

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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EDITORIAL 162

By Andy Taylor

The APS 60th Anniversary Year is under way!

Paraphrasing Hoffnung: The APS@Stampex display took place exactly as advertised, opening as scheduled at 11:30 on Wed 27th February with 200 16-sheet frames. We launched the APS Festschrift “A Celebration of Austrian Philately”, and sold many copies. Numerous visitors from several continents expressed admiration at the manner in which so much had been accomplished so quickly by so few (“*and were we available for London 2010?*”) and at the diversity and quality of the displays, both from Britain and Austria. A report by AUSTRIA’S roving team of reporters appears later, as do some photographs; considerably more are on the APS web site. The Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum in London, Herr Johannes Wimmer, visited the display and was presented with a copy of the Festschrift.

We (plus our colleagues from Innsbruck) have been assigned a Society Stand at the Vienna International Philatelic Event WIPA2008 in September, and hope to welcome members old and new. Our publications will be available for purchase at WIPA.

We note with pleasure that **Dr Ulrich Ferchenbauer** was asked to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held at Croydon on 24th November 2007. The citation runs: *Dr Ferchenbauer is the leading expert on the classic issues of Austria and is responsible for “Austria 1850-1918 - Handbook and Specialised Catalogue”, the 6th Edition of which received a Large Gold in the literature class at WIPA 2000 and the Crawford medal of the Royal Philatelic Society in 2001. He has put together a number of reference collections of classic Austria and his exhibit “Austria 1850-1864 - irregular and unusual frankings” obtained Large Gold medals at Espana 2004 and Bruno 2005. His predominant work is as a philatelic expert and he has been President of the VOB (Austrian Association of Philatelic Experts) since 1986, and has been a member of AIEP since 1997. He is currently Vice President of Vindobona (Austria’s most prestigious collectors club. He has also served as a FIP juror in the traditional class. In 2002 the President of the Republic of Austria awarded the title “Professor Honoris Causa” to Dr Ferchenbauer for his scientific accomplishments in the field of philately. This is the only time that this distinction has been awarded for philatelic work.* [Reprinted from ABPS News February 2008]

Dear Reader: surprise and astonish your Editor – write an article! Advice and assistance always available.

The Society has received the following letter via its Secretary

Dear Mr Brandon,

As 2008 is the 60th year of your service to Austrian Philately, I feel it is necessary to say a word of respect and acknowledgement to you and your Society. It takes intensive research and steadiness to keep readers informed with all the developments and changes in the world of stamps and printing techniques. The various stamp series in a country portray its developments, political, social and technical efforts. Your Society's involvement has kept alive this interest for many years. You have watched and researched the many issues of stamps and enchanted readers with wonderful descriptions in this popular subject "philately".

Many Austrians are interested in collecting stamps and visit exhibitions and first day editing and first stamping of these silent ambassadors of our and other countries. To notice your constant devotion and empathic attitude to the stamps of our country is a gift to many of us and means a lot to collectors and the philatelic community. Living in a small country that has lost two wars in the past century, it is wonderful to feel that people take such care and develop an interest in our country, cultural and social history. I want to thank you for doing this through decades with such devotion and admirable accuracy. I wish to congratulate your Society personally for your open attitude and admiration that you have extended to our country while being far away and being so attentive for so many years.

I would be pleased to meet any of your members who care to visit the beautiful Kaiservilla at Bad Ischl, where my Great Grandfather the Emperor Josef signed the declaration of war against Serbia.

Sincerely,

Mag. Markus Habsburg - Bad Ischl , Austria



An old view of the Kaiservilla at Bad Ischl

About the map...

Many maps exist showing how the Austro-Hungarian Empire was divided up after the First World War. However, for our Stampex display, we wanted a map that showed all the current European states that had emerged from the Empire, taking into account territorial changes after the Second World War, and the more recent break-up of the Russian, Czechoslovak and Yugoslav federations. We couldn't find one!

We are therefore indebted to our President, Martin Brumby, who laboured long and hard at his computer to produce such a map. We believe that all members will be interested in the result, and the map will be found in the middle of this issue. The map shows the Austrian and Hungarian halves of the Empire (along with Bosnia and Herzegovina) before 1918. Lombardy and Venetia are also shown for interest. The boundaries of today's nation states are then overlaid.

If you would like a copy of this map to keep, but do not want to remove it from your journal, please contact the Editor who can supply it on A4 (or possibly A3) glossy paper. There will be a small charge to cover printing, packaging and postage.

Keith Brandon

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

By Keith Brandon

PART 5 - DESCRIBING DIFFERENT TYPES OF MAIL

5.1 Introduction

A reminder for readers; this is not a series for experts. It is aimed at Austrian collectors who are inexperienced in the fascinating world of pre-philately, and who do not understand much German (or Italian or Hungarian or Latin!).

So far we have looked in some detail at the origin of the cover, its destination and its date. However, a collection, or a display, of pre-philatelic covers can look and sound more interesting if we can add a little more information specific to each cover. The aim here is to turn a black-and-white collection into full colour!

In this article we will look at the main types of mail - how we recognise them and how we can describe them when writing them up. I classify pre-philatelic mail as follows:

- ❖ Official
- ❖ Personal
- ❖ Ecclesiastical
- ❖ Military
- ❖ Commercial

Official and commercial mail are the most common. Military and church mail are less common, but not difficult to find.

Personal mail is the scarcest, firstly because much of the population had little reason to write letters, secondly because many of them were illiterate, and thirdly because personal letters were usually not archived and have therefore not survived the centuries. Personal correspondence will usually (but not always) start with an informal greeting, such as "Lieber Hansel" or "Cara Gretel". All the other types of mail start with a much more formal salutation.

Let us now look at the other types of mail in some detail.

5.2 Official Mail

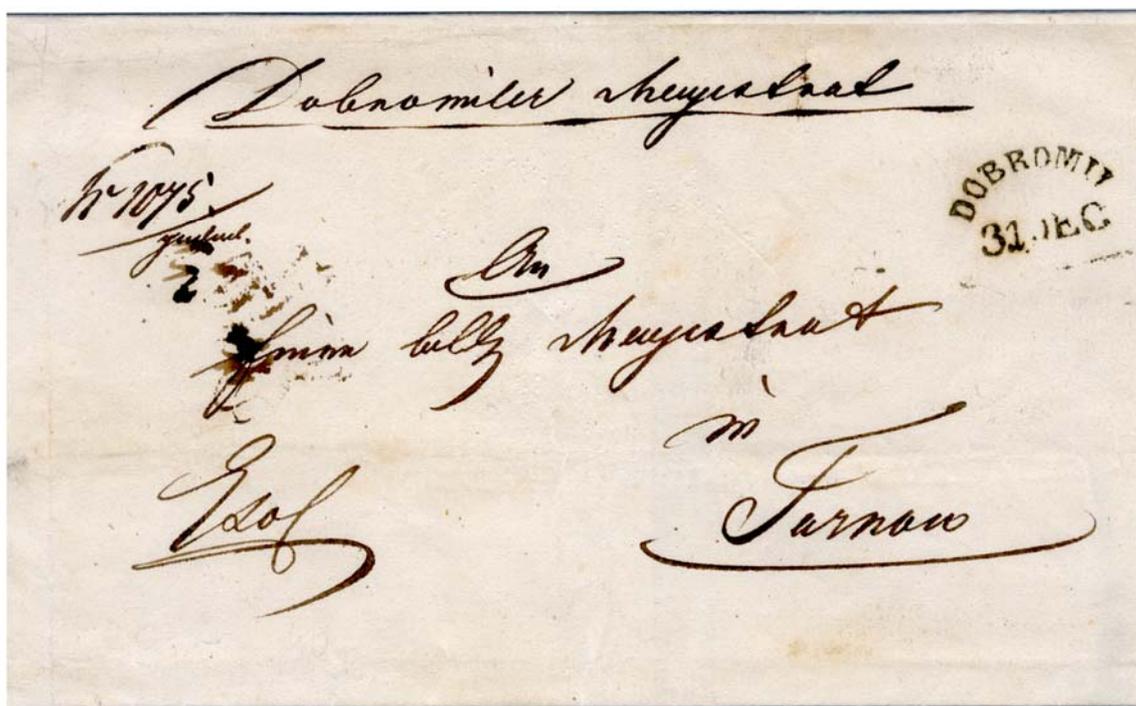
I have grouped together here letters from government and local-government offices, the police and the law courts.

There is a vast amount of such mail available, firstly because it was archived, and secondly because many of these archives have been cleared out in recent decades, with the contents finding their way on to the market. In fact this is probably the only area of classic philately where the supply of genuine material is increasing!

Thus we find a considerable amount of mail from quite small destinations, such as Eisgrub in Bohemia or Dürnholz in Moravia. These weren't very important places; they just happened to have had their archives "liberated". It seems that the Czechs were particularly active in selling off their archives to obtain hard currency from collectors, and Bohemia and Moravia (along with Lower Austria), are the provinces from which you are most likely to find official mail.

If you don't read the language, then the best you can hope for with official correspondence is to identify the institutions sending and receiving the letter.

There are a number of key-words to look out for on official mail. Two of the most important are "Magistrat" and "Herrschaft". The former is not the same as a British magistrate, and indeed is not an individual but an institution. It is broadly equivalent to our "local council" or "town hall".



Official mail from the Dobromil Magistrat to that of Tarnow.

It is more difficult to find an English equivalent for “Herrschaft”. Much of the Austrian Empire was more-or-less feudal in pre-philatelic times. Landed estates belonging to aristocrats or religious bodies acted as the local authority and could dispense local justice. Sometimes the “Herrschaft” was the only authority in a town or village; in other cases it administered in parallel to a local council there. I believe that the closest translation of “Herrschaft” in English would be “domain” or “estate”.



Official mail from the Würmla Herrschaft to that of Judenua.

The hierarchy of local administration gave rise to these common prefixes:

Ort- (literally a locality - a village or small town);

Kreis- (district); Pfarr- (parish);

Bezirk- (district); Land- (province)

These are followed by “amt” (office), “gericht (court), etc.

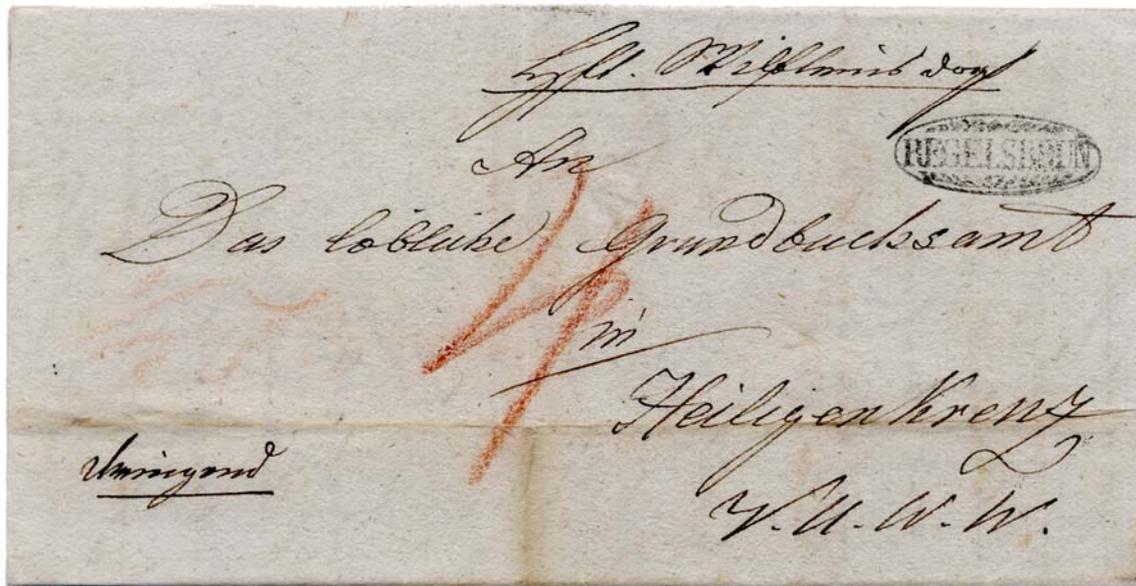
“Stift” is a religious foundation, such as a seminary or monastery, and thus we find “Stiftsamt”, etc.

It is clear that the sender of official mail might not always have known what form of administrative body existed in the destination town. Hence many letters are addressed to the “Oberamt”, a catch-all term broadly meaning the “main office”. In Styria and Karinthia, the authority often uses the term “Obrigheit”, which my dictionary translates rather ominously as “the powers that be”.



From the Bezirksobrigkeit in Maria Saal to the Oberamt in Ungerschitz.

Of course, all these words can be found abbreviated:



From the Hscht. (Herrschaft) at Wilfleinsdorf to the Grundbuchsamt (land registry) in Heiligenkreuz.

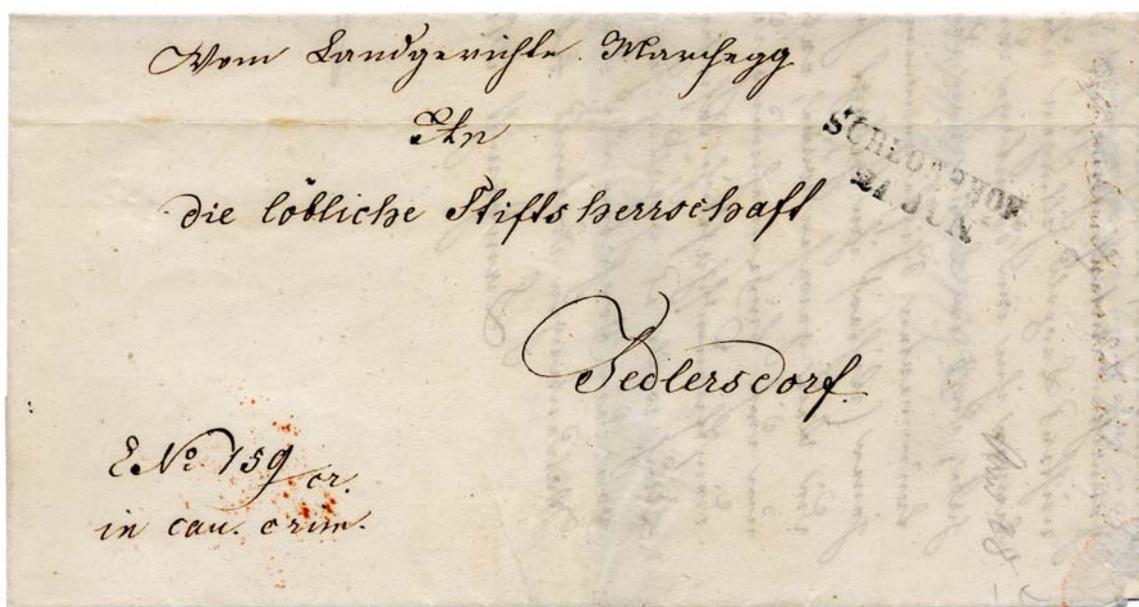
The prefix “Löbliche” (or “Löbl.”) is a polite formality, literally meaning “praiseworthy”.

The name of the sending institution is usually found both in the body of the letter, just before the dateline, and at the top of the cover-front. Sometimes a printed letter-heading was used, but this was the exception during pre-philatelic times. Very often the organisation's handstamp is used on the front of the cover, especially on mail from Italian-speaking areas. If the letter is sealed, then it is always worth examining the seal for the name of the authority.

Usually official organisations will have "K.K." (Imperial and Royal) somewhere in their name. This becomes "C.R." in Latin, or "I.R." in Italian.

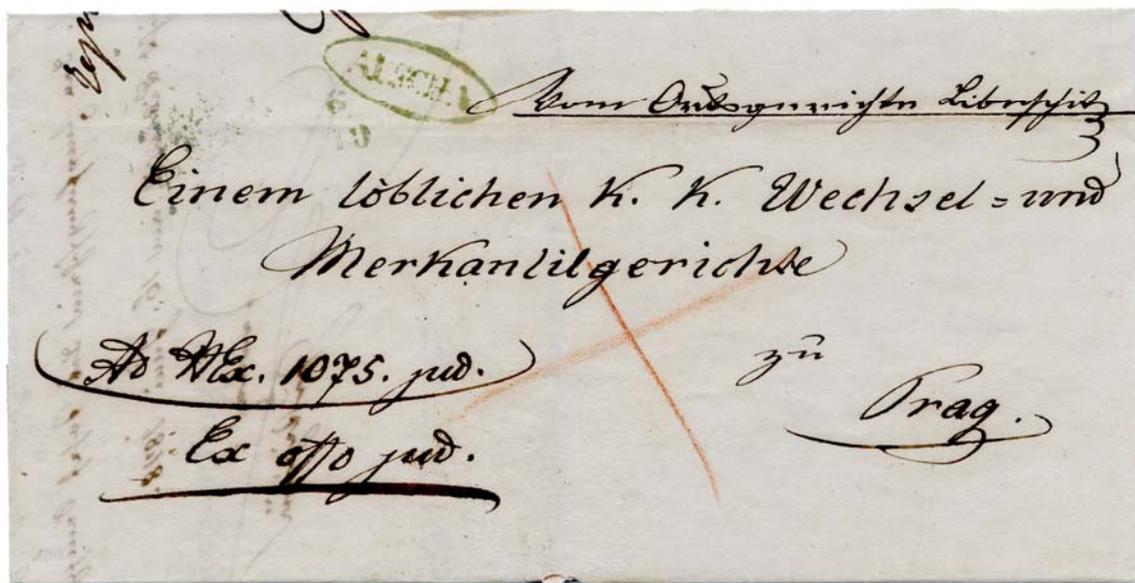
Most official and legal institutions (along with the military and the church) were exempt, or partially-exempt, from postal charges. Hence the need for them to identify themselves on the front of the cover, and, where necessary, to justify, at bottom-left the reason why a letter should not be charged. The expression "ex officio", and its various abbreviations and translations, was also used to identify official mail. (See part 3.1 in AUSTRIA 159, page 49)

The word for a law-court is "Gericht", and there are variations of this, such as "Civilgericht" and "Ortsgericht". The "Justizamt" is the legal office in the town hall, rather than a court. Legal mail is often characterised by a Latin tag, such as "in causa criminali" at the bottom left of the cover-front.



Legal mail from the Marchegg Landgericht to the Stiftsherrschaft at Jedlersdorf.
"in cau. crim."

Now let us try to decode an actual example. Imagine that you want to write up this cover for your collection, or for a display. At first sight the cover seems rather ordinary and uncommunicative, but we can say without much trouble: “Postmarked AUSCHA (Müller 53e, green), and addressed to PRAG, both cities in Bohemia”. Can we find out a little more?



The dateline inside gives us not just the date, but the institution that wrote it, and where it was written: “Ortsgericht Libeschtitz, 16 June 1848”.

Ortsgericht Libeschtitz am 16. Juni 1848.

It's very easy to read the addressee: “K.K. Wechsel und Merkantilgerichte”. A fair translation of this might be: “the trade and exchange court”, or perhaps just “commercial court”. We also note “ex offo jud.” at bottom left, confirming that the cover was on official legal business, and should be exempted from postal charges.

If you have access to Votaček's postmark catalogue, then you can also identify “Libeschtitz” as Liebeschtitz bei Auscha. We now know quite a lot about this cover, and could write it up with as much or as little detail as we choose from the following:

“Legal correspondence written by the local court in Libeschtitz on 16 June 1848. (Liebeschtitz bei Auscha in Bohemia, today Liběšice u Ústěku in the Czech Republic). This village did not have a post office until 1872, and so the letter was posted in Auscha, some 5 km to the east. Postmarked AUSCHA in an oval

with detached date 6.19, all in green (Müller 53e; the day and month figures are transposed). Addressed to the commercial court in Prague. On official legal business between two exempt courts, and thus excused postal charges.”

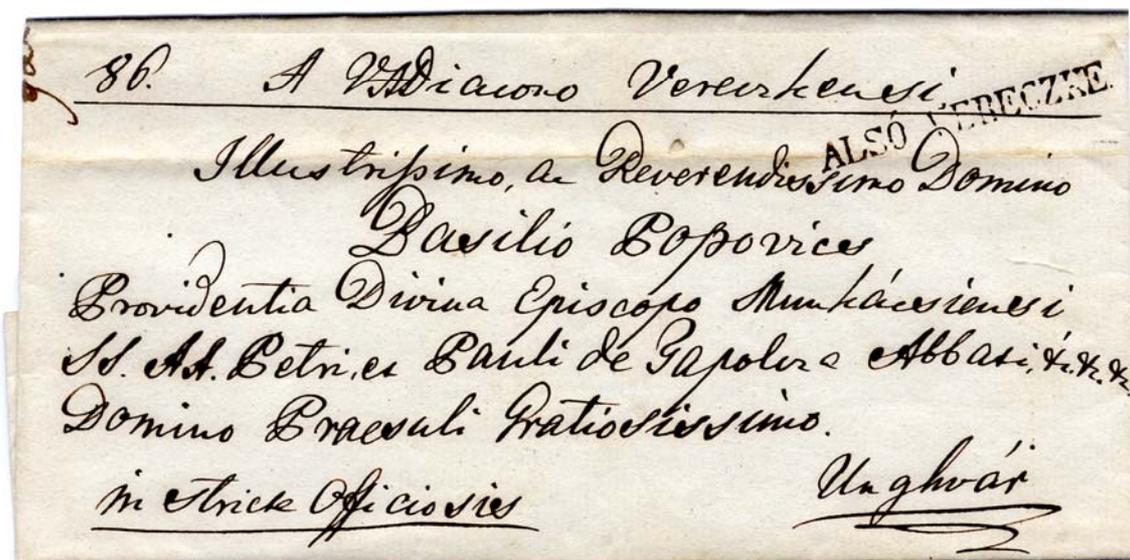
This is probably too wordy, but it shows how an ordinary-looking official cover can be given some personality. No two items of postal history are the same!

If you have had difficulty reading any of the names on the illustrated covers in this section, then you are referred to the key to German handwriting in part 4.2 of this series (AUSTRIA 160, pages 51 to 53). That’s what I used!

5.3 Ecclesiastical Mail

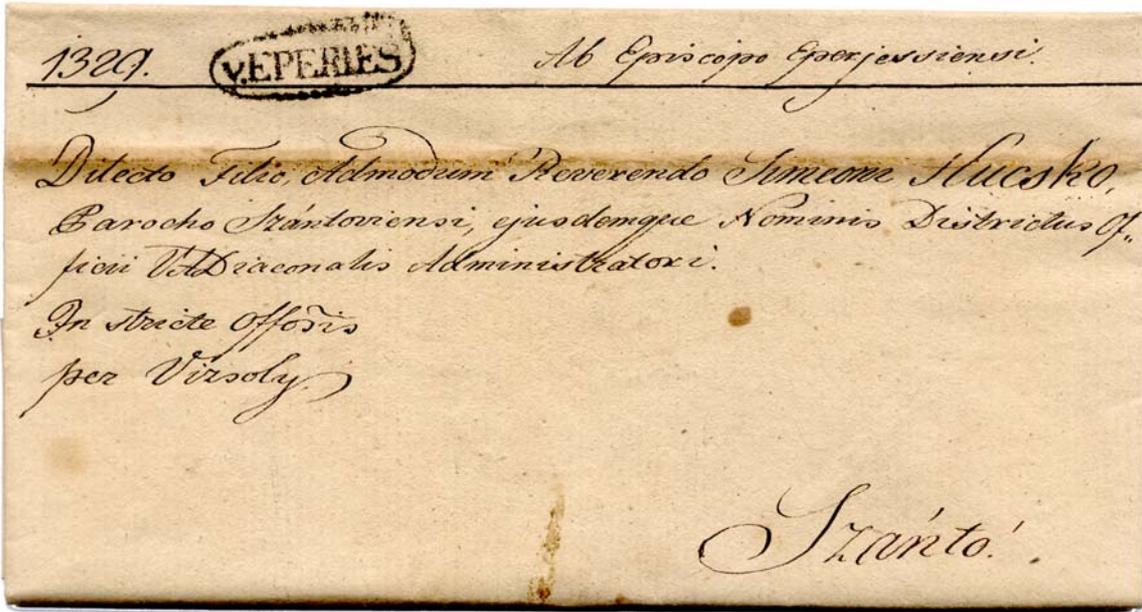
Generally ecclesiastical mail is easy to recognise because it is written in Latin. Not all correspondence in Latin is from the church, and not all church mail is written in Latin, but there is a high probability.

Don’t let the Latin put you off; many of our English religious words are derived from Latin, and are easy to identify. On this cover the words “reverendissimo”, “divina” and “episcopo” immediately tell us that this is religious mail, without any need for translation.

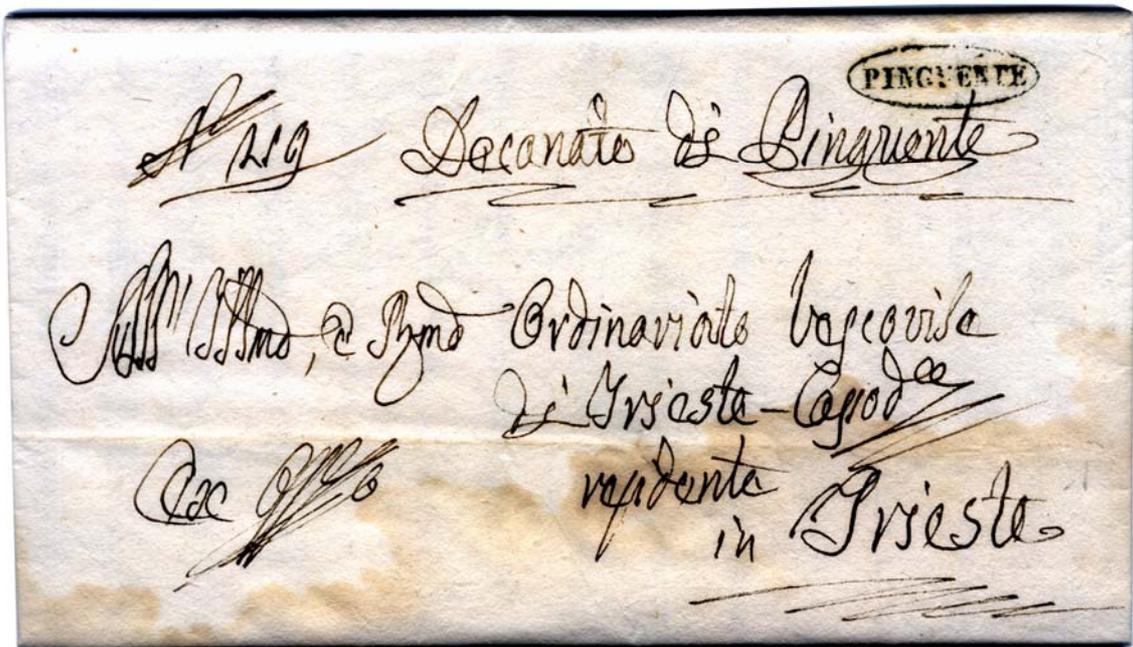


“Episco” in fact means “bishop”, and the letter is from the deaconry in Vereszke to the Bishop of Munkacs in Unghvar, all in western Ukraine today.

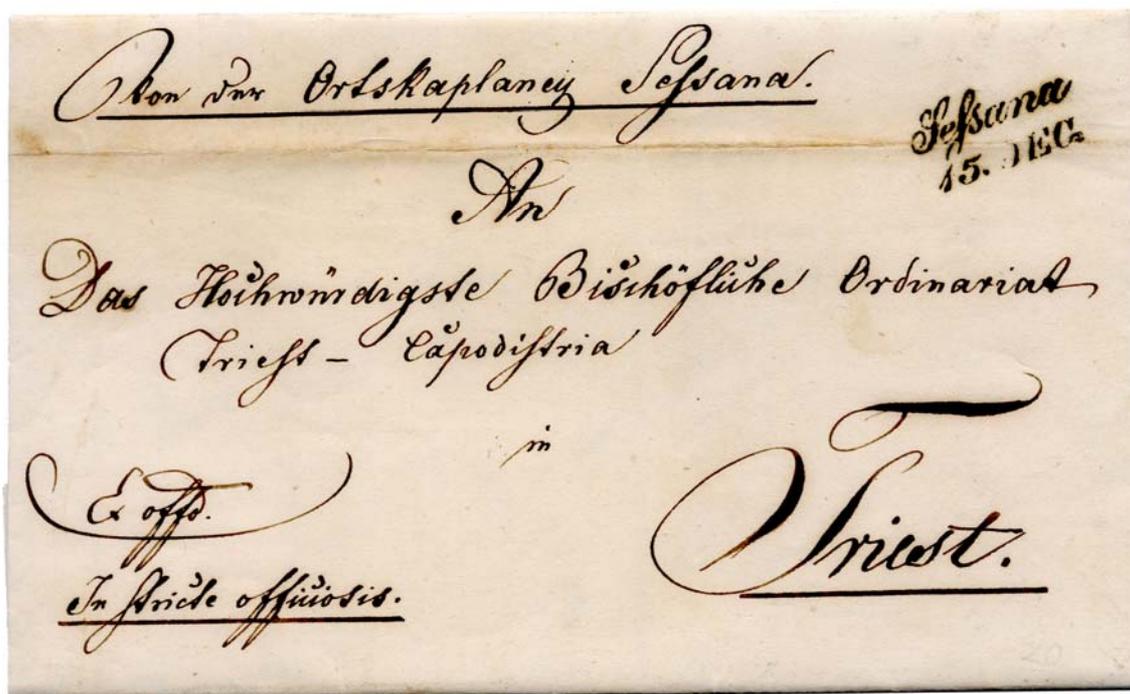
In the next example, you should recognise the word “parcho” as related to the English word “parochial” or “of the parish”. This letter is from the Bishop of Eperjes’ office to the incumbent of the parish of Szanto, both now in Slovakia.



As well as “episco”, “vescovile” also means “pertaining to a bishop”, while “ordinariate” relates to the bishop’s office. These few key words, along with those that can be recognised from an English equivalent, should enable you to decode the sender and recipient of most ecclesiastical mail.



This letter is from the deaconry of Pingente to the office of the Bishop of Trieste and Capodistria. The next one (below) is to the same bishop, but from the local chaplaincy (Ortskaplancy) in Sessana, and, uncommonly, is written in German.



Finally, religious mail is often marked with a manuscript cross on the front of the cover.

5.4 Military Mail

Many collectors are interested in military mail, and it is worth watching out for pre-philatelic examples. Like church mail, it is easy to recognise because so many of the military terms come from the same root as those that we are familiar with. The main problems, as always, are due to abbreviations and old German handwriting.

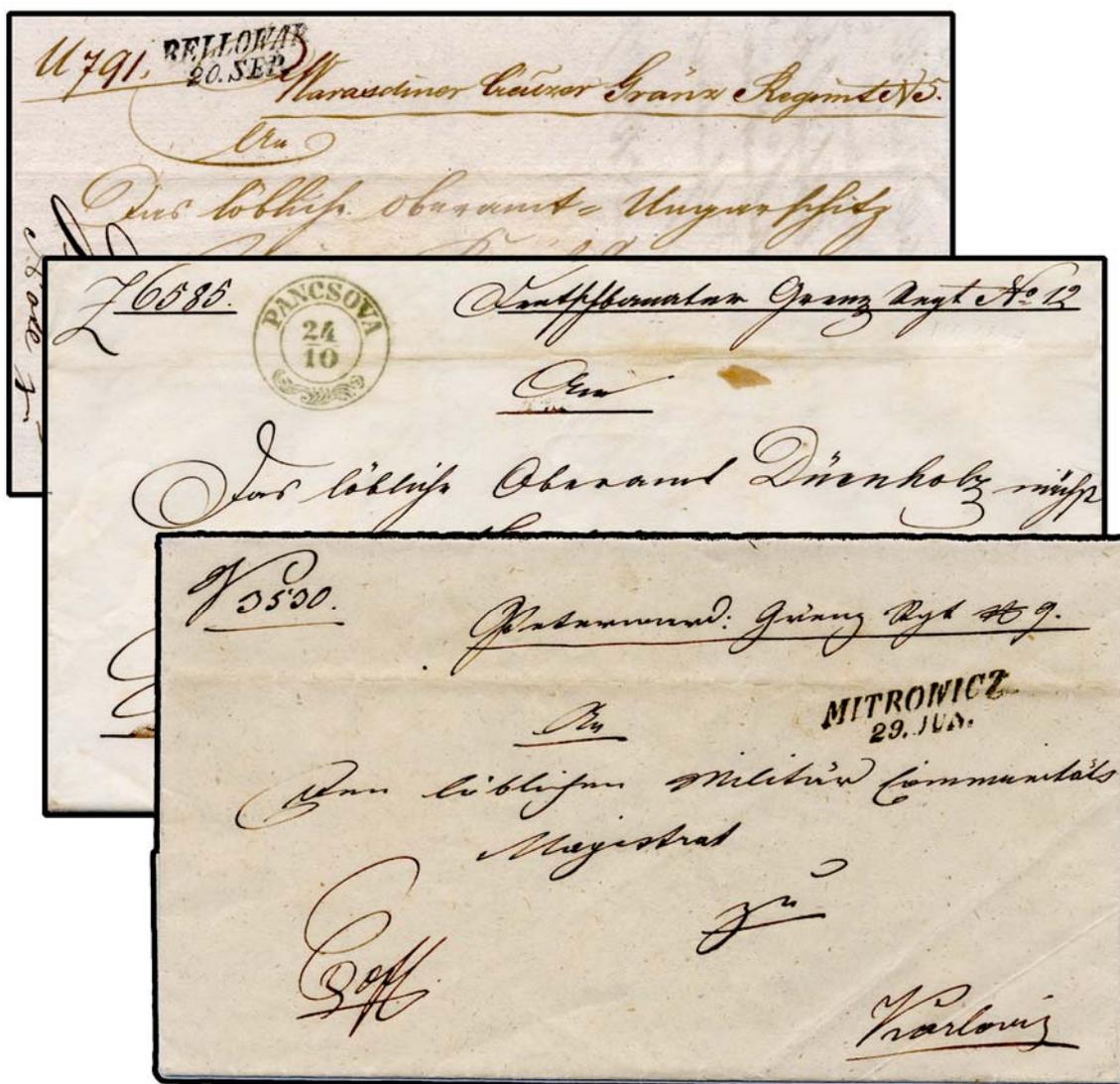
Almost invariably, the name of the regiment is written along the top of the front of the cover. It may, however, be easier to read in the contents or on the seal. The words you might recognise include:

- ❖ regiment
- ❖ artillerie
- ❖ dragoner (i.e. dragoon)
- ❖ infanterie
- ❖ commando (i.e. command, not the English use of “commando”)
- ❖ bataillon or ba'on (i.e. battalion)
- ❖ kompagnie

The Austrians seem to have adopted French spellings for many of these words. To these we can add a few not-so-obvious key-words:

- ❖ chevaux legers (i.e. light cavalry)
- ❖ cuirassier (i.e. heavy cavalry)
- ❖ grenze or gränz (i.e. border)

The covers below show a number of these key-words in use, often in abbreviated form.



- (a) Warasdin-Creuzer Gränz Regiment No. 5
 (b) Deutschbanater Gränz Regiment No. 12
 (c) Peterwardein Gränz Regiment No. 9,

As in this country, many of the regiments are named after their founders or patrons, as these examples will show:



- (a) König von Sachsen 3 Cuirassier Regiment,
 (b) Kaiser Ferdinand Chevaux Legers Regiments Commando,
 (c) Graf Carl Kinsky Dragoner Regiment
 (d) E. H. Ludwig Infanterie Regiment No.8, 3rd Feld-Bataillon
 (e) Ditto, 4th Kompagnie

5.5 Commercial Mail

Almost all commercial mail can be quickly identified by the name of the addressee, which will commence “Herrn” (or Signori” in Italian correspondence). This is equivalent to “Messrs” that we used until recently in Britain when writing to companies. You may recall from section 4.2 of this series (AUSTRIA 160, page 52), concerning German handwriting, that lower-case “e” and “r” are two of the “difficult” letters, and you need to familiarise yourself with the general shape of “Herrn”. In the first example below, “Herrn” is easy to read, but more often it looks, as in the second example, like “grrrr”!

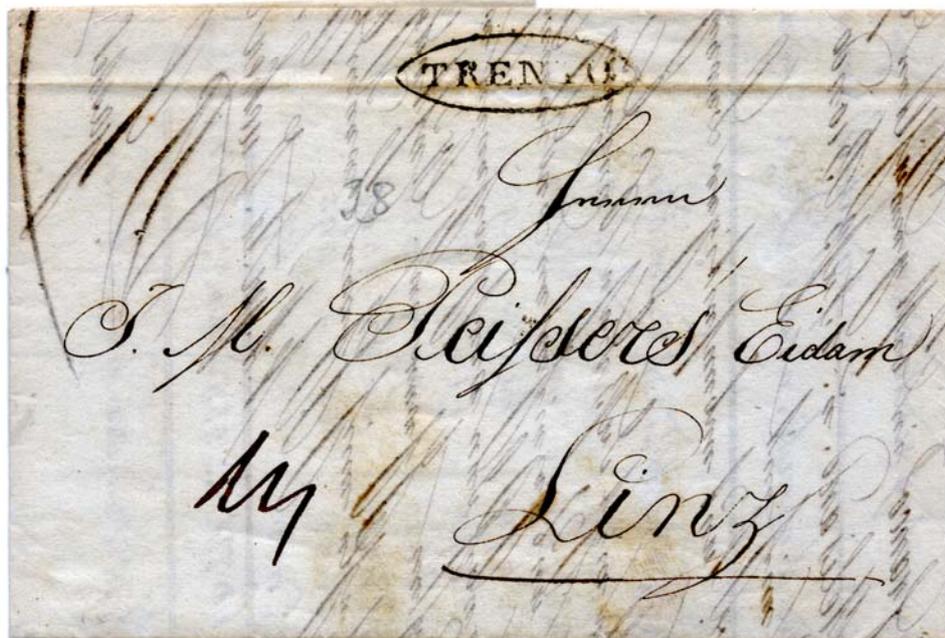


Compared with official mail, commercial letters are typically smaller in format and on thinner paper. Merchants weren't inclined to waste money on overweight letters - “business is business”! Local authorities, on the other hand, seemed quite relaxed about using a whole sheet of heavy parchment for a two-line letter.

How different these letters look compared with the elaborate and wordy cover-fronts of official, ecclesiastical and military mail. With no need to justify exemption from postal charges, commercial correspondents usually just put the recipient's name and his post-town on the cover. There surely isn't much else you can say about such a simple cover. Or is there?

It is to the letter's contents that we must look. Commercial mail often includes itemised invoices or price lists. A few minutes with a dictionary will usually enable you to add colour to your description with phrases like “from a coffee-importer in Trieste”, or “invoice for metal fittings from an ironworks in Graz to a customer in Vienna”. Key words include “Rechnung” and “Fattura” (“invoice” in German and Italian).

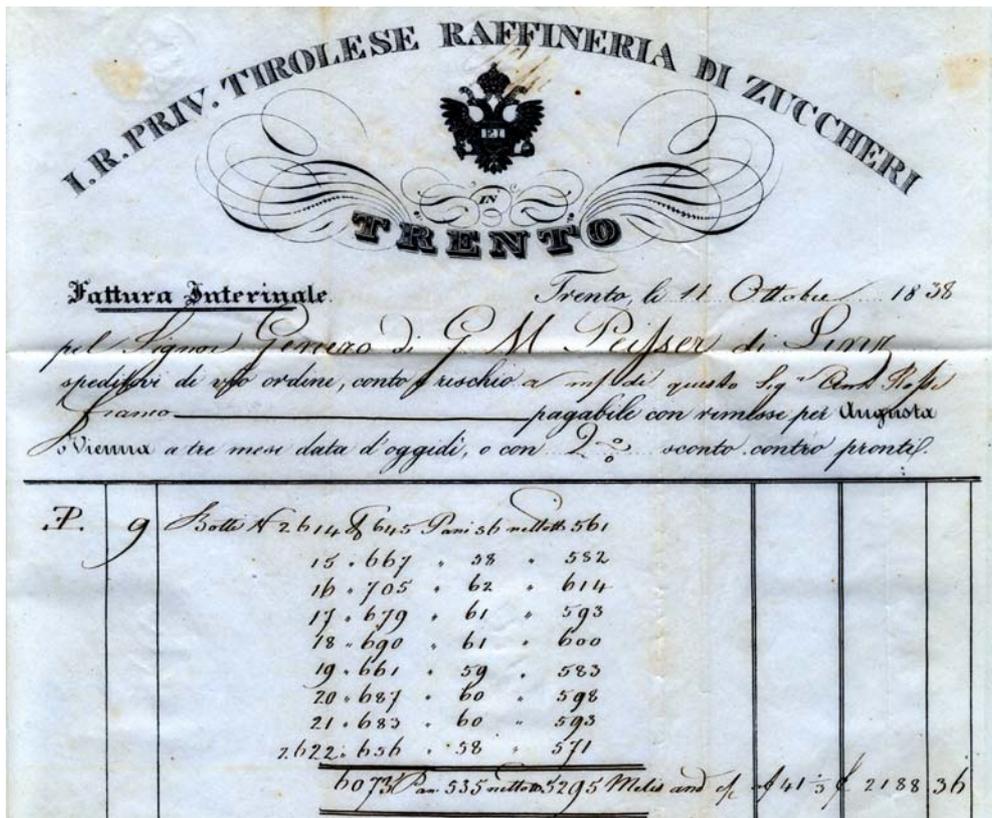
This letter is from Trento in the south Tyrol to a firm in Linz, facts which are not going to sound very interesting in writing up the cover.



When we open it, however, we find an invoice (“fattura”) on a printed letter-heading – see next page. Even the least-gifted linguist will quickly translate the heading as the Tyrol Sugar Refinery Company. Now we can add a bit of colour by writing it up as: “an invoice from a sugar-refining company in Trento to a customer in Linz.”

I have an item of commercial mail containing a sketch of a part ordered; another containing a sample of a piece of cloth; another containing a bill of exchange. Snippets like this add interest to a potentially-repetitious collection of pre-philatelic postmarks on covers, and require almost no knowledge of the language of the correspondence.

We saw earlier that certain local authorities’ archives have been released on to the market, and the same is true of certain firms. You will soon become familiar with mail sent to J J Voith in Steyer and A F Huth in London. Usually such firms were small ones that have long-since disappeared, but sometimes you will find a famous name. The archive of the famous bankers Rothschild Frères in Paris must have come on to the market at some point because I have seen many Austrian letters to their address.



To finish, here is a name you will recognise:



The letter is addressed to the famous champagne firm Veuve Cliquot Ponsardin in Rheims, and contains an order for champagne. Cheers, zum Wohl, salute and santé!

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS and SNIPPETS...

From Hans Smith

A number of points came to mind on reading through Austria 161, a somewhat unorthodox issue of our Journal.

1. The Postal Decrees of 1748/1772

Of interest to the postal historian, but I take issue with the interpretation of 'L.S.' given at the end of each decree. 'L.S.' has since time almost immemorial (at least 1200 years) been the abbreviation for the Latin tag 'Locus Sigillae', i.e. 'place of the seal'. It was originally used by the papal notaries in the earliest Middle Ages to denote on a copy-deed where the seal appeared on the original deed. This was the practice throughout Christendom and was continued by the notaries throughout Europe from the later mediaeval period onwards, then from the revolutionary era (from 1793) up to the present day - even by English and Scottish notaries public.

The idea that the letters stood for either 'Lachs-siegel' or 'Landes-siegel' is, frankly, ridiculous. Apart from the fact that until the 16th century, 'German' consisted of a collection of rude, mutually unintelligible dialects (even the court of the 'German' Emperor Charles V in the 16th century used Latin as the language of record and Flemish as the everyday language of administration) the suggested terms do not make sense either. 'Lachs-siegel' means 'salmon seal' (!) not by any stretch of the imagination 'wax seal' [*I did think it was a bit fishy... Ed*]. Landes-siegel would be meaningless in Austria as the 'Land' was never an administrative unit (even Kronland was a 19th century invention, born of political necessity).

2. A letter from Smyrna (p55)

The large reddish-brown 14 is part of a handstamp extensively used in the 1860s and 1870s on mail in transit through the German states and mainly addressed top France or the UK. It exists in various versions: Weit Franco, W. Franco, and towards the end of the period, W.F., followed by the figure 8 or 14. It indicated that the letter was paid up towards its destination by 8 or 14 kreuzer. This payment was recovered by the German (Prussian) or other postal authority from the Austrians and part was paid on by the Germans to the other authorities concerned (Belgian and/or French). (No wonder the greater part of the post offices' wage bills in those days went to pay the accounting staff!). The cover

illustrated seems to be marked W.F.14 as one would expect on a cover to the UK.

The 'P.D.' is a French accountancy mark and indicates that the cover was, as far as the French were concerned, 'paid to destination'. It was used on foreign mail in transit at 12 offices, including Paris where the bulk of foreign transit mail was handled, over a lengthy period of time, from the early 1850s to the late 1860s. A similar mark was used in Belgium. The mark is almost invariably struck in crimson ink, very occasionally in black, probably by mistake (it may well exist in pillar-box red, but I have never seen one). It is not 'in Tranmer' because Keith is an expert on Austrian mail, not on French. On a letter like that illustrated it would almost certainly have been applied at the sorting office in Paris. The Austrians always used a 'P.D.' mark (or, from the Austrian offices in the Danubian Principalities: A./P.D.) in Italic, i.e. slanting, font, in various sizes.

The Third Man...



was not 'all shot in Vienna'. Nearly all the sewer scenes, apart from a few shots in the covered over section of the river Wien (illustrated), were filmed at Pinewood Studios near London. My late uncle Bert was a stage designer and set builder and I can still remember him coming home at nights (in London) with lurid stories about the 'giant loos'

he was building! They eventually turned out to be the (non-existent) Vienna sewers.

[See also the Wikipedia entry on "The Third Man", which explains that when Orson Welles arrived in Vienna for the filming he took one look at the real sewers and flatly refused to go anywhere near them! Ed.]

* * * * *

From Keith Brandon

I think I can explain the markings on JD's Smyrne - Manchester cover, featured on page 55 of the last issue of **AUSTRIA**.

Although the handstamp and its reproduction are indistinct, I believe that the marking in the bottom-left corner is **WF.14**. This is listed as no. 2982 in Van der Linden's "Marques de Passage", and he gives it 6 points on his 12 point

scale. It is known from 1866 and only in red. “WF” stands for “weiterfranco” which can be translated as “onward payment”. It was applied on landing in Trieste, and means that the postage stamps applied meet not only the charges for the journey from Turkey to Austria, but also the 14 kreuzer charge for its onward transmission through Prussia to England. The “**London Paid**” strike endorses this, as does the **P.D.** stamp. See the article in **AUSTRIA 157**, pp 6-7 for further examples of Weiterfranco 14 markings.

P.D. is a very common marking used throughout Europe and farther afield on nineteenth-century transit mail. It stands for “Payé à Destination” (i.e. “paid to destination”). Van der Linden lists it as number 2197, and gives it his minimum value of 1 point (in black or red or blue). It could have been applied just about anywhere on route, but I would guess Trieste.

The pencil notes “SG 27 at 5/= each” were probably made by a British collector or dealer, and relate to the catalogue number of the 15 soldi stamps. Although it is listed today as SG 36, Stanley Gibbons have probably renumbered their Lombardy & Venetia listing since pre-decimal times.

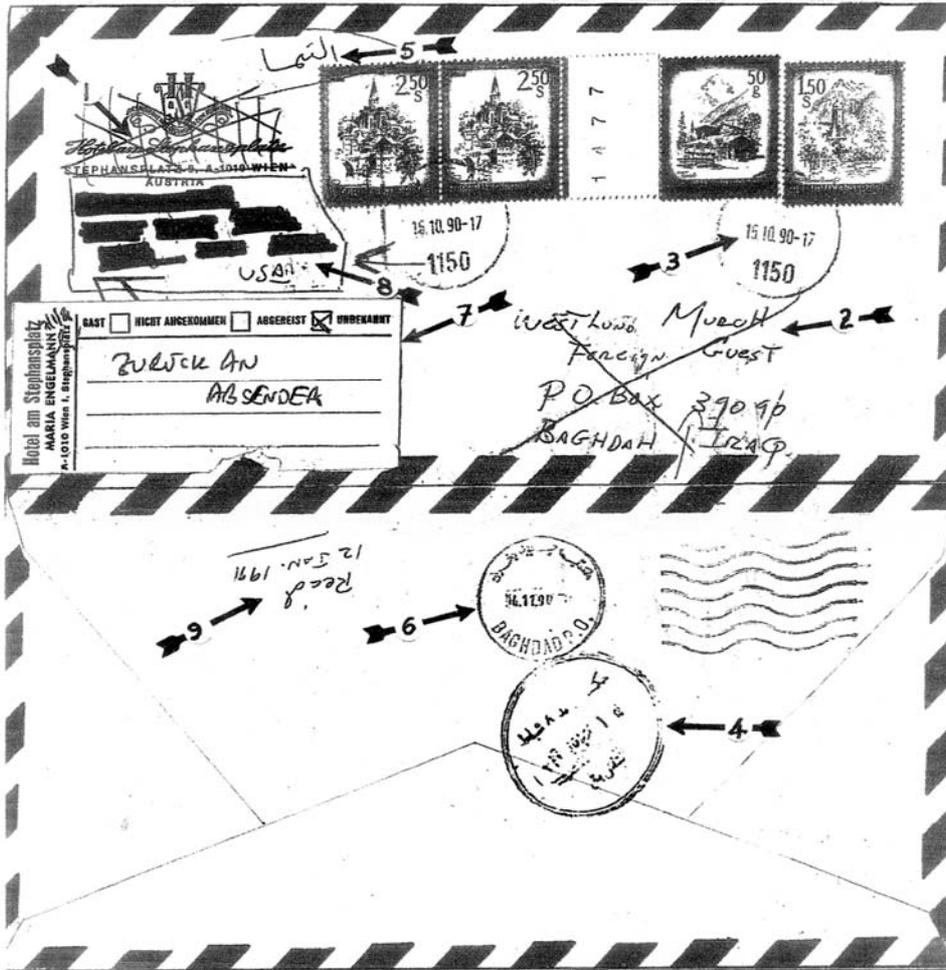
I would be happy to take this cover off JD’s hands if he has no use for it!

* * * * *

From Richard A. Krueger

An unusual cover

Following the 2 August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, most of the western world and the majority of the members of the United Nations Security Council condemned the Iraqi act and imposed a trade embargo on the invaders. As part of its response, Iraq began rounding up and detaining “hostile foreigners” stranded in Kuwait or Iraq. UN Security Council resolution (SCR) 664, passed unanimously on 18 August, demanded the immediate release of “all foreigners held hostage”. Iraq not only ignored the UN demand, but it announced that these “foreign guests” might be used as “shields” around military targets in Iraq. By mid September these foreign civilian “guest shields” were augmented by a number of western diplomats detained by the Iraqis. UN SCR 667 condemned this Iraqi action against diplomats and demanded the release of all Iraqi hostages. On 16 September SCR 667 was passed unanimously, but was totally ignored by Baghdad. SCR 674, passed on 29 October 1990, again demanded that the Iraqis stop mistreating foreign nationals being held hostage.



In mid September 1990, the Iraqis announced that these “foreign guests” could receive mail via a special, newly established “Post Office Box 39090” in Baghdad. However, this had no direct bearing on postal communications from the US since US mail service to Iraq had been suspended shortly after the 2 August invasion of Kuwait.

That is where this unusual cover comes in. It attracted my attention, not because of the Baghdad PO Box, but because of the four digit control number on the right hand margin tab of the Austrian 2.50 Schilling definitive issue stamp. (My philatelic interests are post World War II Austria and its postal history - the marginal symbols were a side interest.)

The cover was sent by an American staying at the Hotel am Stephansplatz in central Vienna. (Arrow 1) It is addressed to one “Westlund Murch / Foreign Guest” (Arrow 2) at the Baghdad PO Box 39090. At this time Austria maintained diplomatic and postal service relations with Iraq. The Vienna postmark (Arrow 3) indicates that it was mailed on the 15th of October 1990, during the time when the UN Security Council was demanding release of the Baghdad hostages. According to a friend’s tentative Arabic translation, the large circular hand stamp mark on the cover reverse (Arrow 4) indicates that the

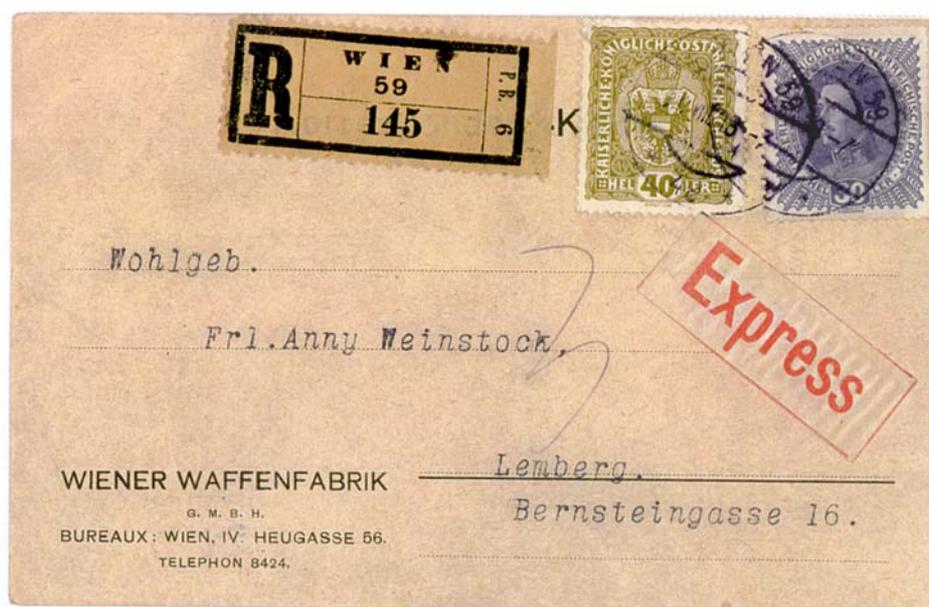
cover was handled by the Baghdad “Special Post Office Services”. Apparently Mr .Murch was no longer a “Foreign Guest” in Baghdad and the cover was marked to be returned to its sender at the Vienna hotel (Arrow 5) by the Baghdad Post Office. (Arrow 6) Since the sender was no longer staying at the Hotel am Stephansplatz, the desk clerk there attached a “Return to Sender” label (Arrow 7) and, on 7 January 1991, added the sender’s US address. (Arrow 8; the latter has been obliterated to meet privacy concerns.) Arrow 9, on the cover reverse side, shows the noted US receipt date of “12 Jan. 1991”. This was less than a week before the Allied troop build-up in Saudi Arabia (under Operation Desert Shield) transitioned to the air and ground war to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait (under Operation Desert Storm).

The author, Richard A. Krueger, suspects that “Westlund Murch” never existed in Baghdad, or anywhere else, and that the cover was someone’s philatelic attempt to document this interesting and tense time in recent history. Your e-mail comments are invited. richardkrueger@aol. com

* * * * *

From Ingert Kuzych

Evidence of desperation at the close of World War I?



It is not unusual to have difficulty reading handwritten messages on postcards, but the typewritten text on this registered and express-mailed World War I card was easily understandable and struck me as being rather poignant. Sent from the Vienna Arms Factory on 31 August 1918, during the concluding days of the war, the message reads:

Dear Miss,

In reference to your offer of the 18th, this is to inform you that we have several positions available and we are prepared to employ you under the conditions you stipulated.

Yours sincerely,

Vienna Arms Factory (signature illegible)

Although typed on 28 August 1918, the card was not placed into the mail stream from Vienna until the 31st; it arrived in Lemberg two days later. The significance of this communication is that it reflects desperation by both parties brought on by deteriorating wartime conditions. The factory, obviously short on manpower, was interested in hiring anyone - even young women and even if they presented some conditions. Sending the card both registered and express reflects the urgency felt by the factory management. The card was also overfranked - only 65 heller (10h card rate, 25h registry, and 30h express) were needed - but the factory was anxious to get the item mailed and was not concerned about an extra 5 heller . The young person badly needed employment and was willing to travel all the way to the capital (over 500km) in order to find work - even if it was in a dangerous munitions plant.

[For an excellent account of wartime conditions and everyday life in Austria during World War I, I would recommend *Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire* by Maureen Healy (Cambridge University Press, 2004, ISBN 0521 831245).]

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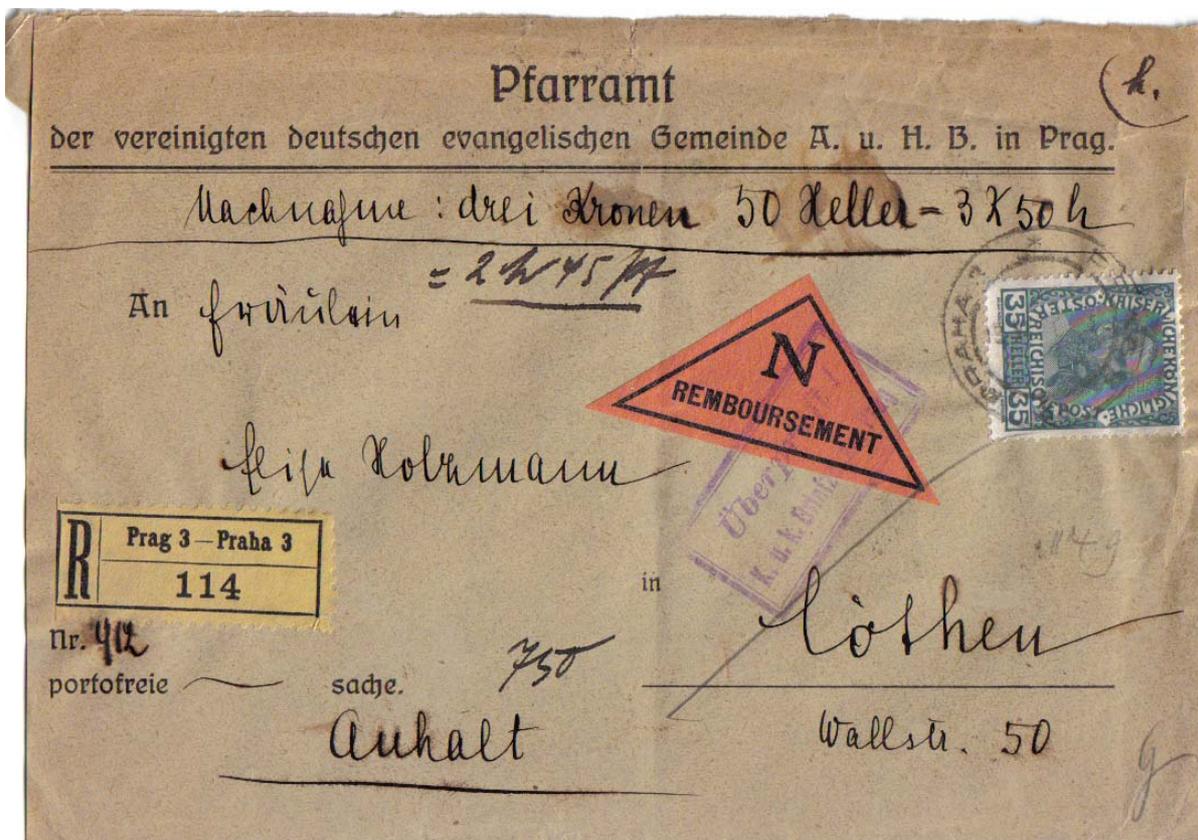
An interesting Feldpost card

Postcard from **Korvetten Kapitan George von Trapp** from the Torpedo boat 52T (built 1909; formerly named "Alligator") sent to Holland.

George Ritter von Trapp entered the Austrian/Hungarian navy academy at Fiume and became an officer in 1902. He eventually became the top Austrian U Boat ace during the war, sinking 12 cargo vessels totalling 46,000 tonnes plus the French armoured cruiser Leon Gambetta and the Italian submarine Nereid. For his wartime services Trapp was raised to the nobility and granted the right to use von before his name but after the war he lost his job. In 1922 his English

"Please explain this..."

Why is this Nachnahme letter franked 35 heller?



Registered and Nachnahme (COD, Cash On Delivery) letter from Prague to somewhere; censored so WWI era; official 'religious organisation' envelope with 'portofrei' [free-post] preprinted. Yet, 35H affixed.

Clue: the COD amount of 3 Kr 50 H has been converted to 2 M 45 pf – German currency. So the "Anhalt" must be the part of Germany, ie the letter is to Germany. Hence 'free postage' isn't available, nor is free registration.

A Nachnahme (COD) letter had to be registered. After 1.1.1900, the registration fee was 25 heller, and the letter rate was 10 heller to both Austria and Germany. Those numbers were correct until 1.10.1916, when the letter rate went up to 15 heller; registration stayed at 25 heller.

What is the COD fee? COD is Fahrpost not Briefpost, so see Ferchenbauer2000 page 959. Under the heading of Postnachnahmen, the second box on the left says "Für Postnachnahmen gelangt...", ie "For postal COD, besides the postage according to value and weight, there is an additional Provision (ie a COD fee)." Then the next line "bis zum Betrag..." says "up to 50 fl for each 5 fl or part thereof" and in the wide right-hand column covering 1.1.1900 onwards the box has a line in it - there IS no additional fee! So the correct amount for this COD letter is just the cost of registration plus regular postage: 25 + 10 = 35 heller.

It weighs a lot ☺



This will interest many readers... it is a set of Vienna Lot weights, as used by the Austrian Post Office before 1 Jan 1866 when they went metric (with the Zoll-Lot). They nest together into the largest. The 1-Lot weight weighs 17.50 grams, as it should, and is stamped with a double-headed eagle, the letters W I E N, and the number 874 which is probably that of the set, not the user.

Postal Forms

We now have printed copies of (a) the 1880 edition of the list of forms used internally by the Post Office, with their titles and old and new numbers; and the numbers of the old forms to be recycled (b) the 1916 edition of the list, with their titles and new numbers. Most readers will find this excruciatingly boring, but for avid researchers it could be invaluable. Consult the Editor!

The Membership Secretary writes:

We say farewell to:

APS member and London Group stalwart Harry Bander, who died in February

We welcome as members:

870 Mr M Hickman, Wimbledon, London (welcome back!)

1277 Mr D J Aylott, Tiptree, Colchester

1278 Mr H Towers, Stanton St. John, Oxon

1279 Mr A O'Broin, Rosslane Harbour, Co. Wexford, Ireland

1280 Mr J Thompson-Hill, Prestatyn, Denbighshire

1281 Mr M J. Norsworthy, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex

1282 Dr I Poplett, South Croydon, Surrey

1283 Mr D J Worrollo, Walsall, West Midlands

1284 Mr G C Kettle, Hornchurch, Essex

1285 Mr B Atkins, Aylesbury, Bucks

1286 Mr P A Kirk, Lincoln

1287 Mr P Chadwick, Eaglescliffe, Teesside

1288 Miss Carol Somerset, Aldeburgh, Suffolk

1289 Mr C A Whomersley, Bedford Park, London

1290 Mr D N Baron, Otley, West Yorkshire

1291 Mr A Vidler MVO, Palmers Green, London

Springtime in Harrogate

“Harrogate 2008”, organised by the ABPS, provided two days of philatelic (and gastronomic) delights, as well as being the “Last Chance Saloon” for those wishing to qualify for the international exhibition “London 2010”. The classes were: Aerophilately; Open/Cinderella; Postal History; Postal Stationery; Revenues; Special Studies; Social Philately; Thematic; Traditional; “One Frame”; and Literature.

Some of the newer classes have interesting criteria, designed I suspect to attract younger and more inventive collectors – those who “collect what they want and display it as they wish” while maintaining some link with the 19th century styles of philately favoured by older collectors. The physical constraints of the frames remain: a display of post-boxes or Datapost envelopes is not possible, and while full-frame-size display sheets do now fall within the rules, the International Commissioners would really prefer that nobody enters one ☺

The Cinderella class gives an exhibitor complete freedom to present an exhibit on any subject, and “Social Philately” is for exhibits based on social history; in both up to 50% of non-philatelic material is allowed. And “Special Studies” caters for exhibits which don’t readily fit anywhere else!

Some of the judges came from abroad; and some of their general comments were: avoid white space by shuffling items or words as needed; pages after the first with no philatelic material lose marks even if their textual or graphical content is vital to the display; the exhibition was excellent in terms of the range and quality (and declared value!) of the displays. The marking was to international standards but the translation into medal-class was at National level (which very roughly means the same display gets a medal one grade higher). Many entries were by APS members, including

Derek Baron: “*Olomouc Postal History Austrian Period 1818-1918*” 5 Frames. 68 Points: Silver. Olomouc post offices, illustrating the increase in number and change of postmarks used. Contribution of the military post in a garrison city and the establishment of TPOs on the network of railways centred on Olomouc.

Joyce Boyer: “*Austrian Airmails 1918-1938*” 5 Frames. 75 Points: Vermeil. The exhibit shows the expansion of the Airmail system from, to, and within Austria from the first International flights in 1918 to the end of validity of Austrian stamps in 1938.

Rex Dixon: “*Deutsche Nothilfe 1924-1935*” 5 Frames. 80 Points: Large Vermeil. From 1924 to 1935 there was an annual series of charity postage stamps for the German Emergency Aid fund; some further issues fell outside this pattern. This exhibit explores the stamps, booklets, stationery and publicity material.

Bill Hedley: "*The Hungarian Postal Service in Bratislava, 1729-1919*" 5 Frames. 83 Points: Large Vermeil. Until 1919 Bratislava was a Hungarian city and a centre for the evolving Postal Service. The exhibit charts developments in the Hungarian letter and parcel post at this important location from the opening of the first Post Office there in the 1720s to the transfer of sovereignty to Czechoslovakia.

Hans Smith: "*The Austrian Post in Trieste*" 8 Frames. 76 Points: Vermeil. The postal history of the Austrian city of Trieste, including the French occupation (1805-1814) and Trieste's function as one of the major Mediterranean ports up to 1918.

Andy Taylor: "*The Austrian Newspaper Tax*" 5 Frames. 89 Points: Gold. The display traces the history of Austria's Newspaper tax from its beginning in 1789 to its end in 1899. Payment of the tax was shown by an imprinted "signet" or an adhesive stamp, and these are described & explained in detail.

Overheard at Harrogate...

"He: Look at this medal I've been awarded for my display!
She: That'll be useful, you can wear it round your neck when we go out"

"Where's the pliers? No, not these, the great big ones."

"Why is it that the more you get involved in a hobby, the less time you have to actually do it?"

The Austrian Philatelic Society Personal stamp

by Joyce Boyer

In the early summer of 2007 I was approached by ANON, as the wife of the Newsletter distributor, and asked if it was possible to provide a copy of the address list used for the January 2008 Newsletter. My response was 'No' since it is not available to members only to authorised committee members who had a good reason to need access to this information. However I did make further enquiries and on hearing that ANON was considering a memento for the Society's 60th Anniversary I advised that the committee were discussing several options and suggested that the matter be left on hold. At the 2007 AGM it became clear that no memento was to be provided and ANON went ahead with his/her ideas. By now my husband was not distributing the Newsletter but as Librarian I had access to the full address list. I suggested to ANON that if provided with what he wanted to mail out I would put on address labels and arrange the mailing as instructed. This was accepted and the plans went ahead.

The result was that in early February I received a number of envelopes containing the Souvenir card and franked with an Austrian 65 cent Personal stamp, the rate for European mail, or 2 stamps for Overseas mail for the address labels to be added. My address list was up-to-date as at 12 February. I did my bit and the envelopes were then forwarded to Dr Hans Moser of Philatelisten Klub Merkur, Innsbruck, our partners in Austria, and they were then posted arriving back in the UK during the course of STAMPEX. The timing was better than ANON had hoped!

Members of our partner Klub also received a copy of the card but those within Austria had their covers franked with a similar 55 cent stamp whilst I believe non-Austrian members had a 65 cent stamp. These were posted at least a week later than those to APS members.

The information provided to me about the Personal stamps is: Design is based on the APS logo designed by Hannes Margreiter at the end of 2006. The two stamps were printed by the State Printing Works, Vienna in January 2008. Printing reference: 55 cent 8019313, 65 cent 8019314. Number printed: 20 sheets of 20 (= 400 stamps) for each value, in horizontal (landscape) format arranged in four rows of five stamps. Colour of border - 55 cent yellow, 65 cent blue

Distribution approximate numbers and the same for each value: used for postage 250, gifts and retained by ANON 50, for sale divided between the two Societies 100. The proceeds from sales are to be used by the two Societies as they wish.

Because of the limited number for sale to APS members ANON has said that only one example of each value should be sold initially however I am prepared to accept requests for larger numbers that may be fulfilled in the autumn after the initial orders have been cleared. Should anyone wish a used example of the 55 cent stamp I will be happy to try and arrange this whilst on holiday but requests with payment and SAE for delivery on our return home must reach me by 15 June for a Tirol cancel or 1 September for a Vienna/WIPA cancel. New members should receive a copy of the souvenir card in their joining pack and again I will be happy to send a cover franked with the 65 cent stamp if requested. The prices are UK £2 per stamp plus SAE, Overseas US\$6 for one or US\$10 for two, Europe €5 for one or €10 for two (these prices were set to allow for payment in notes). Cheques, in sterling, should be made payable to the APS who will receive the funds from the sale of stamps. I have a Paypal account and a Euro bank account and will be happy to supply details on request; the payments will be passed to the APS without deductions. My contact details can be found on the inside front cover of Austria under "Librarian".

For a colour illustration of these stamps, see page 37. Ed.

A visit to “APS@Stampex”

AUSTRIA's team of roving reporters, Herren Rillen, Frosch and Mangai, travelled to London and paid an extended visit to the APS display at Spring Stampex 2008 - despite London Transport's best efforts. They spent many hours studying the exhibits and chatting to the stewards. Afterwards they met in “einem kleinen gemütlichen Vorstadtslokal”, if one may so describe the Cat and Bagpipes in Islington, and compared notes.

Herr Mangai was most impressed by the “guest displays” from Philatelistenclub Merkur Innsbruck, with which the Austrian Philatelic Society has a formal Partnership. Coming as they do from a Land next to his, he found the “Alpine” aspects of their displays most congenial. The quirky humour of Herr Obmann Dautz particularly appealed, as did the wide range of material from youth displays to rare items from the early 1920s. He wondered why the largest display in this section was a Heimatsammlung written up in English, and was intrigued to be told that it was by one of the joint members of both societies wearing (in this row) his Innsbruck hat.

One of Herr Frosch's interests is “useless facts and figures”, so he made enquiries and discovered that the display contained 3200 sheets from 32 people arranged in 100 double-sided frames. While most sheets were “standard British size” – a rather variable standard, he noted – many were A4, several A3, half-a-dozen A2, and one A1! The observation in the excellent handout was true: “each member collects what they want and displays it as they choose; this is not a competition and no uniformity of style has been enforced”. He was taken aback when told that the displays weighed about 120 kilogram in total; the books on sale about the same; and all had been brought by the “APS Team” who had 4 hours when the event closed to dismantle and remove it all – including all the frames. Having been shown the pictures taken during erection, he could appreciate the magnitude of that task – and the problems that would arise when those living elsewhere had departed leaving four tired pensioners to load 3½ tons of frames into trolleys and push them across the car park into a lorry.

Herr Frosch was also impressed by the Austrian Post Office contributions (including the giant stamps on the balcony railings!) and by the sheer diversity of the material - a steward remarked that given space and time, the APS membership could have contributed material for a display twice as big. The celebratory Festschrift had so pleased him, both in content and in presentation, that he had purchased a copy and paid €60 for it in cash. His special interests in “things to do with newspapers” were amply catered for.

Herr Rillen's interests tend to the classical, although he dabbles in thematics; and there were row upon row of both to delight him. Were 12 frames on Triest better than one on trams? Was "The Empire by moonlight" better than the concertos and sonatas of the musical displays? It wasn't like that: this was a caucus race, not a competition, and everybody who had displayed, assisted, or both was an equal contributor to the success of the Austrian Philatelic Society's endeavours.

All three were present to see the Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum in London, Herr Johannes Wimmer, tour the exhibits and be presented with a copy of "A Celebration of Austrian Philately" as the Festschrift is entitled. "Es war sehr nett" that the Austrian Philatelic Society's efforts and achievements were thus recognised.

And so they set off to return to Austria, well content that their trip had been worthwhile, and happy that the Austrian Philatelic Society continued to represent, promote and advance the cause of Austrian Philately.



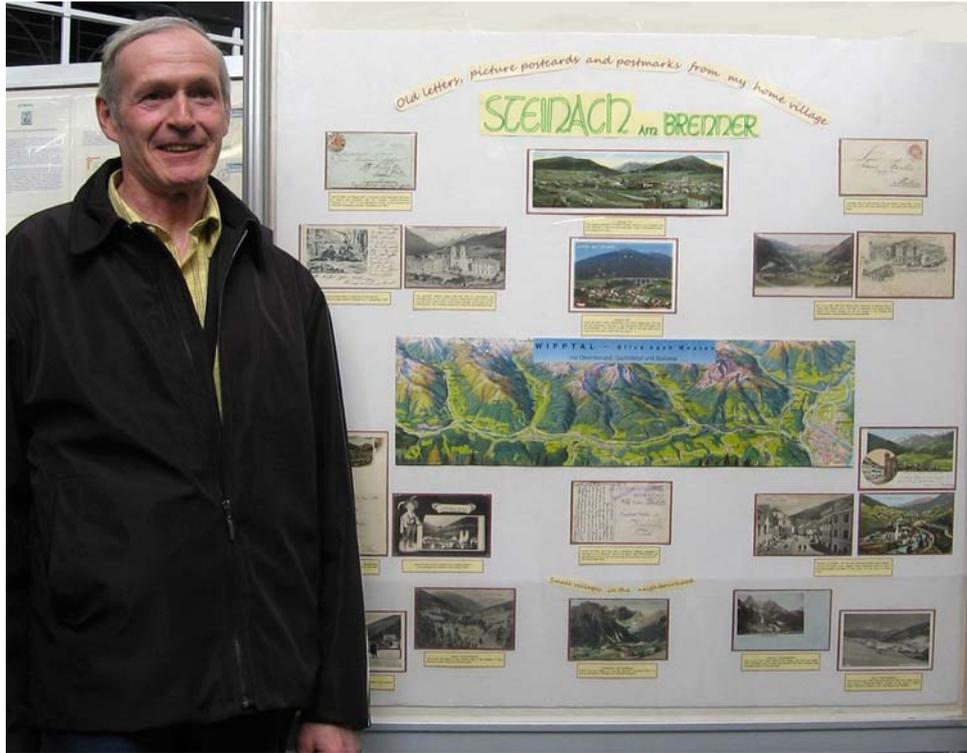
The Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum in London, Herr Johannes Wimmer, is presented with a copy of "A Celebration of Austrian Philately". From your left: Keith Brandon; James Hooper; Herr Wimmer; Andy Taylor; Colin Tobitt. [photo by Habsburg Heritage]



“Just hold this a minute, please...”



Team-APS – would you buy a used Dolfuss from any of them?



Innsbruck calling...



“What time do the doors open?” (Who said “Three hours ago...”?)

Our President writes...

I was abroad during Spring Stampex so unable to take part in the APS displays. However, that means I can receive and reflect the views and opinions of both APS members and others without being accused of bias or self-congratulation!

The frame-erecting team of Colin Tobitt, Alan Berrisford, Keith Brandon, John May and Gerry Trumper completed their task in half the expected time, then arranged for Andy's Trundle to be brought at 9am instead of 2pm - so that when the "Tuesday Mounters" arrived much was already in the frames. Waiting for the last few displays provided a pleasant opportunity for much talk and an early finish. Several members of the London-2010 organisers watched "Team APS" in awe, then rushed off to find volunteer forms!

The 3200 sheets displayed came from a wide variety of members and covered an equally wide range of topics. Noteworthy were the "guest displays" from our partners in Innsbruck, and the items contributed by the Austrian Post Office. The sheer diversity of the APS material demonstrated the dedication of APS members to putting on such an impressive event.

The numerous visitors asked many questions, bought several of our publications, and generally complimented us on the displays. Several joined the society on the spot!

In fact, I can put it no better than Mike Czuczman, organiser of Stampex for many years, who wrote to say: "*You can add my compliments in your next newsletter to your team of helpers. It was probably the most efficient, clean, quiet and fast mounting and de-mounting of any team that I have experienced. My congratulations.*" This is high praise indeed, particularly as our team were all Senior Citizens!

Martin Brumby

A philatelic souvenir of 2008...

To the immense surprise and voluble gratitude of everybody else, “Anon” made arrangements for Austrian Personalised Stamps to be produced, marking the 80th Anniversary of the Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck, the 60th of the APS, and the 5th of their partnership. These were posted to each member and arrived during Stampex, producing much fruitless speculation on the identity of the mystery benefactor.



The stamps - they were produced in two face values.



The front of the commemorative card inside each envelope.

Of course, those who are members of both societies received two sets 😊





The Pöstlingberg and the Pöstlingbergbahn

By John Anthony

(The first in what hopefully will become a series of articles on the railways and tramways of Austria from a philatelic point of view.)

Pöstlingberg is situated on a hill at a height of 539m in a district of Linz, in the northernmost part of the city and locally is an important and strategic site.



Its Religious Significance

The religious history of the place began in 1716 when, after it had proved effective in curing Prince Gundomer von Starhemberg, a miraculous icon was placed at the top of the Pöstlingberg by Ignaz Jobst. By 1720 pilgrims had started to climb the hill and soon after a wooden chapel was built. In 1742 the erection of the Pöstlingberg church, dedicated to the Seven Sorrows of the Virgin Mary was commenced, it was opened 6 years later.

The church, made a basilica minor in 1964 by Pope Paul VI, was the work of the Linz architect Johann Matthias Krinner. Inside there is a late 19th century fresco of the Coronation of the Virgin by Andreas Groll. Because of its spectacular location, the church is a popular place to get married.

Its Strategic Military Position

In 1809 French soldiers of Napoleon's army attempted to remove the forest from the top of the hill to afford a perfect outlook over Linz and the surrounding area. The Austrians suppressed the French and as a result of experience of the battle, the Pöstlingberg became a strategically important military position.

Fortifications were constructed to a plan developed by the Archduke Maximilian of Este, and executed not only under his direction but also at his own cost and risk, and not taken off his hands by the government until 1838.

Instead of building a continuous wall, with bastions at intervals, immediately round the town of Linz, he chose to surround it by a chain of isolated forts, 32 in number, communicating with each other by a covered-way, and placed at a distance of 1, 2, or 3 miles from the town, none being nearer than 1 mile; 23 stand on the right and 9 on the left bank of the Danube. They are planted at regular intervals in the plain, along the slopes or on top of the hills, in a circuit of 9 miles; the highest position, the Pöstlingberg, being surrounded by a circlet of 5 towers, to form a citadel.

Each tower was 40 ft. high and 114 ft. in diameter, but sunk into the ground to a depth of 21 ft., so that little more than the roof (destined to be removed in case of a siege) projected above. Every tower was surrounded by a deep ditch, and on the side away from the town by a bank and glacis (slope). Each tower consisted of 3 stories, the lower serving as a storehouse and powder-magazine, the middle one as lodging for troops and the platform on the top, which, when not used was covered by a temporary roof and mounted with eleven 18-lb. guns, so arranged that they could be all brought to bear upon any single point with ease, and command the glacis by a cross-fire in every direction. In the lower

story there were 4 howitzers (7-lb.) bearing upon the ditch to frustrate any attempt to cross it. The interior resembled the decks of a man-of-war, except that the platforms were circular. The apartments were about the same height as the cabins on board ship, and the guns were arranged nearly in the same manner. Those of the upper platform moved round in grooves upon a pivot. Each tower is capable of containing 150 to 200 men, with provisions for that number.

The whole system of towers could be regarded as an entrenched camp, within which a large army might take up a position, protected by the cannon of the forts from the attack of an enemy. The advantages provided by this model of fortification were that each individual fort must be made the object of a separate siege by an enemy before it can be taken, and that the expense of construction was trifling compared with the common method of walling a city. This method of fortification was considered an experiment that had not been tried and proven, there were those Officers experienced in engineering and fortification who regarded these works as a farce.

Until these works were constructed the valley of the Danube was undefended by a single fortress from the French frontier down to the walls of Vienna. The necessity of a barrier of some kind was made manifest by the two invasions of Napoleon, whose armies twice reached Vienna almost without a check.

In the event, after 1813 French armies never again appeared in this part of Europe, the fortifications were never put to the test and whether they were a farce remains to this day unproven.



The Pöstlingbergbahn

The first transport system on the Pöstlingberg was a horse-drawn railway built around 1880. It enabled visitors to Linz to go up to the Pilgrimage Basilica and Church, and take in the views and walks of the Pöstlingberg, without having to climb the steep road from Urfahr on the north side of the Danube. The electrification of this began in 1897 and today's Pöstlingbergbahn was born.

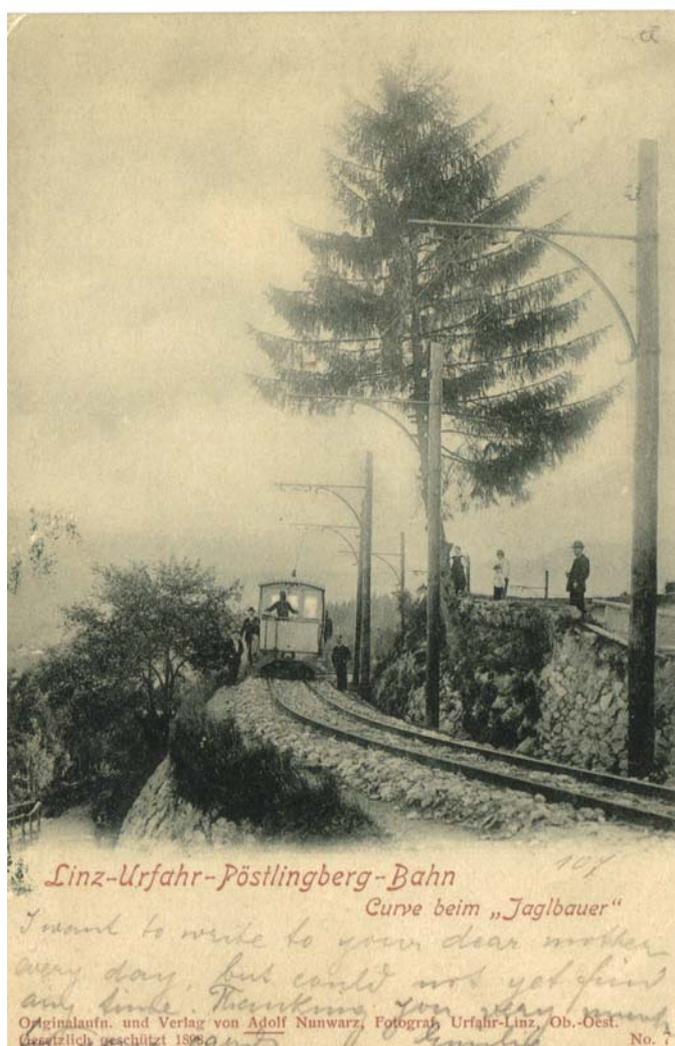


The 2.9km line was opened to the public on 29th May 1898. It originally crossed the Muhlkreis Railway just to the west of Linz Urfahr station, but this crossing quickly caused chaos, for trains on the standard-gauge main line were crossed at an angle by the metre-gauge Pöstlingbergbahn, which used a rail with a completely different profile. The problems were such that the crossing was removed after only 8 months and a new terminus was built next to the north side of Linz Urfahr station.

The line, single track with three passing loops, climbs 255 metres in 2.9km at an average between the passing points of 10.6%, making it the steepest adhesion-worked line in Austria, and one of the steepest in the world.[*The world's steepest adhesion street railway is in Lisbon with a gradient of 14.5%.*] The passing loops are long enough to take three cars at a time and although a 20-minute service is normally run, it is possible to run a service with a 10-minute frequency.

Laid on steel sleepers, the track is unique, having an inverted wedge profile. Because of the gradient all trams are fitted with pincer brakes that grip the rail around the wedge. This means however that point-work is complicated with whole sections of track moving and the “frog” turning at the same time. At the top of the climb the Bergbahnhof was located inside one of the seven fortified towers that were built around 70 years before.

Because of the heavy wear on the rails, guide rails were installed sometime after World War 1 and at the same time the wheel-sets of the trams were changed. Around the same time the wooden masts for the overhead lines were replaced with steel ones.



Fifteen cars were originally built for the Pöstlingbergbahn, although two have now found use elsewhere; one of them now being tram no 100 on the Gmunden Tramway (of which more in a later article). Uniquely in Austria the vehicles are numbered using Roman numerals. The three original “toast-rack” cars, (I-III), were built by Grazer Waggenfabrik in 1898. They are now only used on special hire and are not enclosed. Cars VI and VIII were also built by Grazer, VI for the opening and VIII in the following year; both cars were rebuilt by ESG in the 1950's. Car X was supplied in 1912 by Grazer and was rebuilt in 1960 by ESG and finally, cars XI, XII and XIV-XVIII were built by ESG between 1948 and 1958.

Each car has a single 22kw motor collecting power at 600v dc from the overhead by means of a pantograph (originally a trolley pole, replaced sometime in the early 1920s). The maximum speed uphill is 12km/h and downhill is 13.5km/h, journey time is 16 minutes.

Much remains as it was in 1898, although general maintenance and modern progress has and will continue to takes it toll. The Hagen and Pöstlingberg stops

were extended in about 1920 at about the same time as the trolley poles disappeared. In more recent times Linz Urfaahr was renovated in 1978 and modernised, without changing its external appearance, in 1988/9.

As a consequence of the change to one-man operation on October 11th 1988, the points were electrified, these having previously been operated by the Guard. Even more recently, new rail has been manufactured to replace the original 1898 track, this may be installed soon.

Proposals have been published to re-equip the Pöstlingbergbahn with modern equipment and to re-gauge it to 900mm so that cars could be run to Linz city centre to increase its accessibility. These proposals have proved to be highly controversial; but work began on 25 March 2008. Three of the old cars will be re-gauged and given low-floor access for the new system.

All in all a delightful location and railway. Next to the Bergbahnhof terminus is the Pöstlingberg Hotel, the terrace of which provides fine views across the city of Linz and the Danube, just what Archduke Ferdinand had seen.



The Philately of the Postlingberg and the Postlingbergbahn



A post office was opened here on the 7th August 1899 as PÖSTLINGBERG. Its name was changed on 1.9.1939 to LINZ (DONAU) – PÖSTLINGBERG and in 1946 back to PÖSTLINGBERG. On 1.1.1965 it changed once again to LINZ 20 (PÖSTLINGBERG) and finally on 1.1.1966, when postcodes were introduced, to LINZ- PÖSTLINGBERG 4043. It remains as such today. Stohl lists Linz-Pöstlingberg as Nr A1179 and tabulates the cancels and usage-dates

that he knew about, as follows

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
a	PÖSTLINGBERG	4a0	-	35x22	1900-1902	50
b	PÖSTLINGBERG	4a0	-	32x21	1900-1917	7
c	PÖSTLINGBERG	7k1	a	28D	1916-1939	4
d	LINZ (DONAU) -PÖSTLINGBERG	7A1	a	28D	1939-1948	6
e	LINZ / DONAU-PÖSTLINGBERG	7A1	b	28.5D	1941-1949	8
f	PÖSTLINGBERG	8q0	a	28D	1953-1965	5
g	PÖSTLINGBERG	8q0	b	28D	1950-1963	5
h	LINZ 20 (PÖSTLINGBERG)	8q0	a	28.5D	1965-1966	20
l	LINZ 20 (PÖSTLINGBERG)	8q0	b	28.5D	1965-1966	20
j	LINZ-PÖSTLINGBERG + 4043	9a10	a	28D	1966-	1
k	LINZ-PÖSTLINGBERG + 4043	9a10	b	28D	1966-	1
l	LINZ-PÖSTLINGBERG + 4043	9a10	c	28D	1966-	1

Col 1 = sub-letter, eg the first row is his ref A1179a

Col 2 is the actual text of the cancel

Col 3 is his impenetrable appearance-code

Col 4 is the ‘counter letter’

Col 5 is the size in mm; ‘D’ = diameter

Col 6 is the known dates of use

Col 7 is a points rating.

Stohl's appearance code

Code 4a0 is a Schraffenstempel, the striped ‘conversation lozenge’. It has 2 rows, with the office name above the date written as dd.mm.yy

Code 7k1 is a ring cancel; date dd.mm.yy between lines with the month in roman; name sanserif; no stars

Code 7A1 is the 3rd Reich version of 7k1; only difference is month in arabic (and the name)

Code 8q0 is a segment cancel; no stars; month arabic; with despatch time

Code 9a10 is a single circle cancel; name at top; date with arabic month and time in middle; postcode at bottom.

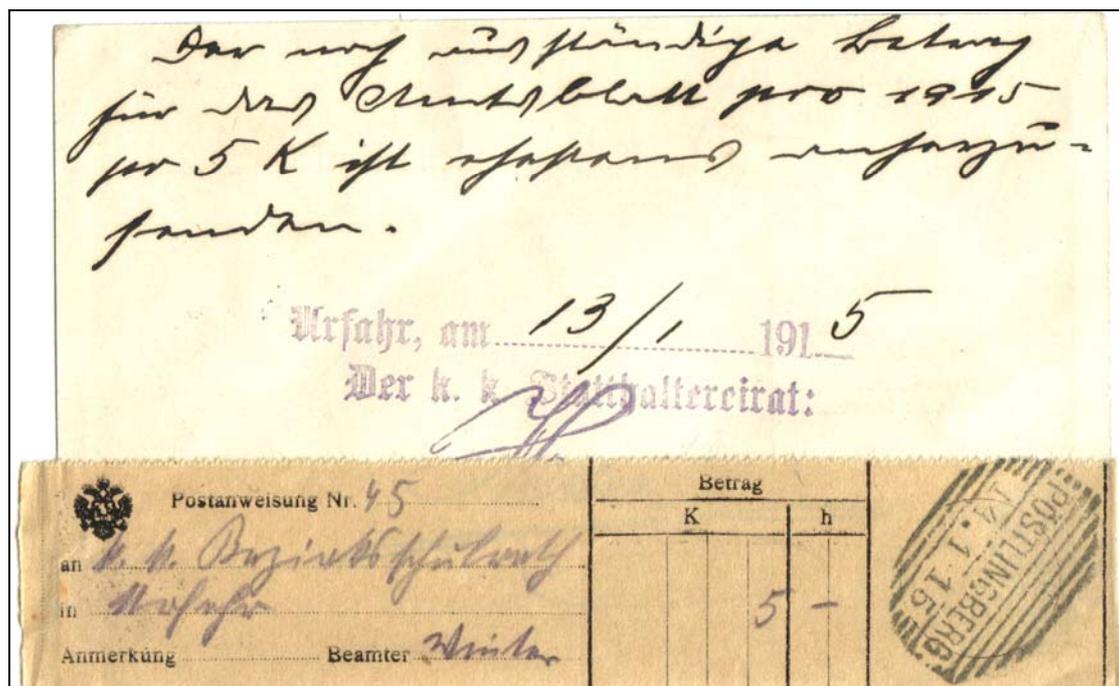
The tramway has been recognised both on stamps and commemorative cancels. In 1986, surprisingly two years before the centenary of the opening, a special cancel was introduced, on the 6th of August.



Since the advent of personal stamps the Pöstlingbergbahn has been commemorated on a number of occasions by the issue of a number of stamps depicting both the line and rolling stock; two examples are shown below.



An interesting item from Pöstlingberg



It's from the District Council of (at?) Urfahr, post-free. Sent to the local school in Postlingberg, stating that the annual subscription of 5 Kr for the Official Newspaper in 1915 was due. The Postanweisung is the receipt for the payment thereof at the Postlingberg Post Office.

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Mag. Peter Zoller

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The Smaller Flotillas of the Austro-Hungarian Navy, 1914-1918.

Based on a display at Spring Stampex 2008 by John Pitts

Introduction.

On July 29th 1914, SMS Temes, an Austro-Hungarian monitor belonging to the Danube Flotilla, fired on the defences of Belgrade, an action which marked the commencement of hostilities in WWI. Other flotillas were subsequently formed with requisitioned vessels, but none were on the scale of that of the Danube Flotilla. The existence of some of these flotillas has to some extent escaped the close scrutiny of military and postal historians, probably because of the scarcity of material available for study. This article presents material from most of these smaller flotillas – such items are probably the most obscure items of Austro-Hungarian mail with naval connections!

The Austrian heavy warships spent the entire war in the Adriatic, mostly inactive, holding down a large portion of the Italian and French battle fleets as well as units of the Royal Navy. Sailors had ample opportunity to write home. Flotilla personnel, considerably fewer in number, were kept much busier, factors which probably explain the relative scarcity of their correspondence.

The Gardasee Flotilla

There was an Austrian flotilla operating also on Lake Garda with the objective of preventing Italian ships crossing into Austrian territory. One card only is known from this flotilla; it carries the hand-stamp 'K.u.k. Motorboots-Kmdo.Riva'. This hand-stamp is shown below on a cut-out from a service document.

K. u. k. Motorboots-Kmdo. Riva

The Bodensee Flotilla.

The Bodensee (Lake Constance) provided a natural frontier between the Central Powers (Austria and Germany) and neutral Switzerland, across which agents might infiltrate. A joint 'Bodenseeflotillenkommando' with its headquarters at Friedrichshafen was formed in 1915 to monitor and control lake traffic. Austria's contribution was a 'Grenzwachdetachment' with 20 men and some motorboats, based at Bregenz. It is possible that *Kaiserin Elisabeth* of the Austrian Railways, built in 1887 and known to have survived until 1954 as the *Bludenz*, may have served in the flotilla.

Flotillas in the Adriatic.

Lagunen Flotilla - H.Q. Triest.

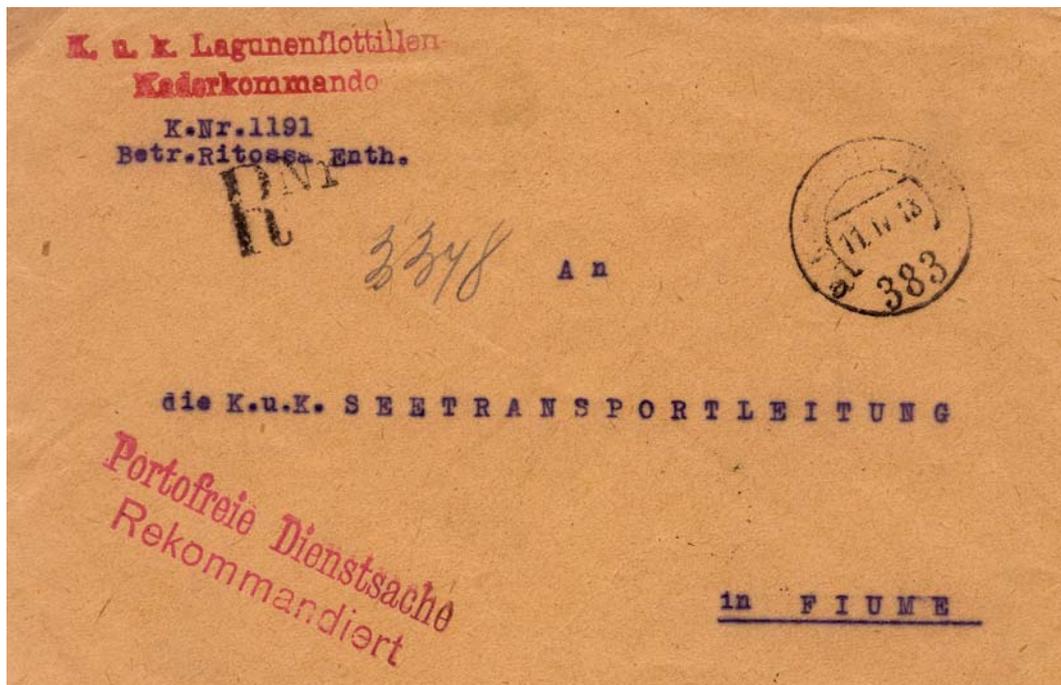
Skutarisee Flotilla - Lake Scutari (Virpazar, Montenegro and Schkodra, Albania).

S-Flotille - Adriatic Sea. H.Q. Pola.

Kreuzerflotille - Adriatic Sea. H.Q. Cattaro.

The Lagunen Flotilla.

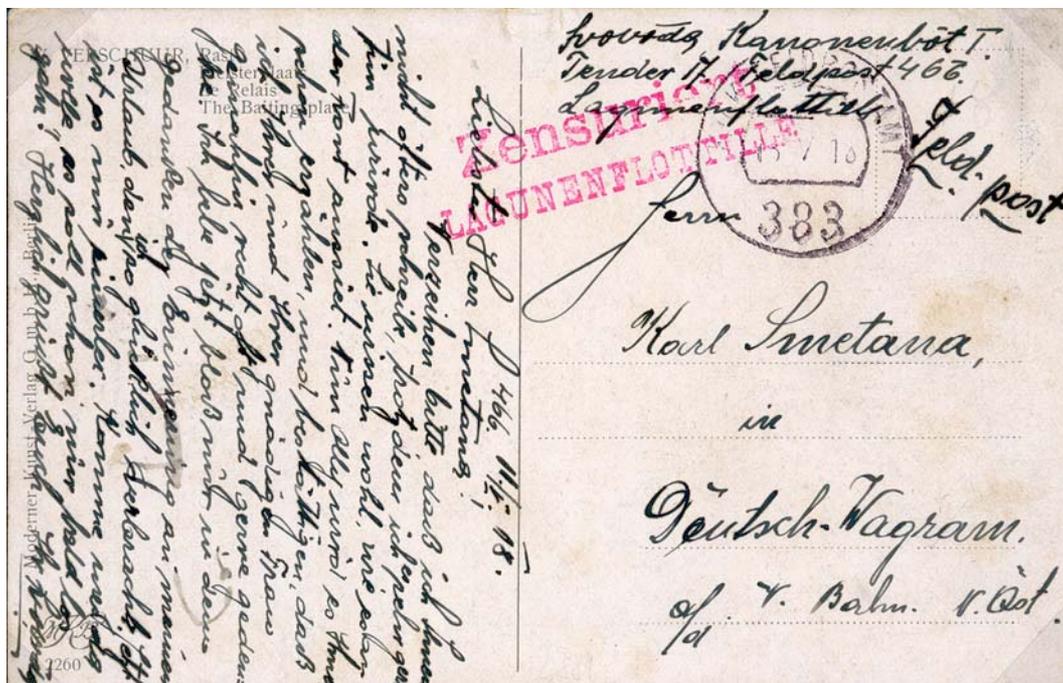
This flotilla, based at Triest, was responsible for the supply of food and ammunition to Austrian and German forces on the Isonzo Front. Because of the mountainous nature of the terrain, the flotilla used the rivers Tagliamento and Piave. Covers bearing flotilla cachets are rare. A large number of vessels are recorded as having been assigned to this flotilla at various times, and for some reason their names were frequently changed (to confuse the enemy, or perhaps philatelists?)



Registered official cover from 'K.u.k. Lagunenflotillen / Kaderkommando' to naval headquarters in Fiume. FPA 383 was based at Triest.

'Kanonenböt I' was formerly known as 'Dampfer Trieste', then 'San Marco di Rosandra'. She was renamed 'Kanonenböt I' in March 1918 when she took up transport duties with the Lagunen Flotilla.

'Kanonenböt II' (originally 'Epulo' then 'Kvarner') was assigned to the Lagunen Flotilla in late 1917 and renamed 'Frankopan'. She had been stationed at Sebenico as an armed escort and pilot vessel and was fitted with two 47mm rapid fire machine guns.



Card from 'Kanonenböt I' with red 'Zensuriert / LAGUNENFLOTILLE', FPA 383 (Triest) dated 13.V. 18.



Card from 'S.M.S. Frankopan' dated 24.VII. 1918.



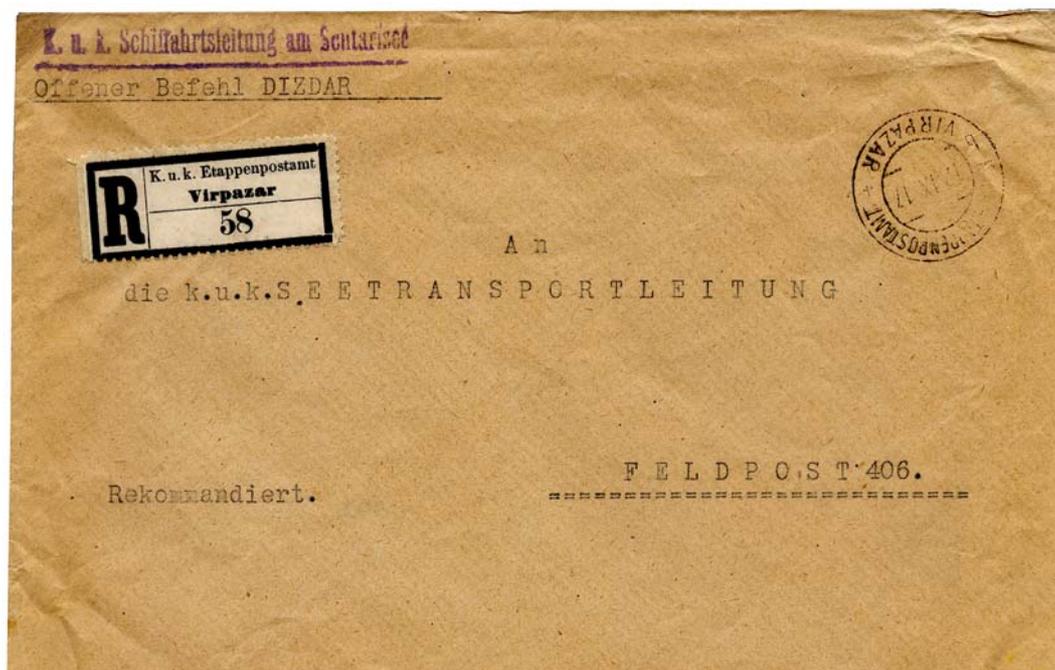
Card from 'Kanonenböt III', formerly 'San Giusto', then Trieste', on duty on the River Tagliamento 5.VIII. 18.

The Skutarisee Flotilla.

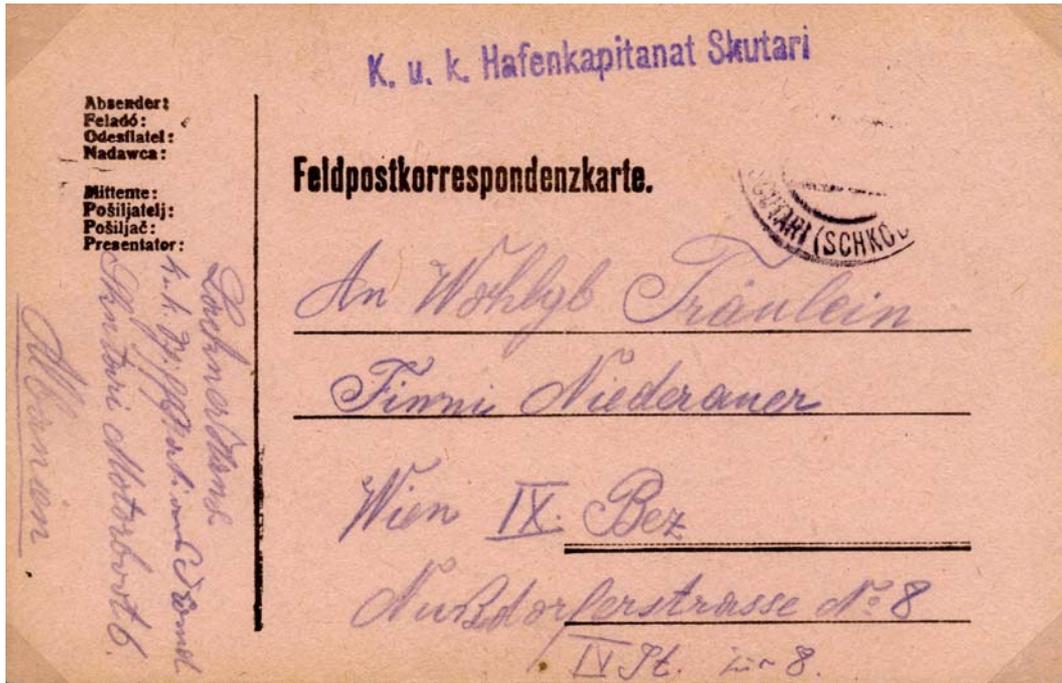
During the offensive in Montenegro and Albania the Skutarisee Flotilla was established to support army operations on Lake Scutari and on the River Bojana. Five ships were attached to it, and several motor boats.



This map shows the location: the white shape is Lake Scutari and the river Bojana. D is Dubrovnik; C is Cattaro; V is Virpazar; S is Scutari. Montenegro has horizontal stripes; Albania diagonal ones. The Adriatic is flat grey.



Registered letter to shipping HQ in Fiume (FPA 406) from the 'K.u.k. Schiffahrtsleitung am Scutarisee' at Virpazar (Montenegro) on the northern shore of the lake. Dated 12.IX. 1917.



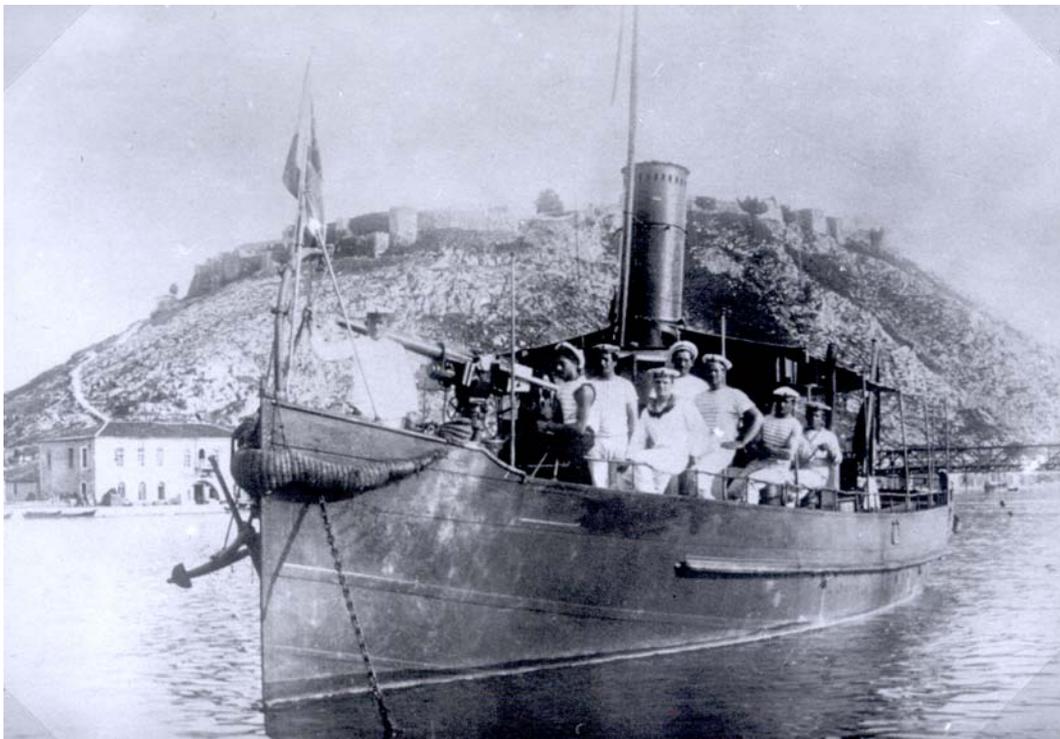
Card from 'Skutari Motorboot 6', K.u.k. Schiffahrtskommando, carrying the cachet 'K.u.k. Hafenskapitanat Skutari'. Dated 19.9.17.



Card from Skutari Etappenpost - Skutari Motorboot VIII (in manuscript, inverted, at the top of the card) bearing the circular cachet of the 'K.u.k.Schiffstationskommando Schkodra'



Cover dated 18.11. 18 with the cachet 'K.u.k. Schiffstationskommando' and EPA Virpazar. The sender's details read 'K.u.k. Marineschiffskommando, Virpazar, Motorboot VI, Montenegro'.



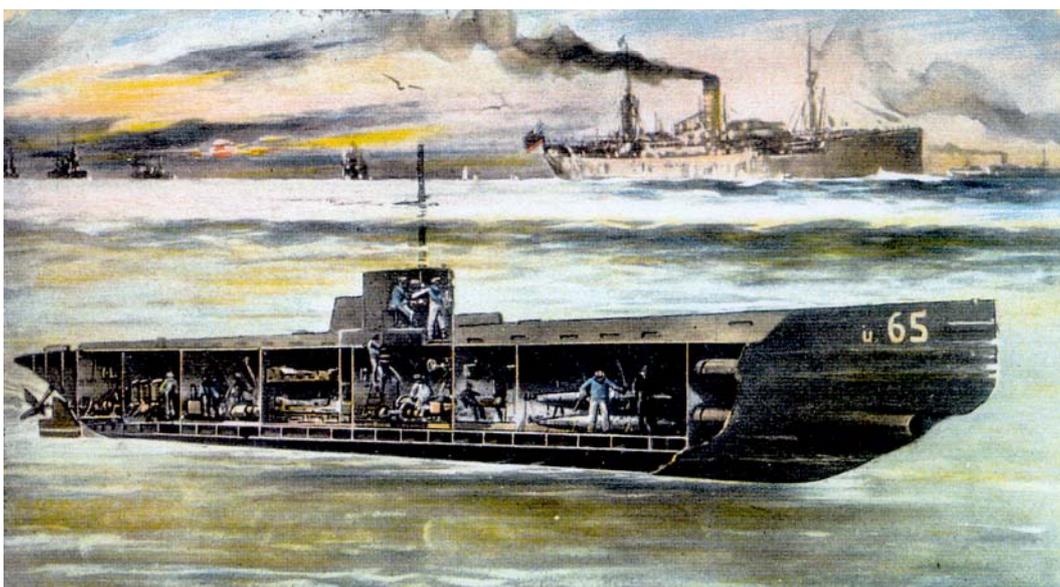
Typical armed motorboat on Lake Scutari.

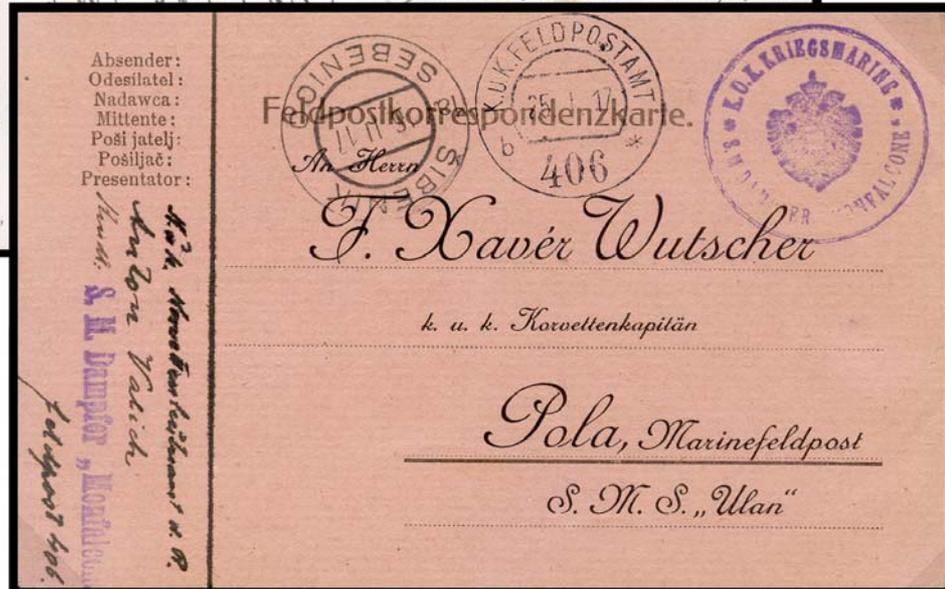
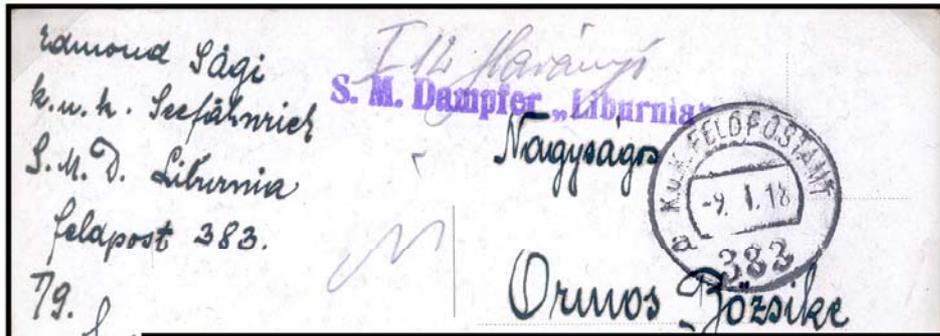
The 'S' Flotille - Submarine Search Flotilla.

The 'Such Flotille' or 'S-Flotille' was based in Pola and was made up of requisitioned steamers equipped with under-water listening devices and depth charges. S.M.Dampfer 'Pelagosa' was a typical submarine chaser of the S-Flotille. During search action she was torpedoed and sunk by the Italian submarine F7 (12.2.1918).



Card dated 7.11.16 with cachet of the 'S.M.Dampfer Pelagosa', and showing on reverse a German submarine in action in English waters.





Requisitioned steamers 'Liburnia', Slavija' and 'Monfalcone'. The 'Liburnia' was bombed by Italian aircraft on 16.4.1918 but survived. The 'Slavija' joined the Flotilla 16.2.1918 and saw action against enemy submarines in July, August and September of that year. The 'Monfalcone' did not join the Flotilla until June, 1918.

The Kreuzerflottille.

The 'Kreuzerflottillenkommando' was based in the Bight of Cattaro. Its units provided escort duties in the Adriatic, especially for Dalmatian vessels off Sebenico (under the direction of the 'Seebezirkskommando'~, and around the numerous islands from Curzola (Korcula) southwards as far as Albania. The Kreuzerflottille was not formed in response to the hostilities of WWI; it was an important part of the Kriegsmarine in the build up to the Great War.



Card with cachets of the K.u.K Kreuzerflottillenkommando, dated 10.X.16.

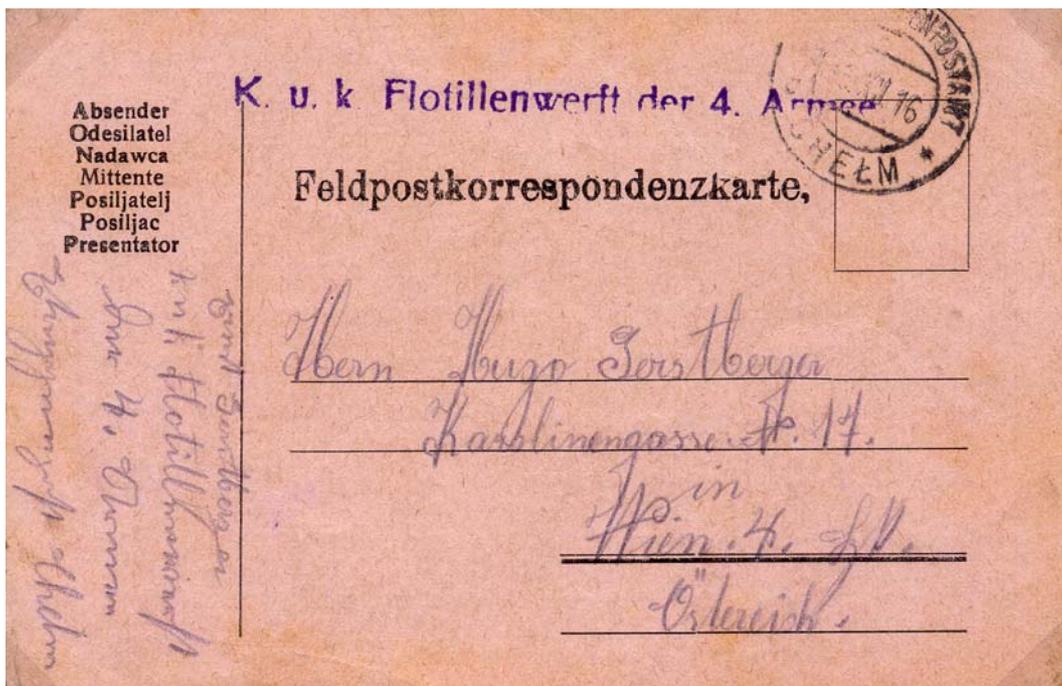
The Bug Flotilla.

The 'Bug Flotilla' was formed in the spring of 1916 under the command of the 4th Army based at Cholm (Chelm) with its shipyards at Dorohusk. Its objective was to supply transport, provisions and communications to the K.u.K. Austro-Hungarian 4th Army positions on the Eastern Front via the only navigable rivers, the Bug and the Styr. [NB: this is the Bug in Poland, not the one in Ukraine.] Flotilla personnel, recruited from pioneer and sapper regiments, were organised into the 'Flusschiffartskompagnie Nr. 4' - the River Shipping Company No.4. The flotilla was also known under the more usual name of 'K.u.K. Bugflotille'. It operated motor-boats.



Card dated 16.9.1916 (on the reverse) with the sender’s address given in manuscript as ‘k.k. Fluss-Flotille IV Comp. Etappenpost Cholm’. The violet cachet is known to have been used between 5.9.1916 and 5.11.1916.

The origin of the next item’s marking “K.u.k. Flotillenwerft der 4. Armee” (flotilla shipyard of the 4th Army) is uncertain. It is possible that the cachet was used by a small flotilla detachment sent to Krakow to take over motorboats from the Vistula Flotilla, around August 1916. The card below dated 15.XII.16 represents the latest known usage.



The sender (Ernst Garstberger, an identified member of the flotilla personnel) gives his address as 'K.u.k. Flotillenwerft, 4 Army, Dorohusk, Chelm. The card carries the Austrian base post office cancel of Chelm, introduced in July of 1916.

The Weichsel (Vistula) Flotilla.

On July 30, 1914, the day after the 'Temes' of the Danube Flotilla fired on Belgrade, the Vistula Flotilla was formed. Several steamers were requisitioned, armed and deployed on the River Vistula to protect Austrian shipping from Russian attacks in Austrian Galicia. The headquarters were in Krakow. A surprisingly high proportion of these ships were sunk or scuttled, and later raised and put back into service.



The Flotilla operated out of bases at Niepolomice and Nadbrzezic. Shown above is a card dated 8.IV. 16 carrying the violet oval anchor cachet of the Weichsel Flotilla Command in Nadbrzezic.



Card dated 23.VIII. 16 carrying the straight-line cachet of the Flotilla shipyards in Krakau and the oval anchor cachet of the tug-boat ‘Neptun’.



Oval anchor cachet of the K.u.k. Weichsel Flottillenwerft / Krakau (shipyards), card dated 13.XI.16.

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NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 2/2008: thematic: Hundertwasser; Cacti; Rats; political conflicts & recent issues; Crown Jewels (II); Swiss transit post; mail for the blind in Austria (examples and rates); bisected stamps from Ober-Tannwald; colour changes due to time and storage in PVC; the WIPA-stamps; society (includes PKMI), foreign & other news; books; readers' letters; catalogues; obituaries; etc

Issue 3/2008: 50 years of Austrian airlines; a new Wiener Neustadt cancel-on-arrival; the importance of airing-off ones collection; Franz v Lenbach (postcard artist); thematic; Opera; old-letters-quiz; new issues; society, foreign & other news; books; readers' letters; catalogues; etc

Issue 4/2008: thematic: castles; forgeries (mainly WWII of British £50); Innsbruck's Golden Roof; 1840s Austria-Bavarian post; new issues including the WIPA ones; and many smaller articles.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 81: first-issue plate fault; thimble cancels of Vienna; the 5- & 6-Rpf postcards; correct frankings with the 10 Sch costumes; 1938 rates: problems; and many other smaller articles.

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 172: March 2008: Obits for Gary Ryan; Views & reviews; Paying for a newspaper subscription in 1890; etc.

Czechout

Issue 1/2008: Reports of meetings and of exchange-journal articles; book reviews; Postex-2007; The Break-up of Austria-Hungary (8pp); questions and answers; etc etc.

Militär und Philatelie

Issue 225: Festschrift celebrating their 25th anniversary. 90 sides B/W, high quality printing – with a Personalised Stamp suitably cancelled! Many brief reviews of past achievements and future plans. Articles on the Naval air service,

Stalag XVIIIB, naval post after 1918, cachets of the railway regiments in WWI, 1683 and the Turks, WWI Fieldpost money letters, personalised stamps, and much more. The ArGe's total output of literature during these 25 years, including 6 Festschriften, 4 books, 32 brochures and hundreds of newsletters etc is estimated at 14,000 sides, which multiplied by the print run is about 4½ million sheets [*which I estimate as roughly a tonne each year! Ed*].

Issue 226: Overview of modern Austrian involvements; notes on the 25th anniversary meeting; literature sale; etc.

Germania

February 2008 vol 44 no 1: Obit: J Duggan; "Liebesgabenpacketete"**; Catapult mail in the North Atlantic; WWII "Punktverrechnungs cards"; etc etc.

** parcels sent by civilians of neutral countries to Austria etc during WWII (perhaps a Gestapo currency-raising scam?)

Wiener Ganssachsen- Frei- u Poststempelsammlerverein

Issue 1/2008: Post-WWII censorship in the French Zone, especially items with a boxed "78".

Please will everybody who has post-WWII French-censored material get in touch with the article's author via the APS Editor!

Südost-Philatelie

Vol 104-5/2008: Mur Island stamps: history or speculation?; using-up of Austrian stationery in Slovenia, 1918-21; 1919 occupied-territory overprints on Hungarian stamps; and much else.

Jugopošta

Vol 85 March 2008: this is the latest in their impressive series of Monographs. It covers in 112 pages "The Postal Rates of the Independent State of Croatia 1941-1945". Historical notes and a succinct listing of the stamp issues are followed by tables of internal, "preferential foreign", and "other foreign" rates. The illustrations are extensive, and well reproduced.

Austria Philatelic Society^{US}

Vol 8 No. 2: Austrian Rocket Mail (*11pp text*); Newspaper Stamps (*tax, not postage; translated from Ferchenbauer2000 pp 1039-49*)

Additions to the Library

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
426	“A Celebration of Austrian Philately” [The APS Anniversary Festschrift]	“The world's first regular and first international airmail service”; “The Austro-Hungarian Navy”; “The Austrian Newspaper Tax”; “Postal Use of the Austrian Lloyd's seals 1832-1905”; “Pneumatic Post facilities in Wien 25”	viii+ 162	Ingert Kuzych; John Beech; Andy Taylor; Hans Smith.	2008	E
427	Handbuch zur Briefmarken-Ausgabe 1850: Typen und Platten	The 1850 issue: types, plates etc.	80	Paul Kainbacher	2000	G
428	Postgebühren von Österreich 1919-2006 für den Inlandsverkehr	Rates & charges for every imaginable Post Office inland service; 1919-2006. [two A4 volumes each 60mm thick and each weighing 2.8Kg]	902 + 902	Paul Kainbacher	2008	G

Selected Contents of Library Book 428

Bahnvisos	Postausweiskarten
Bahnhofbriefe	Postbegleitadresse (Paketkarten)
Befreite, eingegliederte und besetzte Gebiete:	Postdienst mit den besetzten Gebieten
Botenlohn	Postordnungen und Erlasse
Briefe mit Wertangabe (Wertbriefe)	Postscheckdienst
Briefsendungen ohne Wertangabe	Postsparkassenamt
Dringendgebühr	Postvollmachten
Eingeschriebene Briefsendungen	Rohrpostbeförderung
Einsammelgebühren	Schließfächer (Postfach)

Feldpost ab 1939	Spatlingssendungen
Flugpostverkehr	Telegraphengebühren
Freimachungsstempelmaschinen	Unbestellbarkeit
Kleines Walsertal und Jungholz	Verzollungspostgebühren
Kriegsgefangenenpost	Wiedervereinigten Gebiete
Lagerzins	Zeitungspostordnung
Pakete	Zurückforderung einer Postsendung
Postanweisungen	Zurücksendung
Postaufgabescheine	

A review of the book is planned for a future issue of this Journal!

Bookmarks

“*The History and Postal History of the Town of Smyrna up to the end of the Greek period*” by Wolf Dinslage, published 2007 by ARGE Griechenland e V im BDH eV, spiral bound, 284p, 30cm, price UK £20 + p&p £2.50. Enquiries to mike@mikefulford.plus.com This book deals with Smyrna from 10th century BC until 1923; it includes a chapter on the history of the Austrian post office. It has been translated into English and expanded.

“*The Postal History of the Anschluss: The German Annexation of Austria, 1938*” by Tony Hickey, Ian Nutley, David Taylor and Colin Tobitt. 8 + 181 pages. Chapters cover The First Republic 1919-1934; Engelbert Dollfuss; The Road to Berchtesgaden; Invasion!; Hitler’s Plebiscite - The Vote; From Austria to Ostmark; Postal Cancellations in the Ostmark; Propaganda; Gleichschaltung (Coordination); Ephemera; and Anti-Semitism in Austria. A review and further details will appear in the next issue.

Book Review: POW & DP Facilities in Occupied Austria 1945-50

Written and Published by Richard A. Krueger. 378pp, in English, 280x215mm. Available from the author at PO Box 441004, Ft. Washington, Maryland 20744, USA. E-mail: richardkrueger@aol.com Price: \$60 airmail to UK.

At the suggestion of “friends”, member Richard Krueger has undertaken in-depth research and study of numerous archives in the US, UK and Austria to produce this book on the facilities used to house POWs and Displaced Persons in Austria after the cessation of World War II hostilities in Europe. Not only were there the captured German war prisoners to cope with, there was the seemingly endless influx of refugees of many nationalities from the north, east and south. To add to this there were the indigenous Austrian population made homeless by Allied bombing or Russian artillery barrages which levelled much of Vienna and the surrounding area; and the ethnic Germans (Volks Deutsch) who were no longer welcome and being driven out of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Ukraine.

In January 1945 an agreement was reached that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) would coordinate the refugee relief in Austria as areas were liberated from the Nazis. However, the Soviets refrained from any dealings with the UNRRA and its successor IRO.

Krueger has identified approximately 600 refugee and POW facilities operating in Austria during the period from 1945 to 1950. Some had just a few inmates (hospitals, schools and orphanages), while the larger camps had several hundreds of residents. All facilities are listed by zones of Allied occupation, with a short history of administration authorities, numbers and nationalities of inmates, camp maps, photographs and examples of mail to and from POW or DP inmates where these were available. An extensive cross index lists the facilities by name, number and postal address. The book also covers the Austrian “de-Nazification facility” at Camp Marcus W. Orr, Salzburg.

A 1946 census of Austria refugee facilities found that there were approximately 456,000 refugees in the country at that time. The majority of these DP facilities were in the American and British Zones, with a lesser number in the French Zone and relatively few in the Soviet Zone.

This is an interesting area of Austrian postal history which has been overlooked by many as what you are looking for, in the vast majority of cases of out-going mail, is the return address on the envelope rear flap.

For those who are interested, this book will prove to be a unique resource, further enhanced by its extensive bibliography.

Colin Tobitt.

A WORLD WAR EXHIBITION IN LEMBERG

by Inger Kuzych [¹]

I recently came across two very interesting military-produced postcards depicting buildings constructed for a 1916 war-time exposition in Lemberg. I had never heard of such an exhibition and I'm hoping this article may generate some more information about this event and these cards.

Description of the Cards

June of 1916 – when the cards were posted – was a relatively peaceful time for the citizens of Lemberg who were recovering from the almost 10-month Russian occupation that had ended only a year before.^[ⁱ] To help celebrate the first anniversary of the liberation, the Second Army Command [ⁱⁱ] decided to set up a “War Exhibition.” [ⁱⁱⁱ]

Both cards were probably produced by the military printing office of the Second Army, since the reverse of each displays a simple vertical, dotted, dividing line and four horizontal, dotted address lines (with the third line thickened) so typical of the Austrian military-produced postcards of the war. The cards were sent free-franked (i.e., postage free, without any stamps) via field post offices by Lt. Josef Kaspar, a member of the K.u.k. Kraftwagenkolonne 5 (Motor Column No. 5) stationed in Lemberg, to a Mr. Karl Kaus in Vienna.

Both items were written in German and the earlier card (Figure 1), mailed 13 June 1916 through Field Post 201, has a message in the upper left corner of the reverse describing the image that appears on the obverse: “A pavilion for the 22 June opening of the War Exhibit of the 2nd Army in Lemberg.”

The second card, mailed 31 July 1916 via Field Post 240, has a message next to the image: “Church at the War Exhibit of the K.u.k. 2nd Army in Lemberg.” (Figure 2). On the reverse of this card, in the lower left corner, is a little note that says: “Many thanks for the series cards.” This may indicate that the two correspondents were exchanging postcards depicting topics of interest to them.

It appears that the material of choice for the vast majority of the construction that took place was timber. Stonework would have been minimal, since all of the buildings were temporary – even the church and its belfry – and would have been dismantled by the Second Army at the conclusion of the Exhibition.

¹ My thanks to Peter Cybaniak and Roman Dubyniak who reviewed an early draft of this article and supplied me with helpful suggestions as well as further information on the composition of the Second Army and Transcarpathian wooden churches

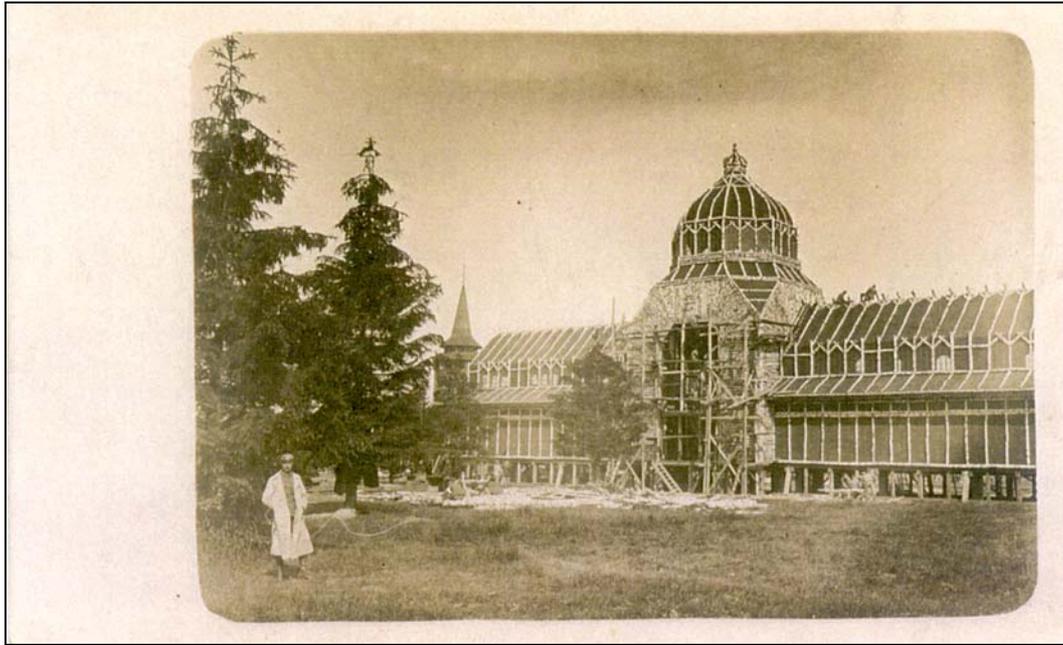


Figure 1. The obverse and reverse of a card showing a pavilion under construction for the World War Exhibition held in Lemberg during the summer of 1916.





Figure 2. The obverse and reverse of a card showing a wooden church – reminiscent in style of those seen in the Ukrainian Carpathians – on the grounds of the War Exhibition in Lemberg.



Kraftwagenkolonne 5 was a motorized transport column – as opposed to horse-drawn – and the writer of the cards probably helped transport the wood used for constructing the exhibition buildings. So, he was quite proud of his contribution to the effort – hence the postcards.

Discussion of the Card Images

The building under construction on the first card may have been the main pavilion of the exhibition. It was certainly one of the most important and its



very shape was meant to reflect the grandeur of the Empire. The dome of the structure was topped by a crown very reminiscent of the imperial crown of Rudolf II, with which the Austrian monarchs had themselves invested [^{iv}]. The dome itself also mimics the crown's shape. The dual wings of the pavilion may have been meant to reflect the Austrian and Hungarian halves of the Empire. The entire shape of the structure roughly

approximates the entrance to the Hofburg (Imperial Palace), as seen from the Michaelerplatz in Vienna [^v]

The Austro-Hungarian Empire encompassed a lot of mountainous territory including most of the true Alps, the Dinaric Alps, the Transylvanian Alps, and the Carpathian Mountains. This latter range was thickly wooded and it was here, in the mountain villages and foothills, that native folk architecture flourished. Over time, a tremendous variety of beautiful houses of worship were created, a great many of which have been preserved in eastern Slovakia, southern Poland, north-central Romania, and, most especially, in western Ukraine.

The style of wooden church depicted in Figure 2, with an attached, ornately decorated belfry, [^{vi}] is fairly typical of the types of wooden churches found in the Transcarpathian Province (Carpatho-Ukraine) of western Ukraine, or in the Lemko region of eastern Slovakia (whose populace is ethnographically Ukrainian). The bell tower, with its many openings, may have served as an observation platform where visitors to the exposition could oversee the entire exhibition grounds.



The conical roofs seen at the entrance to the church compound on the left, as well as on the building to the right of the church, are also reminiscent of this type of Carpathian craftsmanship. It is quite likely, therefore, that the architect of the church shown on the card was Ukrainian, perhaps an officer serving in the Austro-Hungarian Army.

Might a closer look at the composition of the units making up the Second Army provide further clues? Orders from 4 June 1916 show that the Second Army, headquartered in Brody, consisted of the 4th Corps, the 5th Corps, Group Kosak, and, in Reserve, the 29th Infantry Division and the 29th Cavalry Brigade. The ethnic composition of the 4th Corps was Hungarian, Slovak, and German; that of the 5th Corps was German, Hungarian, and Romanian. In the Reserve, the ethnic make up was Slovak, Hungarian, German, and Czech. No Ukrainian units anywhere.

The remaining Group Kosak consisted of the 53rd and 54th Infantry Brigades. The former was made up of two Hungarian-Slovak regiments. However, the 54th Infantry Brigade was made up of Infantry Regiment No.67 (Slovak) and Infantry Regiment No. 85 (Ukrainian and Romanian). Since a regiment in 1916 was composed of about 4,500 men, some 2,250 of the men would have been Ukrainians. The recruitment base for Infantry Regiment No. 85 was Syhit (Sighetu Marmatiei), on the Carpatho-Ukrainian (Hutsul^[vii]) Romanian ethnographic border. So the architect of the wooden church and belfry was probably a Ukrainian Hutsul serving officer from K.u.K. Infantry Regiment No. 85 who came from the Syhit district.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have further information about the 1916 Lemberg exhibition. I may be reached at: P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 USA or by email at: ingert@starpower.net

Notes:

ⁱ The Russians entered Lemberg 2-3 September 1914 and were not driven out till 22 June 1915.

ⁱⁱ The Second Army had been granted the honour of entering Lemberg first and so was considered the relieving army.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Lemberg exhibition was a sort of regional version of a larger War Exhibition that opened in Vienna in July of 1916, ran through November 1916, closed for the winter, and then re-opened for the spring and summer of 1917.

^{iv} The imperial crown on the Austrian 10-heller value of the 1916 (Netto 188).

^v The entrance to the Hofburg as seen on a 1972 Austrian 4-schilling stamp (Netto 1415) commemorating the Conference of European Post, Telegraph, and Telephone (PTT) Ministers.

^{vi} In most of the other areas of Galicia, then under Austrian rule, the belfrys tended to be built separately from the church proper and were generally not as elaborately constructed.

^{vii} The Hutsul highlanders of the Carpathians form a unique Ukrainian ethnic subgroup, widely renowned for their mastery with wood as well as for their amazingly detailed and beautiful folk art (embroidery, ceramics, leather work, wood sculpture, and egg decorating).

WANTED!

The International Philatelic Exhibition in London on 8 - 15 May 2010 seeks volunteers to help with a range of tasks including mounting and dismantling exhibits [*both before/after and in the middle: there's a complete exhibit-change on 11/12 May!*]; supervising the build and dismantling of frames; organisers office and bin room support; staffing information stands; preparing seminar and awards rooms; placing sponsor labels, ribbons and results on frames; arranging transport; and much else.

If you wish to be a volunteer at London 2010 please send your surname, date of birth; first names, full postal address with postcode, telephone, e-mail address plus a note of your skills & previous exhibition experience to:

Richard Stock, Moor Cottage, Manorial Road, Parkgate, Neston, South Wirral, CH64 6QW.