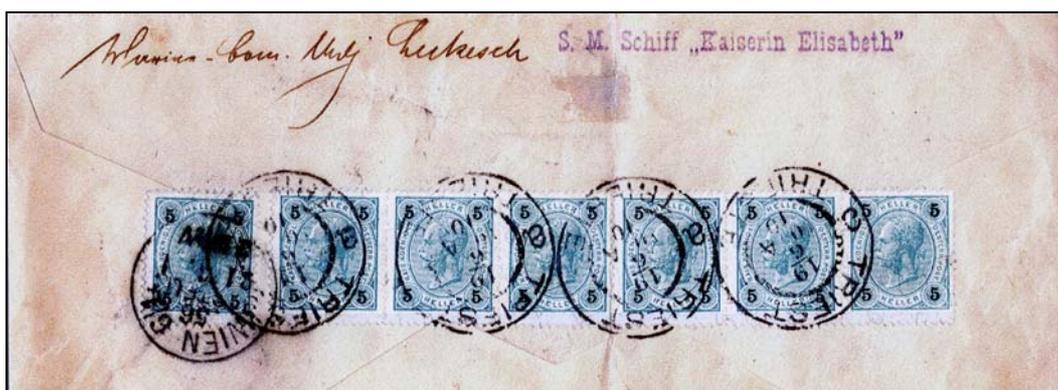


Fig 24 reverse: franking made up of seven 5 heller stamps cancelled 19.6.10 at Triest. Sent by Marine commissar Lukesch with a single line ship's service hand-stamp applied.

### 6-11 SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I

On 03.09.1910 SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I left Pola to become again a station-ship in the Far East where she was to replace SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth and SMS Panther. She met Elisabeth at Singapore from 6 to 8.10.1910 (Panther had already left Singapore on 3.10.1910).

Franz Josef I began representation missions in Japan and China. On 14.10.1911 she received an order to proceed to Hankow where she arrived on 22.10.1911. On 27.10 a protective detachment was landed but because of the prompt reaction of the foreign warships, order was fast restored in Hankow. The

detachment went back on board on 1.11.1911. Franz Josef I left Hankow and called at Shanghai on 4.11.1911. Between 12 and 14.02.1912 an exchange of guard detachments took place at Shanghai with SMS Szigetvar. During March 1912, at the request of the Legation a protective detachment was carried by train to strengthen the Tientsin detachment. Franz Josef I left Shanghai on 01.05.1912 and resumed representation missions.

On 17.07.1913 Franz Josef I was ordered to proceed to Shanghai where she arrived 20.07 and landed a protective detachment. Order was promptly restored and on 17.08.1913 the detachment re-embarked. From 10.10 to 15.10.1913 she met Elisabeth at Chingwangtao en route for Pola where she arrived 15.12.1913.



Fig.25. Illustrated postcard sent from Shanghai during a period of unrest. Hungarian franking cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 24.1.12.



Fig.26. Letter sent from Shanghai during the unrest. Austrian franking in the middle of the back, cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 27.7.13. The same day Franz Josef I landed a protective detachment made up of 2 officers, 50 men and two 70mm guns. Commercial envelope of the "Ostasiatische Lloyd - Shanghai" probably used by a member of the landed detachment.



Fig.27. Registered letter sent from Shanghai to Aurolzmünster (Austria). Registration label with a strike of the small service hand-stamp. Austrian stamps cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 24.01.12. On the reverse the arrival postmark Aurolzmünster 02.02.12.

### 6-12 SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth

On 19 August 1913 SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth left Pola to become station-ship in the Far East. Elisabeth also carried replacements for the relief of the guard detachments in Peking and Tientsin, the men who returned home to Europe embarking on board Franz Josef I. Elisabeth reached Chefoo on 8 October 1913. The new guard detachments were landed and the old guard taken on board Franz Josef I who left Chefoo on 9 October 1913.

Elisabeth carried out several representation missions. On 29 June 1914 a telegram informed the officers that the Heir to the Throne Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand had been murdered at Sarajevo. The warship returned to Chefoo. On 21 July she received the order to proceed to the roadsteads of Tsingtau where she arrived on 22 July. On 29 July the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia. On 25 August a state of war became effective between Japan and the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires. 10 officers and 328 leading seamen and hands found themselves fighting at Tsingtau. 6 officers and 92 leading seamen and hands remained in Peking and Tientsin. On 27 September the Japanese and British offensive started. During the night of 2/3 November SMS

Kaiserin Elisabeth was scuttled. On 7 November 1914 the Tsingtau forces surrendered. A detailed postal history of the last cruise of SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth was presented in Austria 139, pp 86 to 95.



Fig.28. Illustrated postcard sent from Fochow (Pagoda Anchorage) on 31.1.1914. Hungarian franking cancelled by the ship's dated postmark, 7.2.14.



Fig.29. Second weight letter sent from Kobe. Hungarian franking cancelled by ship's dated postmark 2.4.14. A gummed label indicated redirection to Glina. On the reverse is the arrival postmark Zagreb 23.4.14.



Fig.30. Registered letter from Yokohama .Franked on the reverse with Hungarian stamps cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 22.04.14. Carrying a registration label with a strike of the ship's service hand-stamp. Arrival Budapest 9 May 914.

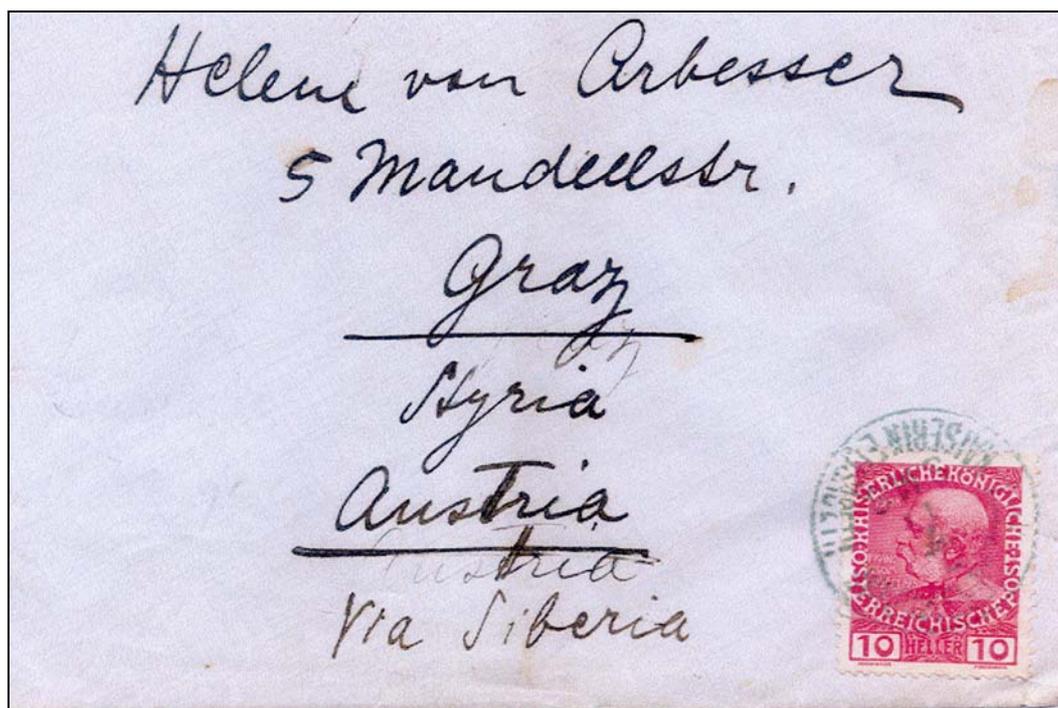


Fig.31. Letter sent by Freg. Artz von Arbesser on board Kaiserin Elisabeth. Austrian stamps cancelled by the ship's dated postmark 07.07.1914. Kaiserin Elisabeth was at Chefoo waiting for orders after the Heir to the Throne Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand had been assassinated in Sarajevo.

### **6-13 SMS Szigetvar**

Periodically members of the guard detachments, having completed their period of operation in China, returned to Europe and they were replaced. Both tasks were performed by incoming and outgoing station ships. Because the duration of most missions was less than two years, it was not necessary to change the complement. However, the two missions of SMS Kaiser Franz Josef I each lasted three years (1906 to 1908 and 1911 to 1913) and it was found necessary to set up a special procedure. The cruiser SMS Szigetvar would perform fast 'there and back' cruises to the Far East approximately in the middle of the Franz Josef's missions. The first cruise left Pola on 1.03.07. The exchange took place at Singapore between 31.3 and 7.4.07. SMS Szigetvar was back in Pola on 30.04.1907. For the second cruise, SMS Szigetvar left Pola on 2.1.1912. The exchange took place at Shanghai between 12 and 14.2.1912. SMS Szigetvar was back in Pola on 26.3.1912.



Fig.32. Illustrated postcard sent from Aden to Shanghai during the return cruise to Pola. Indian stamp cancelled Aden 24.AP.07 Strike of the single line ship's service hand-stamp.

*A detailed list of the itineraries followed by these ships has been appended to the APS Library copy of this issue of Austria. A specimen follows:*

### **SMS Aspern – Itinerary 1901 and 1902**

Arrival	Departure	Harbour	Arrival	Departure	Harbour
14.07.1901	15.08.1901.	Chefoo	08.01.1902	09.01.	Macao
17.08.	25.08.	Shanghai	14.01.	18.01.	Singapore
28.08.	11.09.	Chefoo	19.01.	22.01.	Penang
13.09.	22.09.	Taku	27.01.	03.02.	Calcutta
24.09.	29.09.	Chefoo	08.02.	14.02.	Colombo
04.10.	06.10.	Weihaiwei	21.02.	24.02.	Aden
08.10.	11.10.	Taku	01.03.	02.03.	Suez
13.10.	19.10.	Chefoo	03.03.	08.03.	Port Said
21.10.	21.11.	Nagasaki	13.03.	14.03	Lesina
23.11.	01.12.	Kobe	14.03.	19.03.	Trieste
02.12.	16.12.	Yokohama	19.03.1902		Pola
21.12.	02.01.1902	Shanghai			
06.01.	08.01.	Hong Kong			