

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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

EDITORIAL 163

By Andy Taylor

WIPA calls us, somewhat earlier than expected – and several dozen members, partners and friends are about to wend their way from many countries to Vienna. “Hey Ho, Hey Ho, to WIPA we shall go!” We have arranged for a Society Stand (No. A22), shared with our partners from Innsbruck, and hope to see you there. We’re also planning a Discussion, from 17:00 to 19:00 on Friday 19th, on a theme of “Literature: what of use has been written, what is being written, and what is nobody writing but it would be wonderful if they did”.

Inurance and similar matters again: readers may wish to consider if these scenarios could apply to them. (a) A member of another society has been burgled; it must have been targeted, maybe even stolen-to-order, as the material was a medal-winning mounted collection of Czechoslovakian prephilately which is unlikely to attract buyers at a car boot sale. The victim has photographic records of much of it, which would aid identification should it be offered for philatelic sale. (b) Someone else had a collection which had significantly increased in market value; however he hadn’t got round to increasing the insurance cover. Disaster struck, and much of the collection was lost. The underwriters said “The market value of your total collection had risen to £2X; your insurance was only for £X; so we only pay half the value of what you lost.”. (c) “Schofield’s Laws” were recently featured in the Guardian; his theme is computers, but the message may be more general... (i) Never put data into a program until you can see exactly how to get it out (ii) Data doesn’t really exist until you have at least two copies of it. [*Taylor’s Rejoinder states that two copies of the same data are always slightly different.*] (iii) The easier you make it to access your data, the easier you make it for someone else to access your data.

Pleas from the members who collect Euro-era stamps: “where are the lists?”. These have not been abandoned, despite some other members’ views on anything after 1918. It’s a rare but welcome phenomenon: too much other material to publish. Look out for Mexico in the next issue! Normal service, accompanied by exhortations that someone should please write something, will resume in 2009.

Awards and medals – it’s too early to report anything achieved at WIPA, but meanwhile Congratulations to Hans Smith who got a large vermeil at the Bucharest international in June for a 5-frame display on The Austrian Post in the Balkans. (“Large vermeil is apparently as high as one can get these days with a 5-frame display”). See also the next page ☺

A Letter from the ABPS Public Relations Committee**Society Journal of the Year**

Dear Mr Taylor

The judges have just announced the results of the 2008 Competition, and the outcome is shown on the attached page. You will see that “Austria” has been awarded first place in the Specialist Society Class and is to be congratulated on its success. The award brings a Certificate of Commendation to the Editor and a cheque for £100 to the Society. The results will be officially announced at the ABPS Annual General meeting to be held on Saturday, 12 July, at 2pm, in The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. You, the Editor, or a representative of your society, are cordially invited to attend the meeting to receive the Certificate. Please let me know if you wish to attend. If you cannot come the award will be sent by post.

I would like to thank you and the Austrian Philatelic Society for supporting the competition, and offer you the ABPS’s congratulations.

(Signed Bill Robertson, Chairman)

Society Journal of the Year

Once again the local and specialist society journals were judged by John Holman, Editor of the British Philatelic Bulletin (and former Editor of Gibbons Stamp Monthly) and Glenn Morgan, philatelic author and journalist, and for many years the Librarian of the National Philatelic Society.

John and Glenn were impressed by the overall standard of the entries, praising the high quality of the articles, editing and production. All the journals had a good mix of content, to appeal to a wide audience, and included reports of the society's activities. It was not an easy task to decide the winners.

There were two entries for the local society journal category. Redditch Philatelic Society's Newsletter “Halcyon” was the winner with Southampton Philatelic Society's “Postmark” very close behind in the scoring.

“Austria”, journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society, was judged the best of the eight specialist society entries, with “The Transvaal Philatelist” (Transvaal Study Circle) and “238” journal and 'Newsletter' of the Faroe Islands Study Circle in joint second place. The Bulletin of the Andorran Philatelic Study Circle was third. The societies and their editors can be proud of their publications, an important aspect of the work of any specialist philatelic society.

[Thanks to Joyce Boyer, who first noticed this competition, and to Colin Tobitt who represented the APS at the ABPS AGM. Ed.]

The APS Bookshop

(See also <http://www.austrianphilately.com/publications/index.htm>)

To purchase these items, contact the Treasurer or the Editor.

- ❖ Note that **P&P is extra** for everything except CDs. The cost will depend on what you order and where you are; when you place an order we'll contact you with the total cost.
- ❖ **“A Celebration of Austrian Philately”**: the APS 60th anniversary ‘Festschrift’. viii+162 pp A4 in full colour. Members £36, dealers £36, others £45; plus P&P.
- ❖ **“The Pneumatic Post in Vienna”** now reprinted in one A4 volume, and still only £40 (£32 to members) plus P&P – cheap at twice the price!
- ❖ **“The Postmarks of Dalmatia”**: Supplied complete with a just-compiled 20-page update to the section on Military Unit Cachets (pages 166-171) at £30 plus P&P.
- ❖ **Index to “Die Briefmarke”** complete to 1999; in German but then so is the magazine! Prepared by Dr Moser of PKM Innsbruck. Price for APS members is £12. Sent in MSWord on CD or by email.
- ❖ **“The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps”** by Dr. Stephan Koczynski: this definitive work has long been out of print and almost impossible to obtain. We have now enhanced the original and published it **on CD** in fully-text-searchable form. The CD includes (1) the main text (pages 1-802 & colour plates I-IX); (2) a companion document with the original Introduction and Contents list plus a translation of both; (3) excerpts of “Fromme’s Wiener Auskunft-Kalender”; and (4) a review article by Martin Brumby entitled “The 1854 Adhesive Revenue Stamps of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia” Original page scans are also provided, so that anyone doubting our reading of the many unusual German words may check for herself. The CD costs £12 including postage to anywhere in the world. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-07-4
- ❖ **Back numbers of “Austria”**: Nos 1-99 are £2.25 each; later issues £1.75. For ten or more ordered at the same time, a reduced price applies of £2.00 for nos 1-99, £1.50 for 100 onwards. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Special offer: 1 copy of each issue of Austria, ie numbers 1 to date, will be sent to you for £275. **Binders** for ‘Austria’ cost £3.75 and hold 10-12 earlier issues, 8 of the recent issues. All plus P&P.
- ❖ Non-members may also purchase back numbers, at twice the above prices. It may be better value to join the Society!
- ❖ See the inside back cover for **“ways of paying”**

OLOMOUC POSTAL HISTORY, 1818 TO 1918

based on a display at Harrogate-2008 by Derek Baron

Introduction

Olomouc, the old capital of Moravia (1187-1641), is a university city and the seat of archbishops from 1063. Despite the destruction of the 30 Years War and of World War II, there are many fine palaces and beautiful baroque churches as well as a gothic cathedral. The Town Hall with its 230ft tower and astronomical clock (wooden workers not saints mark the hours as it was restored by the communists after WWII) is only one feature of the main square. What draws the eye is the tallest Trinity Column in the Czech Republic with its baroque statuary, now a World Heritage site.

The display illustrated some of the postal history of Olomouc during the period when it was part of the Austrian Empire, until 1918 October 28, the date of the founding of Czechoslovakia. In common with other Austrian post offices 1818 is the date when handstamps with the town name 'OLMÜTZ' (in German) were first used because the method of charging postage changed to include the distance travelled; and since postage was usually paid by the recipient an indication of the origin became important.

[I have selected a few of the 80 sheets, mainly for their reproducibility here; and consistently if perhaps anachronistically followed the display's use of 'Olomouc'. Ed]

Post Offices

Illustrated is the gradual change in sophistication of the cancellations from simple linear cancels with the town name only to cancellations which eventually showed the full date and time of posting. The number of post offices also greatly increased towards the end of the century and nationalistic stirring prompted the use of bilingual (German-Czech) date stamps. This last development produced several errors as the Austrian authorities struggled with Czech spelling and grammar.

Military Post

Olomouc has always been a garrison city and the military contribution to handstamps used on post has not been neglected. During World War I at least two Olomouc territorial regiments were incorporated in the Austrian Army (most deserted to the Allied side) and some regimental cachets on post are

shown. Several hospitals were opened in Olomouc, the largest in a monastery, Klaster Hradisko (Olomouc 10) which is still used as a military hospital, and cachets from others are also shown.

Travelling Post Offices

The Austrian railways radiating from Vienna reached Olomouc in 1841 which became an important railway centre for Northern Moravia with connections to Prague (1845), Krakow, Poland and Zilina, Slovakia. The network of railways was soon used by the post office and eventually several Travelling Post Offices (TPOs) with their own cancellers were established.



Heavy legal letter sent on 14 May 1834 from the Magistrat in Olomouc to the district office in Fulnek. Unique registration cancel. Prepayment X in black. Registration 'grid' at top right, and serial number at top left, both in red crayon. On the back is 12/4, indicating prepayment of 12 Kr postage plus 4 Kr registration.

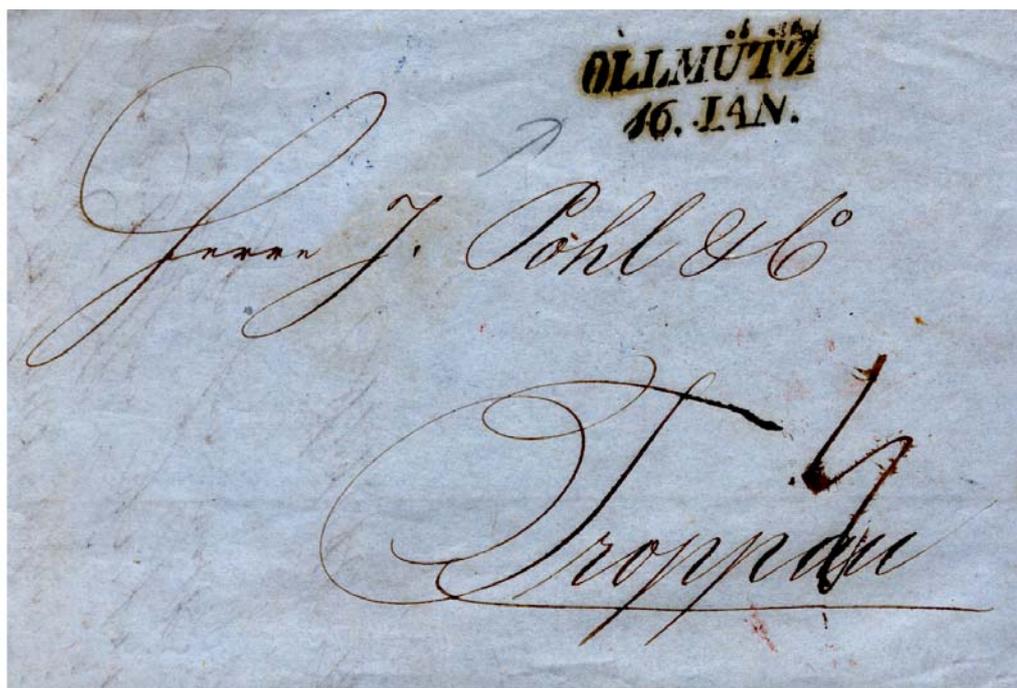
In the early 18th century, Protestant refugees from this area fled from persecution to England, and set up a Moravian community which they named Fulneck, a few miles from Leeds.



Legal letter sent on 23 June 1835 from Olomouc to the Magistrat in Trübau (Moravská Třebová). Framed cancel in unusual script. Official mail so post-free.



Letter dated 7 August 1836 sent from Brunn to Olomouc. Receiving cancel (on the back) includes the year, which was only mandatory from 1867!



Letter sent on 16 Jan 1840 from Olomouc to Troppau. Note that between 1840 and 1865, the town's name was written **OLLMÜTZ**. Postage of 4 Kr paid by addressee.



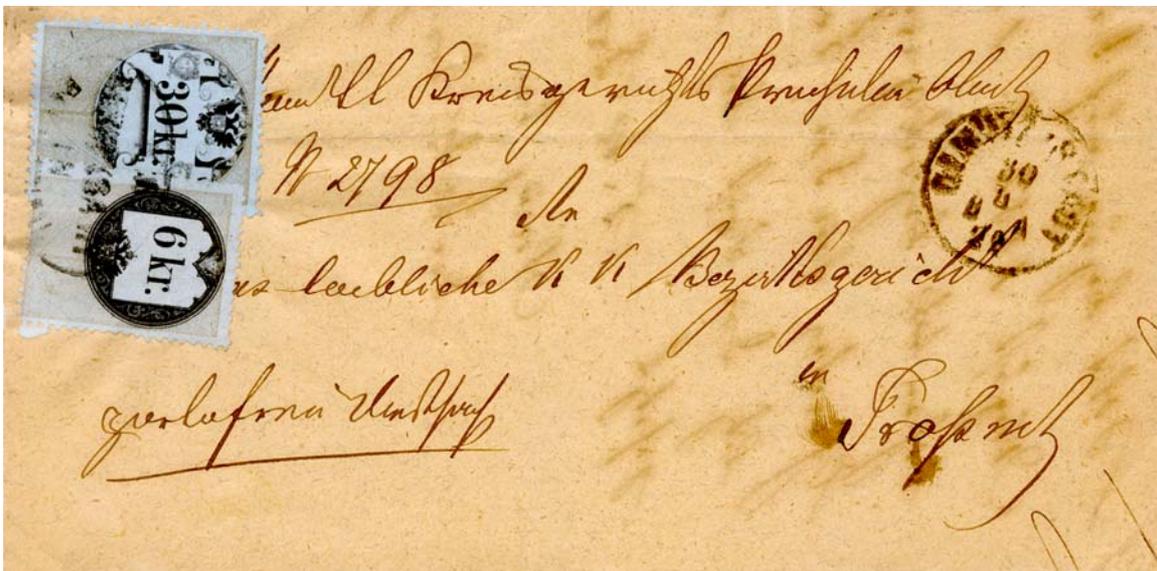
Registered letter from Olomouc to a doctor at Leitomischl. Posted 12 September 1851; franked with 3 Kr first issue cancelled *Olmütz* in italic script. No indication that the registration fee was paid!



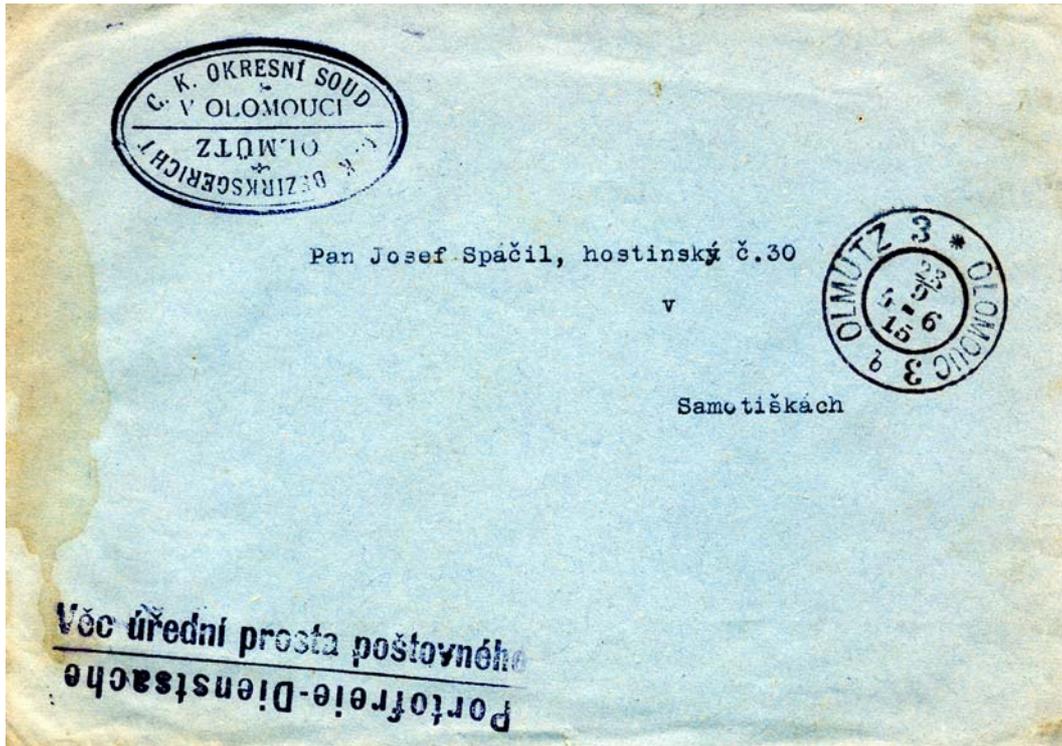
Cancellers prepared in Vienna sometimes had grammatical or spelling errors. Above is part of a letter cancelled on 29 April 1874 with OLMÜTZ STADT HOLOMOUC MESTO; by 26 May a new canceller had been issued with OLMÜTZ STADT OLOMOUC MESTO.

This is roughly equivalent to a British canceller with ARROGATE or LUNNON, which is how some locals allegedly pronounce it!

The Viennese engravers also had trouble with Czech case endings.



Letter to the Bezirksgericht in Prossnitz from the Kreisgericht in Olomouc, sent 30 Aug 1882 with single-circle cancel OLMÜTZ–STADT. A legal document was enclosed, and 36 Kr revenue adhesives cancelled K K BEZIRKSAMT IN PROSSNITZ were applied to pay the appropriate fee.



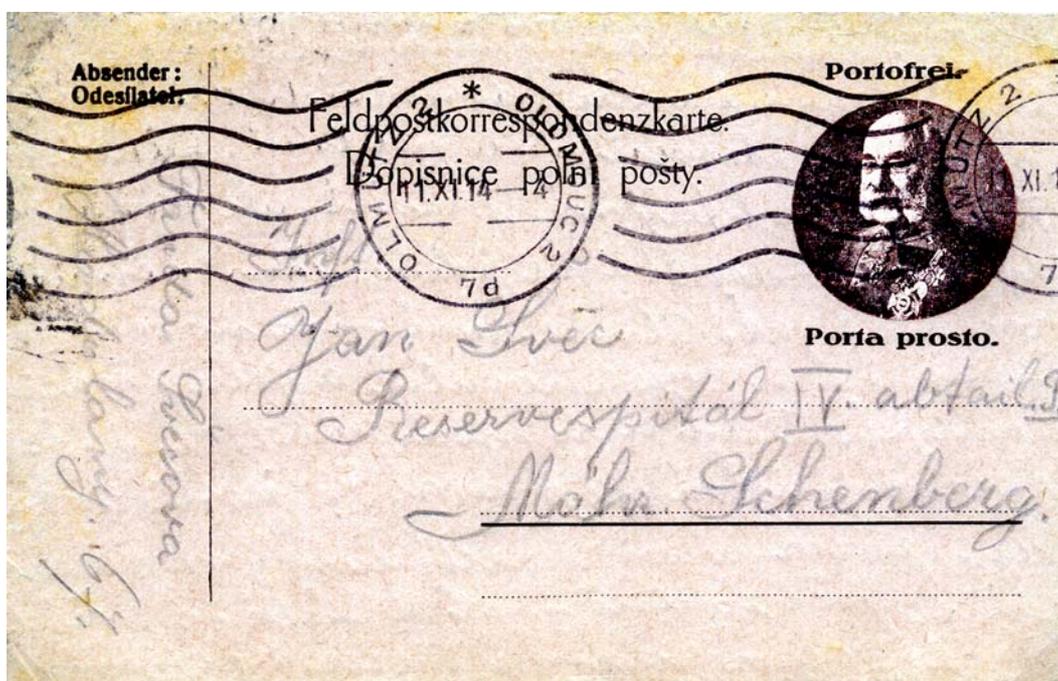
Letter posted 23 Sep 1915 from the district court in Olomouc; cancel OLMÜTZ 3 * OLOMOUC 3; note the bilingual handstamps for the court and the free postage, made tete-beche so that Czechs didn't have to look at the German text!



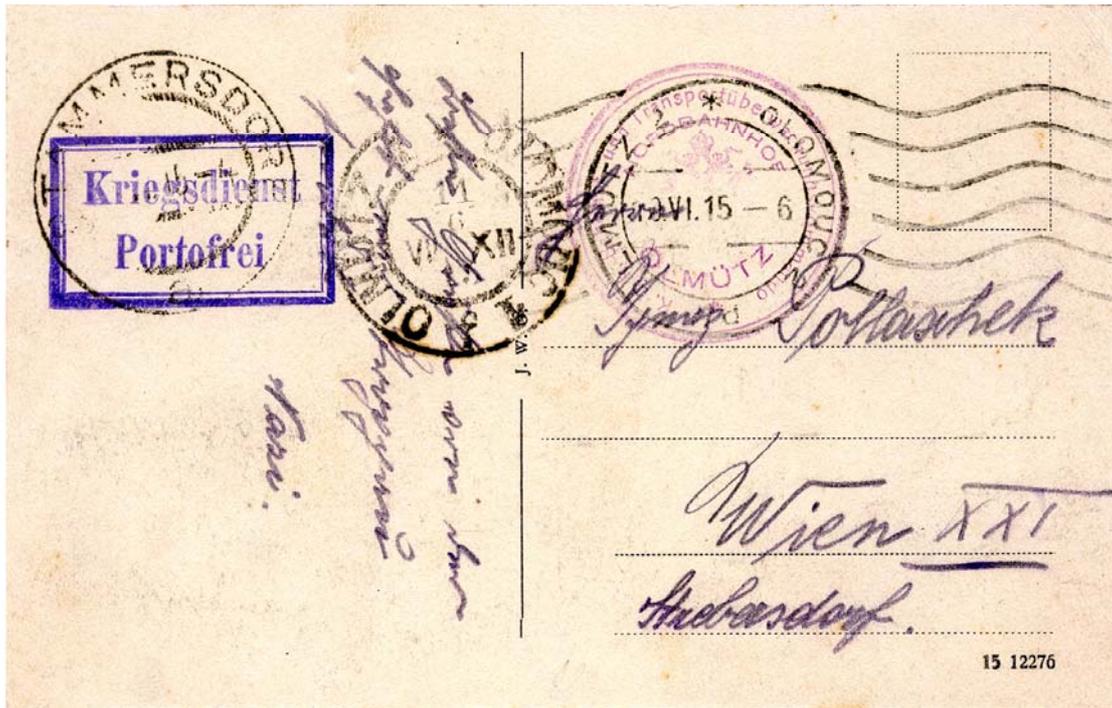
Postcard sent on 7 Aug 1907 from CHRUDIM (CDS) to Chvalcovice. Unusual Postablage receiving cancel CHVALKOVICE u OLOMOUCE * CHWALKOVICE BEI OLMÜTZ. The original display included translations of the messages on such cards, showing that they were sent to and from real people and not for the sole benefit of philatelists...



Postcard to Mladá Boleslav (Jungbunzlau), 1 Nov 1899, from an army recruit in Olomouc. Cancel OLMÜTZ 1 * OLOMOUC 1. “Dear Parents .. today I have officially become an infantry soldier ... I have to admit to financial difficulties because we have to buy all our necessities such as brushes by ourselves...”



Special free-post card sent 11 Nov 1914 from a wife in Hodolany to her husband in a Reserve Hospital in Mähr. Schenberg. Roller cancel OLMÜTZ 2 * OLOMOUC 2.



This field-post card was sent on 10 June 1915 via Olomouc to Vienna. It has an impressive array of cancels and cachets: “Kriegsdienst / Portofrei” in violet; “STAMMERSDORF”; “OLMÜTZ 2 * OLOMOUC 2” with 6 wavy lines; “OLMÜTZ 1 * OLOMOUC 1”; and in magenta “K.u.K Bahnhof und Transportüberwachungskommando NORDBAHNHOF OLMUTZ”!



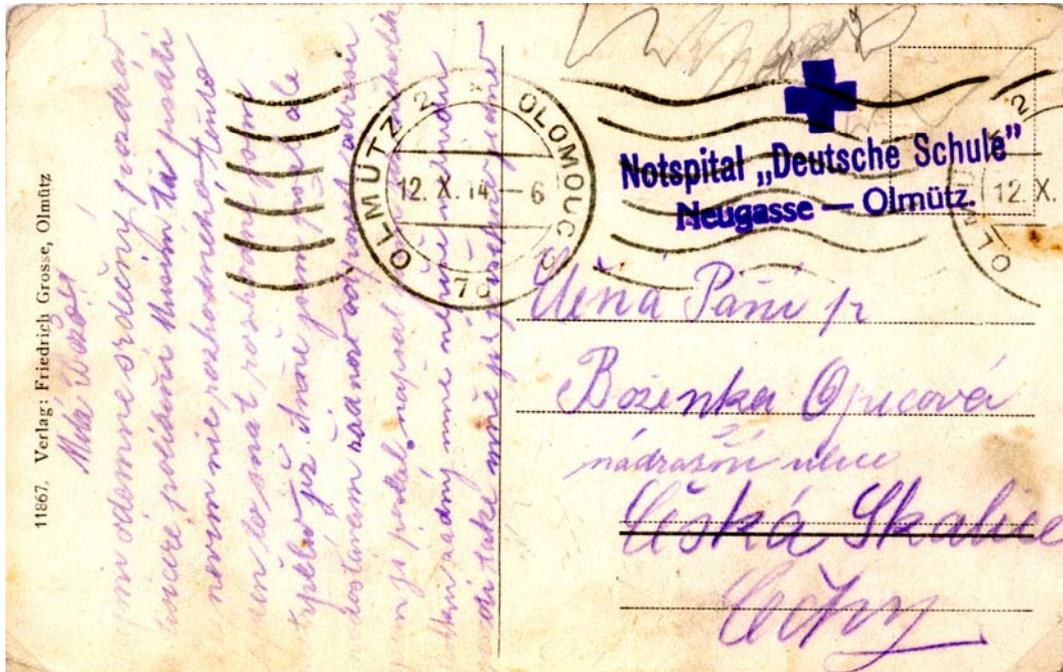


Field-post card from one of the two local Territorial Army Regiments, Olomouc 13, to Prague, 13 Sept 1915.



Red Cross POW card written in the local dialect by an Olomouc woman to her son-in-law, who was in a camp in Russia. CDS “OLMÜTZ 1 * OLOMOUC 1” dated 7 May 1916. Red triangular censor mark “K.u.K GEMEINS ZENTR NACHW.BURG / ZENSUR-ABTEILUNG WIEN”. Purple rectangular Russian censor mark. Message “... Aunt Janova died on New Year’s Day, and Siröovi and Dvorakova took everything – they didn’t give anything to the kids, not even her glasses...”

There were eight **Military Hospitals** in Olomouc during WWI; all had different cachets. This is one in a converted school.



OLOMOUC 2 roller cancel, 12 Oct 1914.



Postcard dated 25 June 1916 to the sender’s brother who is with a regiment in Styria. Two cancels during despatch: “NEUGASSE b. OLMÜTZ * NOVA ULICE u OLOMOUCE” and “OLMÜTZ 1 * OLOMOUC 1”. Also red cachet “MAHRISCHE LANDESKRANKEN ANSTALTEN OLMÜTZ K.u.K. Militär Spital”.



A salt mill in Hodolany, a suburb of Olomouc, was converted into an isolation hospital for cholera victims. This disinfected card was sent on 13 Dec 1916 to Field-post 155. The oval cachet says “K.u.K. EPIDEMIE-RESERVESPITAL SALZERGUT B. OLMUTZ”



Several Travelling Post Offices passed through Olomouc. This is Route 75 “NEZAMISLITZ – ZIEGENHALS”, dated 26 Jan 1905, and part of the Nezamislitz – Olomouc – Krnov – Ziegenhals line opened in 1898. Schraffenstempel from SCHMIEDEBERG.



Travelling Post Offices Route 458 “KOSTELEZ – OLMUTZ”, opened in 1901. The card was sent on 27 Sept 1907 to Repcine u Olomouc, a suburb.

A mid-2008 missive from the treasurer

WAYS OF PAYING: If paying by cheque, please send sterling cheques payable to 'APS' and drawn on a UK bank. If you can only send a foreign currency cheque, please add the equivalent of £10 to it, to cover the charges made by our bank. We take international money orders payable in sterling. Or send current bank notes; we welcome pounds sterling, US dollars and Euro. Members wishing to use credit cards should contact the Treasurer (there's a small surcharge; Visa and Mastercard are accepted). Finally, we have a Paypal account: use jeressos@csmascent.com as the account identifier and clearly notate your payment with “for what and from whom” – and please add £1 to cover Paypal’s charges to us.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS etc

Ernst's Document

Ernst sent me the illustrated item, seeking information on it: in particular who wrote it, who got the money, and where. It is 285 x 113 mm on paper so thin that the reverse shows through badly (here, the “front” is on the left).



John Whiteside has explained it thus: It is a (Foreign) Bill of Exchange (Wechsel). It was made out by Albert Hoffmann & Co. in Görlitz (Prussian Silesia) on 13 Oct 1897 for “fr 1159 en or”, that is 1159 francs in gold. It was to

become due on 19 May 1898 and payable to M. Pavli Flamourakis of Chios. Chios was an island in the Aegean, which belonged to Turkey, it being at the start of the passage into Smyrna.

In order for the German Bill charge to be assessed, the sum must be converted to marks. 100 marks equalled 125 francs, so the sum was 927.20 marks. This fell between 800 and 1000 marks for which the bill charge was 50 pfennig. Hence the German Wechsel stamp of M.0.50 in olive dated 13 October 97.

The next event was that the Trieste branch of the Union bank bought the bill. On 11 Feb 1898, Albert Hoffmann & Co. signed on the back of the bill that they had received the value. This is the violet endorsement on the back immediately below the German bill stamp. The bill was then sent to Trieste.

A 20 heller Austrian Fiscal was applied and cancelled 16 Feb 1898 at the Hauptzollamt in Triest. This was a fixed duty of some kind, but what I do not know. It was less than the Bill tax of 80h, but more than the receipt tax of 10h. A numbered handstamp of the Union bank was struck on the front of the bill in green. (See below for a brief explanation of the use of heller fiscals in 1898.)

On 7 May 1898, the bill was paid by the Union bank to the Austrian Lloyd in Triest, as shown by the red handstamps on the back lower centre. There is also a violet handstamp "SANS FRAIS", which means without reduction or fee.

On 9 May 1898 they paid it into the Austrian Lloyd account at Scio (Italian for Chios) and the bill duly got there on "6/18 May" 1898. This is indicated by the violet endorsements at the bottom of the back. [*The '6' is probably the 18th expressed in the Julian calendar.*]

The following day, 19 May 1898, M. Flamourakis received the payment. This is indicated by the writing in Greek across the Turkish Bill stamp, on the front, which he has signed.

The adhesive is a Turkish Bill of Exchange stamp of 3 piastres. At the left, reading up, there is DE PIASTRES/4001-6000, i.e. the duty was 3 piastres for 4001-6000 piastres. It remains to account for this.

In 1908, the par value was that 22.875 francs equalled the Turkish Pound, which, for commercial transactions, was 108 piastres. Thus 1159 francs can be shown to equal 5472 piastres, so it is within the range shown on the Turkish bill stamp.

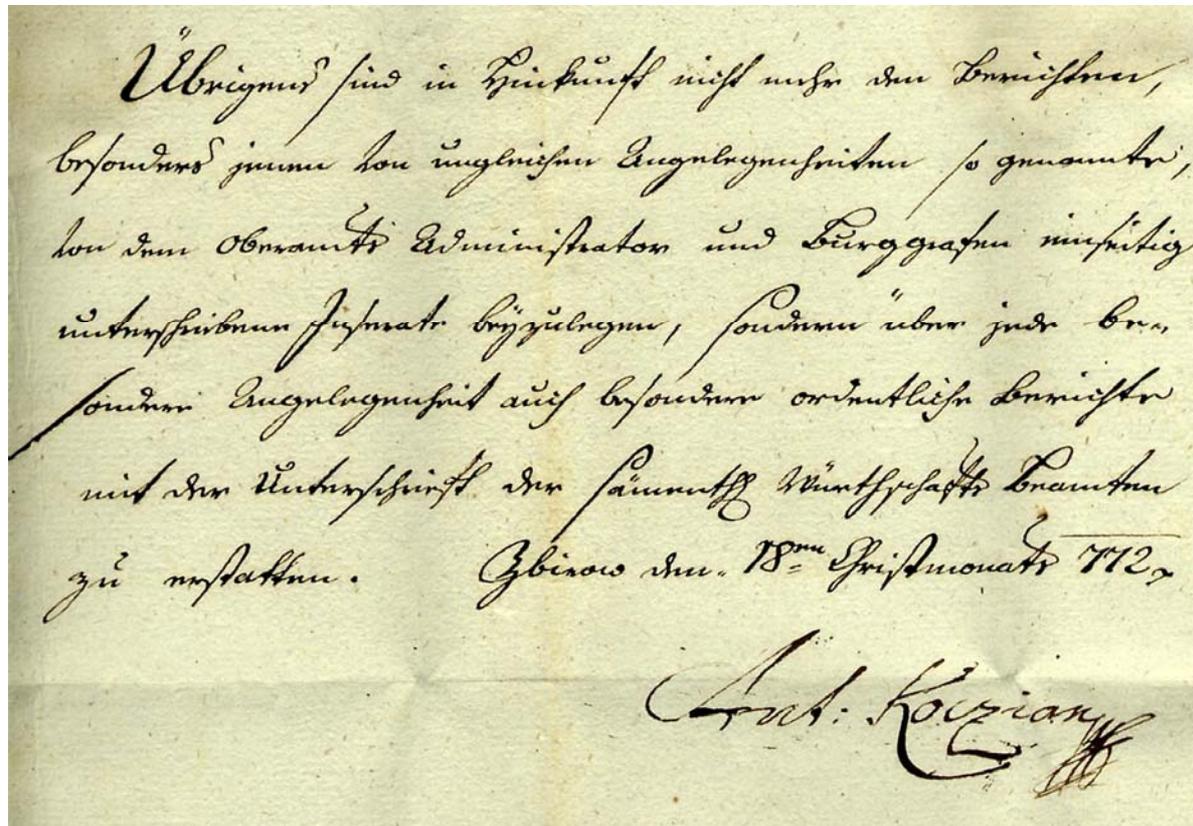
The currency change from gulden/kreuzer to kronen/heller: The gold krone was introduced by a law of 1892. Its value was to be such that it was to equal

10d. British, or the par of exchange would be 24 kronen = £1 sterling. Further, 2 new kronen were to equal 1 old gulden, thus recognising the around-16% drop in value of the gulden, which had actually occurred in 1859.

It was quite a leisurely change, completed on 1 Jan 1900, when postal rates were altered. But, new fiscal stamps were issued from 1 Jan 1898 and the tax rates were now in the new money. For example, the tax on a half-yearly school report of 15 kreuzer became 30 heller and I have a 30h of the new issue used in Jan 1898 on such a report. The use of the 20 heller on this Bill is thus quite an early use of the new fiscals.

New discovery for me anyway!

Keith Brandon writes: You should be able to read the dateline on the attached as 18 Something (1)772. Fortunately, the recipient noted on the back that he received the letter on 25 Xbris, i.e. December, so we know the month from that. Looking again at the dateline, I think that the month is "Christmonat". I've never seen Christmonat for December before. Have you? Another addendum for the Beginner's Guide!



An unusual form

Reclamationsfrist 6 Monate.

Aufgabe-Schein
über eine Postanweisung Nr. 268

an *K. K. Postamt*
in *Postcaffe*

Barzahlung 5 fl. 44 kr.

Anweisungs-Gebühr 5 Markten

Rückschein-Gebühr

Hebungs-Gebühr am Aufgebote

telegraph. Gebühr

Post-Gebühr

Anweisung

5-60

K. K. Postamt
Postcaffe
D. S. 158. N 369

Zusammen fl. 18

am 18 9

Nur für die Adresse

This form is stuck to a postcard, and appears to be a receipt for a money transfer connected with the message on the card. (a) Does anyone know more about such forms? (b) Would whoever sent me it please remind me who they are!

And in the Winter issue...

Currently "in hand" are articles on:

- ❖ Postal History of Sibiu
- ❖ Maximilian's castle by the sea
- ❖ Second Mexican Empire
- ❖ Reports from Praha and WIPA and Winchester
- ❖ Asterisks, maybe
- ❖ Austria's 2008 issues
- ❖ and the usual questions, publication-notes and the like
- ❖ plus book reviews - if we can afford the cost and the excess-baggage charges of all the books whose authors are frantically preparing them for sale at, round the corner from, or in the same city as, WIPA!

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Basis of valuation - Market value

Cost - Anywhere UK	£3.75 reducing to £3.00 per £1,000 for higher sums
Normally Bank	£2.50 per £ 1,000 (30 days withdrawal any one year).
Bank Only	£1.25 per £1,000

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NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

by Andy Taylor

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 5/2008: thematic: Egger-Linz (the painter); football; thematic: Zipf and its beer; history of picture postcards; Austria in Albania; 1945 “Überroller” mail [=overrun, ie posted under German rule but not delivered before the Allies arrived]; football; new issues including the WIPA ones; change-of-address-forms; rarities at WIPA; news from societies (including the APS Anniversary Stamp and PKMI’s AGM report); book reviews; letters; etc. Ah, and football.

Issue 6/2008: thematic: the Vienna City Railway and associated architecture; what does “mint” mean?; thematic: Mihai Eminescu in Vienna; thematic: butterflies; special cancels for UEFA-EURO-2008; Allied occupation in 1945 (the first cancels of each in Vienna, including the little-known British Pig-throwing Ceremony); the special Fundservice registration label; pre-philatelic era: errors in registration fees; censor-returned post-WWII letters either philatelically overfranked or containing adhesives; Montenegro; oddities from the Gablonz court; background to new issues; WIPA- VÖPh- and lots of ArGe-news; book reviews; letters; etc. And football.

Issue 7/2008: thematic: the Postcoach; 2007’s most attractive Austrian stamp*; Posties in peril (75 bitten by dogs annually); pre-philatelic era: errors in rates; a brief overview of revenue stamps; new post-WWII censor topics; background to new issues; rarities at WIPA (and making sure they stay there); news from societies; book reviews; letters; etc etc.

* 1st Josef Hoffmann; 2nd Angelika Kauffmann (*hear hear!*); 3rd Sea-eagle block

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e. V.

Issue 82: double-circle blue cancel from Kraiowa; private posts from Katschberg & Kesselfall-Alpenhaus; Qs&As on Dues; 1938 rates (2); mixed Posthorn-Arms frankings in 1945-6 (11 sides); WIPAs 1881-1933; etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-18

Issue 92: Notes, questions, answers; numerous 1-page articles; On the removal of postage stamps from Packet Cards [*to which M Brumby adds: The article relates to the removal of (mainly high value) postage stamps from cards by post office employees (primarily for sale to the trade & collectors). This was made*

fairly easy in that the cards were retained by the post office rather than being delivered to the addressee. Regulations (reproduced) were promulgated to try to stop this practice. Cachets and labels were also utilised in an attempt to discourage it.]

Issue 93: Notes, questions, answers. “Happy 60th to the APS”. Artillery: the weapons and the cards. Opera Bonomelli; Generalgouvernement Warschau censoring; German- and Austrian-U-boats in the Med in WWI; the Szurmay-Korps; book reviews (including the APS Festschrift); etc.

Austria Philatelic Society^{US}

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

Czechout

Issue 2/2008: Reports of meetings (one covers Czechoslovakia border closure in 1919 etc) and of exchange-journal articles; etc.

Germania

May 2008 vol 44 no 2: new editors (*hello Rex*); “Liebesgabenpackete” (2); Study Group & Regional Reports; and many interesting articles.

Jugopošta

Vol 86 June 2008: notes and publications; de-typo'd version of the “five worst examples of inflation” first printed in Jugopošta 66 (worst was Hungary in 1946); the 1937 exhibition in Belgrade; 700th anniversary of Samobor; etc

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 173: June 2008: Presidential Notes [*from Bill Hedley: congratulations*]; sale of the Nagy collection; post-WWII mail ‘detained in France’; Q&A; etc

Südost-Philatelie

Vol 106-7/2008: using-up of Austrian stationery in Slovenia, 1918-21; overview of the collecting-area “Yugoslavia” (ideal for organising a display); obituaries of Dr Alfred Kraut; etc etc.

Ukrainian Philatelist

Vol 56 No. 1: Ukraine 1917-23 postal history part II; earliest items from Western Ukraine (*and how to distinguish them from Austrian mail*); 1918-19 Western Ukraine money transfer cards (*with unoverprinted Austrian adhesives, to confuse the unwary*); philately of Carpatho-Ukraine; etc etc.

Wiener Ganzsachsen- Frei- u Poststempelsammlerverein

Issue 2/2008: Vienna pneumatic mail including the 55Rpf card; airmail to Bolivia, 1946-48.

Book reviews

“The early postal history of Carpatho-Ukraine with particular reference to the usage of the first postage stamps of Austria”

CPSGB Monograph 20 is “The early postal history of Carpatho-Ukraine with particular reference to the usage of the first postage stamps of Austria” and is written by Otto Hornung RDP FRPSL. 6+34 pages, A4, numerous photocopied-colour illustrations & 2 b/w maps. Obtainable at £12.50 plus p&p from Rex Dixon [cpsgb.secretary@btinternet].

Oddly at a first reading, it begins with a 10-page essay on Liechtenstein. The point of this is to compare and contrast the known quantities, and the catalogue valuations, for first-issue Austria used on cover to and from Liechtenstein and Carpatho-Ukraine.

Pre-philatelic mail from Carpatho-Ukraine is less rare than you might think, as Bishop Popovics who was Bishop of Munkács from 1835 to 1867 required his priests to submit written monthly reports - and the archive was 'liberated' in 1944!

14 Post Offices** were open in Carpatho-Ukraine when supplies of Austria's first issue were delivered. The author knows of only 48 outgoing covers from Carpatho-Ukraine with first-issue franking; and 13 incoming (to only 3 of the 14 offices).

** Carpatho-Ukraine Post Offices & opening dates (give or take an accent): Also-Vereczke (1833); Beregszasz (1836); Huszt (1836); Korosmezo (1854); Munkács (1786); Nagy-Szollos (1818); Polena (1833); Rahó (1854); Szerednye (1786); Tecso (1836); Tisza-Ujlak (1836); Trebusa (1854); Ungvar (1786).

Everyone who has covers with first-issue franking to or from Carpatho-Ukraine is invited to make themselves known to the CPSGB via the Editor!

“The Postal History of the Anschluss: the German annexation of Austria 1938”

This book was written by Tony Hickey, Ian Nutley, David Taylor and Colin Tobitt; it is produced in A5 in full colour on heavy glossy paper with clear plastic covers and a sturdy wire binding (so that unlike many street maps it opens flat but the end pages don't fall out!). There are iv+181 pages; the font is black sanserif and easy to read.

Brief scene-setting leads to the 1921 post-WWI plebiscites and Dolfuss. Wollersdorf Camp gets two pages; the reviewer enjoyed the first paragraph ☺ Dolfuss' assassination leads to Berchtesgaten and Schuschnigg's aborted plebiscite. This is perhaps where the book reveals its special merit: the range and diversity of the material illustrated. Next is the German entry on 12.3.38; German FPOs were opened and a list is provided. Hitler's plebiscite on 10 April is extensively illustrated, on piece card and envelope. The many different ways of voting Yes are well documented.

The transition from Austria to Ostmark comes next, with illustration, explanation, tables of postal rates, and numerous examples. A brief 7th chapter on slogan and commemorative cancels is followed by a very long 8th on Propaganda Cards, of which there were enormous numbers. Finally comes material on the assimilation of the Austrian way of life into the German; some Schussnig propaganda; and Antisemitism in Austria.

It is customary for reviewers to find a nit to pick, if only to prove they did open the book; I choose the mixed tenses on page 20.

This book is not a detailed study of the political history, nor of the dry minutiae of postal decrees – those who seek these will find them documented elsewhere. What it provides is an outline of events, and a lavish display of rarely-seen material which brings the monochrome of history alive in glowing colour. Anyone who is interested in the period should purchase a copy (£25 APS & GCPS, £30 others), by contacting A Hickey at 3 Yester Drive, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5LP.

Andy Taylor

THE POSTBÜCHEL ~ THE AUSTRIAN POSTMAN'S NEW-YEAR GIFT TO HIS CUSTOMERS

By Keith Brandon

Introduction

The postbüchel (post-booklet) is a small brochure given by the Austrian postman to his customers at Christmas as a new-year gift.....and in anticipation of some “trinkgeld”. Typically it contained about 24 pages of humorous, whimsical and entertaining content, along with information on the postal rates of the day.

The “classic period” of the postbüchel is the quarter of a century leading up to the First World War, and fig 1 shows a typical example from this period. However, as we shall see, its antecedents stretch back to over two hundred years earlier, and its successors are still published today. For much of this time, this was a Vienna story, but postbücheln are also known from the rest of Austria and from the Czech and Hungarian lands.

Postbücheln are interesting from the historical, social and design viewpoints, but are also collected by postal historians for the information they contain on postal regulations and rates. The premier collection is held by the Library of the Vienna Technical Museum, which has over 1000 examples from all periods.

The Early Days

Nobody can be too sure when the first postbüchel was published, but two different examples are known from 1701. In that year, the Viennese letter-carrier Johann Jordan wrote a topography of Vienna entitled “Schaß, Schuß and Schanß” and gave it away as a new-year present to his favoured clients (fig 2). This was quite a thick book, in a slip-case, and nothing like the slim booklets of later years.

The same year another Vienna postman, Paul Wilhelm, presented his clients with a booklet “Geflügleter Mercurius” (“Winged Mercury”) (fig 3) written by Father Abraham à Santa Clara. The latter was an Austrian cleric and writer (born 2 July 1644, deceased 1 December 1709) originally from Baden-Württemberg who joined the order of Barefoot Augustinians, and rose to become court preacher in Vienna in 1669. He was a prolific and popular writer on religious themes, and his collected works filled some twenty-one volumes. Less well-known is that he was an undercover postbüchel writer.



Fig 1 - A typical booklet from “the classic period”.
Note the postman’s personal handstamp.

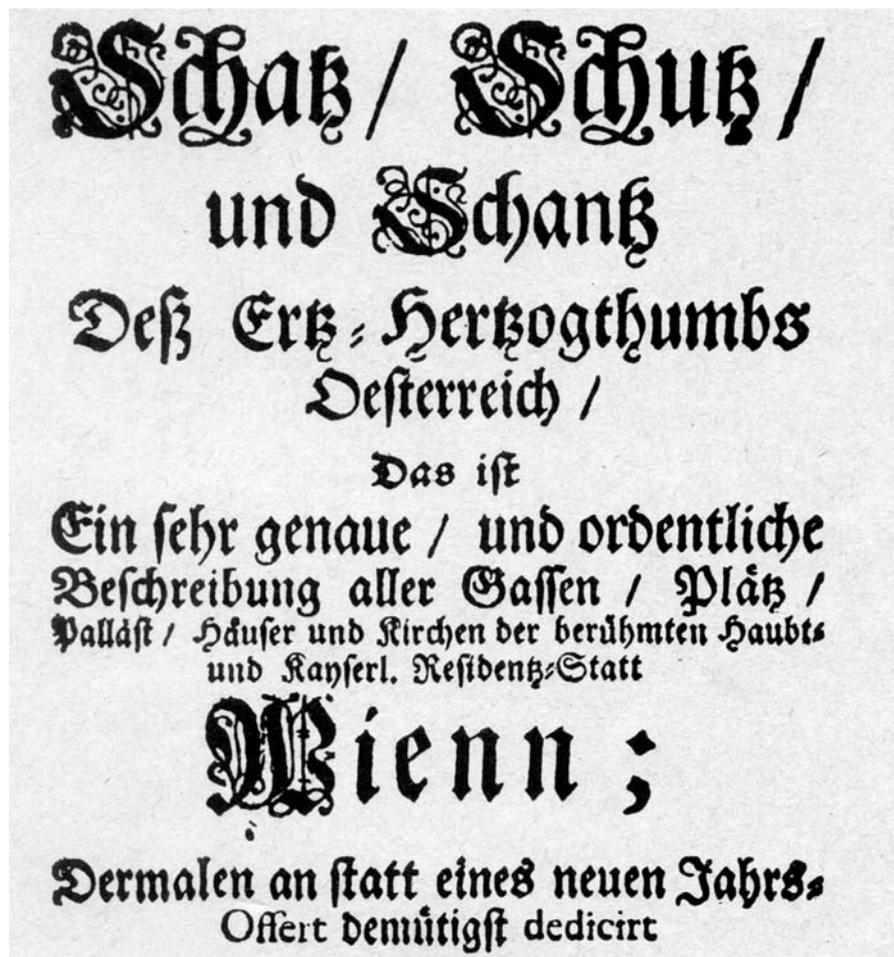


Fig 2 - 1701 book from Johann Jordan

Although these are the two earliest-known postbücheln, and anniversaries are calculated from the year 1701, it seems improbable that two individuals would have had the same idea at the same time. Most likely is that one carrier published first, before 1701, leading to a competitive situation in subsequent years to retain clients. This is borne out by the full title of the “Winged Mercury”, which begins: “Continuation dess Geflügeten Mercurii.....”), which implies that the publication had appeared before 1701. So perhaps the tradition dates back to the 1600s and is now in its fifth century.

The Social-Historical Context

When Herren Wilhelm and Jordan presented their customers with their new-year gifts in 1701, a lucrative tip might not have been their main motivation. We must remember that letter-carriers in those days were mainly self-employed messengers, well-educated, respected members of society, serving well-heeled clients who were prepared to pay well for a reliable service.

As the centuries passed by, however, postal services were brought increasingly under government control, expanded and institutionalised. The work of the postman became less “entrepreneurial”, his job more systematised, and his pay, relative to the rest of society fell. Thus the income provided by Christmas tips became more important, and the role of the postbüchel - as the excuse to ring the door-bell - was vital.

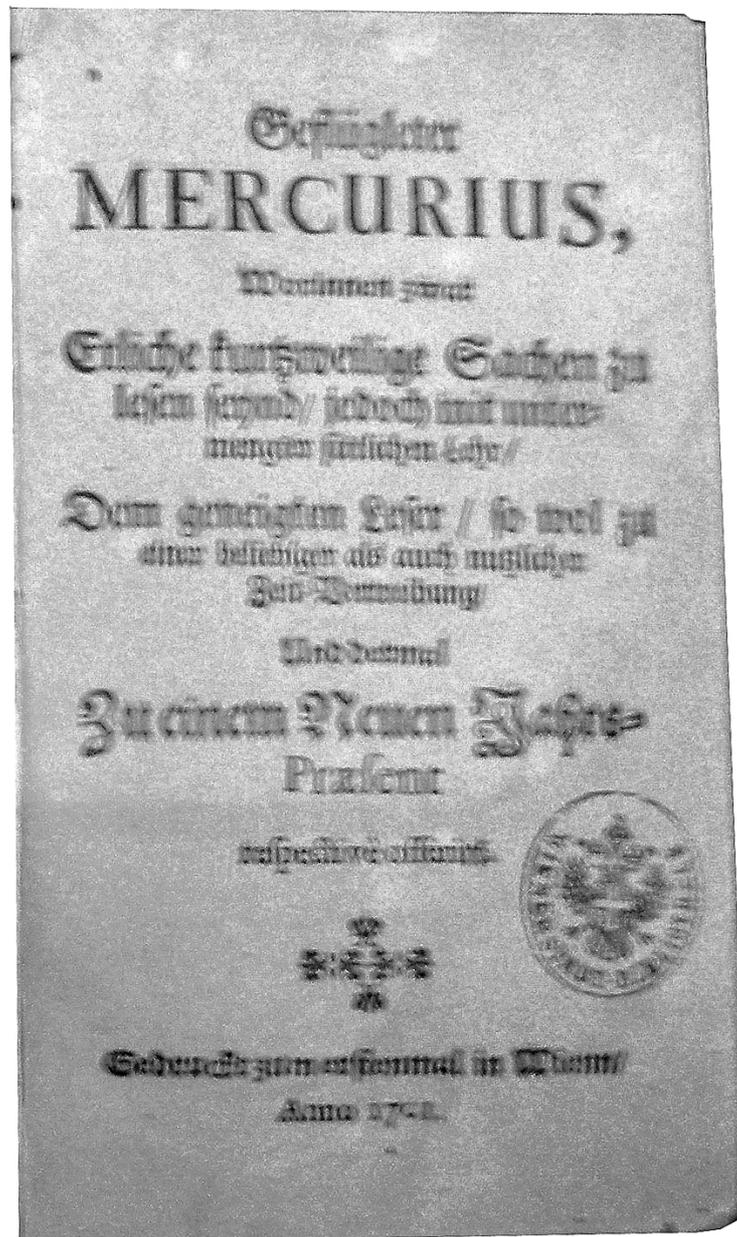


Fig 3 - 1701 book from Paul Wilhelm ⁽¹⁾

¹ The author and the editor apologise for the poor quality of fig 3. The original photograph was taken through the glass of a display cabinet.

By 1757, the *Post Zeitung* described the purpose of the booklets unambiguously: the postmen hoped for “a charitable donation”. In the early nineteenth century, the authors of one of the booklets explicitly stated in the text: “we give you rhymes: you give us money”.

In the eighteenth century, the Imperial Head Post Office in Vienna employed a handful of carriers who delivered 30 to 40 letters per day. Their numbers grew as their operational area increased, so that, by the end of the nineteenth century, there were almost 4000 carriers working on the territory of the Austrian Empire, with 340 employees swarming out several times a day in the city of Vienna alone.

The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

Little seems to have survived from the first half of the eighteenth century, and this may be because the publication of postbücheln was spasmodic, or just because they have not been passed down to us. The Vienna Technical Museum Library has examples from the 1750s onwards, and then they become more prevalent in the nineteenth century.

The early examples are all simply printed on uncoloured paper (including the cover) and are without illustrations. It is not until the mid 1800s that we start to see single-coloured covers used, and then the latter years of the century for multi-coloured covers. An example from Wien in 1847 (fig 4) emphasises that it is illustrated, suggesting that this was a fairly recent development.

There is, incidentally no postage-rate information or advertising in this issue; that would come later. During the eighteenth / early nineteenth centuries, it was normal for individual postmen to buy the booklets out of their own pocket. Presumably they hoped to recoup their investment in tips or goodwill.

Another development was the spread of the postbüchel outside Vienna. The Museum has examples from Lemberg in 1820, Prague 1806, Brünn 1821 and Ollmütz, 1831. Note that these are all in the German language, even in the Galician and Czech cities. Fig 5 shows the title page of an 1857 booklet from Prague.

The main postbüchel activity, however remained centred on Vienna, where not only did the carriers of the Briefpost distribute a booklet to their customers, but the Fahrpost carriers also delivered a postbüchel of its own. The Wien Filiale sub-office had got into the act by the 1830s and Wien II by 1848.

HELVETICA!!!



Neues

illustriertes

Postbillet

für das Jahr 1847.

Den hochverehrtesten Ebnern in tieffter Ehrfurcht dargebracht
V O N

den Briefträgern des k. k. Oberst-Postamtes in Wien.

gedruckt bei M. Wolf, vormals Anna St. von Hirsfeld,
Sägergasse Nr. 415.

Fig 4

Das Postbillet

für das Jahr

1858

wird seinen Vorläufern an Gehalt nichts nachgeben, und hofft deshalb bei den geehrten Gönnern sich der gleichen Anerkennung zu erfreuen.

k. k. Post-Direktions Briefträger

Brendler & Symnikofsky, in Prag.

Prag, 1857.

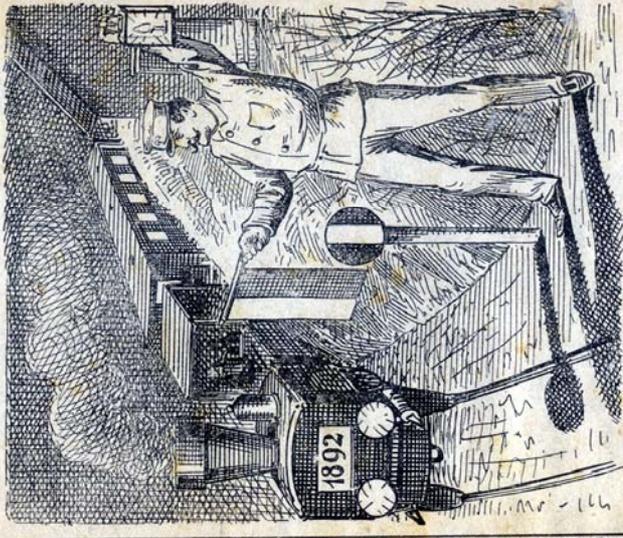
Druck bei M. S. Sandner, Altstadt, lange Gasse Nr. 932.

Zu haben bei S. Engelhart, Wenzelsplatz (Rozsmarkt) beim
Dauscha, Nr. 780-2.

Fig 5

Signalisir!

Ein hiteres Neujahrs-Signalment durch Anwendung widersprechender Knallkapseln und sonstiger humoristischer Signalisirungsbeispiele.



Den verehrungswürdigen Gönnern offerirt von

Ferdinand Schima,

l. l. Briefträger der Centralpost des Postamtes
in Troppau.

Fig 6

By the late nineteenth century, the postbüchel had ceased to be an individually-produced article. Publishers arose with close links to the postal service, and who offered the postmen a wide range of booklets in the German, Czech and Hungarian-speaking regions of the Habsburg Empire.

From the 1860s to the early 90s, many of the booklets produced for Vienna and further afield were published by one Paul Lettner of Vienna. He describes himself on the inside cover as “Paul Lettner, K.K. Briefträger”, but he was clearly much more entrepreneurial than your average postman. He produced several different booklets each year, and provided an “own-label” service, whereby a space was left in which could be printed the details of a particular postman. Fig 6 shows the front page of a Lettner production for a postman in Troppau.

The booklets from this period were almost always in the German language. Outside Austria itself, they are known from large cities, such as Prague, and Brünn, that would have had a significant German-speaking population, and also from towns in the Sudetenland, which would have had a German majority.

In the late 1860s and early 1870s, however, a bilingual German/Magyar postbüchel was published in Pest, while Czech editions were available from the 1860s up to the First World War.

The Golden Age

From the 1890s the booklets were published by the postal-workers’ pension fund, and a few years later jointly by the pension fund and the postal-workers union. This heralded the classic period for postbücheln, with several different booklets appearing each year in attractive full-colour front covers.

The method of financing the booklets is not known, but it seems likely that the postman no longer had to buy the booklets once the pension fund took over. A few years later, advertising from commercial firms started to appear in the brochures, and this presumably funded the production costs.

The most common design theme for the front cover featured a friendly, handsome postman with a moustache delivering a letter to a delighted customer. Other covers showed developments in transport used to deliver the mail. An example of the latter is shown in colour-plate 2.

In 2007, three “personalised” stamps were issued, featuring reproductions of three typical cover designs of the period, from 1905, 1908 and 1909. These stamps are shown, along with the original booklets, in colour-plate 1.



Emperor Franz-Joseph himself starred on the cover in 1912 (colour-plate 2). Around the same time, some of the front covers showed office scenes, to demonstrate the service postmen provided in delivering mail to commercial premises as well as householders (colour-plate 2).

Another series of front-covers from this period depicted “fantasy” post-office deliveries, showing, for example, the postman delivering the mail from a hot air balloon to a customer on her balcony, or featuring a postman flying a small plane and lobbing letters out the window to customers! In 1894, a postbüchel featured a postwoman on the front for the first time. But she was just “eye-candy”; female employees were not to be found in the delivery service until the 1960s.

Alongside the “official” series, sponsored by the pension fund, a rival series was privately published by Schranka and known as “das Gelb Buch”. Herr Schranka appears to have filled the gap vacated by Paul Lettner, and his editions appeared annually from the 1890s until WW1.

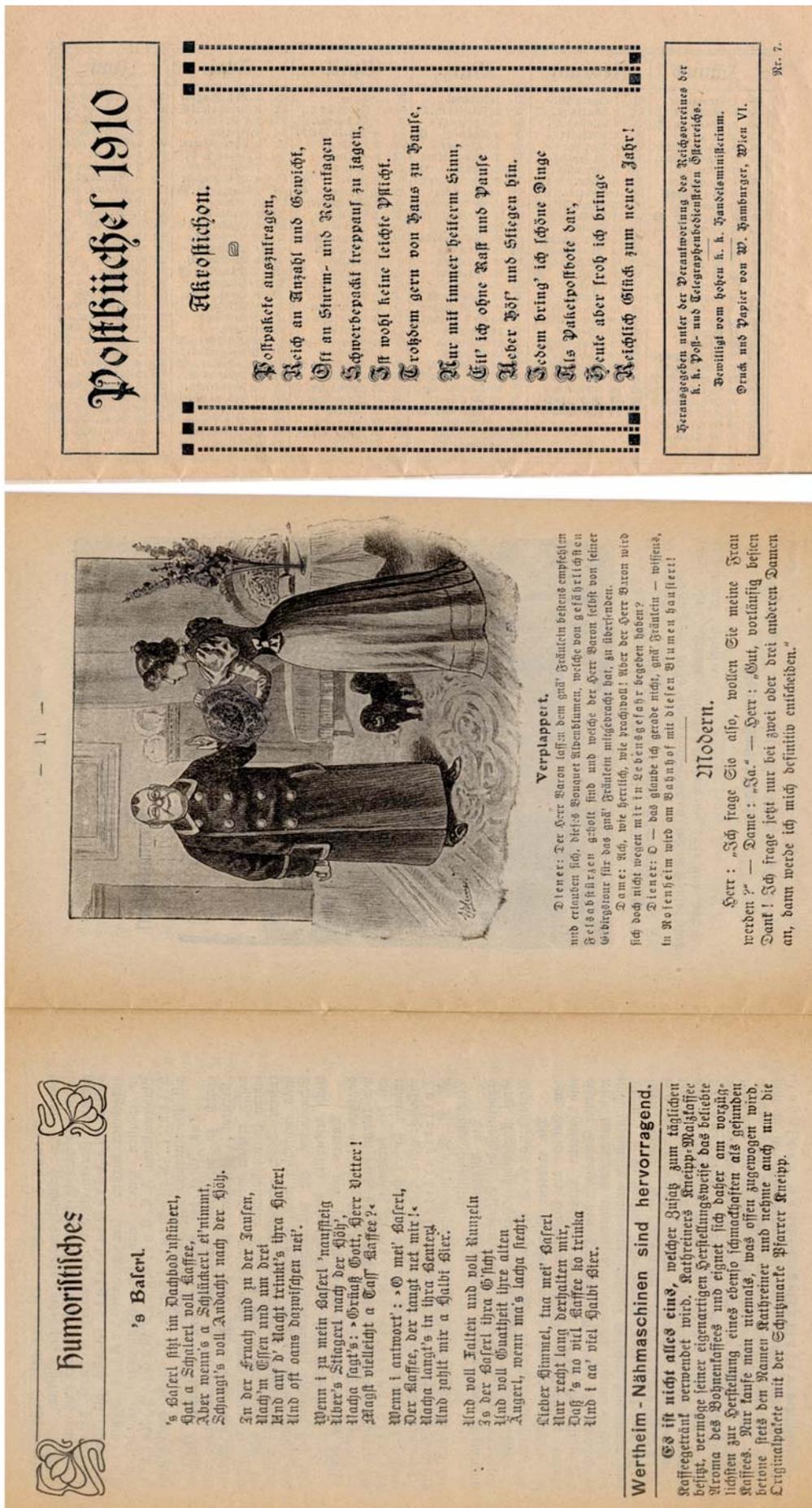
Content of the Classic Issues

The booklet itself, from the earliest times through to the Second Republic, was approximately 7” high by 4” wide, stapled, and typically comprised twenty-four page-sides inside a cover. Usually the booklet was signed by the postman delivering it, either in manuscript or with a rubber stamp.

By around the 1870s, the postbüchel format had settled down. Typically it began with a homily and a poem ostensibly from the postman. Usually this was fairly self-serving, reminding the customer how the valiant and trusted postman fought his way through thunderstorms and blizzards to deliver eagerly-awaited news from loved ones.

A constant feature was the name-day chart. In central Europe, name-days are celebrated at least as much as birthdays, and the chart showed which day of the week a particular name-day would fall on in the coming year. During the early 1900s a prize lottery was introduced. As we will see, these two features remained sacrosanct ingredients of the postbüchel for a further century.

Apart from postal information and advertising, most of the rest of the content consisted of jokes, cartoons, riddles and anecdotes. Housekeeping hints and general-knowledge features were also often included. Figs 7 and 8 give a flavour of the typical content of a postbüchel.



Humoristisches

's Baserl.

's Baserl sit im Dachbad' u'hibert,
 Hat a Schmelzl voll Kaffee.
 Aber wenn's a Schlückerl e'nimmt,
 Schaugt's voll Andacht nach der Floß.
 In der Strauch und in der Fausen,
 Nach'm Essen und um drei
 Hand auf d' Nacht trinkt's ihra Baserl
 Hand oft oans dazwischen net'.
 Wenn i zu mein Baserl 'hauffsteig
 Aber's Schlagel nach der Floß',
 Handa sagt's: 'Grinag Gott, Herr Vetter!
 Ziaagt vielleicht a Gass Kaffee?'
 Wenn i antwort': 'o mei' Baserl,
 Der Kaffee, der taugt net mir!
 Handa langt's in ihra Beuteg
 Hand zohlt mir a Halb'l Bier.
 Hand voll Falken und voll Kumpeln
 So der Baserl ihra G'sicht
 Hand voll Gwandheit ihre alten
 Augerl, wenn ma's lajga siecht.
 Lieber Himmel, tua mei' Baserl
 Nur recht lang derhalten mir,
 Das's no mitl' Kaffee ko trinka
 Hand i aa' viel Halb'l Bier.

Wertheim - Nähmaschinen sind hervorragend.

Es ist nicht alles eins, welcher Nähmaschine zum täglichen Kaffeegetränk verwendet wird. Rathreiners Kneipp-Nähmaschine besitzt, vermöge seiner eigenartigen Verstellungsweise das beliebte Aroma des Bohmentoffees und eignet sich daher am vorzüglichsten zur Herstellung eines ebenbürtigen Schmackhaften als gebrühten Kaffees. Nur kauft man niemals, was offen zugegeben wird, betone stets den Namen Rathreiner und nehme auch nur die Originalpatente mit der Schutzmarke Harrer Kneipp.

- 11 -



Verplappert.

Dienner: Der Herr Baron lassen dem gnäd' Fräulein bestens empfehlen und erlauben sich, dieselbe gnanquet überblumen, welche vom geseßlichchen Preisabstärker gestiftet sind und wachse der Herr Baron selbst von seiner Wohlthätigkeit für was gnäd' Fräulein mitgebracht hat, zu überreichen.
 Dame: Ach, wie herrlich, wie prächtig! Aber der Herr Baron wird sich doch nicht wegen mir in Zebensgeseßler begeben haben?
 Dienner: O — das glaube ich gerade nicht, gnäd' Fräulein — wissens, in Rosenheim wird am Gahnhof mit diesen Blumen gehandelt!

Möderrn.

Herr: Ich frage Sie also, wollen Sie meine Frau werden? — Dame: „Sa.“ — Herr: „Gut, vorläufig besien Dank! Ich frage jetzt nur bei zwei oder drei anderen Damen an, dann werde ich mich definitiv entscheiden.“

Postbüchel 1910

Aktrostichon.

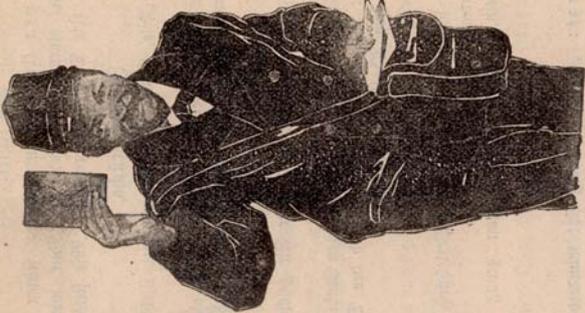
Pospakete auszufragen,
 Reich an Anzahl und Gewicht,
 Oft an Sturm- und Regentagen
 Schwebepack freppant zu jagen,
 Ist wohl keine leichte Pflicht.
 Trosthem gern von Haus zu Hause,
 Nur mit immer heikern Sinn,
 Geil' ich ohne Raff und Pause
 Ueber Hof' und Stiegen hin.
 Jedem bring' ich schöne Dinge
 Als Paketpostbote dar,
 Heute aber froh ich bringe
 Wichtig Stück zum neuen Jahr!

Vorausgeschien unter der Verantwortung des Reichsvereines der k. k. Post- und Telegraphenbediensteten Österreichs.
 Bewilligt vom k. k. Handelsministerium.
 Druck und Papier von W. Famburger, Wien VI.

Nr. 7.

Fig 7 - Typical postbüchel content

18 —



Ein Brief mit fünf Siegeln,
Den liest jeder gern,
Der ist wie am Himmel
Ein leuchtender Stern;
Er ist in dem Garten
Die herrlichste Blüth
Und heisset wie Balsam
Ein hoffend Gemüth.

Belebigt.
Wirt (zu seiner Frau): „Heut legt mit so a Stadlfrad,
wie er zacht, zehn Heller Trunkgeld hin ... na, den Wid, den
ich dem zug'worfen hab', wie ich die zehn Heller eing'steckt hab'!"



— 18 —

Man kann's ihm nicht recht machen. Lehrer
(in einer österreichischen Dorfschule): „Oberbauer, sag' mir
jetzt, wieviel ist denn die Hälfte von fünf?" — Der kleine
Oberbauer (zu seinem Nachbar leise): „Sagt es, jetzt hat er mir
schon wieder, sag' i zwei, ist's ihm zu wenig, sag' i drei, ist's
ihm zu viel!"

*
Gäuslicher Zwist. Junge Frau: „Nein, es ist ent-
festlich mit dir. Jetzt kommst du schon wieder erst um 5 Uhr
morgens nach Hause und mit was für einem Riesenrausch! Sch
fische vor Blut!" — Junger Mann: „Na, es ist das erstemal.
daß du ordentlich todest!"



Ein Wiener Hausmeister.
Gut gegeben. „Gott, was für e' lächerer Punkt ...
wenn man dort hinbau'n mücht' e' Spieß! — das war' e' Ge-
schäft!" — „Aber, Herr Goldwein, müßten Sie denn immer
alles gleich vor der Staubvogelpestipette betrachten?"

Beobachtung. Lehrer (von den verflüchteten Berufs-
arten sprechend): „Wer ist noch gezwungen, eine sitzende Lebens-
weise zu führen?" — Schlußfrage: „Die alten Jungfern, Herr
Lehrer!"

fürs Haus.

Zitronen-Aufbewahrung.

Zitronen kann man auf nachstehende Weise lange aufbewahren, ohne daß ihre Durastärke Schaden leidet. Feiner, trockener Sand wird etwa 5 Zentimeter hoch in eine reine, trockene Holzrinne gefüllt und die Zitronen, in Seitenabwärtiger Stellung, in den Sand gelegt, dann kommt wieder eine 5 Zentimeter dicke trockene Sandschicht u. s. w. Ganz auf dieselbe Weise können auch D r a n g e n aufbewahrt werden.

Befreiung von Wagenschmier-Flecken.

Man tauche einen reinen Lappen in Terpentinöl und be-
tuppe bei mehrmaligen Umdrehungen den Fleck, bis er ver-
schwindet. Die Stelle ist dann noch mit dem Terpentinlappen
und darauf mit einem trockenen Lappen zu reiben, damit kein
Rand entsteht.

Schutz gegen Motten.

Terpentinöl auf weisse Tücher gegossen und die Kleider
damit bedeckt, gewährt sicheren Schutz gegen Motten. Es ist
auch zweckdienlich, die betreffenden Kleider immer mit Terpentinöl
auszuwaschen.

Schwarze Lederfärbung.

bereitet man aus 30 Gramm gelbem Wachs, 60 Gramm
weißem Bech, 60 Gramm Lebertran und 60 Gramm Leinöl.
Das Ganze wird mit Rührstößel schwarz gefärbt.

Reinigen von Marmorplatten.

Flecken auf Marmorplatten entfernt man leicht auf
folgende Weise: Aus gelblichem, pulverisiertem Kalk auf
Feinseife zu gleichen Theilen rührt man mit Regenwasser einen
dicken Brei, streicht diesen ziemlich dick und gleichmäßig auf den
Marmor, läßt ihn zwei Tage darauf und gleichmäßig auf den
ort er trocken ist, immer wieder. Nach zwei Tagen läßt man
die Masse hart werden, reißt sie dann mit einem weichen Lappen
ab und polirt den Marmor mit einem Leberlappen und
Geschmirrtelbe.

Fig 8 - Typical postbüchel content

In most years, the publisher produced several different postbücheln as a series. All contained new-year greetings, and so were presumably handed out at the same time. Each booklet in the series had the same advertising, but the cover design and the humorous content were entirely different. The postal information was often different too: one booklet in the series might have the letter-rate tariff, another the telegraph tariff, and so on. Perhaps they were given to customers using different postal services, but that does not explain why there was a need for entirely different entertainment content in each booklet in the series.

There must have been a substantial industry in the background writing the jokes and riddles and drawing the cartoons, analogous to the British cottage-industry writing jokes and mottos for Christmas crackers.

Content of Interest to Postal Historians

In days gone by, philatelists would collect one or two postbücheln of different periods to provide a source of postal rates in force at the time. Today we are fortunate to have the charges comprehensively tabulated in the handbooks of Ferchenbauer, Kainbacher and others.

Nevertheless, there is still much of interest to find in the new-year booklets. Most booklets contain some information on postal tariffs, but different aspects are picked up in different booklets. Moreover, abridged rules and regulations are also given for the different postal and telegraph services.

So, for example, in one of the 1882 Paul Lettner publications we find the rules and regulations for posting mail to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sanjak of Novibazar, along with money-order and fahrpost tariffs to these territories and a list of military post offices there.

Another booklet from the same year gives a list of post-offices throughout the Empire that could accept higher-value postal orders (up to 1000 gulden) and cash-on-delivery orders (up to 500 gulden). (The remaining post offices had a limit of 200 gulden.) These are just a few examples. Fig 9 opposite; (from 1910) shows some typical postal information.

As well as rates and regulations, there is a wealth of other information available to postal historians. For example:

- ❖ a timetable of the main railway routes in the Czech provinces (1858),
- ❖ an article on postal etiquette - how to address a bishop, etc (1858),
- ❖ tariffs for overseas mail to Austria from various countries (1881),
- ❖ a list of Vienna post offices with pneumatic-post facilities (1885),
- ❖ details of the postal treaty with Germany (1885),

Postalisches.

Post- und Telegraphen-Tarif.

I. Briefpost-Sachen.

1. An alle Postämter in Österreich-Ungarn, Bosnien-Herzegowina, Liechtenstein und Deutschland.

Gewöhnlicher Brief bis 20 g frankiert 10 h, unfrankiert 20 h; schwerer bis 250 g (Meistgewicht) frankiert 20 h, unfrankiert 40 h (Deutschland 30 h).

Korrespondenzkarte 5 h, mit Rückantwort 10 h.

Kartenbrief 11 h.

Drucksache (nur in offener Umhüllung ohne schriftliche Mitteilung) bis 50 g 3 h, von 50 bis 100 g 5 h, von 100 bis 250 g 10 h, von 250 bis 500 g 20 h und von 500 bis 1000 g (Meistgewicht) 30 h. **Streifband** hiezu, wenn vom Postamte bezogen und ohne Portomärke 1 h.

Warenprobe bzw. »Muster ohne Wert« (nur in offener Umhüllung) bis 250 g 10 h und schwerer bis 350 g (Meistgewicht) 20 h.

Rekommendationsgebühr für jedes Briefpoststück ohne Rücksicht auf Art und Gewicht 25 h.

Rückschein (Retour-Rezeipisse) ebenso 25 h.

Expresbeförderung 30 h (bei Bestellung, wenn der Adressat nicht im Postorte selbst wohnt, Einhebung von Botengebühren).

2. In die Weltpostvereinsländer (außer obgenannten).

Gewöhnlicher Brief erste 20 g 25 h, für weitere 20 g 15 h und unfrankiert 50 h.

Korrespondenzkarte 10 h, mit Rückantwort 20 h.

Drucksache (nur in offener Umhüllung) für je 50 g 5 h bis zu 2000 g (Meistgewicht).

Warenprobe bzw. »Muster ohne Wert« (nur in offener Umhüllung) bis 100 g 10 h, für jede weiteren 50 g (bis 350 g Meistgewicht) 5 h mehr.

Geschäftspapier für je 50 g 5 h, jedoch mindestens 25 h bis zu 2 kg. **Rekommendationsgebühr** wie oben.

Rückschein (Retour-Rezeipisse, doch von nicht überallher zulässig) wie oben.

Expresbeförderung (nicht überallhin zulässig) wie oben.

Rekommendierte Nachnahmesendung, Gebühr 25 h (vom eingehobenen Betrage wird die Einzugsgebühr von 10 h und die Anweisungsgebühr abgezogen).

Postanweisung, Das leere Formular 3 h, in Österreich-Ungarn und Liechtenstein für einen Betrag bis zu K 20 10 h, von K 20 bis 100 20 h, von K 100 bis 300 40 h, von K 300 bis 600 60 h und von K 600 bis 1000 K 1 Porto; nach Bosnien-Herzegowina bis K 50 20 h, von K 50 bis 100 30 h, von K 100 bis 300 60 h, von K 300 bis 600 90 h und von K 600 bis 1000 (Meistbetrag) K 1 50; nach Deutschland und Luxemburg bis K 40 20 h und für jede weiteren K 20 bis 1000 10 h Porto mehr; nach den übrigen Weltpostvereinsländern für je K 50 25 h

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Porto (Meistbetrag verschieden hoch, doch nach Großbritannien, Irland, Australien, Britisch-Indien, Kapkolonie, Mexiko, Peru, Salvador, europ. Rußland, sowie nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika für je K 25 25 h Porto). Nach Kreta (k. k. Postämter), Montenegro, Serbien und der Türkei (k. k. Postämter) bis K 50 20 h, von K 50 bis 100 40 h, von K 100 bis 300 80 h, von K 300 bis 600 K 1 20, von K 600 bis 1000 K 2. Für eine telegraphische Postanweisung ist die betreffende Telegrammgebühr noch besonders zu entrichten.

Postauftrag (Postmandat) zur Einziehung von Forderungen, Kreditpapieren usw. das leere Formular 2 h. Solche sind zulässig in Österreich-Ungarn, Bosnien-Herzegowina und Liechtenstein bis zu K 1000 (wenn im Scheckverkehre, auch darüber hinaus), nach Deutschland bis zu Mk. 800, sonst meist bis zu Frs. 1000. Die Einzugsgebühr ist 10 h für jedes einzuziehende Dokument. Hiezu tritt die für den einzuziehenden Wert fällige Postanweisungsgebühr sowie die fällige Gewichts-, Wert- und Einschreibgebühr für das Begleitschreiben. In Österreich-Ungarn, Deutschland usw. dürfen diese Begleitschreiben (Briefe) nicht über 250 g schwer sein, doch besteht anderswohin in der Regel kein Meistgewicht hierfür.

Geldbrief bzw. Wertbrief (stets mit Wertangabe zu versehen) in Österreich-Ungarn, Liechtenstein und nach Deutschland bis zu K 600 bzw. Mark Wert 12 h und für jede weiteren K 300 bzw. Mark Wert 6 h Porto; nach den anderen Weltpostvereinsländern für je 300 Franks Wert 10, 15 oder 20 h Porto. Hiezu tritt im Inlande und im Verkehre mit Deutschland ein besonderes Entfernungs- bzw. Gewichtsporto bis zu 25 g und auf 10 geographische Meilen (75 km) mit 24 h und für weitere Entfernungen mit 48 h, nach dem Auslande das sonst treffende Gewichtsporto und in beiden Fällen die Rekommandationsgebühr. — Ein Geldkuvert kostet 2 h.

II. Gepäckpost-Sachen.

Die leere **Paket-Begleitadresse** 12 h (10 h der ärarische Stempel und 2 h das Formular), doch genügt eine solche Adresse für ein bis drei Pakete an einen und denselben Adressaten. Sonst jede Sendung in Österreich-Ungarn, Liechtenstein und Deutschland.

Gewicht in Kilogramm	I. Zone bis 10	II. Zone über 10—20	III. Zone über 20—50	IV. Zone über 50—100	V. Zone über 100—150	VI. Zone über 150
	Meilen					
	h	h	h	h	h	h
Bis 5	30	60	60	60	60	60
über 5—6	36	72	84	96	108	120
» 6—7	42	84	108	132	156	180
» 7—8	48	96	132	168	204	240
» 8—9	54	108	156	204	252	300
» 9—10	60	120	180	240	300	360
und für jedes eine Kilogramm mehr bis zum Meistgewichte von 50 kg	6	12	24	36	48	60

Bosnien und Herzegowina bis 500 g 60 h, bis 5 kg 80 h, über 5 kg Tarif wie Österreich und für jedes Kilogramm 10 h Zuschlag. Zulässig bis 20 kg, an Bahnorten meistens bis 50 kg.

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Pakete (Colis postaux) sind zulässig mit einem Gewichte bis 3 kg nach Ceylon, Kuba, Neufundland, Paraguay, den Philippinen, Zanzibar und einigen Staaten von Nordamerika; bis zu 5 kg nach Belgien, Dänemark, Frankreich, Griechenland, Großbritannien und Irland, Italien, Luxemburg, den Niederlanden (Holland), Norwegen, Portugal, Rumänien, Rußland, Schweden, der Schweiz, Serbien, der Türkei, Finnland, Spanien, nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika usw. und bis zu 3 kg nach Brasilien und Bolivien.

Das **Gewichtsporto** beträgt 1 K nach der Schweiz, Serbien und Montenegro; 1 K 25 h nach Italien, Luxemburg, Rumänien und der Türkei (k. k. österr. Postanstalten daseibst); 1 K 50 h nach Belgien, Dänemark, Frankreich und den Niederlanden (Holland); 1 K 75 h nach Finnland, Norwegen, Rußland, Bulgarien und der europäischen Türkei; 2 K nach Griechenland; 2 K 25 h nach Spanien; 2 K 50 h nach der asiatischen Türkei (ottomanische Postämter); 1 K 70 h bis 2 K 70 h nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika.

Für Auslandsendungen sind **Zolldeklarations-Formulare** (eines bis drei) notwendig, die pro Formular 2 h bzw. pro Exemplar 1 h kosten. Für den Paketverkehre nach Ungarn ist eine statistische Erklärung erforderlich, die pro Exemplar 1 h kostet.

Postnachnahme-Formular bzw. Begleitadresse hängt mit der Nachnahme-Postanweisung zusammen und kostet 12 h pro Stück. Der nachzunehmende Meistbetrag ist in Österreich-Ungarn, Liechtenstein und Deutschland K 1000 bzw. Mark, nach den übrigen Weltpostvereinsländern (für Pakete) meist nur K 400 bzw. Franks. Im Inlandsverkehre ist eine Provisionsgebühr von 2 h für je K 4 nachzunehmenden Wert, mindestens aber 12 h zu zahlen. Das Gewichtsporto für Pakete und die etwaige Wertversicherungs- sowie Rekommandationsgebühr.

Rekommendationsgebühr wie oben.

Rückschein (Retour-Rezeipisse) wie oben.

Expresbestellung 50 h, die immer vom Absender zu bezahlen ist. Für die Zustellung einer Exprespaketsendung an den Adressaten wird K 1 für je 7 1/2 km Entfernung desselben vom letzten Postamte und vom Adressaten erhoben, doch werden die vom Auftraggeber bereits bezahlten 50 h in Abzug gebracht.

Wertversicherung wie oben, doch entfällt das besondere Entfernungs- bzw. Gewichtsporto, das also nur für Wertbriefe im Inlandsverkehre gilt.

III. Telegrammgebühr.

Eine Worttaxe von 6 h, mindestens aber 60 h für ein Telegramm in Österreich-Ungarn, nach Bosnien-Herzegowina, Liechtenstein und Deutschland; 7 h nach Rumänien; 8 h nach Montenegro, der Schweiz und Serbien; 14 h nach Italien und Bulgarien; 16 h nach Frankreich, den Niederlanden und Belgien; 18 h nach Dänemark und Luxemburg; 19 h nach Korfu über Triest; 21 h nach Schweden; 23 h nach Großbritannien und Irland; 24 h nach Rußland (europäisches und kaukasisches) und Griechenland; 25 h nach Spanien; 26 h nach Tunis und Algier; 28 h nach Norwegen und der europäischen Türkei; 29 h nach Portugal und Gibraltar; 1 K 50 h bis 2 K 15 h nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika.

Für ein Telegramm mit Rückantwort im Inlande ist mindestens für zehn Worte der letzteren im voraus und eigens zu bezahlen.

Telegraphische Postanweisung siehe oben.

Bei einfachen Telegrammen in offener Sprache wird jedes Wort bis zur Länge von 15 Buchstaben oder fünf Ziffern als Taxwort gerechnet; bei solchen Telegrammen in geheimer (bzw. verabredeter) Sprache gelten schon zehn Buchstaben für ein Taxwort.

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Stempelgebühren für Österreich-Ungarn.

Skala I für Wechsel.

Bis zum Betrage von 150 K K — 10	über 2700 bis 3000 K . . . K 2—
über 150 bis 300 „ „ — 20	3000 „ 6000 „ . . . „ 4—
„ 300 „ 600 „ „ — 40	6000 „ 9000 „ . . . „ 6—
„ 600 „ 900 „ „ — 60	9000 „ 12000 „ . . . „ 8—
„ 900 „ 1200 „ „ — 80	15000 „ 18000 „ . . . „ 10—
„ 1200 „ 1500 „ „ 1—	15000 „ 18000 „ . . . „ 12—
„ 1500 „ 1800 „ „ 1 20	
„ 1800 „ 2100 „ „ 1 40	
„ 2100 „ 2400 „ „ 1 60	
„ 2400 „ 2700 „ „ 1 80	

und so fort von je 3000 K um 2 K mehr, wobei ein Restbetrag unter 8000 K als voll anzurechnen ist.

Skala II für Wechselkunden.

Bis 40 K . . . K — 14	über 4000 bis 4800 K . . . K 15—
über 40 „ 80 „ . . . „ — 26	4800 „ 6400 „ . . . „ 20—
„ 80 „ 120 „ . . . „ — 38	6400 „ 8000 „ . . . „ 25—
„ 120 „ 200 „ . . . „ — 64	8000 „ 9600 „ . . . „ 30—
„ 200 „ 400 „ . . . „ 1 26	9600 „ 11200 „ . . . „ 35—
„ 400 „ 600 „ . . . „ 1 88	11200 „ 12800 „ . . . „ 40—
„ 600 „ 800 „ . . . „ 2 50	12800 „ 14400 „ . . . „ 45—
„ 800 „ 1600 „ . . . „ 5—	14400 „ 16000 „ . . . „ 50—
„ 1600 „ 2400 „ . . . „ 7 50	
„ 2400 „ 3200 „ . . . „ 10—	
„ 3200 „ 4000 „ . . . „ 12 50	

über 16000 K ist von je 800 K eine Mehrgebühr von K 2 50 zu entrichten

Skala III.

Bis 20 K . . . K — 14	über 2000 bis 2400 K . . . K 15—
über 20 „ 40 „ . . . „ — 26	2400 „ 3200 „ . . . „ 20—
„ 40 „ 60 „ . . . „ — 38	3200 „ 4000 „ . . . „ 25—
„ 60 „ 100 „ . . . „ — 64	4000 „ 4800 „ . . . „ 30—
„ 100 „ 200 „ . . . „ 1 26	4800 „ 5600 „ . . . „ 35—
„ 200 „ 300 „ . . . „ 1 88	5600 „ 6400 „ . . . „ 40—
„ 300 „ 400 „ . . . „ 2 50	6400 „ 7200 „ . . . „ 45—
„ 400 „ 800 „ . . . „ 5—	7200 „ 8000 „ . . . „ 50—
„ 800 „ 1200 „ . . . „ 7 50	
„ 1200 „ 1600 „ . . . „ 10—	
„ 1600 „ 2000 „ . . . „ 12 50	

über 8000 K ist von je 400 K eine Mehrgebühr von K 2 50 zu entrichten.

Raufmännische Rechnungen und **Quittungen** sind bis 20 K (einschließlich) stempelfrei, über 20 K bis 100 K (einschließlich) sind 2 h, über 100 K sind 10 h Stempelgebühr.

Fig 9 – example (from 1910) of postal information.

- ❖ an official announcement concerning payment of Fahrpost charges with postage stamps (1891),
- ❖ a full listing of post-office addresses and services in each of the nineteen Vienna postal districts(1893),
- ❖ an official announcement of the increase of post-delivery offices in Wien II, and the introduction of the 2/1, 2/2, 2/3, 2/4, 2/5 and 2/6 districts (1892),
- ❖ the same for Wien III (1892),
- ❖ an article and statistics concerning the daily work-schedule of a Vienna postman (1910).

Perhaps some of these articles and listings will find their way into future editions of AUSTRIA! [*Stranger things have happened. Ed*]

The First World War

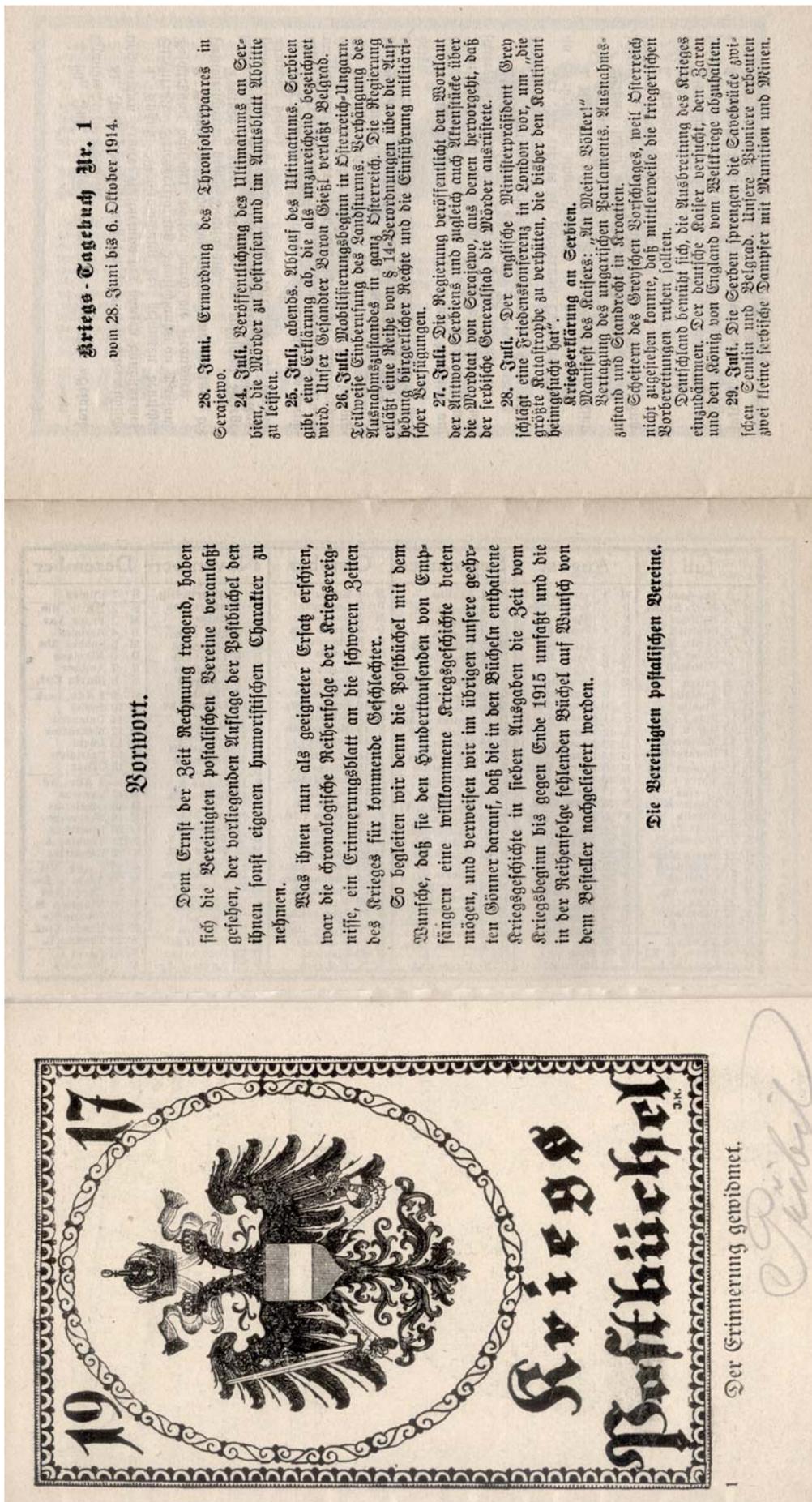
The 1915 postbüchel, printed therefore in late 1914, was much the same as its predecessors, full of humour and light entertainment. Things had changed, however by 1917.

The 1917 edition was an “austerity issue”, now in a simple black-on-buff cover. A foreword explained that it was no longer deemed appropriate to publish humorous content, and the booklet was given over to a day-by-day account of the progress of the War. Apart from this, there was only postal-rate information and, perhaps surprisingly, still some advertising. (Fig 10 shows the front cover, the foreword, and a page from the account of the War).

There were at least seven issues of the 1917 booklet, each containing the day-by-day account of the War, which by issue 7 had reached 13 August 1915. There is something different about this year’s booklets; they appear to have been issued at intervals during the year rather than all at the beginning. None of the issues contain the usual new-year greetings. Furthermore, issue 1 contained a table of fiscal duty-rates; issue 2 had the same list, but hand-stamped “ungültig” (invalid); and by issue 3 it had disappeared. It seems that these issues were issued as a public service or for propaganda reasons throughout the year, rather than as the traditional new-year gift.

The First Republic

The 1919 postbüchel (which would have been written in late 1918) has a transitional feel to it. Although the humorous content and colour front cover had returned, the booklet was only 16 pages long. The account of the War continued, and had reached May 1916, but ran to only two pages. No doubt the Austrians’ enthusiasm for this story had waned once they knew the ending.



Vorwort.

Dem Ernst der Zeit Rechnung tragend, haben sich die Vereinigten postkassischen Vereine veranlaßt gesehen, der vorliegenden Auflage der Postbüchel den ihnen sonst eigenen humoristischen Charakter zu nehmen.

Was ihnen nun als geeigneter Ersatz ersahen, war die chronologische Reihenfolge der Kriegseignisse, ein Erinnerungsblatt an die schweren Zeiten des Krieges für kommende Geschlechter.

So begleiten wir denn die Postbüchel mit dem Wunsche, daß sie den Hunderttausenden von Empfänger eine willkommene Kriegsgeschichte bieten mögen, und verweisen wir im übrigen unsere geehrten Gönner darauf, daß die in den Bücheln enthaltene Kriegsgeschichte in sieben Ausgaben die Zeit vom Kriegsbeginn bis gegen Ende 1915 umfaßt und die in der Reihenfolge fehlenden Büchel auf Wunsch von dem Besteller nachgeliefert werden.

Die Vereinigten postkassischen Vereine.

Kriegs- Tagebuch Nr. 1
vom 28. Juni bis 6. Oktober 1914.

28. Juni. Ermordung des Thronfolgerpaars in Serajewo.

24. Juli. Veröffentlichung des Ultimatum's an Serbien, die Mörder zu bestrafen und im Amtsblatt Abbitte zu leisten.

25. Juli, abends. Ablauf des Ultimatum's. Serbien gibt eine Erklärung ab, die als unzureichend bezeichnet wird. Unter General der Baron Giehl verläßt Belgrad.

26. Juli. Mobilisierungsbeginn in Serbien-Ungarn. Zeitweise Einberufung des Landsturms. Verhängung des Ausnahmezustandes in ganz Osterreich. Die Regierung erläßt eine Reihe von § 14-Berordnungen über die Aufhebung bürgerlicher Rechte und die Einführung militärischer Verfügungen.

27. Juli. Die Regierung veröffentlicht den Wortlaut der Antwort Serbiens und zugleich auch Aktienstücke über die Mordthat von Serajewo, aus denen hervorgeht, daß der serbische Generalstab die Mörder ausrühre.

28. Juli. Der englische Ministerpräsident Grey schlägt eine Friedenskonferenz in London vor, um „die größte Katastrophe zu verhüten, die bisher den Kontinent betingelacht hat“.

Kriegserklärung an Serbien.

Manifest des Kaisers: „An Meine Völker!“
Vertragung des ungarischen Parlaments. Ausnahmezustand und Standrecht in Kroatien.

Scheitern des Grew'schen Vorschlages, weil Osterreich nicht zugeben konnte, daß mittlerweile die triegerischen Vorbereitungen entzogen werden sollten.

Deutschland bemächtigt sich, die Ausbreitung des Krieges einzudämmen. Der deutsche Kaiser verläßt den Garten und den König von England vom Weltkriege abzuhalten.

29. Juli. Die Serben sprengen die Sabelbrücke zwischen Semlin und Belgrad. Untere Bosnien erbeuten zwei kleine serbische Dampfer mit Munition und Minen.

Fig 10 - the 1917 War Issue

Publication of postbücheln during the next decade seems to have been limited. The author has not yet seen examples from the 1920s, and the Vienna Technical Museum has only two examples in its archive.

By the 1930's, the brochures had lost the sponsorship of the postal workers' pension fund and union. The 1934 booklet had the pre-War mix of postal tariffs, name-day chart, humour and advertising, and appears to have been privately-published.

From 1935 until the Second World War, the booklets appear to be privately-published on behalf of the Austrian Post, but do not overtly say so. By then almost all the content was postal information. As before WWI, we see the cheerful postman bringing us a letter, but the change from Art Deco to Modernist design is most striking.

The postbüchel tradition also carried on in Czechoslovakia, and an example from 1934 is shown on colour-plate 4.

The Modern Era

By the 1960s the postbüchel was in a small format (4 inches wide by 5.5 inches tall), and remained thus until the twenty-first century. Publication was by then by a private company, sponsored by the postal authorities, with the advertising in the brochures presumably paying for their production.

Postal information comprised about half the content of the 1960s booklets, but the name-day calendar and some light entertainment remained, along with the introduction of a recipe spot. A major feature was the prize-lottery, highlighted on the front cover. In 1867 the first prize was a Fiat car, with 78 other prizes for runners-up.

By the late 1960s short, serious articles started to appear describing aspects of the history of the post, such as:

- ❖ “One hundred years of the postcard” (1969),
- ❖ “The Emperor’s postmaster”, about the Thurn & Taxis service (1972),
- ❖ “Austrian post offices in the near-east” (1977).

The 1970 issue contained a short article on the 1701 postbücheln, useful for the compilation of this article.

By 1973, a four-page, full-colour centrespread had been introduced - some thirty years before ‘AUSTRIA’ followed suit!

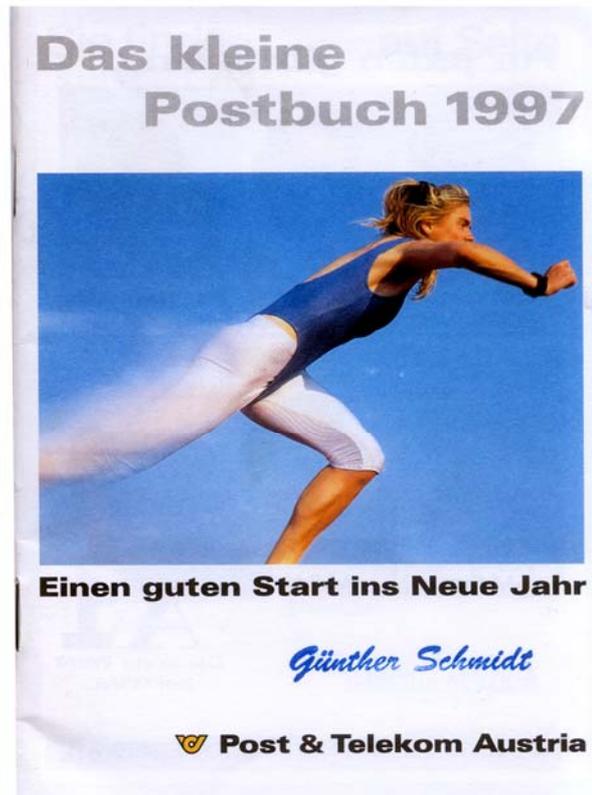
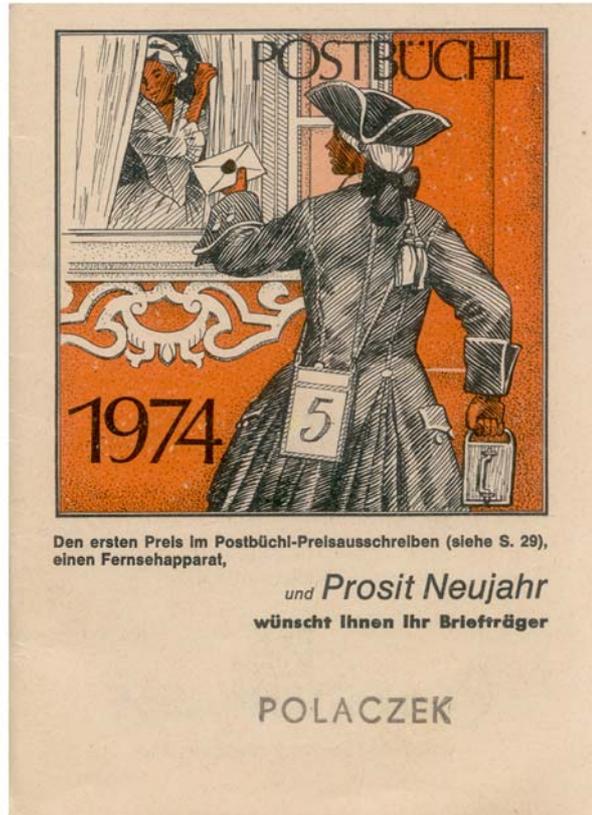
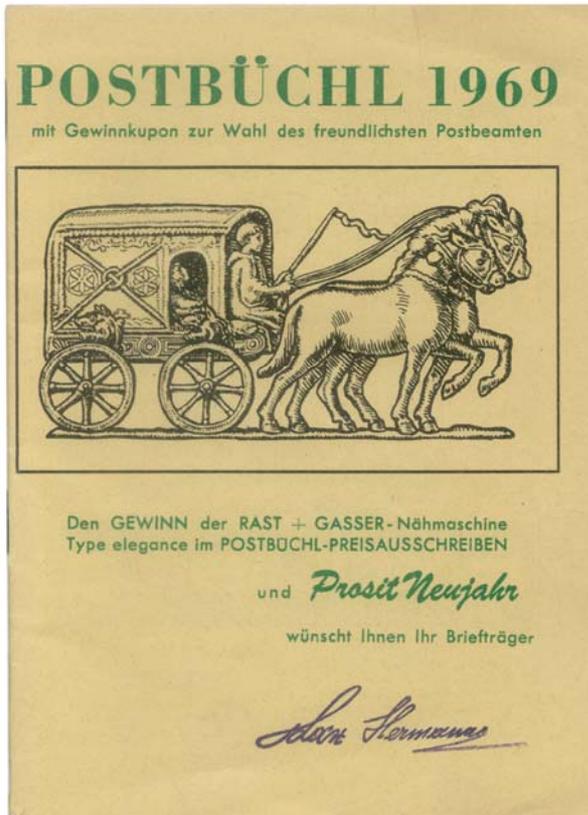


PLATE 3



A "successor" from Czechoslovakia

Two recent examples

PLATE 4

During the late 1970s the traditional whimsy all but disappeared, but the lottery and the name-day chart were still retained.

The 1981 booklet gives some useful insight into the publication of the post-WWII editions. The editors describe this issue as the 1701-1981 “jubilee postbüchl”. Now, it is unusual to celebrate a 280th anniversary, but, as we read on, we discover that this is an excuse for the publishers to draw attention to the fact that they have held the contract for twenty-five years. They say: “It is thanks to the efforts of our postmen and the Austrian Postal Directorate that the postbüchl has continued to be published year after year, and that over one million households now receive it. For twenty-five years our publishing-house has looked after the care of the post-book in its current form. We congratulate our beloved child on its 280 years, and to our shared quarter of a century.” The publisher concerned, an advertising and promotions agency, Stieger Werbung, is still in business on Hermangasse in Vienna.

The front covers from the 1960s and 1970s showed illustrations of some aspect of postal history, often featuring an exhibit from the post and telegraph section of the Technical Museum in Vienna.. By the early 1980s however, the theme had returned to cheery postmen and women handing letters to grateful customers, but now using colour photography. Some examples of covers from this era are shown in colour-plate 3. By this time, all editorial content had disappeared; only postal information, advertising, the raffle and the name-day calendar survived.

The name of the brochure also changed during this era. By the 1960s it had become a “postbüchl” (without the “e”). In the early 1980s, the Vienna series became “Das kleine Post ABC”, while a parallel series for Styria was entitled “Das kleine Postbuch der Steiermark.

In 1997 the postbüchel was rebranded as “Das kleine Postbuch” with, for the first time the logo and name of Post & Telekom Austria on the front cover. The content inside, however, was in exactly the same format as the previous year, and clearly was produced by the same publisher. By this time all the content was related to post and telecom services, and all the advertising was for these “in-house” services. Only the name-day chart and lottery remained as non-postal content.

After the split of the postal and telecoms businesses into separate companies, the design switched in 2001 to the yellow livery of Österreichische Post with which we are familiar today. At the same time, the lottery and name-day chart finally bit the dust, leaving a booklet containing only details of postal tariffs and services, much the same as you could pick up in a British post office.

The new-year wishes remain, however, along with the tradition of the book being handed out by the postman as his personal gift to his customer. Two of the modern booklets are shown in colour-plate 4.

While researching this article, the writer stumbled upon an Austrian internet message board on which the 2008 postbüchel was being discussed. A contributor complained that she did not receive a postbüchel because she was always at work when the postman brought them round. Another complained that, even though she was at home, the postman did not ring the bell three times and wait (as he is apparently required to do), and that the postbücheln for her district all ended up in a skip.

Even though today's booklet is merely a summary of post office services and tariffs with none of the traditional entertainment content, it is clear from these comments that, after more than three centuries, distribution of the postman's new-year gift is a much-loved Austrian tradition that would be missed if it were to disappear.

Further research needed

There is a dearth of published information and research concerning the postbüchel. The writer has based this article upon empirical study of more than one hundred booklets and a visit to the exhibition of postbücheln held at the Vienna Technical Museum in late 2007 / early 2008.

There are still many gaps, however. The author's collection includes no booklets from before 1840, and nothing from the 1920s, 1940s or 1950s. Nor has he been able to examine pre-1918 examples in languages other than German. No examples from the Italian-speaking part of the Empire have come to light, although there is no obvious reason why an Italian version would not be popular.

No information has been found about the Anschluss, WWII and Allied Occupation periods. Did the Austrian booklets continue through this period, or was a German Post Office product distributed in Austria, or did postbüchel deliveries cease "for the duration"?

Little is known about the writing, editing and publishing of the pre-1918 editions, or how they were financed. It is not at all clear why several different booklets were issued each year by the same publisher.

The author would be pleased to hear from readers who can supply answers to these unanswered questions, or who have examples of the periods and territories not represented in his own reference collection.

THE 1890-1908 EMPEROR FRANZ JOSEF ISSUES OF AUSTRIA

And the 12 Heller issue of 1907

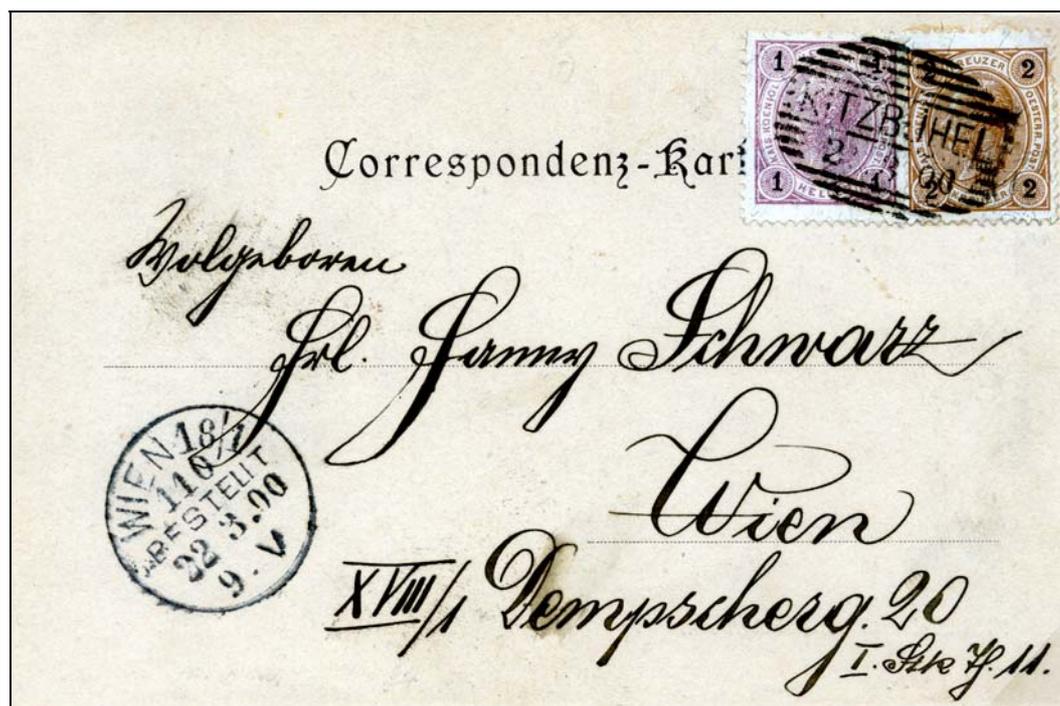
by Herb Kucera

This article is adapted (with their permission) from the Newsletter of the Briefmarkensammlerverein Favoriten, Vienna. The translation is by Herb Kucera.

When the use of postage stamps was extended in 1889 to include payment for parcels, money letters and payment of money, it was necessary to provide a number of additional value stamps. The occasion coincided with the Emperor's 60th birthday, and the new stamps, as issued in 1890, featured a bust of the emperor in an oval frame. The frame was inscribed with the name of the Austrian Postal administration as the Imperial & Royal Austrian Mail. All the new stamps had the same design and differed only in the value and the colour of each value, with the exception of the Gulden values, which were printed in a slightly taller design. The values on each stamp were printed in a second run in black colour.

Considering that most, if not all, post offices were lit with coal oil lamps at that time, the postal clerks frequently made mistakes in selecting the correctly valued stamps. This problem became worse when the lamps emitted smoke, the wick burned low or the glass cylinder was not cleaned. Part of this problem was addressed in 1891 by replacing the stamps with values of 20, 24, 30 and 50 Kreuzer with an altered frame. Instead of being round, the new frame now had corners, the background for the value was blank, rather than coloured, and values inscribed on the stamps placed at a 45 degree angle. The first printing of these values remained valid until August 31, 1891. The rest of the stamps were valid for postage and other uses until September 30, 1900.

In the meantime, the country was changing the currency from the silver standard for the Gulden and Kreuzer stamps to a gold standard, using Kronen and Heller. The effective date of the change actually was August 11, 1892, but new stamps in Kronen and Heller were not issued until December 1, 1899. The rate of exchange was 100 Kreuzer = 1 Gulden are equal to 200 Heller = 2 Kronen. The new money in the form of Heller and Kronen, for example, bought a 5 Kreuzer stamp for 10 Heller, until the old coins and banknotes could be withdrawn entirely. Although payments were made in Kronen and Heller, the accounting basis remained in Gulden and Kreuzer until Kronen and Heller became the official and sole currency of the country.



Mixed franking from 20 March 1900: 5 heller inland postcard rate paid with 1 heller and 2 kreuzer equivalent to 4 heller.

The new stamps in Heller remained in the same colour for the corresponding use, eg the 5 Kreuzer and the 10 Heller stamps were both pink. The 10 Kreuzer blue stamp was replaced with a 25 Heller blue stamp, in view of an increase in the postal rates for the corresponding service. 5 Heller now paid for what the 3 Kreuzer stamp would buy, both stamps being green, and 50 Heller replaced the 24 Kreuzer stamp, both in grey. A minor change was also made in the design, with the low values up to 6 Heller continuing with the oval design; values of 10 Heller up to 30 Heller now having a square design; and the 40 to 60 Heller an octagonal design. This was intended to make it easier for postal clerks to recognise different values. Kronen values were similar in design to the Gulden stamps.

There was also concern regarding the fraudulent reuse of stamps, when cancellation marks were washed off after use, and to avoid this, the paper was coated with diagonal varnish bars. It was hoped the varnish bars would dissolve in water, but, as many of these stamps still retain their varnish bars, the success seems questionable.

All of the above still appeared to be unsatisfactory, so more changes were made subsequently. Instead of printing the stamps in two stages, inserting the black value in the second stage, the first of the revised stamps had the values of 1 Heller to 6 Heller in one colour. At this time the 10 Heller values up to 30

Heller still required two printing stages with the black numeral applied in the second stage; but now the field for the value was blank to make it easier to see the value. The values from 35 Heller to 72 Heller had the value shown in white on the coloured field, which reduced the printing process to one stage.

In 1906 and 1907 one more change was made. This time the remaining 10, 20, 25 and 30 Heller stamps were also printed in one process with the value being the same colour as the rest of the stamp. One curious thing happened here: a 12 Heller stamp was included in this printing, but there never was any legitimate use for a 12 Heller stamp. Apparently, the authorities had planned to raise the 10 Heller rate for inland mail to 12 Heller, but when a previous increase in postal rates caused many protests, the planned increase was not implemented. There was now a large number of 12 Heller stamps available, and rather than destroy them, other uses were developed. Local parcels required a delivery fee of 12 Heller, in addition to the 30 Heller parcel postage. But that could be paid by the existing 40 Heller plus the 2 Heller stamps. And for Inland parcels rated at 60 Heller plus the 12 Heller fee there was already a 72 Heller stamp.

Now the post office people had a brilliant idea: it sold the 12 Heller stamps for 10 Heller to large corporations for use on prepaid reply envelopes. Double postcards with a prepaid card attached were already very popular with these corporations, as the customer could react quickly and without the need for addressing letters and affixing stamps. All of these Emperor Franz Josef stamps were valid not only in Austria proper, but throughout the kingdoms and lands represented in the Reichsrat (ie the Austrian parliament) including among others the kingdom of Bohemia, today's Czech Republic.

Also affected by all this were the Austrian Post Offices in Turkey and Crete. They used the same Austrian stamps, but overprinted in the local currency, Para and Piasters in the Turkish territories and Centimes and Francs in Crete. The stamps requiring the second printing process for inserting a value in black were ideal for this. With concerns about the stability of the Turkish currency, Austria was happy to see both currencies, Piaster and Kronen, on the stamps in use there. The postage rates in the Levante were set by the UPU and not by local authorities and caused Austria to fear a devaluation of the Piaster. In 1900 the Turkish Piaster strengthened considerably and the worries were replaced by a new concern about the advantage of the French Franc in the exchange rate. This caused Austria to use its stamps for Crete, which were already overprinted in French currency, for the entire region in the Middle East.

This series of stamps with Emperor Franz Josef's bust were eventually replaced by a new series in 1908, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the reign of the emperor and showing portraits of a number of the Habsburg emperors.

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This is a revised second edition, limited to 220 copies, of the Handbuch Bosnien-Herzegovina published in 2000 which was awarded a Large Silver medal at “Belgica 2001”. This detailed publication (nearly 160 pages with many illustrations in colour) on the subject of Bosnian postal history, cancellations and postal stationery has been entirely redone and brought up to date.

AUSTRIAN FIELDPOST - HISTORICAL SURVEY

Translated by George Taubel from “Ferchenbauer Oesterreich 1850-1918” (Wien 2000) pp 1067-1075; first printed in APS^{US} VIII Nr 1. With thanks to both.

At the end of the 15th century, the first military courier line was established between Innsbruck and Worms by Emperor Maximilian I on the occasion of his campaign in Italy. Subsequently, such courier lines were established more frequently at war times, and already in the first half of the 16th century the term “veldt post” or “post in veldt” appeared.

The first half of the 17th century was marked by destruction as a result of the 30-Year-War. Nevertheless, Wallenstein established well-functioning fieldpost at the campaign sites as has been proven by a few preserved mail items.

The second half of the 17th century brought with it the Imperial Order of August 10, 1672, a decisive innovation to the military postal establishment, which Alfred Clement in his “Handbook of Field and Military Mail” calls the birthday of the Austrian Field Post Office because now a Postal Officer and his clerk were responsible for accepting and distributing the letters – a duty that was until then the direct responsibility of army headquarters.

The first cancellation was applied by Austrian troops in the Netherlands during the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748); a further expansion of the Fieldpost occurred during the 7-Year-War. It is remarkable that the officials assigned to the Fieldpost offices (Fieldpost Officers) were only employed during wartime and were discharged again when the Fieldpost was dissolved afterward.

A particular chapter in the history of the Austrians, but also of the French Fieldpost in Austria, are the wars against Napoleon between 1792 and 1815; on account of their diversity, a popular collecting area!

Historically interesting, especially postally, is the development and further expansion of the so-called ‘Military border’ as a Christian bastion against the intrusions of the Turks; an establishment which existed from the start of the 16th century (particularly after the battle near Mohacs in 1525) to the settlement with Hungary in the year 1867, and not only proved its great military value, but also its economic and cultural influence.

The 19th century, with its economic, cultural, and most of all, technical progress, required an organizational update of the Fieldpost in this time of rapid

development. That happened through regulations issued in 1820, 1849, 1861, 1878, 1884, 1891, 1902, 1904, and 1913*) whereby the Fieldpost achieved its final organizational format, which enabled it to handle the extensive work load during World War I.

*The “**Service Book E-47 K.u.K. Field post**”, Vienna 1913, includes all regulations in detail for the activation of the Field Post by the Army administration in case of war; it was not only an indispensable service aid for the Field post personnel, but also for officers of the Army.

Austrian fieldpost in the postage stamp period

After the introduction of postage stamps on June 1, 1850, the following Fieldpost establishments became active; therefore in their areas, postage stamps were also used.

The Austrian troop contingents in German federal fortresses

The formation of the German Federation in the year 1815 by 35 Princes and 4 Free Cities, brought with it the establishment of a Federal Army. The individual contingents were stationed in 5 Federal fortresses; Austrian troops were at the Federal Assembly of Frankfurt/Main and in the fortresses of Mainz, Rastatt and Ulm. The German Federal Fortresses were given up in 1866 (after the dissolution of the German Federation).

Austrian postage stamps were only used at the Federal fortress of Mainz**) and cancelled with a handwriting-type long cancel (Müller cat. Nr. 3431a). When the German-Austrian postal treaty came into effect, the military post office was given up, and the mail forwarded by the Thurn and Taxis post from October 1, 1852. Private mailings were charged in accordance with Austrian inland rates.

**For the Austrian garrison of Federal Fortress Mainz, a local military post office was established in 1819, which was charged with handling the official and private mail of the garrison. The office was subordinated, concerning postal matters, to the postal directorate at Linz.

Campaign and occupation in Italy (1849-1854)

The rebellion that erupted against Austria in March 1848 at Milan was suppressed by FM Count Radetzky at the battle near Custoza. The Lombardian principal city was reoccupied by Austrian troops on August 6th. In contrast, Venice was evacuated by the Austrians in March 1848, and reoccupied at the

end of August 1849. To re-establish peace and order, the Austrians occupied parts of northern Italy, occupation troops were garrisoned in several locations. Field Post offices were established at Bologna, Florence, and Ancona.

At those offices, long single-line and also single-circle cancels (with German or Italian inscriptions) were used on stamps of the 1850 Lombardy-Venetia issue. There also exist letters with Toscana stamps (the single circle cancel "FELDPOST Nr. 2" is, in general, only known on Toscana stamps). Very scarce are Austrian Fieldpost letters with Papal States stamps.

The valuation of such pieces is only possible with the aid of pertinent cancel-catalogs: "Handbook of Cancellations of Austria and Lombardy Venice" by Müller, Wien 1961, also Sassone "Antichi Stati Italiani Gli Annulamenti", Rome (always use the latest issue).

Austrian intervention in the Electorate of Hessen (1850/51) and the occupation of Holstein (1850/52)

During the constitutional dispute in the Electorate of Hessen, an Austrian army contingent, under command of FML Count Legeditsch, was transferred from Vorarlberg to Kassel at the end of 1850. The Fieldpost canceller used there is the same that was used during the occupation of Holstein by Austrian troops (from January 1851), during the war with Denmark. This cancel is known only on a few examples of loose stamps; letters with postage stamps have not been found so far!

Occupation of the Danube Principalities of Moldavia and Walachia (1854-1857)

To protect its interests, Austria occupied the two Danube Principalities of Moldavia and Walachia in August 1854, during the Crimean War. Fieldpost offices for the occupation troops were established and, lacking other suitable postal facilities, existing consular post offices were included in the fieldpost services.

At the beginning of the military occupation, Fieldpost offices were established at Bukarest, Galatz, Ibraila, and Jassy; and in February 1855 at Krajova, Piteshti, Slatina in the Walachia; also in Bottuschan, Fokschan, Tekutsch, Berlad, Vasluj, Roman, and Bakeu in Moldavia. On 26th Nov 1855, the Fieldpost office in Vasluj was given up; in its place one was established in Foltitscheni. From the spring of 1855, Fieldpost offices were also handling

civilian correspondence. In 1856 the Fieldpost offices in Krajoiva and Slatina also provided Fahrpost service.

The postal fees were established by an ordinance of 12 Mar 1855 as:

	For Military	For civilians
Letters per Loth	9 Kreuzer	15 Kreuzer
Samples per 2 Loths	9 Kreuzer	15 Kreuzer
Printed matter per Loth	1 Kreuzer	2 Kreuzer

Stamps used for franking were the Austrian issue of 1850, however, cash payment was also allowed. Cancels with reference to Fieldpost, also some with location inscriptions only, were in use. The FP-cancel appearing most often is the one from KRAJOVA (Müller Nr. 3444a).

The war against Piedmont-Sardinia and France (1859)

The war that broke out at the end of April 1859 led to the battle of Solferino on June 24, and the defeat of Austria; also the cession of Lombardy to Italy (Peace Treaty of Zurich 10 Nov 1859).

In April of that year the hasty establishment of a field post was ordered. At the headquarters of the first and second army operating in upper Italy, a common main Fieldpost office was installed at Verona, which accepted correspondence and money, and forwarded it to troops and military personnel of both armies. By August 31 all Fieldpost installations were given up.

The mail forwarded by Fieldpost was subject to franking, however, for the first time common letters of troops (from sergeants downward) was post-free. For mail subject to franking, the rate for a simple letter was commonly 15 Soldi (Sardinia territory), after retreat to Austrian Territory, inland rates applied (5, 10, or 15 Soldi depending on distance). All letters are extremely rare!

The war against Denmark

When the war against Denmark started on 1 Feb 1864, caused by a dispute about Holstein, in addition to Prussian troops the VIth Austrian Army Corps also participated. The campaigns lasted until 20 July 1864; the war was ended by the peace of Vienna on 30 Oct of the same year.

However, by the end of December 1863, a Feldpost office was established in Hamburg, which was later transferred to Kolding, where it remained until terminated on 15 Apr 1865. The non-registered mail of the troops was free of

franking again, otherwise a simple letter, regardless of distance, was to be franked with 15 Kreuzer. Freedom from franking was granted to all military personnel from 20 May 1864 on.

There were only two cancellers in use: “K.K. FELDPOST Nr. 1,” (Müller Nr. 3451a) and “K.K.FELDPOST/EXPOS Nr. 3” (Müller Nr. 3452a)

The war against Prussia and Italy (1856).

The Northern Army fighting under FZM von Benedek on the Bohemian battlefield was defeated at the battle of Koniggratz on 3 July 1866. The Southern Army fighting under FM Archduke Albrecht was victorious in the battle at Custozza, and the K.K.-Fleet under Admiral Tegetthoff won the naval battle near Lissa. Nevertheless, Austria had to cede Venice to Italy (see more details with the regular stamp issue of 1864).

From 15 June 1866 at the Northern Army in Bohemia, and from 22 June at the Southern Army in Italy, Fieldpost service was established, and through a main fieldpost office and several substations, the mail was forwarded. Mailing free of franking granted to the military personnel for their ordinary letters was also extended to money mailings, inclusive to 75 Gulden. The cancellers were generally single circle with German inscription.

K.K. FELDPOSTAMT Nr. 1A, 2, 2A, 2B, and 2C, also K.K. FELDPOST/EXPOS. numbers 1 to 16 are found on Kreuzer stamps.

K.K. FELDPOSTAMT Nr. 1B and K.K FELDDPOST/EXPOS numbers 1 to 4 are found on Soldi stamps.

Here also, for the valuation of letter fragments and letters, we point to the cancellation catalogues of Müller and the cancellation part of the SASSONE catalogue.

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Mail from Hungary to Austria, 20/11/1945 to 31/7/1946

by John Whiteside FRPSL

This article was inspired by the note in "AUSTRIA" 162, regarding mail censored by the French in Austria, post-WWII. ⁽¹⁾

The date range is worthy of explanation. Hungary was in the throes of the worst inflation yet to be recorded ⁽¹⁾ [*Roman-numbered notes are at the end. Ed*], there being 27 changes in rate between 1 May 1945 and 31 July 1946. A new currency was then introduced - 100 fillér equalling 1 forint. The forint was 4×10^{29} old pengő, or 200,000,000 Adó (=Tax) pengő, each equivalent to 2×10^{18} pengő. The loss of three noughts from the Ap figure was deliberate to allow the highest denomination Ap notes to act as fillér coins for 2 months.

I went through my collection of this Hungarian inflation and was able to find 27 items of mail addressed to Austria. A brief description of each of these, in chronological order, is listed below. However, before this, some details of the historical and postal rate background may be useful.

In 1944 there were great changes in Hungary. The long-term leader, the Regent Admiral Horthy, was deposed and called to Germany. The Soviet Red Armies were advancing westwards, so German troops were sent to Hungary. Romania capitulated without a fight late in August 1944.

The Red Army entered pre-1938 Hungary on 23 September and the Hungarians and Germans fought the Reds across the country. The easternmost towns of Battonya and Makó fell on 26 September. The Danube (Duna) formed a natural barrier, Pest, on the east bank falling on 17 Jan 1945, but Buda, on the west bank was not taken until 13 February. Following a 7-week pause ^(II), western Hungary was taken in 3 weeks, the last town, Nemesmedves, falling on 4 April 1945. Attention focussed on Austria and the next great prize - Vienna.

¹ ***Main references consulted***

A Magyar Bélyegek Monográfiája V, Budapest, 1967.

A Magyar Bélyegek Kézikönyve, Gondolat, Budapest, 1986.

The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946, Robert B. Morgan, Chicago, 2003.

Behind the “liberating” Red Army there was chaos. Postal services virtually ceased as they passed and for some time afterwards. Sketchy services were offered in some areas from January 1945, mainly for official and commercial mail; some personal mail was dealt with but it seems to have been largely a matter of luck. The situation was not helped in that much postal material, such as postmarks and registered labels, had become lost, stolen, or strayed as the Army passed.

But, on 1 May 1945, the Postal Authorities began to provide a national service, albeit for internal letter and postcard mail only and at greatly increased rates. These rose sharply on 2 July, but the service was extended to carry parcels up to 10kg in weight. This limit was raised to 20kg from 16 September, when the rates rose again. The great inflation was truly under way.

Foreign mail was hugely restricted. There was no parcel service until at least 1 January 1947 and letter and postcard services were only gradually recommenced. The first service, to Yugoslavia only, began on 6 August 1945 and it was extended to Czechoslovakia on 8 October 1945 and Romania on 17 November.

Mail to Austria was accepted from 20 November 1945, but it was then suspended again from 1 December 1945 until it resumed on 12 January 1946. The reasons for this are unknown to me, but were probably political rather than practical (^{III}). The rates were the full foreign postage rates. Concessionary, or reduced rates, which had previously applied, were not resumed until 1 January 1947. There was no airmail service to Austria at this time.

The listing of my 27 items to Austria follows. I have attempted to give as much detail as possible, of both the postage rate and the censorship tapes and handstamps. (^{IV})

Note: the numerical system used was the European one, which I learnt at school. 1,000 million was called a milliard and 1 million million was a billion (10^{12}). Thus a billion was not the smaller American one which has regrettably become universal these days.



Item 1: 21/11/1945 Letter Budapest to Vienna, 500p paid. This was the correct rate for the first days, but it was held and not sent until much later, when the rate had risen to 15,000p. It received a black T mark and “1S08g einheben” written in blue crayon. The reason is debatable, since the Austrian foreign rate at the time was 50g. Censor tape was the American-style OPENED BY / MIL. CEN.-CIVIL MAILS. Handstamps were *OESTERREICHISCHE ZENSURSTELLE* in a double oval with W.N in the middle and a boxed two-line geprüft/78. Postage due stamps totalling 1S 8gr are cancelled 7 WIEN 62, 8 Feb 1946. (V)

Item 2: 27/11/1945 Postcard Rakósliget to Vienna, 300p paid by 30 x 10p, stuck on a piece of paper attached to the card. Under this, there is the double oval mark and a boxed two-line geprüft/46. There is a further geprüft/46 strike on the back.

Item 3: 4/12/1945 Registered letter Esztergom to Vienna (arr 12/1/1946), so held until service resumed, 1,500p paid. Censor tape and double-oval handstamp as item 1 plus boxed two-line geprüft/49.

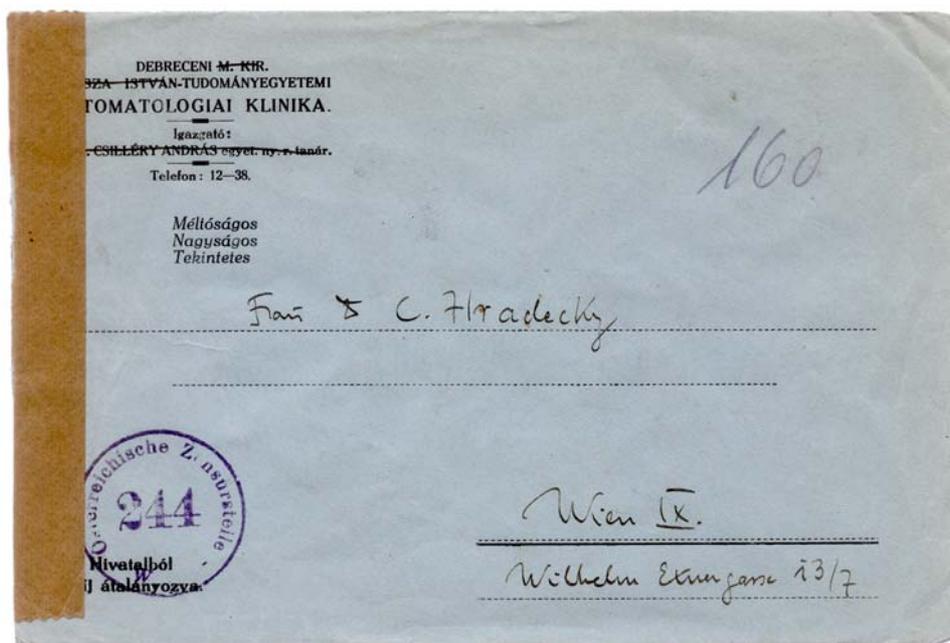


Item 4: 18/1/1946 Letter Budapest to Vienna, no arrival mark, 3,000p paid. Censor tape and double-oval handstamp as item 1, but with boxed geprüft/48.

Item 5: 11/3/1946 Letter Budafok to Neukirchen a.d. Enknach bei Braunau am Inn, no arrival mark, 80,000p paid. Not censored.



Item 6: 21/3/1946 Letter Budapest to Vienna, no arrival mark, 160,000p paid. Plain brown paper tape plus single-circle handstamp in violet Osterreichische Zensurstelle - W. - and 288 in centre. There is also a piece of American-style tape OPENED BY / MIL. CEN.-CIVIL MAILS, which does not seal the envelope, but covers the top pair of the 8 x 20,000p stamps on the back.



Item 7: 23/3/1946 Letter Debrecen to Vienna, no arrival mark, 160,000p. paid. Brown censor tape and handstamp as item 6, but with 244 in centre and struck in black.

Item 8: 22/4/1946 Reg. letter Baja (in green ink on the label!) to Volders, Tirol, arrival backstamp 3/5/1946, 1,920,000p paid. There is also a 4,000p stamp which is superfluous. Not censored.



Item 9: 29.4/1946 Letter Komárom to Volders, no arrival mark, 2,100,000p paid, 100,000p above the correct rate. Censor tape boxed CONTROLÉ in black on green paper. Censor handstamp is a double-circle Ouvert par les Autorités de controle with IKA-I in the centre in dark violet.

Item 10: 9/5/1946 Postcard Ujpest to Volders, no arrival mark, 5,000,000p paid. Censor handstamp in violet, single-circle MILITARY CENSORSHIP / CIVIL MAILS with 2927 in centre.

Item 11: 15/5/1946 Postcard Budapest to Graz-Wetzelsdorf, no arrival mark, 25,000,000p paid. Addressed to Rosegger Lager, Teillager Hainburg, but not censored.

Item 12: 18/5/1946 Letter Komárom to Volders, no arrival mark, 40,000,000p paid. Not censored.

Item 13: 25/5/1946 Letter Komárom to Volders, no arrival mark, 160,000,000p paid. Censor tape and handstamp as item 9, but with additional boxed 42 handstamp. Both handstamps in violet,

Item 14: 31/5/1946 Letter Budapest to Vienna, no arrival mark, 480,000,000p paid. Brown censor tape and handstamp as item 6, struck in violet, but with 54 in centre.

Item 15: 4/6/1946 Letter Baja to Volders, no arrival mark, 1,600,000,000p paid. Censor tape unframed CONTROLE in black on white paper. Censor handstamp as item 9, but with additional boxed 10 mark. Handstamps are in violet.

Item 16: 7/6/1946 Letter Budapest to Vienna, no arrival mark, 1,600,000,000p paid. Brown censor tape and handstamp as item 6, but with 345 in centre, struck in violet.



Item 17: 8/6/1946 Letter Komárom to Volders, no arrival mark, 1,600,000,000p paid. White censor tape as item 15, but no double-circle censor handstamp. Boxed 10 in violet.

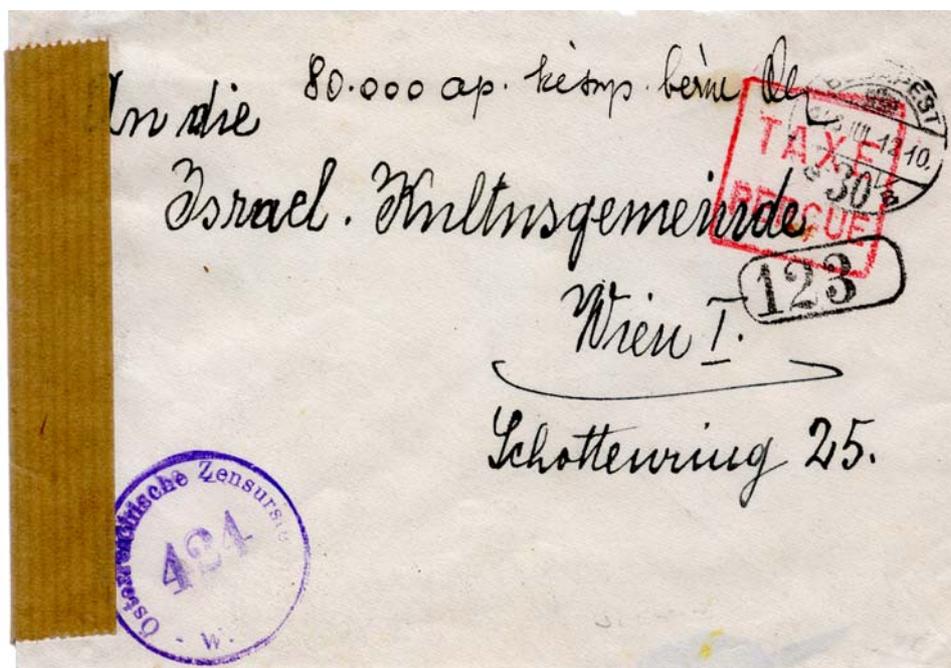
Item 18: 18/6/1946 Letter Budapest to Vienna, no arrival mark, 80,000,000,000p paid. The payment was made by 16 x 5,000,000,000p stamps, 4 of which are on the back, uncanceled. Brown censor tape and violet handstamp as item 6, but with 233 in centre.

Item 19: 19/6/1946 Postcard Sopron to Volders, no arrival mark, 50,000,000,000p paid. Not censored.

Item 20: 23/6/1946 Postcard Budapest to Wien-Unterknitzendorf, no arrival mark, 50,000,000,000p paid. No censor tape but handstamp as item 6 in violet but with 380 in centre.

Item 21: 9/7/1946 Reg. letter Várpalota to Vienna, arrival mark 1 WIEN 1, 17/7/1946. Paid in cash and endorsed in pencil 1,200 ezer Bp = 1,200 thousand billion pengő, or 1.2×10^{18} p. Provisional registration label with the top part only

of the Várpalota c.d.s. struck in it. Brown censor tape and violet handstamp as item 6, but with 216 in centre.



Item 22: 12/7/1946 Letter Budapest to Vienna, no arrival mark. Paid in cash, endorsed 80,000Ap, with red boxed TAXE/PERÇUE handstamp and a framed 123 in black. This authorised the cash paid and was the number of post office Budapest 30 in the official lists. Brown censor tape and violet handstamp as item 6, but with 424 in centre. This was the first day of the Adópengő currency and the postage equalled 1.6×10^{23} old pengő.

Item 23: 13/7/1946 Registered letter Baja to Volders, arrival mark 22/7/1946. Paid in cash with special red c.d.s. and manuscript 240,000Ap Taxe/Perçue. 10 obsolete stamps from 100 milliard to 200 billion pengő are purely decorative. Not censored.

Item 24: 23/7/1946 Letter Budapest to Vienna, no arrival mark, 400,000Ap paid in stamps. Brown censor tape and violet handstamp as item 6, but with 194 in centre.

Item 25: 23/7/1946 Registered letter Ujpest to Volders, weight 21-40g, arrival mark 30/7/1946. 1,530,000Ap paid, overpaying the correct rate of 1,450,000Ap by 80,000Ap. Not censored.

Item 26: 27/7/1946 Registered letter Baja to Volders, weight 21-40g, arrival mark 1/8/1946. Paid in cash with special red postmark and 5,800,000Ap endorsed in ink. Four stamps totalling 350,000Ap are superfluous as the full charge was paid in cash. Not censored.



Item 27: 31/7/1946 (The last day of the hyperinflation.) Registered letter Baja to Volders, no arrival mark, 5,000,000Ap paid by a single stamp, the top value issued. Although this overpays the correct rate of 4,800,000Ap, it is believed to be one of only three currently recorded on cover. Censor tape in black on green, as item 9, tied by two strikes of the double-circle censor handstamp, front and back. A boxed 52 mark in violet was also applied.

The items listed above may be summarised. There are 13 items addressed to Vienna, all of which have been censored. There are 12 items addressed to Volders in Tirol (between Innsbruck and Schwaz), 6 of which have been censored and 6 have no trace of censorship. They are all addressed to two members of the Koczán family, who seem to be of Hungarian origin. Only two items were to other places in Austria, neither of which were censored.

Unfortunately, it would appear that at this period only registered items received arrival marks. Also there do not appear to be any marks indicating that items had been passed unopened by the censors, as had been used at the huge Nazi censor office in Vienna till 1945.

It must be emphasised that I am not a student of censorship in Austria. I do hope that the information presented will interest those who do study the subject. It may be useful in that it lists items coming into Austria, rather than items sent within the country or addressed out of it. I also hope I will be forgiven for placing such emphasis on matters Hungarian, but it was rather a difficult time in that country's history and I thought some clarification was required.

Editor's Addenda:

^I See also "Jugopošta" Vol 86 June 2008: "The five worst examples of inflation"; the prize was won by "Hungary in 1946". Ed

^{II} The delay was caused by the German "Lake Balaton Offensive", when Hitler sent his best remaining armoured troops including his Personal Guard, part of the SS, to recapture Budapest and also the oilfields at Nagykanizsa (S.W. of Lake Balaton). This offensive was short-lived, much to Hitler's fury, and by 19 March 1945 Soviet troops had recaptured all the territory lost. Ed

^{III} The Editor, having pored over Majörg and consulted HP, believes that censorship of foreign mail in Austria was imposed by the Allies on 4 Oct 1945, to cover both areas where mail had previously gone uncensored and areas where there had been no service. It took the Allies until 18 December to instruct that the necessary mechanism be set up "as soon as possible". This happened on 27 Dec 1945, and work began on 2 Jan 1946. During the period 4 Oct to 2 Jan foreign mail was not allowed (and before then wasn't possible). Mail to Austria from Hungary accepted in 1945 would have been transported to Austria, but not delivered. The suspension of acceptance would be due to the Austrian Post formally declining mail which the Allies would not permit them to deliver until a functioning censorship system had been set up.

^{IV} Unless the payment of additional postage is mentioned, the frankings were correct for the date of posting. Ed.

^V HP has two letters from Czechoslovakia, one posted 18 Dec 1945, the other 22 Jan 1946. Both have been charged 52 groschen due, and have a black T mark and a handwritten "einheben". And, **they have WIEN 62 cancels**. One suspects that someone in that office had found a way of converting postage dues into cash.. Ed

THE WORLD WAR I GMÜND REFUGEE CAMP AND ITS POSTAL FACILITIES

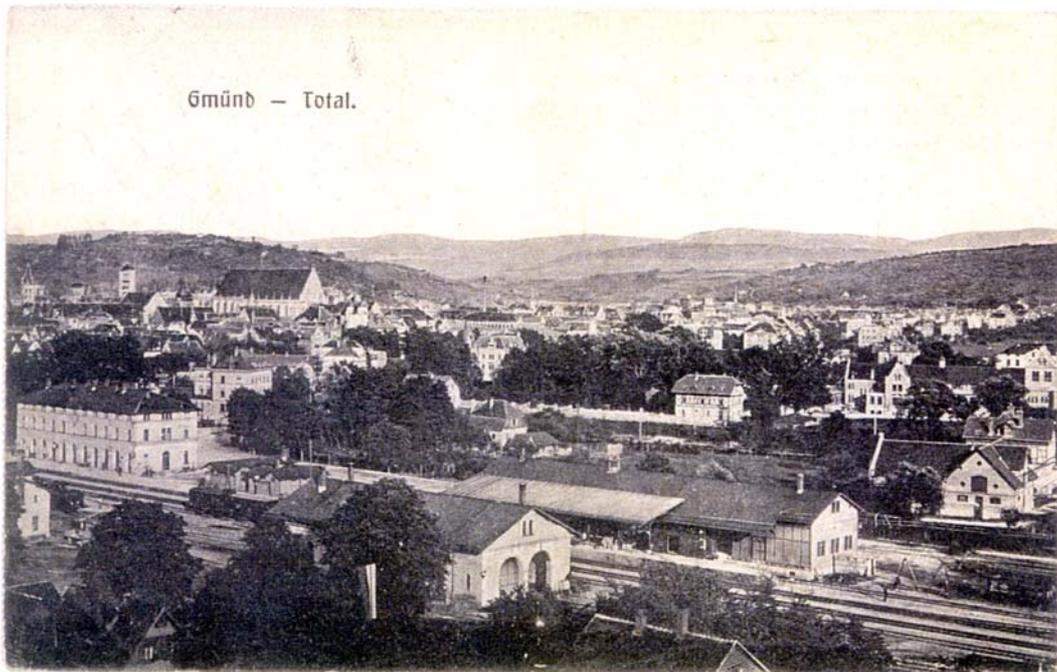
by Inger Kuzych, Roman Dubyniak, and Peter Cybaniak

This version of the article was prepared by the Editor from the authors original; he ruthlessly deleted much background detail and the accompanying illustrations to reduce the total length. The full version, with some of the illustrations in colour, is available on the APS web site at <http://www.austrianphilately.com/gmuend/index.htm>

The early weeks of World War I did not at all go according to how the Austrians had planned. Glowing hopes for a speedy victory by Austrian troops over their nemesis of Serbia were dashed when Russia, Serbia's ally, mobilized more quickly and attacked both the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its ally Germany, making substantial initial gains. Large portions of the Austrian crownlands of Galicia and Bukovina were occupied in the fall of 1914 and even though many of the territories were cleared of the Russians by the summer of 1915, some remained under occupation throughout the conflict.

By the end of September 1914, less than two months after the outbreak of the war, between 60,000 and 70,000 refugees had arrived in Vienna from the Russian-occupied eastern front. By 1915, the Austrian Ministry for the Interior estimated that the number of refugees who were eligible for state support had reached 600,000, of whom 450,000 came from Galicia and Bukovina on the eastern front and 150,000 came from the southwestern front on the Italian border. They were transported by train to refugee camps in the German-speaking hinterlands, and the Austrian War Ministry sought to group refugees according to nationality for ease and speed of repatriation, and to prevent their assimilation into the surrounding communities.

One of the largest camps was in the town of Gmünd, Lower Austria (Niederösterreich), some 120 km (75 miles) northwest of Vienna, very close to the Austrian-Bohemian border. In September of 1914, Gmünd was designated as the site of a refugee camp for Ruthenian (Ukrainian) evacuees from the eastern Austrian crownlands. The crownlands of Galicia and Bukovina were heavily populated by Ukrainians and it was in the Ukrainian-inhabited lands that some of the fiercest early fighting of the conflict took place. At the outbreak of the war, 43 percent of the inhabitants of the crownlands were Ukrainian. Many Austrians still referred to these people as Ruthenians, but by the war years the description Ukrainian(s) was becoming more widely used.



The town of Gmünd as it appeared before the war.



Serie 28/5

Nr 254. Galizische Flüchtlinge.

Galician refugees walking and riding to safety.

A barracks camp (Barackenlager) was hastily constructed south of the town; work began in December 1914 and by September 1915, 144 units were complete. Around 30,000 Ukrainians were housed in this locale, while another 10,000 Ukrainians were interned in Wolfsberg and St. Andra, Carinthia (Kärnten). At one point the number of inhabitants reached over 36,000 dwarfing the 1915 population total of 5,000 for the town of Gmünd itself!. Camps for

other nationalities from Galicia and Bukovina included those for Poles in Leibnitz, Styria (for 30,000 internees) and Chotzen, Bohemia (for 20,000); some 20,000 Jews were housed in Nikolsburg, Pohrlitz, and Gaya in Moravia, and another 3,000 Jews in Bruck an der Leitha, Lower Austria

The first year of 1915 was the hardest and most frightful for the camp's inhabitants. It was also the period of greatest crowding. Many internees did not receive adequate shelter until the second half of that year. Food shortages and crowding led to stress, sickness, and, for the weakest, death. By 1916, conditions had improved markedly. More buildings and services became available and a more normal life could be lived. Continued improvements in 1917 made camp life even more tolerable.

Life in the Camp

Many of the able-bodied males in the camp, as well as some females, were employed outside the camp, working in fields, in forests, in factories, or as household servants. A sizeable Ukrainian community lived in Vienna during the early part of the 20th century and it maintained close ties with the Gmünd refugee camp. A number of social and cultural activities were organized including courses for illiterate camp inhabitants and the staging of plays and concerts. Eventually, a fairly rich cultural life developed at the camp. Several singing groups emerged and the theatre program gave the internees something to look forward to and promoted morale.



A ladies singing group at Camp Gmünd in folk costume.

On 18 August 1915, the 85th birthday of Emperor Franz Josef, a monument was dedicated at the camp in the presence of high-ranking Austrian and Ukrainian dignitaries. The Governor of Lower Austria, Count Richard Bienert-Schmerling, visited the camp on 10 September 1915.

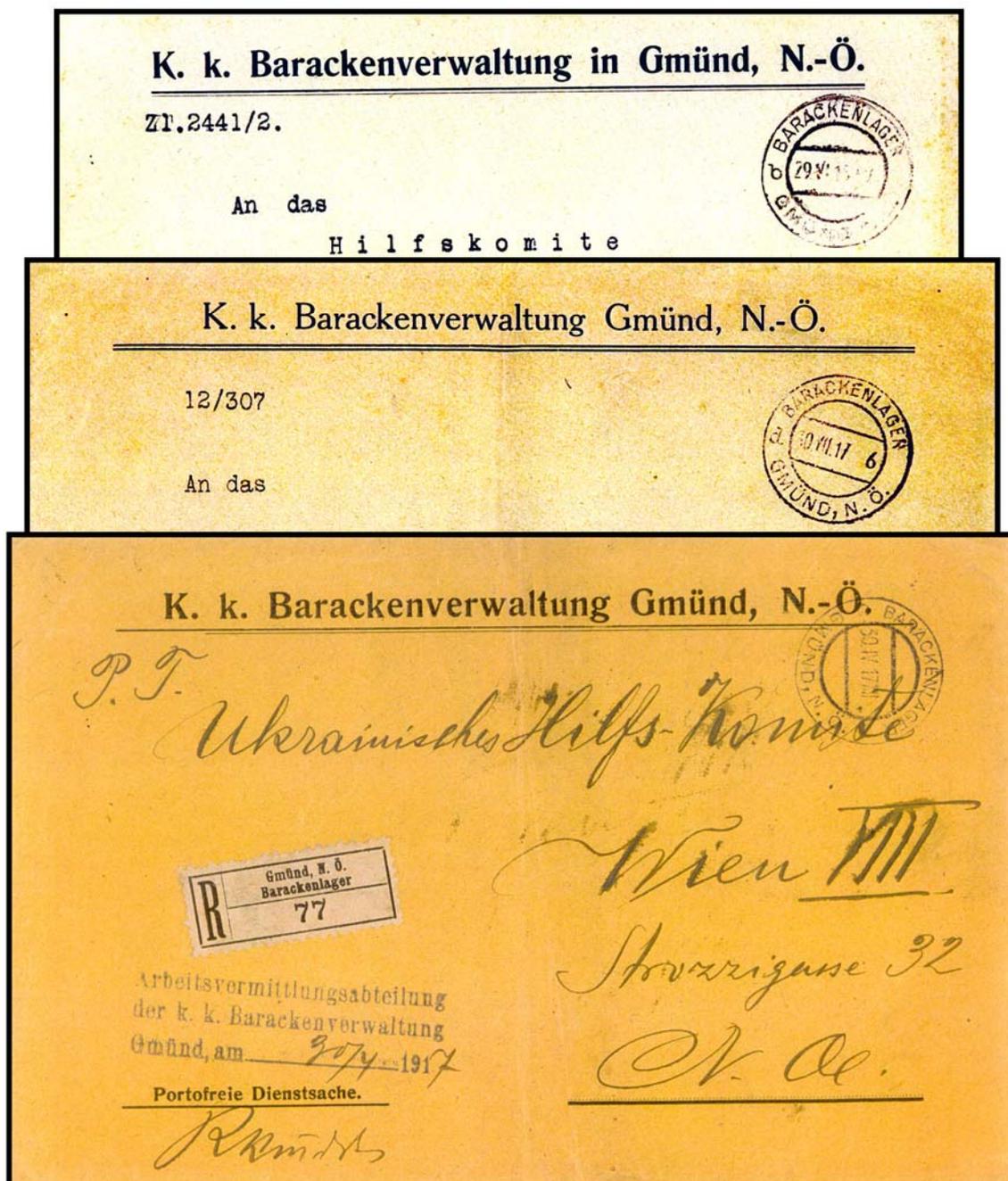


A large number of Ukrainians served in the Imperial Austrian Army (about 8% were Ukrainian) as young men of Galicia were called up for military service irrespective of ethnicity. Since on the eastern front Austria was engaged in fighting Tsarist Russia, Ukrainians who had not been called up or who had been exempted from call-up volunteered to form a separate **Ukrainian Legion** of Ukrainian officers and men within the Austrian Army. The Austrian authorities, though at first a bit reluctant, soon agreed. One of the aims of this unit was to support Ukrainian aspirations of national sovereignty within the Russian Empire. The Barackenlager Gmünd was an important support facility for the Ukrainian Legion and the camp also provided volunteer recruits for this military unit.

Camp Mails

A post office also existed in the camp and it used a circular, double-ring, bridged postmark “Barackenlager/ Gmünd, N. Ö.”. Counter-letters “a”, “b”, and “c” are known used 1915-1920; “d” was used 1915-1926 although the office was renamed Gmünd 2 on 1 August 1920. Four different types of cover are known, each with the same pre-printed return address, but with small differences in the printing. The address itself “K. k. Barackenverwaltung, Gmünd, N. Ö.” translates as the “Imperial and Royal Barracks Administration in Gmünd, Lower Austria.” The return address types differ in the thickness of

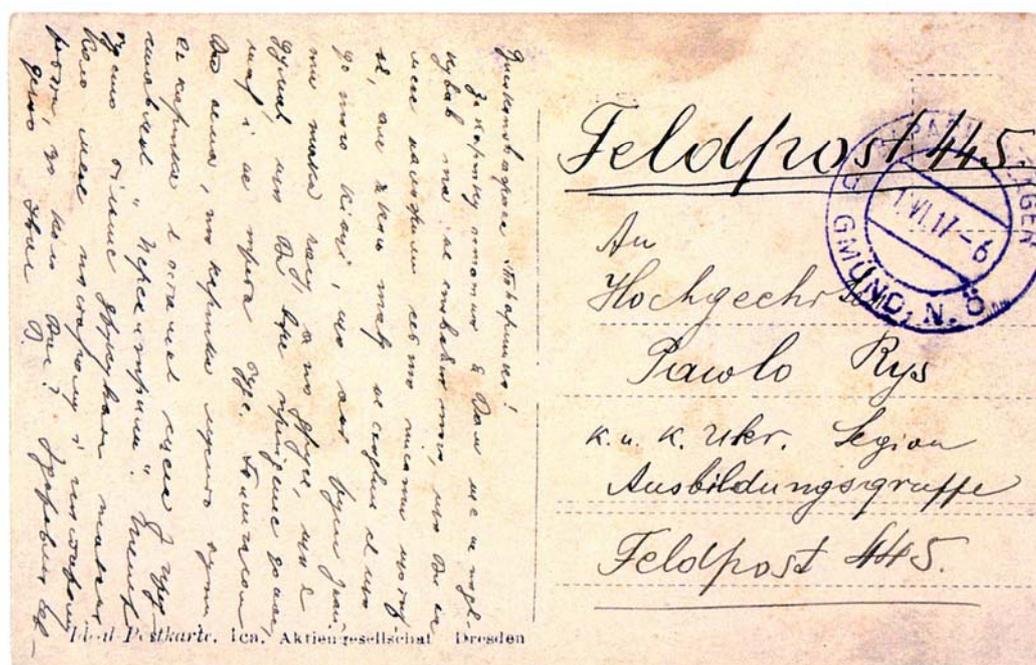
the lettering or in the length of the underlying lines (either two complete lines or the second line shortened at both ends). The covers illustrated display three of the four circular postmarks (“b”, “d”, and “c”). Note that no postage was required for mail sent on official business.



The envelopes used in these official dispatches differ in their colour, having been prepared with whatever paper was available at the printer at the time the request for pre-printed envelopes was made. Colours we have seen range from cream, to buff, to light brown, to greenish-blue

The addressees on the covers shown above – as well on many others we have come across – are Ukrainian relief organizations that sought to improve the condition of the camp's inhabitants. The vast majority of the letters went to the "Hilfskomitee für ukrainische Flüchtlinge aus Galizien und der Bukowina" (the Relief Committee for Galician and Bukovinian Refugees), which in 1915 was at Mezzanin 5, Piaristengasse, but by late 1916 was located on Strozzigasse 32 (both in Wien VIII) in Vienna. Some letters went to the "Gesamt-ukrainischen Kulturrates" (United Ukrainian Cultural Council), which was located at the same address and provided supplies and publications of an educational nature. Several letter writers we found decided to ignore regular channels and sent their petitions – using registered mail – straight to the top, to "Lev" Levitsky, the senior Ukrainian member in the Austrian Parliament. In this case, an "a" circular postmark was utilized.

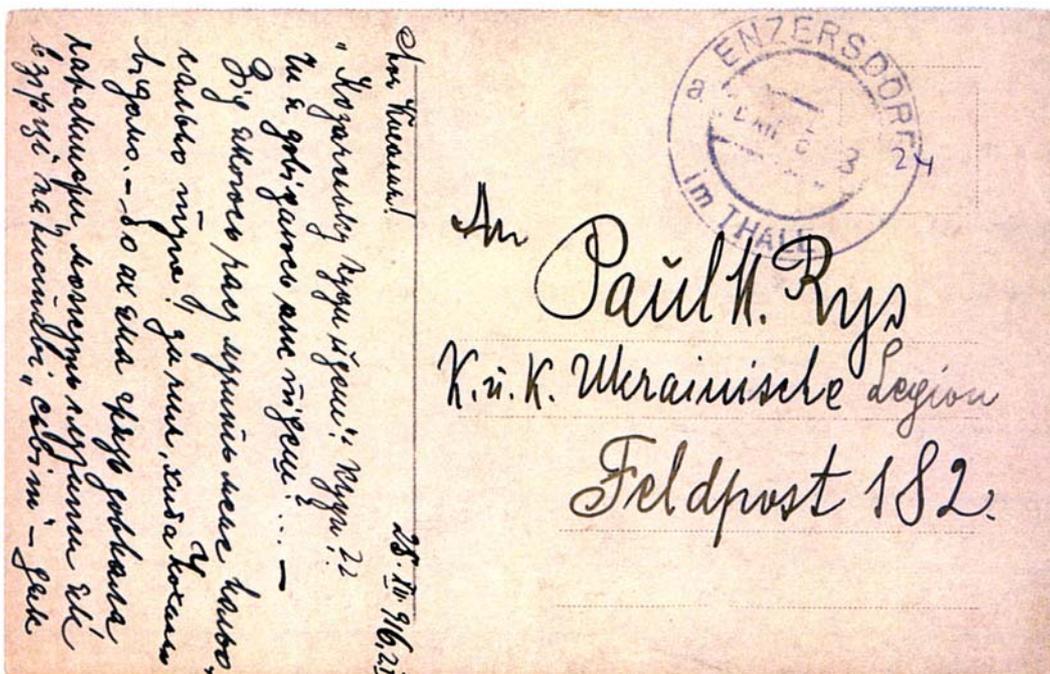
Since the Ukrainian Legion was part of the Imperial Austrian Army, its various units utilised the Austrian Field Post. The Ukrainian Legion's Facilities at Camp Gmünd were assigned Field Post No. 445. Thus, outgoing military mail from the camp was marked "Field Post 445" and required no postage.



However, some military mails were sent via the camp post office and did require franking. Below is a distinctive Ukrainian Legion field post correspondence card – with its prominent Ukrainian Legion seal – sent from Camp Gmünd via the Gmünd post office on 21 July 1916 and franked with a 5-heller stamp to pay the postcard rate. Note the two-line receiving handstamp of the Ukrainian Legion office in Vienna.



We have also been able to locate a few pieces of mail from the Bukovinian Ukrainian refugee camp at Enzersdorf. Below is a postcard sent via that camp's Field Post No. 182.



About 200 to 300 thousand people are estimated to have passed through the Barackenlager Gmünd during the years that the camp remained open (1915-1918). However, many refugees arrived ill, debilitated, emaciated, or wounded. At least 20,000 died and were buried in Gmünd. Some sources cite a death total

of 30 or 35 thousand. (On average, over two dozen people were interred daily.) On 26 September 1964, the 50th anniversary of the camp founding, a monument entitled “Refugees” by the renowned Ukrainian sculptor Gregor Kruk was dedicated to these victims of the war at the Gmünd refugee cemetery. The commemorative envelope shown here was issued on 18 October 1997 in Gmünd for a memorial exhibition. Shown on both the cachet and cancellation are the entrance to the Barackenlager Gmünd as well as the “Refugees” memorial.



In early 1918, Austria-Hungary and Germany signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Soviet Russia ending the war in the east. During the course of the year the Gmünd Camp was emptied as people simply went home or left to start new lives elsewhere.

The first official attempts to make postage stamps by intaglio printing

[Found in APS(NY) XVIII 1 of 1966]

The 1850 issue intended for Austria and Lombardy-Venetia was produced and issued in a great hurry and without much care. It had been planned as a provisional issue, soon to be replaced by a new one. However, due to the great demand for postage stamps, the K. u. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei found itself overwhelmed with work, so that it was quite impossible to start immediately on a new design for the adhesive postage stamp. Thus the stamps of the 1850 issue remained in circulation until the end of 1858 and numerous printings, cliché-combinations into plates, differences in the imprints, colours, etc are known from that time.

It was not until 1853 that, simultaneously with the preparation of the revenue stamp issue in CM (Convention Money) and Centesimi, the project of a new adhesive postage stamp issue was again taken up, although contemporary documents show that negotiations in this matter between the printers and the Ministry of Commerce began in 1851. Early in 1854 Auer, at that time Director of the K. u. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei, informed the Ministry of Trade that the proofs of the proposed new adhesive postage stamp issue would soon be submitted.



This was perhaps due to the forgeries of postage stamps going on at Verona, which greatly worried the post office authorities at that time and which intensified the endeavours to advance the new design of the adhesive stamps. But finally no new stamps were issued, although some documents of early 1854 report the submission of proofs. The “Mercury heads with and without beards” having the rates 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9, date from that time and were made by intaglio printing (copper plate printing process) processed in one press run. It is also

thought that the above-mentioned forgeries of postage values from Verona with their attractive make-up induced the printing office to apply the same method. The revenue stamps issued at that time were already produced by intaglio printing.

It took until 1855 for the Ministry of Trade to reject Auer's proofs of the so-called "Mercury heads". It was decided that the new stamp issue should show the head of the Emperor, not that of Mercury. This decision was implemented with the 1858 issue.

The Mercury heads were printed on little sheets directly from the copper plate. It is likely that all 10 blocks were engraved separately or in pairs and then combined into one plate. Each rate had a square shape. The paper was very thin and stiff and of a light blue-grey tint; the ink was a bright medium brown. The design of the Mercury heads makes us think of a sketch but it is carried out with much verve and skill. The background shows a network consisting of thicker and thinner lines placed perpendicular to each other. The value was indicated in Arabic numerals similar to those of the revenue stamp issue. Apart from that, these proofs show no other inscriptions. Another point worth noting is the difference in the images, for the heads are reproduced in five different poses. Furthermore, the heads in the upper set of stamps are shown without a beard and the lower ones with (and each beard is different!). As the faces on each pair of values with & without beard are the same, it is evident that the aim was to provide a very striking distinction between the Austrian Kreuzer currency and the Italian Centesimi. The documents do not however state which version was intended for which currency. If the stamps had been issued, the stamps intended for the Italian usage would have been engraved with 5, 10, 15, 30 and 45.

Apart from the printing process employed, the square shape of the stamps is another novelty in comparison to the 1850 issue. Moreover, the smallest physical size corresponds to the lowest value, 1 Kreuzer, and the largest to the highest, 9 Kreuzer.

The name of the artist who designed these Mercury stamps is not certain, but it is generally thought that the design was by the painter Leander Russ and the copperplate engraving by C. Kotterba – they were responsible for the 1852 Revenue issues. Only 3 sets of the proofs are preserved.

As far as the printing, the composition and the elaborate execution is concerned, these proofs are not only to be considered as the first official attempts to make postage stamps by intaglio printing, but as very interesting documents of the history and development of the Austrian postage stamps and of philately.