

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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EDITORIAL 165

By Andy Taylor

Well, that's the Anniversary Year over! Back to the daily grind of discovering, collating, discussing, mounting, writing-up – then deciding it looks horrible or is invalidated by new information, so needs beginning afresh.

I have been pointedly reminded that almost 160 years ago small pieces of gummed paper were introduced to the Austrian Empire to denote the prepayment of postage, and they have been neglected in these pages for too long. So it's time to print the "2008 new issues" details, many inspired by WIPA and even more by Football. Yes, they issued rather a lot of them, so it's a longish article. However if I split it in two, the 2009 issues will suffer the same fate: it's like painting the Forth Bridge!

→

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→

The trouble with all these shiny (& heavy) new books is that, having bought them, paid the excess baggage charges, and lugged them back home, one starts reading them. Then misunderstanding them; and checking ones collections against them; and embarking on 57 projects at once. This requires organisation, and space, and time, and is a Bad Thing! I am most grateful to Henry Pollak for guiding me through an initial encounter with "Kroiss on Inflation": see the article in this issue. Some of the valuations are very interesting - but the warning about the importance of superb condition applies to this area of philately just as to any other.

A New Year Puzzle for you! What's the going rate for a genuine perfect mint red Mercury? The answer is printed later (and no, the stamp is not the prize).

Stop Press! Due to Paul Taylor's illness Colin Tobitt replaced him at the London meeting on the 14th January. The Inflation display by Paul Taylor will now be on March 11th 2009. The venue is still the Seckford Arms, Seckford Street, London; 19:30 for 20:00. Contact G Richardson or C Tobitt. **All welcome!**

And, don't forget the meeting-for-everybody at 12:45 (not 14:00) on Saturday 28 Feb, Room 32, at Philatex. Subject: newspapers T & P.

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.~~ **SEE SPECIAL OFFER OPPOSITE!!!**
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- ❖ **“The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps”** by Dr. Stephan **Koczyński**: 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”**.

"HOW TO USE KROISS": A PRIMER

Edited by Andy Taylor

“Kroiss” is “Belege der Österreichischen Inflationszeit 1918-1925” written by Dipl.Ing Peter Kroiss and published in 2008. It covers the period 12 Nov 1918 to 30 June 1925. APS Library item 434

The book has only been out for a few months, and a “primer” is what may be possible right now. If you have any interest in Austrian inflation covers, it is really worth the effort to learn how to use this book. But be aware of one fundamental condition: This is a book on non-philatelic covers. If the value of the cover is really the expensive semi-postals on it, this book is not the right place to look. It will tell you whether or not the franking was the correct postage on the date the cover was postmarked, but it makes little mention of special value for special stamps. But with regular covers franked with regular stamps, you will have a ball.

Note that the book deals only with items having “postally correct franking”.

Kroiss clarifies “postally correct franking” thus. “During the inflation period, the rates changed frequently and the amounts were often odd – eg 37½ or 9600 Kr. It might be inconvenient, or sometimes impossible, to obtain and apply the correct franking. Hence, a small percent above or below is inevitable, and neither adds nor subtracts from the value; up to $\pm 10\%$ is acceptable This applies except if the cover is suspiciously philatelic - lots of different stamps on the same cover. Then an overfranking is not so easily forgiven.”

This primer will concentrate on Letter mail (Briefpost), which constitutes Chapter I, about 60% of the book. The Fahrpost, and the use of newspaper stamps, postage dues, airmails, cutouts, and a variety of other services take up the rest as chapters II to VI. They go beyond a first lesson.

There are four major factors which, if relevant, go into the valuation of a cover, and they take up Sections I.1 to I.4 respectively. Section I.1 deals with the total amount of postage on the cover, independently of which stamps were used to pay it. The correct postage depends on three separate considerations: What postal service was paid for, what was the date of mailing, and where did it go?

Which postal service? There are somewhere between 10 and 18 different postal services, e.g. ordinary letter, postcard, or printed matter; each may be registered, or express, or both, and there are CODs and return receipts. (Extra weight is mostly covered in chapter I.3.)

Date of mailing? The inflation era is divided into 14 distinct periods (defined on pages 27-30), and the price for each service was different in each period.

Where to? The destination may be inland, or foreign, or a foreign country with special reduced rates. This is more complicated than it looks! Some destinations used inland rates during all (Germany) or parts (eg Hungary or Danzig) of the inflation era. The reduced foreign rates started at different dates (and for Romania it stopped and restarted). There were also periods in which some services in the local area were cheaper than to the rest of Austria.

So the first thing to do is to look up the value of the cover given the service that was rendered, the date, and the destination. Then you go on to section I.2.

In I.2, you **examine the franking** on the cover. Which value(s) of which issue(s), and how many of them, appear on the cover? If there is just one denomination of just one issue, how many copies? If several denominations of one issue, what are the details of the mix? If several different issues, there are tables of valuations for which, and how many, different issues are involved. You will end up with a second value of the cover, based on the details of the franking.

A cover from the inflation period may have a lot of stamps on it. In order to use I.2, you need to be clear on the classification into the five kinds of frankings: A single stamp is an *Einzel frankatur*, EF. Multiple copies of a single stamp with no other stamps on the item is a *Mehrfach frankatur*, MeF. Different values from the same issue create a colourful franking: a *Bunt frankatur*, BuF. Stamps from more than one issue on a cover are a mixed franking, *Misch frankatur*, MiF. Finally, multiple values of a single stamp are a massive franking *Massen frankatur*. The minimum number you have to have for a *Massen F* varies between 5 and 20 depending on the issue. You'll quickly get used to the names for the eight issues of regular postage stamps valid during the inflation period. To compute the value of a BuF or a MiF, you look up the value in that particular kind of franking of each stamp, and take the largest number you find; you do not add them up. If you have a *Massen F* with one or two extraneous additional stamps, you just ignore them.

The basic value of your cover is the larger of the answers you get from I.1 and from I.2. Note well: **the larger of the two, not the sum of the two.**

The purpose of I.3 is to determine additional aspects of the cover which may add to its basic value. We cannot possibly list all the possible reasons. There are massive multiple frankings of one particular stamp. There are unusually heavy letters. There are first and last days of stamps and of postal rates. There are

emergency cancels and bisects, censorship markings, unusual services (eg for the blind, or for trade samples). There are about 60 pages of possible add-ons.

One further consideration which may affect the value of an item is that part or all of the franking may be represented by the imprint on postal stationery. So there is a separate value of such an item, typically a postcard or a letter card with one or more imprinted stamps, because it is a piece of postal stationery! This may also depend on the date of usage, or on the presence or absence of additional stamps. Postal stationery for pneumatic mail also belongs here. Postal stationery is section I.4.

The value of an item of postal stationery in I.4 may be higher than its value based on I.1 and I.2 because of the scarcity of that particular piece of used postal stationery. If so, that's what you use. If not, the imprinted stamp gets counted with its appropriate value and issue in the computations of I.1 and I.2. (The little square eagle design used on stationery essentially from 1922 to 1925 gets counted with the long contemporary, so-called Dachauer, series.

That's (almost) all, folks. It's a primer, enough to get you started. But another warning on value appears more than once in the book, and must be mentioned. Full value only counts if the cover has legible cancels, the stamps, labels, and cover itself are substantially clean and undamaged, stamps are not pasted over the edges etc. The discounts for lower quality are very large. The author states that **if the value of the analogous perfect cover would be less than 50 euros, the noticeably imperfect cover is essentially worthless.** [*In the worked examples that follow, this is called the Kroiss Cutoff.*]



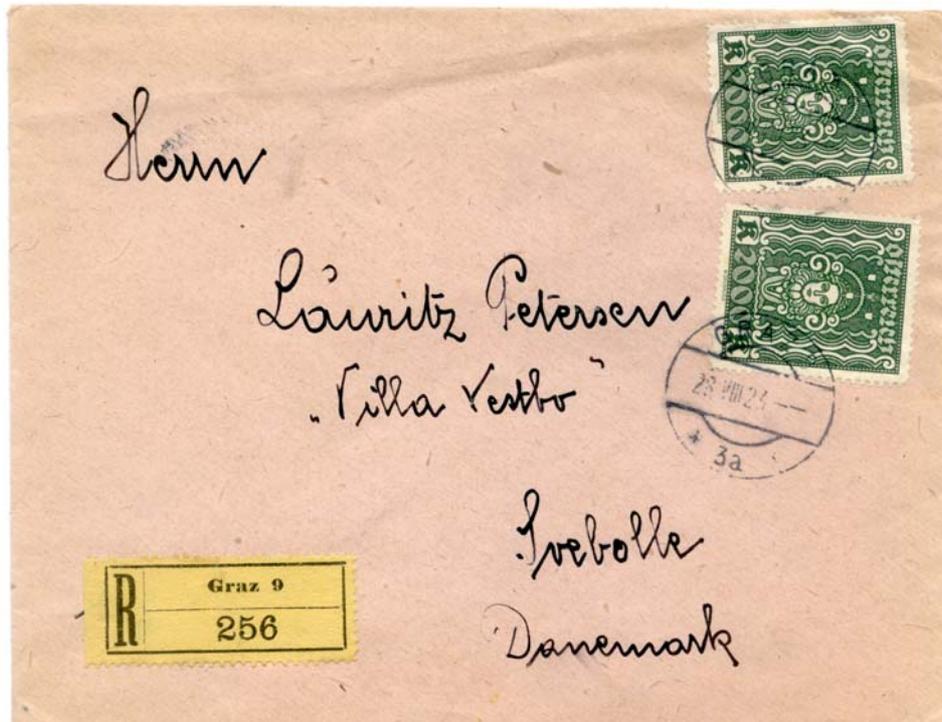
Test question 1: why is the Kroiss-value of this postcard zero?

"Worked examples" ¹

First, some clarifications and definitions.

	<p>This is a Mehrfachfrankatur, defined as “several copies of the same stamp and no other stamp(s)”.</p> <p>“Stamp” includes adhesives and also imprints on postal stationery of the same denomination.</p> <p>Cutouts from postal stationery were forbidden although they are occasionally found</p> <p>Multiple values of a single stamp are a Massenfrankatur. The minimum number you have to have for a MassenF varies between 5 and 20 depending on the issue.</p>
	<p>This is a “Buntfrankatur”: one or more copies of two or more values of the same stamp issue.</p> <p>The stamps here are the “Renner” issue, named after their designer and not the President!</p>
	<p>This is a “Mischfrankatur”: stamps from more than one issue.</p> <p>For the valuation, look at the subsection for the <i>latest</i> of the issues.</p>

¹ They make better sense if you have the book ☺

A registered letter

Graz to Denmark; 28 Aug 1923; 2 x 2000Kr on front and 2 x 1Kr on back.

The adhesives on the back were invalidated on 31 July 1922, and in any case were useless - they must be decoration, or to help keep it sealed. "Cacheted" on arrival! They can be ignored; such useless low values are common.

Check page 23: it's foreign mail, so use table I.1.2. Denmark attracts a premium of 15 Eu. (page 25).

Posting date is in Period 11; registered post is 4000Kr, as franked: so value is 60 Eu (page 34).

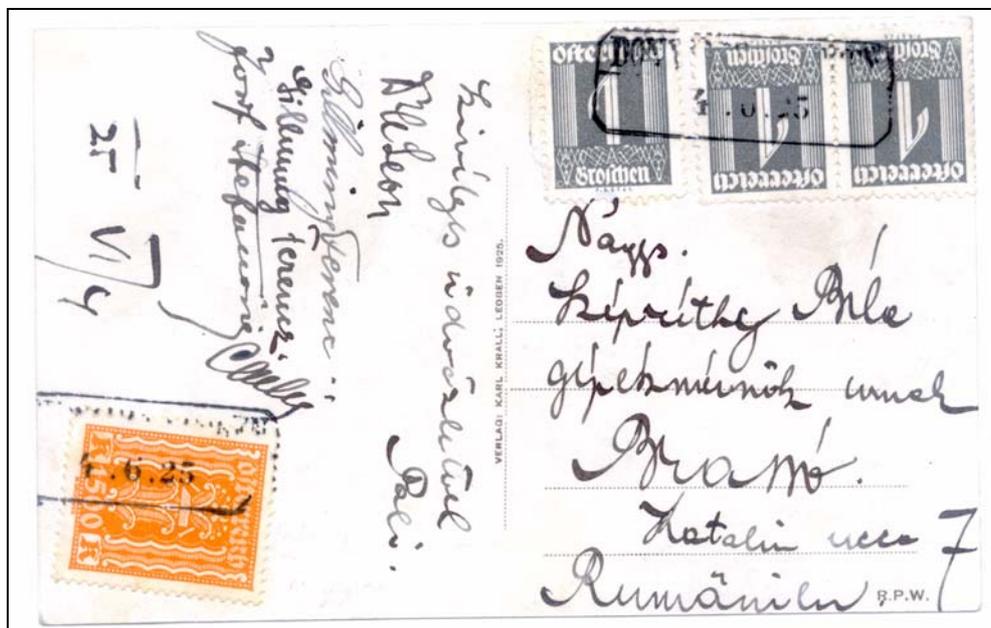
Usage-value $60 + 15 = 75$ Eu

Now check section I.2. Two Frauenkopf adhesives: page 73 "Mehrfach": 50 Eu

Now section 1.3: looking at the subheads on page 93, none apply.

Valuation of item: greater of 75 & 50 = 75 Eu

A mixed-franking postcard



Postcard from DONAWITZ b. LEOBEN to Romania; 4.6.25; 1500Kr + 3 x 1g = 1800 Kr alias 18 g which is the reduced rate.

Section I.1.3, page 37: rate = franking = 1800: period 14: so value 120 Eu.

Check section I.2: page 70: Dachauer stamp 1500 Kr: no extra value.

Section I.3: nothing.

Final valuation 120 Eu.

A letter to Germany



Ordinary letter to Germany, franked 80H, cancel 30 Oct 1920, stamp is perfined WBV, cancel is 'help the children', resealed.

Check page 23: Germany was Inland, so use table I.1.1; page 25 says no premium for mail to it. Table I.1.1 on p27 says this is Period 3; the correct postage was 80H as franked so the item's raw value is 2 Eu.

Now check section I.2. The single adhesive is a coat-of-arms, so from table I.2.1.6 on page 62 the item's raw value is 2 Eu.

Hence basic value is the greater of 2 and 2 = 2 Eu

Now for section 1.3: looking at the subheads on page 93 ... this is not multiply or highly franked, it's not heavy etc. Try I.3.6.5 "other oddities". Only possible candidate seems to be page 143 "postalische Aufkleber". However this label is German not Austrian, from the Munich Exchange Control Office [see note on page 21]. So of no value here.

Condition?? Pair of vertical creases; bottom left crease; uniformly grey appearance; corners intact with small creases. Say 50%.

Result: $2 \times 0.5 = 1$ Eu. BUT, as the basic value of 20 Eu is less than 50, Kroiss' Cutoff applies and the realistic commercial value is zero [*The item is sellable to collectors of "thematic: refugee", or perfins, or German Exchange Control: but all that is outside of Kroiss scope.*]

A letter to Switzerland

Letter to Switzerland cancelled 6.II.25. Franked $2 \times 1500 + 1000 = 4000\text{Kr}$. Foreign; no premium; period 13; franking equals letter rate: Value 20 Eu.

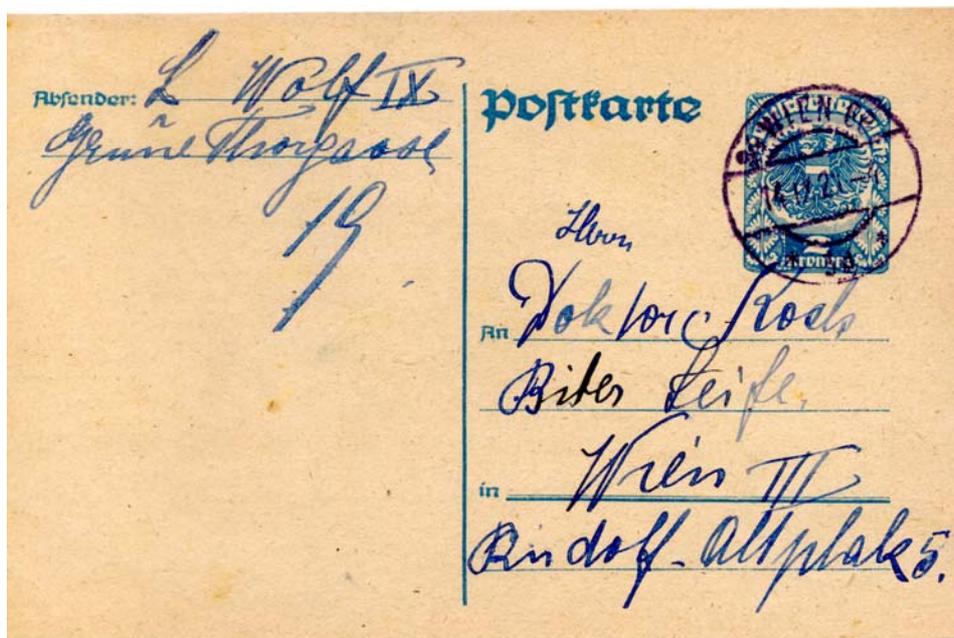
Dachauer issue so page 67. "Buntfrankatur"; $1500 = 15\text{ Eu}$ and $1000 = 2\text{ Eu}$ and value is the greater ie 15 Eu . No section-I3 extras. So basic is the greater of 20 and $15 = 20\text{ Eu}$

Tear along bottom where opened, generally grubby appearance: condition 50%?? If so value = 10 Eu. BUT, Kroiss' Cutoff applies: final result zero ☹

Note how the whole book is chock full of additional information regarding valuation. With any specific cover, you follow the overall structure of the primer, but you pull out of the book the details you need for THAT cover. The hard part to get used to is that value is defined iteratively as you examine more aspects of the cover. When you find an additional element to be considered, you have also to find in the book whether its value is one of those whose greatest you take, or is a supplementary item to be added to that maximum.

Official stationery

Postal stationery, 1 Kr imprint, posted inland 14 July 1921. I.1.1 says period 4 and value = 2 Eu. I.1.4 lists the card as 245 (these are Schneiderbauer numbers) with value 3 Eu. I.3 says no extras. Condition good. Result 3 Eu



Postal stationery, 2 Kr imprint, posted inland 14 Sep 1921. I.1.1 says period 5 and value = 2 Eu. I.1.4 lists the card as 247 with value 3 Eu. I.3 says no extras. Condition good. Result 3 Eu



Postal stationery card, Schneiderbauer 290. 200Kr imprint with additional 100Kr and 2 x 1000Kr adhesives to make the 300Kr postcard plus 2000Kr express rates. Inflation period 11.

Section I.1.1 gives the value of the basic use (express postcard, period 11) as 30 Eu.

Section I.2.1 for the adhesives, which are 1 x 100Kr 'Dachauer' and 2 x 1000Kr 'Frauenkopf'. The imprint is also a Dachauer. This is a Mischfrankatur, so as explained in para 2 of page 44 you evaluate each adhesive using this column then take the highest value.

From page 67: 100Kr Dachauer = 15 Eu and 200Kr = 20 Eu. From page 73: 1000Kr Frauenkopf = 12 Kr. So the highest is actually the imprint, at 20 Eu.

Section I.4.1.1 gives the value of the basic card as 2 Eu.

Thus the basic valuation is the highest of all the above, namely 30 Eu.

Does section I.3 add anything? Express is included in section I.1.1; and the pneumatic-post is a consequence of the express handling – and in any case Kroiss does not assign it any added value.

The condition is at first sight bad: vertical folds and dirty appearance. However these are normal for a pneumatically-transmitted item!

Final valuation: 30 Eu.

Test question on page 6: the answer! The postcard is "franked" on the picture side with two definitives and one postage due; and even if they were all valid there is no rate of 4200Kr. It is a confection, designed to confuse philatelists.

A COVER FROM TRIESTE ~ THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

By Keith Brandon

Introduction

The auction at the Winchester Fest was compiled by our President, Martin Brumby, and included lot 28 which he described thus:

1850 Triest (1575h) sent to the Comte Paris de Lodron in Battaglia, redirected to Trient, Bormio(?) and Padova, picking up numerous annotations, rate markings and handstamps. A good one to unravel on a winter's evening. Reserve £10.

Perhaps I am becoming paranoid, but I felt targeted! I was sure that Martin had written the description with me in mind, knowing that I enjoy working out the story of such covers. Nevertheless, no-one else was bidding, and so I decided to rise to the challenge and invest £10 for a winter evening's fun. You never know where an item of postal history will lead you, especially with the help of Professor Google and Doctor Wikipedia.



The Outward Route

The front and back of the cover are illustrated. The contents have not survived, but fortunately the Trieste postmark includes the year 1839 (not 1850), and so

we know the vintage of the item. The locations marked on this re-directed letter are Abano, près de Padou, Montegrotto, Battaglia and Trento, all crossed out, and Eppan, which appears to be the final destination as it has not been struck out. So we know that the letter started in Trieste and ended up in Eppan, but where did it go on the way?

Montegrotto, Abano and Battaglia are all towns and villages near Padova (in Venetia), and so the descriptor “près de Padou” (“near Padova” in French) could apply to any of them. Their modern names all include the suffix “Terme” (“spa” in Italian), and so it seems that the addressee was on a curative tour of the spas in the region. But to which one was the letter originally addressed?

The handwriting of “Abano” is in the same hand as the rest of the address: compare the “A” in “A Monsieur” with that in “Abano”, and note the distinctive underlining of “Lodron” and “Abano”. The mail therefore appears to have been initially addressed to “Abano, près de Padou”. To work out the rest of the route, we need to have a look at the postmarks on the front and back:

TRIESTE / 15 JULY / 1839 (Müller 1575h; recorded from 1837),

PADOVA / 18 LUG (Vollmeier 19; recorded from 1833 to 1839, but only as a departure postmark),

BATTAGLIA + manuscript 8/8 (Vollmeier 2A. He records the straight-line postmark used from November 1812 to November 1839, and with the manuscript date added from 1837; the latter only as an arrival postmark),

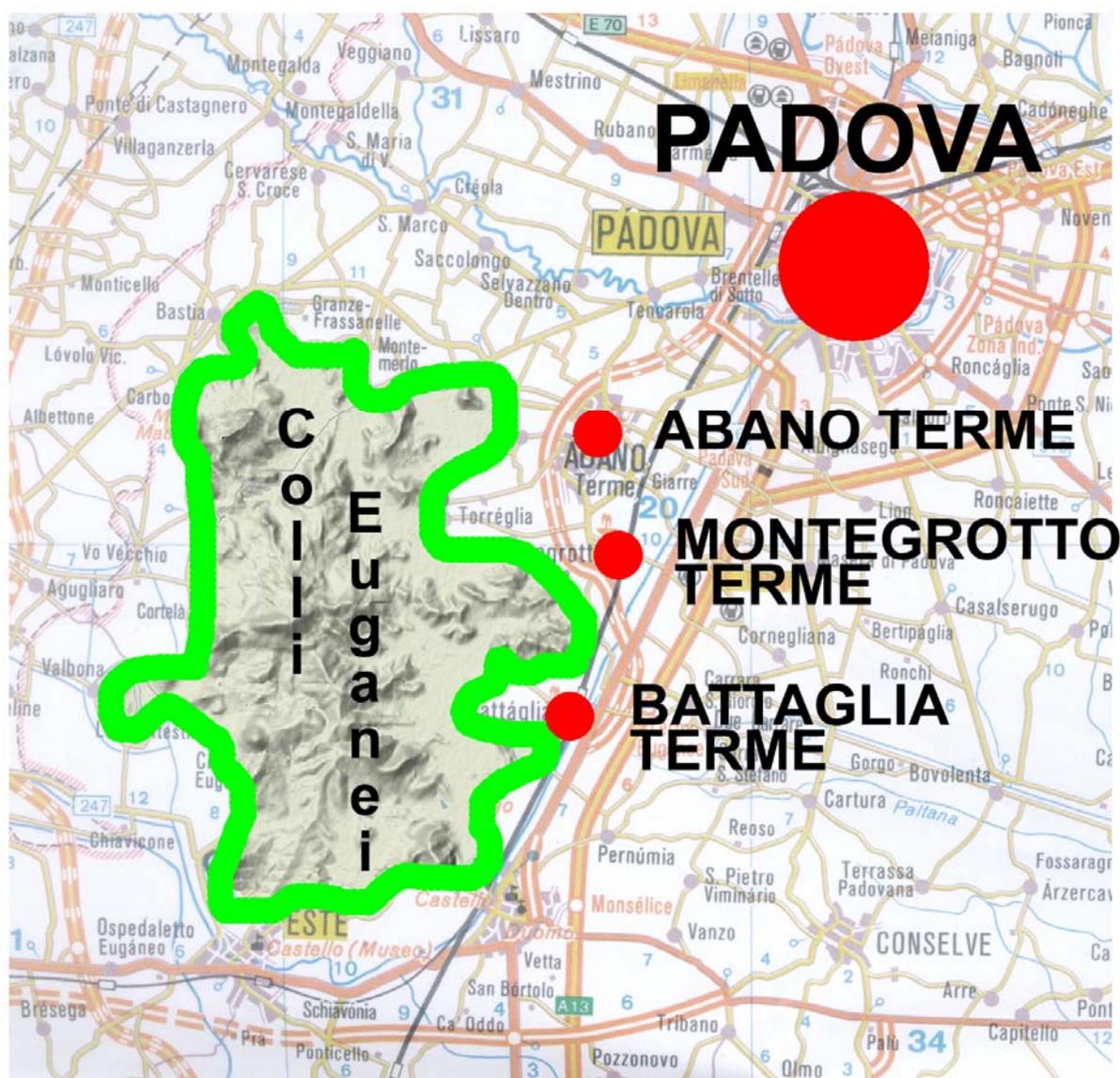
Trient / 11 AUG (Müller 1573i; recorded from 1839 to 1847).

There is a further, faint postmark, described in the auction as “Bormio(?)” to which I will return.



Abano did not have a post office, and so the letter went to the nearest post-town, Padova. Neither did Montegrotto, but Battaglia did. We can't tell when the letter was re-directed to Montegrotto, but the relatively long gap of three weeks between the Padova and Battaglia dates, and the short space of three days between Battaglia and Trient together suggest that the letter visited Montegrotto after Abano and was from there redirected to Battaglia.

The map shows all three of these spas to be within a few kilometres of each other, to the south of Padova, and all part of the same geo-thermal system of the Euganei Hills. One wonders why the letter did not catch up with the addressee during his three weeks in this small area, but it did not and was eventually sent to Eppan.



Map of the Padova area showing the spas

The Spas

Abano lies some six miles south of Padova, on the east slopes of the Colli Euganei, and is said to be the birthplace of Livy. It had a population of 3372 in 1871, and modern Abano Terme boasts over 19,000 inhabitants. The town's hot springs and mudbaths, with their temperature of 80C, underpin the local economy.

Two miles further south can be found Montegrotto, another spa noted for its therapeutic hot water and mud. Its population has risen from 1991 in 1871 to over 10,000 today.

A further three miles brings us to Battaglia, noted since the Middle Ages for its natural vapour grotto and warm saline springs. Although on the edge of the Colli Euganei, an isolated volcanic range of hills, the spas are virtually at sea-level and look out across the flat plain towards Venice. The construction of a navigable canal in the early thirteenth century brought traffic and growth to Battaglia, which commanded a central position at the confluence of several canals linking Padua, the lagoon of Venice, the Adriatic and the Adige. Nevertheless it remained a small commune with only 1662 inhabitants in 1871 and 4152 in 2001.

The Lodron Family

Who was this gentleman enjoying the thermal baths of the Euganei Hills? He is addressed on the cover as:

Monsieur le Comte Paris de Lodron, Chambellon actuel, Chevalier honoraire de l'ordre de Malte, Posseseur de plusieurs cures etc, etc, etc.

which translates as:

The Count Paris of Lodron, current Chamberlain, honorary knight of the Order of Malta, owner of several priests' parishes, etc, etc, etc.

It was normal in those days for the central European upper classes to write to each other in French, whatever their own language. However, this writer gives away his Germanic background with the German double "s" in "posseseur"!

Paris de Lodron, aka Paris von Lodron, aka Paride di Lodrone turns out to be a famous name, not so much for the subject of our letter, but for an ancestor of the same name.

The origins of the Lodrons date back to the turn of the first millennium, the first written mention being from 1086. A century later, the records show them settled in the Chiese valley as feudal landlords, the Counts of Appiano. From then on the Lodrons' power spread throughout the surrounding Giudicarie area until they became undisputed masters towards the end of the fourteenth century

During the 15th century, Paride the Great and his two sons Pietro and Giorgio made themselves well known beyond the boundaries of their dominion. They were all brave, skilled commanders as well as able formers of alliances who served both the Republic of Venice in the war against the Duchy of Milan, and the Bishop of Trento, Giorgio Hack, against the Castelbarco family, bringing victories and successes to first one then the other. The wealth and prestige they achieved through the wars increased their holdings considerably until their dominion was so widely recognised that Giorgio and Pietro were made Counts of the Holy Roman Empire. When they took possession of the feudal lands of Castellano and Castelnuovo in Vallagarina after the battle against the Castelbarcos, Pietro took up residence there and began a new dynastic line of Lodrons.

In the second half of the 16th century the descendants of the Lodron nobles conquered many feudal lands in the Brescia area too and ruled them in a harsh yet farsighted way, as had been the style of their ancestors, always capable of both the subtlest power games and the bloodiest cruelty. In the following decades the Lodrons moved all over Europe, mostly as soldiers, while access to German territory had been opened by certain Lodron priests who had reached Innsbruck and Salzburg. Thank to Antonio di Castellano, a priest in Salzburg, Paris de Lodron came to the Austrian city where he was soon nominated Prince Archbishop. The years in which he held the highest authority in the city, 1619 to 1653, were enlightened years, notable for the peace and prosperity which marked the city out during the Thirty Years War which was raging throughout Europe.

The ecclesiastical tradition was continued by Sebastien and Franz von Lodron, Bishops of Gurk (in the Archdiocese of Salzburg) from 1630-43 and 1643-52 respectively. Later, Karl Franz Lodron was bishop of Brixen at the time that the temporal power of the bishopric collapsed. In 1803 the principality was secularised and annexed to Austria. We can see how the Count Paris of our cover came to possess all those parishes.[¹]

¹ I am indebted to Hans Smith who gave me the specific meaning of the French word "cures" in the address: "A 'cure' is a priest's parish in the Roman Catholic church. In the Church of England it would be referred to as a 'benefice'. It would be in the gift of the local landowner who could "possess one or more cures."

Paris Lodron University (the University of Salzburg) was named after the man who founded it in 1622. Three hundred and fifty years later, its anniversary was the subject of an Austrian commemorative stamp



It was really on account of the position Paris sought to keep for his family in Salzburg that just over a century later countess Antonia Lodron was able to cultivate a friendship with Mozart. They lived in the same street and were happy to play in the concert room of the Palatioun Lodronicum where at that time there were often musical performances by noble and notable Salzburg residents. The Mozarts also gave piano lessons to the Countess' daughters; Wolfgang to the eldest, Aloysia and Josephin, and Nannerl to the younger ones. It was this regular attendance at the Lodron house and the great esteem which they had for Mozart, especially young Wolfgang, that led him to dedicate several pieces to the noble Tridentine family, and in particular to Countess Antonia, his great admirer.

In 1776 and 1777, Mozart composed two divertimentos, K247 and K278, which are known in literature on Mozart by the name Lodronische Nachtmusiken (Lodron Serenades) on the occasion of the Countess' birthday. In the previous February, 1776, Mozart had composed a concerto for three pianos, K242, again dedicated to the Countess.

At the end of the 18th century the Lodron family interests moved over the Alps, mostly to Carinthia, where Paris, the Prince of Salzburg, had concentrated his efforts to extend the family holdings. So when the Vallagarina branch died out in 1703, the Giudicarie branch, which stepped in, was happy to become Germanized. The few remaining Lodrons who stayed in the Chiese Valley became more and more insignificant local squires, little like their powerful, cultured yet cruel ancestors.

That seems to bring us full-circle. The de Lodrons were, by the time of our letter minor aristocrats, living in the original family home at Appiano, or, as it is known in German, Eppan, the final destination of our letter to Count Paris de Lodron.



Map showing north-east Italy and all the places mentioned.

The Return Route

Let us go back to the cover. After leaving the spas of the Colli Eugenei, our letter followed the Count back home, firstly to Trento (Trient) and then to Eppan (Appiano). The faint postmark described as possibly Bormio is, I believe, Bolzen (Bolzano). Appiano did not have a post office, and so the mail would have gone to the nearest post-town, Bolzano, some 10 kilometres away.

The letter is marked “14” (kreuzers), the rate for a letter of more than 18 postal zones from Trieste to Padova, and “10” (more than 15 postal zones) for the return journey to Trento, amended to “14” for the longer distance from Padova to Eppan.

Conclusion

There is a serious point to this article: namely the power of the internet as a research tool. All the information in this article was garnered in one evening. Even with a full set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, this could not have been achieved before the days of the world-wide web.

More and more information becomes available every week on the internet, but for me the starting points are Wikipedia and Google. Both of these will give links to other relevant sites which enable one to explore further.

Of course you would not normally need as much information as I have extracted for this article; I deliberately set out to find as much as I could in one evening purely as an exercise. Normally a couple of sentences suffice to add a little colour to an item in a collection or display, but the internet is the quickest way today to find those few sentences.

Sources:

- ❖ E Müller “Handbook of the Pre-stamp Postmarks of Austria”, New York, 1960. (APS Library no. 7)
- ❖ P Vollmeier “Catalogo dei Bolli Postale del Territorio Lombardi-Veneto”, 1979 (APS Library no. 178)
- ❖ Baedeker’s “Northern Italy”, 1879
- ❖ And, of course, Google and Wikipedia.

My thanks to Joyce Boyer for providing the first-day cover illustrated. And most of all, my gratitude to Mr Anon who put the Lodron cover into the auction and occupied me for a winter evening as promised!

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The cover on page 10

Robin Pizer comments: The cover is typical of those that went through the German Exchange control. It is unregistered and postmarked 30 Sept 1920. Unregistered mail ceased to be examined early in Oct 1920. The cachet 48 is typical of the cachets used by inspectors at the Munich Exchange Control Office. The wording on the label refers to the law of 15 Nov 1918 published on page 1324 of the German Government Gazette. This law ordered the cessation of wartime censorship and replaced it with Exchange Controls for business and economic reasons. The label appears to be overprinted with the cachet 16; and has the number ‘6’ on the back.. Munich was the 16th Exchange Control Office in alphabetical order. The label was probably intended for use in office 6 at Emmerich. This explains why the label had to be overprinted 16.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, READ THE INSTRUCTIONS...

by Andy Taylor

A dissertation on sources of written information for research into Austrian Postal History, based largely on a presentation given by Dr Hans Moser to a joint APS-PKMI meeting at WIPA 2008. Andy Taylor has added personal experiences in some of Vienna's less touristic corners, and maybe some errors; he thanks Dr Moser for providing the Powerpoint presentation and subsequent help and advice.

All the sources discussed are "public" in that anyone may read them. However, many are extremely rare, or are found only in an archive to which you must travel. Few are in English. Extraction and publication of the information is the goal of much work currently in progress. A detailed comparative survey of published books would also be useful; but this is not it.

Part 1: Official sources

The State Archives in Vienna

The "Laws of Austria", or most of them, are made available to the public in two ways: on paper, and on line. Especially before 1900, a wide variety of titles was used for governmental laws, decrees, edicts and the like, such as Entschließung, Gesetz, Kundmachung, Octroi, or Verordnung. The official repository has at various times been called Justizgesetzsammlung, Reichsgesetzblatt, Staatsgesetzblatt, and Bundesgesetzblatt. The State Archives in Vienna contain paper copies of all that has survived. Their web site <http://www.oesta.gv.at/> tells the persistent researcher what is there.

Every information source has its limitations and problems! Those for the State archives include:

- Many but not all of the National Archives are in the central archive at Nottendorfer Gasse, A-1030 Vienna. If possible obtain advance guidance by email on the existence and location of what you seek. Find (try the Site Map) and study the page "How to use the archives" on the web site!
- You have to go there in person, register (passport!), and pay the modest fee.
- If you know the archival reference for what you want, you fill in a document request form; if you don't, the Duty Archivist will assist as best they can. You hand in the form "and come back later" – it can take 2 working days to fulfil a request. This is why emailing in advance is useful ☺

- Some items are referred to in other items but are neither in the index nor in the bundles, so cannot be located.
- There are understandable restrictions: no photography or scanning; photocopying of older documents has to be done for you; etc.
- A reference such as “Z.14159” means “Zeile 14159” and is the serial number of the document in the index of the filing system of the branch of government which produced it – sometimes invaluable if you are in the State Archives in Vienna though pretty useless elsewhere. [NB: in Fraktur, in which the older Laws are printed, a ‘Z’ looks like a figure ‘3’.]

The Laws on-line

There is an Austrian web site called “ALEX” located at <http://alex.onb.ac.at/> which contains laws arranged by year. It contains mainly Justice Ministry material up to 1848, after which its coverage expands.

- Note that ALEX contains images of pages, not searchable text. Use the smallest choice of size when searching for a law; then change to the middle size for downloading. Each page is a PNG file so if you don’t have broadband find a friend who does! Download the image by right-clicking in the usual way; change the file name (eg to year hyphen page) before saving.
- The alpha and date indexes contain two numbers; the first is the law number, the second in bold is the page number by which the laws are accessed.
- To aid navigation, open the index in one tab and the pages in another. To view another year, it’s usually quicker to start again from the home page!
- Note that in 1934 there were two series of laws, both numbered from 1.
- Note that some pages are intentionally blank apart from a frilly top margin.
- The database after WWII is arranged differently, and considerable ingenuity can be needed unless you already know the references of what you seek.

The Laws and the Post Office

Until 1838, changes to the regulations governing the post were first announced in full in a Law approved by the Emperor, and then repeated (usually verbatim) in a variously-titled Decree from the Ministry responsible for postal matters. Indeed, in the beginning the law itself would be reissued in each state of the Austrian Empire, possibly with slight variations in wording. As the Laws are accessible on-line while the Decrees are not, it is easier to follow the changes as Laws; cross-checking against the Decrees is strongly recommended.

The first Law is the **BRIEFPOSTORDNUNG**, “1838 RGB302” (which means: Reichsgesetzblatt number 302 of 1838). This prescribes in great detail all aspects of the letter post. “1850 RGB149” covers the introduction of adhesive stamps. Various changes were made by various laws, until 25 Nov 1899 when RGB231 prescribed the changes caused by the new currency and introduced an 8-page **POSTTAXORDNUNG** for inland mail, effective from 1 Jan 1900. Amendments in 1902 and 1905 were followed by a new 6-page Posttaxordnung, 1906 RGB251. Conveniently, it gives the RGB references of the previous Posttaxordnung and its amendments, all of which it repealed. It in turn was on 22 Sep 1916 replaced by the **POSTORDNUNG** of RGB317, which had grown to 82 pages; it repealed “all previous laws” without listing them. This “new starting point” may be why many subsequent laws refer back to it.

On 5 July 1922, a 64-page Postordnung appeared as BGB406, replacing the 1916 version and also repealing the amendments of 1918, 1919, 1920 & 1921. [A parallel series of Postordnungen and amendments dealt with the postage of newspapers.]

17 Nov 1926 saw the issue of 64-page BGB329, a new Postordnung listing and repealing its predecessors. One of its concerns was the change to Schilling currency. Amendments appeared in 1927, 1929, and 1930.

It seems that in 1931 the 1926 Postordnung was reprinted (perhaps for internal use only) in a version incorporating all the intervening amendments; see the discussion below under “Dienstvorschrift”. Further amendments appeared until the Anschluss. Careful cross-checking of the text shows that (for the 1926 issue at least) **each amendment applies to the Postordnung as previously amended; ie they are cumulative**. That means that a researcher who misses an amendment can fall into error.

All of the above BGB were, we believe, repeated verbatim as Post Office instructions, mainly Postverordnungsblatt.

The next pages show the Verordnung des Handelsministeriums of 13 October 1909 giving the details of a rate reduction for Braille items in the inland post; and a subsequent Verordnungsblatt of 1910, extending it to Bosnia-Herzegowina. As the Verordnung des Handelsministeriums is dated 13 October 1909, was published on 31 October, and came into effect on the 1st of November, ie the day after publication, it is unclear how the postal staff knew in time. This oddity is quite often found, and remains without factual explanation.

Jahrgang 1909.

Reichsgesetzblatt

487

für die

im Reichsrate vertretenen Königreiche und Länder.

LXXIV. Stück. — Ausgegeben und versendet am 31. Oktober 1909.

Inhalt: (N^o 164—167.) 164. Verordnung, betreffend die Festsetzung ermäßigter Versendungsgebühren für Postsendungen, die in Blindendruck hergestellt sind. — 165. Kundmachung, betreffend die Bildung neuer Schätzungsbezirke zur Veranlagung der Personaleinkommensteuer für die Bezirke der neuerrichteten Bezirkshauptmannschaften in Bärn und Wietin sowie die hiedurch bedingte Änderung in der Mitgliederanzahl der Schätzungskommissionen für die politischen Bezirke Littau und Wallachisch-Mejeritsch. — 166. Verordnung, betreffend die Abänderung des bisherigen Vorganges bei der Devintulierung von Eisenbahn-Staatsschuldverschreibungen und vom Staate zur Selbstzahlung übernommenen Eisenbahn-Prioritätsobligationen. — 167. Verordnung, betreffend die gebührenfreie Ausfertigung von Obligationen der einheitlichen Staatsschuld und der Staatsschuld der im Reichsrate vertretenen Königreiche und Länder.

164.

Verordnung des Handelsministeriums vom 13. Oktober 1909,

betreffend die Festsetzung ermäßigter Versendungsgebühren für Postsendungen, die in Blindendruck hergestellt sind.

Sendungen mit Büchern oder Mitteilungen, die zum Gebrauche von Blinden ausschließlich in tastbarer Punktchrift hergestellt sind, werden zur Postbeförderung in offener Verpackung nach den für Drucksachen sendungen geltenden Versendungsbedingungen bis zum Gewichte von 3 kg zugelassen. Es bildet hierbei keinen Unterschied, ob es sich um Bervielfältigungen oder Einzelausfertigungen handelt, die nicht den Charakter der Allgemeinheit haben. Die Adresse muß in gewöhnlichen Schriftzeichen hergestellt sein. Solche Sendungen können ganz oder teilweise frankiert aufgegeben werden.

Bei frankierter Aufgabe beträgt das Porto für eine Sendung

bis zum Gewichte von 50 g	3 h
über 50 g bis zum Gewichte von 100 g	5 "
" 100 " " " " " 1000 "	10 "
" 1000 " " " " " 2000 "	20 "
" 2000 " " " " " 3000 "	30 "

Ungenügend frankierte derartige Sendungen werden mit dem doppelten Betrage des fehlenden Portoteiles belastet.

Die Sendungen müssen auf der Adressseite den deutlichen Vermerk „Blindendruck“ tragen und, sofern es sich um Sendungen im Gewichte von mehr als 100 g handelt, am Schalter des Postamtes aufgegeben werden.

Diese Verordnung tritt am 1. November 1909 in Wirksamkeit.

Weiskirchner m. p.

The Reichsgesetzblatt of 31 October 1909 with the Verordnung des Handelsministeriums of 13 October giving the details of a rate reduction for Braille items in the inland post which came into effect on the 1st of November.

Postverordnungsblatt (PVOB)

These are from the k. k. Handelsministerium (the Ministry of Trade, responsible for postal matters) in Vienna.

Nr 26.  **1910.**

Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt

für das

Verwaltungsgebiet des k. k. Handelsministeriums.

Redigiert im k. k. Handelsministerium. Wien, den 18. Februar.

Inhalt: Zugestehung der ermäßigten Gebühren für Blindendruck-Postsendungen für den österreichisch-bosnisch-herzegowinischen Wechselverkehr. — Errichtung des k. k. Postamtes Königl. Weinberge 5. — Personalien. — Konkurrenz. — Konkurrenzverbot. — Schünemannscheidung. — Unfallabgung.

Zugestehung der ermäßigten Gebühren für Blindendruck-Postsendungen für den österreichisch - bosnisch - herzegowinischen Wechselverkehr.

S. Minist. Z. 5022 P.

Vom 1. März 1910 ab finden die ermäßigten Gebühren für Blindendrucksendungen, welche für den internen österreichischen Verkehr durch die Verordnung vom 18. Oktober 1909, S. 40228 P, Post- u. Tel. B. Bl. Nr. 120, eingeführt worden sind, unter den dort vorgeschriebenen Bedingungen auch im österreichisch-bosnisch-herzegowinischen Wechselverkehr Anwendung.

Wien, den 10. Februar 1910.

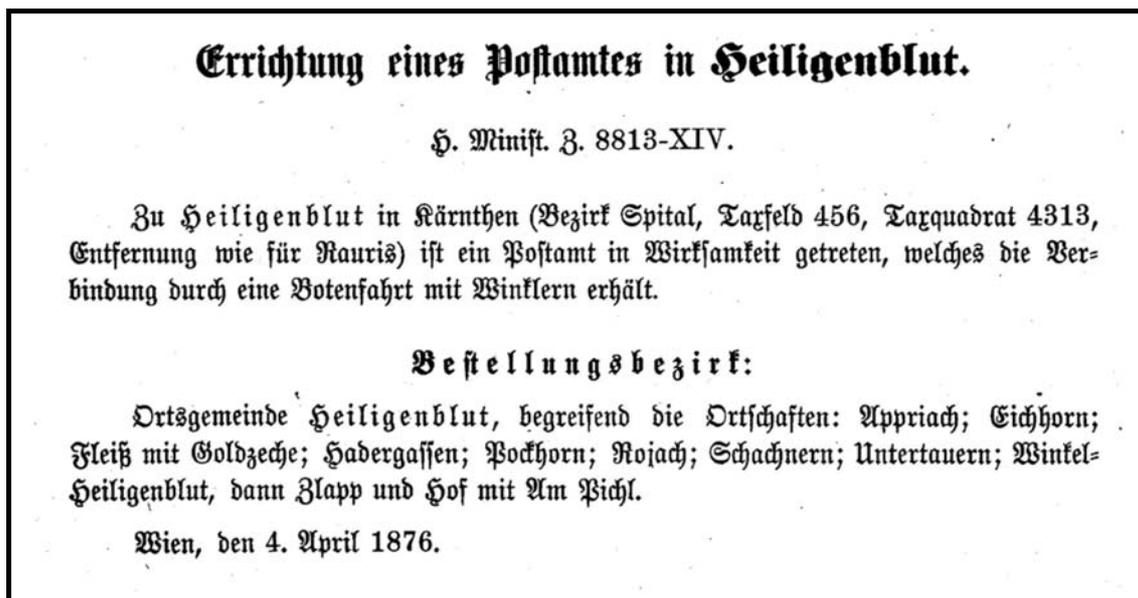
The Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt of 18 February 1910, extending the special Braille tariff to Bosnia-Herzegowina.

Postverordnungsblatt have problems too...

- ❖ Inadequate contents list or index
- ❖ Sometimes difficult to locate
- ❖ Very few collections exist and not all of these are generally accessible.
- ❖ The numbering system is obscure
- ❖ Sometimes, a change is announced after its date of introduction, posing again the question “how did the Post Offices know about it so that they could implement it on the correct date?”

These are a primary source for Austria-wide regulations, instructions, & international postal matters.

The Postal Directorate in Innsbruck issued its own versions of a few pre-1894 decrees. From 1895 these form an important secondary source for local events, useful for verifying the Zirkularverordnungen that are discussed below.



Example: PVOB of 4 April 1876 concerning the opening of a Post Office in Heiligenblut. Note the Taxfeld and Taxquadrat numbers; these were used in the calculation of postage rates.

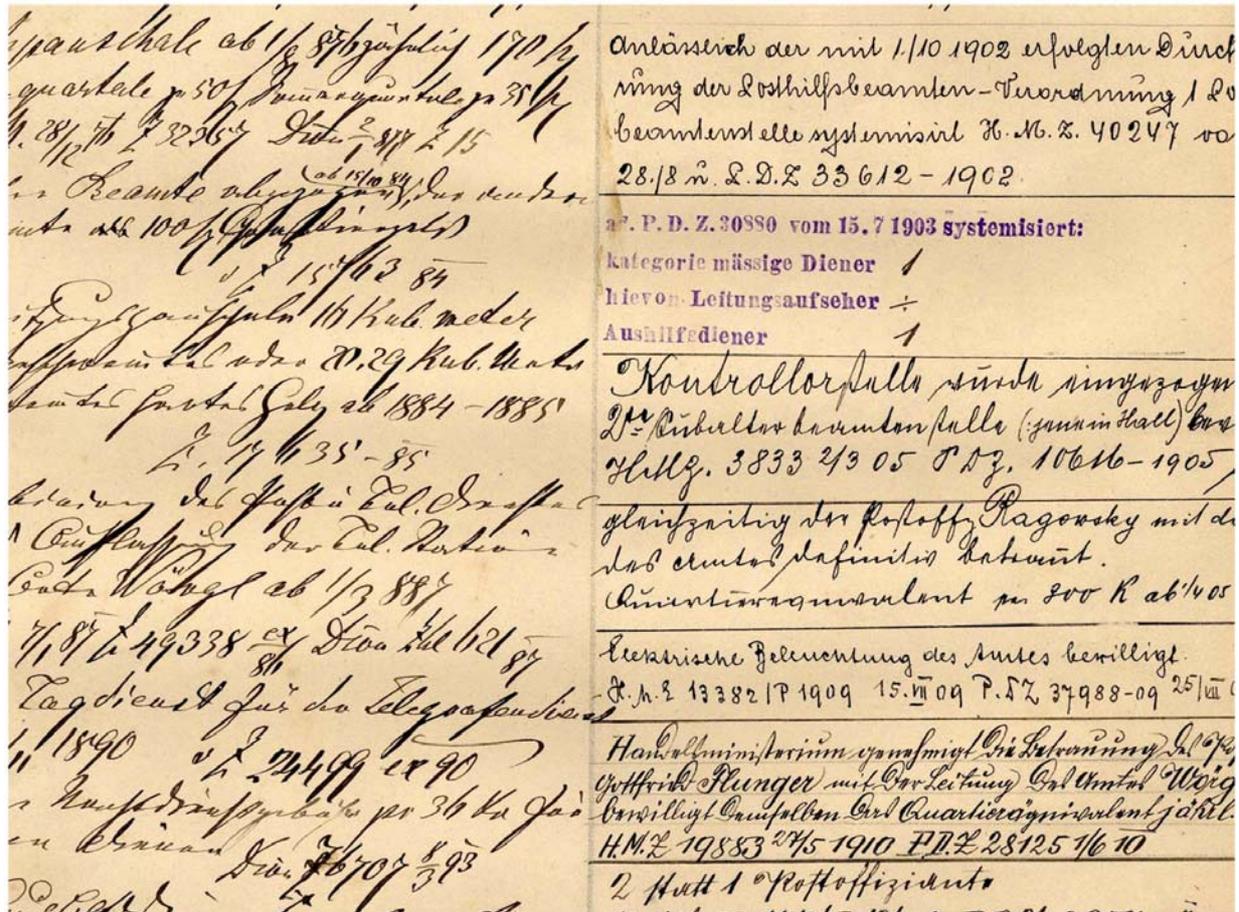
A working group of PKMI is preparing a PC-useable index of PVOBs, starting with the 1850-1895 issues.

Postamtsblätter

These are written records kept by individual post offices. Typically, they are a ledger or diary of anything deemed important. They bring many problems:

- ❖ Old documents (hence fragile etc)
- ❖ Inconvenient sizes
- ❖ Difficult to read
- ❖ In various languages and dialects
- ❖ Prone to errors
- ❖ Not easily accessible as they are in private hands.

A primary source; the Decrees etc referred to can be cross-checked from elsewhere.



Typical Postamtsblatt from Worgl

Zirkularverordnungen (ZVO) of the Postdirektion (PD) in Innsbruck

These instructions were produced by the Postal Directorate in Innsbruck from 1. July 1894; from 1911 they were published in the Amtsblatt of the k. k. Post- and Telegraph Direction for Tirol and Vorarlberg. Because the Innsbruck Directorate covered Süd-Tirol, some instructions (such as this for the opening of a Postablage) were produced in dual-languages: German and Italian. These Instructions also served to keep postal employees in touch with their colleagues (promotions, retirements, dismissals and deaths appear) and to advertise posts to existing staff.

Its particular problems are:

- ❖ Useless contents lists
- ❖ Some issues difficult to find
- ❖ The file numbers and dates are those of the Innsbruck Postal Directorate, and may well differ from (usually, be later than) the corresponding dates in documents from Vienna.

Primary source for local postal history; can sometimes be cross-checked with the corresponding Verordnungen in the PVO or Postamtsblättern.

<p>Nr. 24.802.</p> <p>Errichtung einer Postablage in Giustino.</p> <p>Mit 16. August 1901 tritt in Giustino im Rendena thale, politischer Bezirk Tione, eine k. k. Postablage in Wirklichkeit, welche ihre Verbindung mit dem zuständigen Postamte Pinzolo durch täglich einmalige Gänge (Sonntag ausgenommen) erhält.</p> <p>Die Coursordnung dieser Gänge ist folgende:</p> <p>Giustino ab 7. — Abends Pinzolo an 7.15 " Pinzolo ab 7.30 " Giustino an 7.45 "</p> <p>Den Bestellbezirk dieser Postablage bilden die Ortschaften Giustino und Massimeno.</p> <p>Innsbruck, am 9. August 1901.</p>	<p>No. 24.802.</p> <p>Istituzione di una collettorie postale in Giustino.</p> <p>Col 16 Agosto 1901 viene attivata in Giustino di Rendena (distretto politico di Tione) una i. r. Collettorie postale. Questa collettorie ottiene la sua congiunzione col competente ufficio postale di Pinzolo a mezzo di una pedonerie giornaliera (eccetto le domeniche).</p> <p>L'orario di questa pedonerie è il seguente:</p> <p>Giustino part. 7. — pom. Pinzolo arr. 7.15 pom. Pinzolo part. 7.30 pom. Giustino arr. 7.45 pom.</p> <p>Le località di Giustino e Massimeno formano il distretto di distribuzione di questa collettorie postale.</p> <p>Innsbruck, li 9 Agosto 1901.</p>
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A working group of PKMI is preparing a PC-useable index of Innsbruck's ZVOs, starting with the 1894-1918 issues. One member is concentrating on transcribing information on Post Offices, Postablage, and Bahnpost.

Post-Almanach

The Post-Almanach is a compendium of all the information that a postal employee might require. Up to 1877 it was called the “**Post-Beamten-Kalender**”; then it became the “**Post- und Telegraphen-Almanach**” or the “**Post- und Telegraphen-Status**”. It seems to have been officially approved, but published as the private initiative of a senior official! The publisher was Wilhelm Krauss from 1870 to 1908, & Franz Czuba from 1909 to 1913; the Ministry of Trade took it over in 1914.

Problems with the Post-Almanach include:

- ❖ The chapter titles change from issue to issue, as does the physical format.
- ❖ The changes in the structure and arrangement of the contents make a systematic study difficult.
- ❖ For 1909 & 1911, only Part 1 has been found; it is not known if Part 2 was published.
- ❖ There are many errors in names and dates.

It contains much information of interest, difficult to find elsewhere; it is a surprisingly good source for the instructions for special duties. Dates and names need cross-checking elsewhere.

For example, the 1881 issue contains a listing of both “**k. k. ärarische**” (= state-owned and run) and “**k. k. nicht-ärarische**” (= privately owned and run) Post Offices in the Innsbruck Postdirektion’s area

The 1899 issue lists the k. k. nicht-ärarische offices attached to the Innsbruck Directorate (note the inclusion of Liechtenstein); their date of opening; the income in 1897 from postal and telegraphic transactions; and the name of the person(s) in charge.

In the 1908 list of Post Offices is the year of opening of each office and its Class and Ranking. Post Offices were ranked by income, and divided into three Klassen (categories), I (the top), II, and III. The head of a class III post office was a Postexpedient. Depending on the income of the office there is a subdivision (Stufe) from 1 down to 6. A newly-opened post office always began at the bottom, III/6, and depending on its income in the following years it could progress up the ranking to III/5 & on to III/1. A prosperous post office could also jump straight to III/4 or III/2; it didn’t have to pass through every subdivision. At a certain income the head of a post office had to be a Postmeister (who had to pass additional exams). In Class II there were

subdivisions II/4, II/2 and II/1. (II/3 has not been seen so far.) Class I post offices had a similar classification from I/4 to I/1.

A working group of PKMI has almost completed a database of the 1877-1918 issues. The data for Südtirol and Trentino is ready.

Official Announcements in newspapers.

In Innsbruck a newspaper was produced called the “**Bote für Tirol und Vorarlberg**”. It contained laws of the Tirol government, notices about postal matters, and similar material.

The Stempelprotokollbuch

This was a series of books in which strikes were collected of all cancellers made in and issued through Vienna in the period 1880 to 1918. A full discussion of these is in the late Dr Christine Kainz article in Wurth’s Handbook volume XVI. Most regrettably, many of the books have vanished, some have been extensively robbed, and all are too fragile to be handled. However, thanks largely to Dr Kainz, photocopies of most of the surviving pages [Galicia, Bukowina, Dalmatia, Bosnia-Herzgowina, Kustenland, Krain] are in the possession of the APS and/or PKMI.

Directories and Lexicons

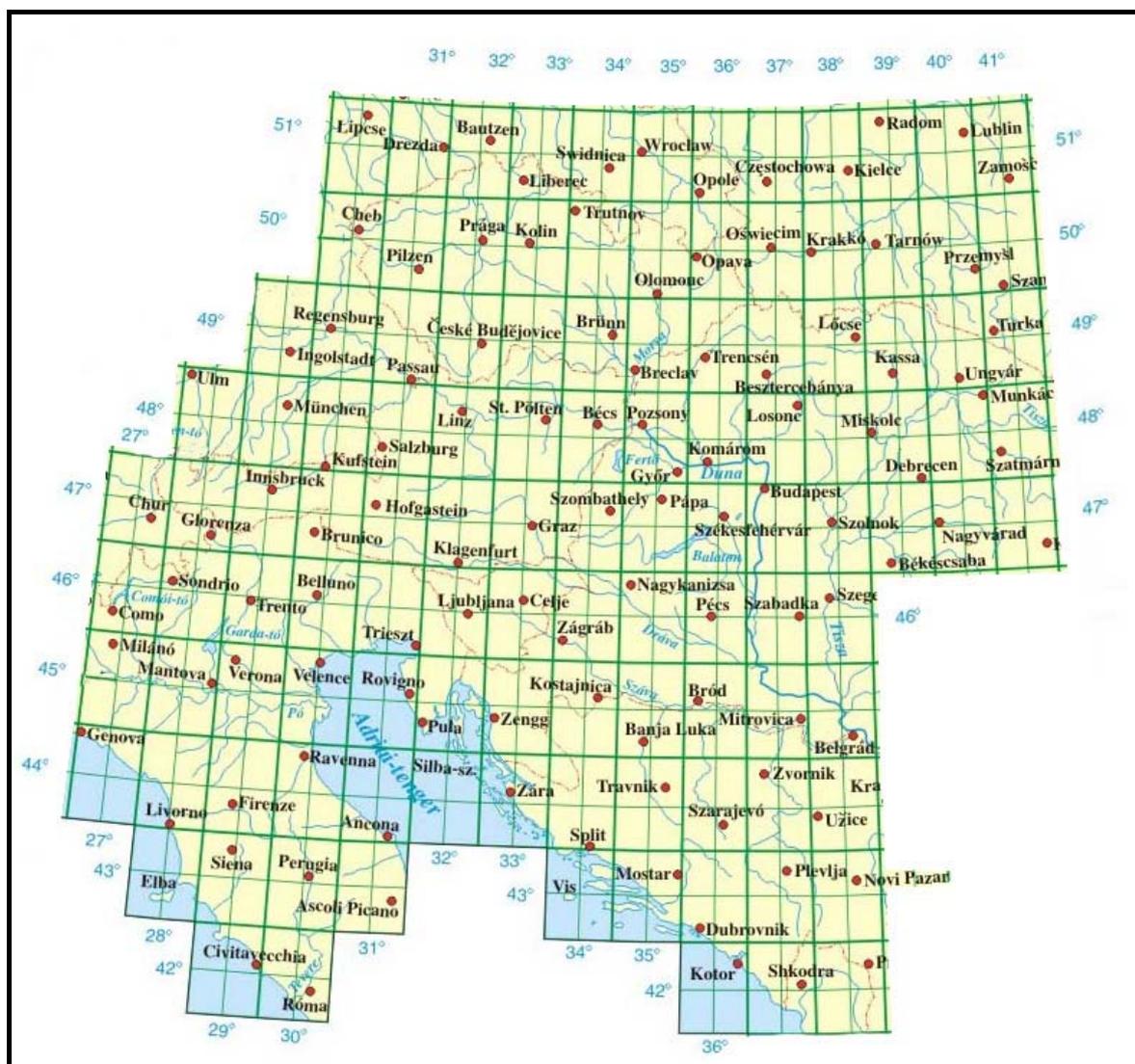
In 1910 the Trade Ministry published a Directory of all Post Offices in the Empire. This is a key reference work; unhelpfully it uses many unusual symbols which makes a searchable electronic version difficult to construct.

There is also the 1906 Allgemeines Lexicon which purports to list every village in various languages and variants; and the Hungarian version of the same (1907). Both use strange graphic symbols.

Maps

A surprisingly large number of maps can be found in the darker recesses of the Internet. One of the most useful is the set of 1:200,000 maps of most of Europe, probably first made for the Austro-Hungarian Army. These are available on line at <http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm> Note that (a) the master-map is in Hungarian, so for example Vienna is Bécs (b) each map is a JPG of about 4Mb (c) the ‘native size’ is A2: print with care (d) some have been

updated, and contain both old and revised country boundaries (e) the zero meridian is Ferro not Greenwich (f) paper copies (sometimes in colour) can often be purchased at Freytag & Berndt, I.Kohlmarkt, Vienna.



Master map for the 1:200,000 series

The 1931 Dienstvorschrift

In 1931, a manual was published by the Trade Ministry, entitled “**Dienstvorschrift für die österreichische Post- und Telegraphenanstalt / II. Abteilung 5. Band 4. Ausgabe / Die Postordnung**”. It contains a 12-page contents list followed by 223 sections in 170 pages, and according to Dr C Kainz was a reprinting of the 1926 Postordnung incorporating the subsequent amendments. As it is the 4th edition, there must have been previous editions, and sight of these could be informative.

It is not known to us if the Dienstvorschrift was issued routinely; nor what if any relationship it had to the Dienstbücher discussed next. At least one other Dienstvorschrift is known (by title, not copy), issued in 1929 and dealing with the rules on who qualified for free postage.

The first page of the 1931 Dienstvorschrift (see illustration) has at the bottom a printed list of the amendments to the 1926 Postordnung up to the date of the Dienstvorschrift's publication. As already discussed, each amendment applies to the Postordnung as previously amended; ie they are cumulative. They are:

- ❖ 1927 BGB060 = PVOB 17 Feb 1927
(ie Bundesgesetzblatt 60 of 1927, repeated in Postverordnungsblatt of 17 Feb 1927)
- ❖ 1927 BGB203 = PVOB 24 Jun 1927
- ❖ 1927 BGB374 = PVOB 20 Dec 1927
- ❖ 1929 BGB039 = PVOB 18 Jan 1929
- ❖ 1929 BGB404 = PVOB 11 Dec 1929
- ❖ 1929 BGB405 = PVOB 11 Dec 1929 also
- ❖ 1930 BGB166 = PVOB 3 Jun 1930
- ❖ 1931 BGB162 = PVOB 20 Jun 1931
- ❖ *Handwritten annotations continue the list of amendments:*
- ❖ 1932 BGB232 = PVOB 18 Aug 1932
- ❖ 1932 BGB368 = PVOB 22 Dec 1932
- ❖ 1933 BGB177 = PVOB ? May 1933
- ❖ *[1933 BGB355 is not mentioned; while it does amend the Postordnung it is concerned only with opening on Sundays, not with rates etc.]*
- ❖ 1934 BGB(I)016 = PVOB 1 May 1934

- ❖ *[There are two series of BGB in 1934, both numbered from 1]*
- ❖ 1934 BGB(I)030 = PVOB 10 Jan 1934
- ❖ 1934 BGB(I)221 (no PVOB given)
- ❖ 1934 BGB(II)087 (ditto)
- ❖ *[There is a gap here in the handwritten numbering (there is no 16th amendment listed) but none of the laws from 88 to 150 are postal.]*
- ❖ 1934 BGB(II)151 (no PVOB given)
- ❖ 1934 BGB(II)417 (ditto)
- ❖ *All amendments promulgated in the BGB from 1926 to 1934 are included in the above lists. There are later amendments, but evidently they were not added to this copy of the document.*
- ❖ 1935 BGB291 (corresponding PVOB unknown to us)
- ❖ 1936 BGB030 (ditto)
- ❖ 1936 BGB162 (ditto)
- ❖ 1936 BGB398 (ditto)
- ❖ 1937 BGB009 (ditto)
- ❖ 1937 BGB182 (ditto)
- ❖ 1937 BGB199 (ditto)
- ❖ 1937 BGB268 (ditto)
- ❖ 1937 BGB293 (ditto)
- ❖ In 1938 things changed somewhat, and 1938 BGB036 concerning inland rates is signed by Seyss-Inquart, Reichstaatskanzler in Österreich.

Dienstbücher

A variety of small booklets have been found, containing job-specific instructions to postal employees. It seems that there were many of these, perhaps 25, but few have survived. Those known to us are:

- “Dienst-Anweisungen für Postablagen” (1900) re-published as PKMI Schriftenreihe 10
- “Dienst-Instruction für die kaiserlich-königlichen Poststationen” (1863) re-published as PKMI Schriftenreihe 11
- “Dienstbuch für den Postillion” (1893); re-published as PKMI Schriftenreihe 13
- “Dienst-Unterricht für die Briefträger der k.k. Postämter” (1880)
- “Instruktion für die Staats-Telegraphenboten in Wien” (1875); re-published as part of “The Pneumatic Post in Vienna”, APS 2005.

Postvollzugsordnung

These are referred to, so must have existed...

Postgebührenweiser, Nachgebührenweiser

These are multi-page tables of rates for postage, for un- or underpaid mail etc. Many but not all are available.

Postbücheln

These are small booklets produced each Christmas for postal employees to give to customers (no doubt in hope of a tip). They contain basic information on rates and services, sometimes not available elsewhere. (They also contain adverts, essays and jokes.) See Austria issue 163!

Part 2: Non-official sources

Philatelic literature on Post Offices (Müller, Klein, etc).

Specific problems:

- ❖ The dates of opening sometimes differ.
- ❖ The coding systems for cancellations may not provide the differentiation required by the specialist; conversely, they can introduce a distinction which did not exist in reality.

- ❖ Most modern systems are so complex and unintuitive that they are unmemorable, making it almost impossible to create a “wants list” suitable for use when browsing in a stamp dealer’s boxes.
- ❖ Some types and subtypes are not illustrated. For example: both Müller and Klein list only one type of cancel from “Bozen Stadt”. However, Gerhard Bock has found six visibly-different variations in the Stempelprotokollbook

Philatelic Literature on Postablagen

The book “Postablagen in Österreich” by Gerhard Kühnel, in the green-covered second edition, is the indispensable source here. All its entries for Tirol have been verified as correct. Work by PKMI in the Zirkularverordnungen and the Postamtsblätter has revealed new aspects of Postablagen: details exist such as the route-connections with the postal system, the delivery areas and frequencies, and sometimes the operator and his or her income.

Görig’s lists

In 1960 Erhard Görig made and typed the “*Postaemter-Verzeichnis der Republik Oesterreich*”, which is a 195pp list of all post offices within post-WWII Austria, extracted from the Post Office listings. A copy is in the APS library: item 387.

Then in 1963 he produced the 140-page 9527-entry “*Verzeichnis der OT-Stempel die in der Gravuranstalt Joseph Schatz in den Jahren 1908-1938 ausgeführt wurden*”; that is, “List of the cancellers created and/or repaired by Joseph Schatz’ engraving works between 1908 and 1938”. Schatz was one of the Official Cancellor Repairers. A copy is in the APS library: item 386. As with the Stempelprotokollbuch, some of the cancellers were made and issued but seem never to have been used (eg the office didn’t actually open).

Web sources

The JewishGen Communities Database and JewishGen ShtetlSeeker web site at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/> provides useful resources to search for places by name in Central and Eastern Europe, using various search criteria; and to list all localities within a certain distance of a given latitude/longitude.

Many countries and regions have flourishing expatriate communities, notably in the USA. It’s always worth entering the name of some obscure location into sites such as Wikipedia or Google or <http://aeiou.iicm.tugraz.at/> and seeing what turns up!

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INLAND POSTAGE DUE RATES: 1957-2009

By Colin Tobitt

With the changes to the Postal Regulations in 1957 (see Bundesgesetzblatt 110/1957), the manner in which postage for underpaid inland mail was collected changed from “double the deficit plus a minimum charge” to “the deficit plus a fixed fee”. [The complexities of incoming and outgoing foreign mail will be dealt with in a later article!] The fixed fee is tabulated next:

From	To	Fee
1.7.1957	28.2.1981	1 Sch ¹
(1) 50 gro for postcards till 31.12.1966		
1.3.1981	31.1.1984	2 Sch
1.2.1984	31.12.1991	3 Sch

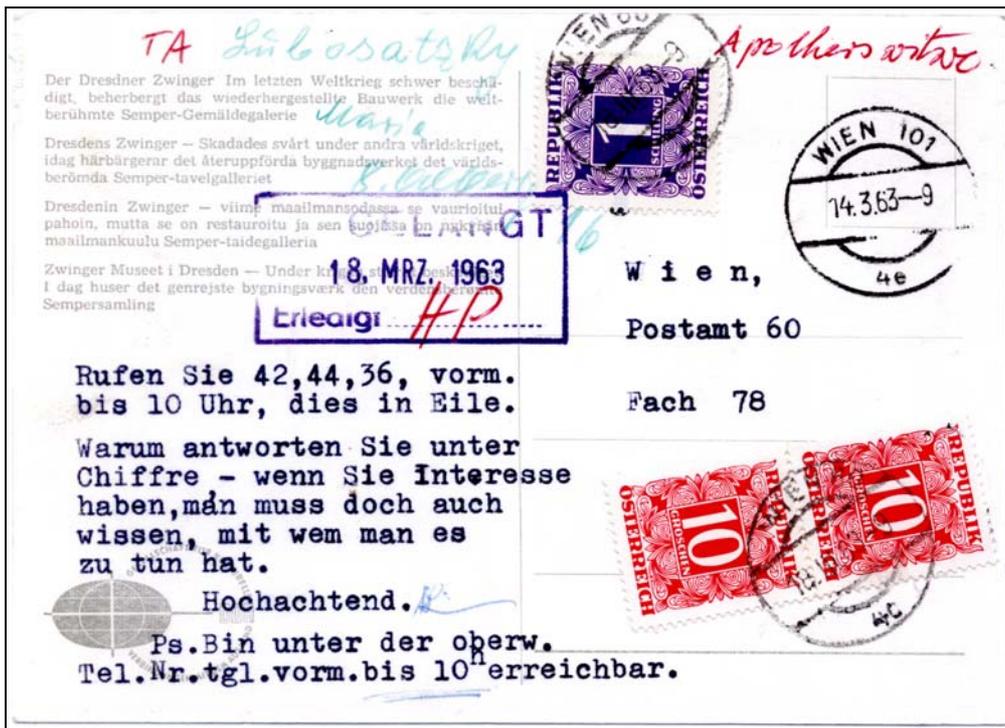
From	To	Fee
1.1.1992	31.12.1993	4 Sch
1.1.1994	30.6.1997	5 Sch
1.7.1997	31.5.2003	7 Sch = 51 Eurocents
1.6.2003	today	50 cents

Note that the postage-due rates did not always change at the same time as the post rates. See also the Overview by Colin Tobitt in Austria 128 p41-46

Period 1.7.1957 to 28.2.1981: fee 1 S [50 g for PCs till 1967]



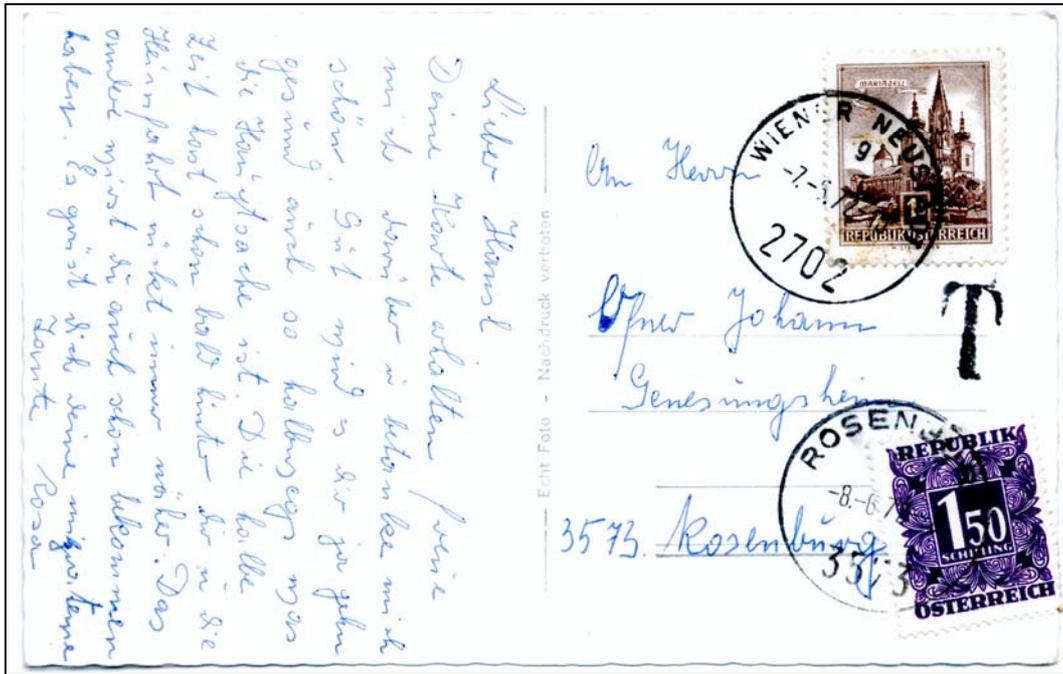
Inland long distance cover from Schwaz to Wien posted on 28.3.1960; weighed over 20gr, the first letter weight step; franked with 1.50 S, the up-to-20-gram rate; required franking 2.20 S; deficit 70 g + 1 S fee = 1.70 S.



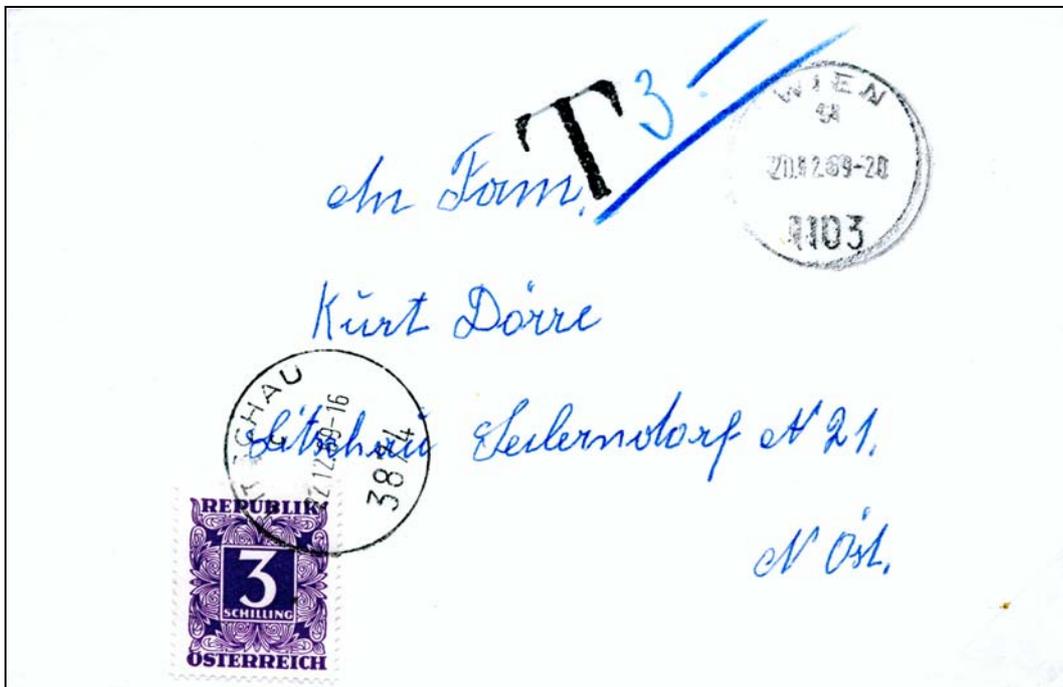
Postcard used locally in Wien on 14.3.1963; postcard rate 70 g + 50 g fee = 1.20 S.



Cover over 20gr weight used in Wien on 29.5.1978. Franked 3.40 S (no such rate!). Taxed as 100gr letter requiring 4.50 S; deficit 1.10 S + 1 S fee = 2.10 S.

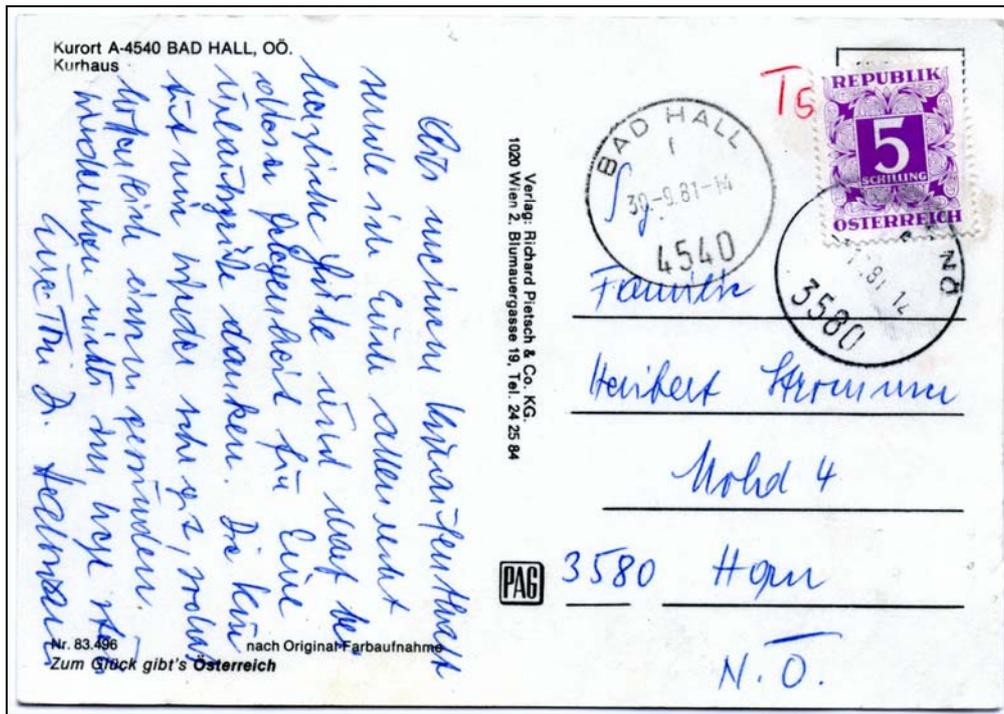


Postcard of 7.6.1972 from Wiener Neustadt to Rosenberg, underpaid with 1 S for 1.50 S rate. Deficit 50 g + 1 S fee = 1.50 Schilling collected on 8.6.1972.



Cover of 20.12.1969 unpaid from Wien to Litschau. Taxed at 2 S deficit + 1 S fee = 3 S; collected on 21.12.1969.

Period 1.3.1981 to 31.1.1984: fee 2 S



Unfranked postcard sent on 30.9.1981 from Bad Hall to Horn NÖ. Taxed at postcard rate of 3 S + fee of 2 S = 5 S; collected on 1.10.1981.

Period 1.2.1984 to 31.12.1991: fee 3 S



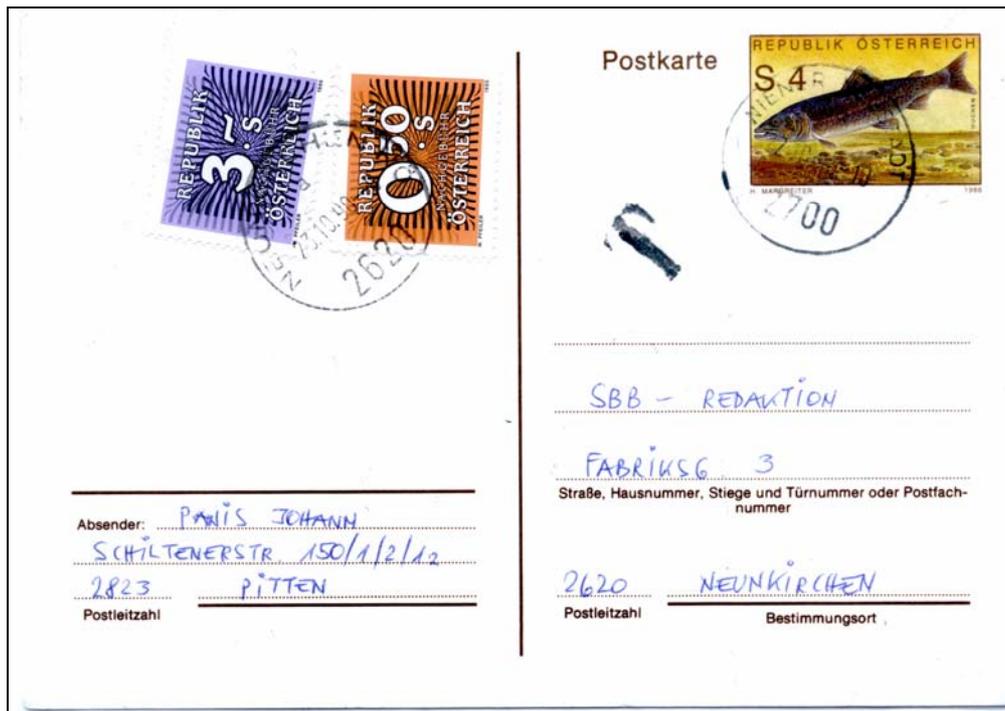
Cover of 6.3.1989 used in Wien with 4 S definitive for 5 S internal letter rate. Taxed at 1 S for the deficiency + 3 S fee = 4 S.



Letter of 8.3.1990 underpaid with 3.70 S for 5 S rate from Krems-Rehberg to Fürth bei Gottweig. Tax mark & 4.30 S postage dues: 1.30 S deficit + 3 S fee.



Postcard, sent on 24.7.1990 from Ischgl to Neunkirchen. Rate was 4.5Sch; 4Sch adhesive valid but disallowed. As there's a Tax Fraction **T500/900** perhaps they posted it in Munich; the Germans marked it and sent it back to Ischgl (the writer's address); and the Austrians treated it as an unpaid inland card! The charge is correct for that: deficiency plus fee = 4.50 + 3 = 7.50.



4 S imprinted postcard from Wiener Neustadt to Neukirchen on 22.10.1990 with Tax mark. Rate 4.50 S since 1.1.1990; deficiency 50 g + 3 S fee = 3.50 S.



Incorrect fee: Stampless cover dated August 1986 to Braz, taxed at 7 S: letter rate 5 S and fee of 2 S instead of 3 S.



Incorrect fee: Another stampless cover, dated August 1987 to Braz, again taxed at 7 S: letter rate 5 S and fee of 2 S levied instead of 3 S

Period 1.1.1992 to 31.12.1993: fee 4 S



Underpaid cover posted on 1.6.1992 from Vöcklabruck to Timelkam with tax mark and manuscript 4.50 S. Inland postage was 5.50 S so 50 g underpaid plus 4 S fee = 4.50 S paid on 3.6.1992.

Period 1.1.1994 to 30.6.1997: fee 5 S



Stampless postcard of 10.11.95 sent locally in Bad Hall from a Doctor to a client requesting the health insurance certificate for her child. Tax mark, manuscript 10.50, 5.50 S postcard rate + 5 S fee = 10.50 S paid on 11.11.1995

Period 1.7.1997 to 31.5.2003: fee 7 S alias 51 Eurocents



Letter from Graz to Freistadt, 6 Nov 1998. Rate 7S; franked 6S50, charged 0S50 deficiency + 7S fee = 7S50.

Postage Due stamps were officially withdrawn on 31.12.2001 with the adoption of the Euro, so from that date onwards there are no examples of them to show! 51 cents is the legally-defined equivalent of 7 Schillings; for political reasons exact equivalents were required.

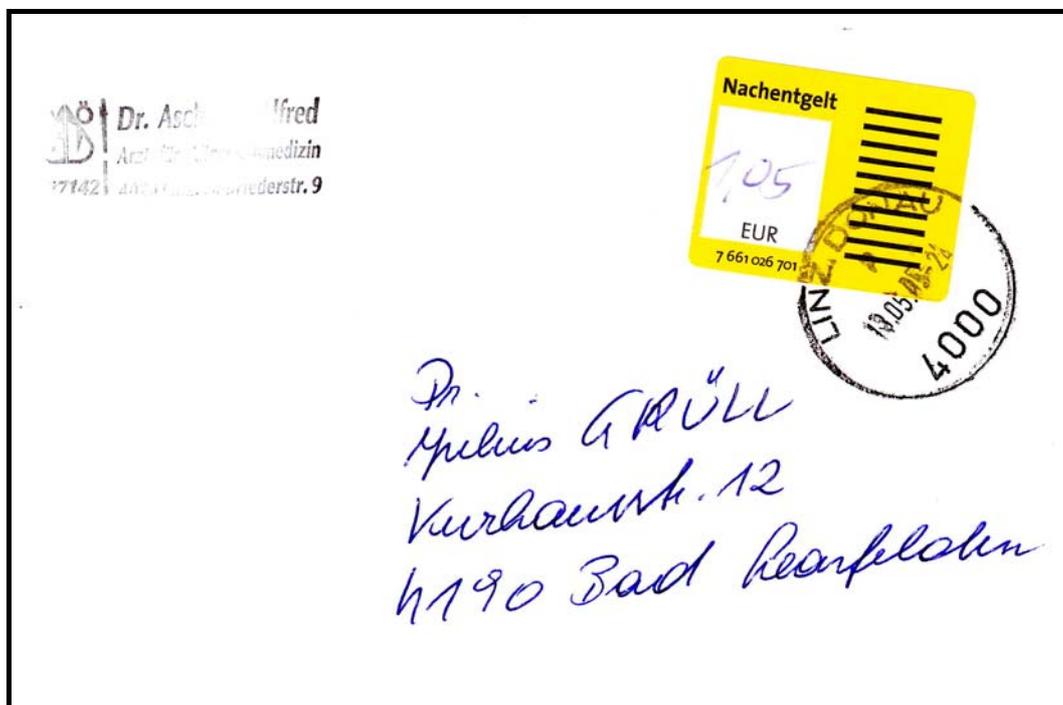
Period 1.6.2003 until today: fee 50 Eurocents

On 1.6.2003 it became legally possible to rationalise the postal rates, including the P D fee. Evidently the simplicity of 50 cents outweighed the normal response of rounding upwards!

The end??

A note in "AUSTRIA" issue 138 adds: Officially, the use of Postage Due stamps in Austria was to end on 31.12.2001 with the change of currency. A note in Die Briefmarke 4/2002 (p36) says that an internal memo has leaked out directing that their use should cease after 7 December 2001, and a T-stamp used, failing which a handwritten T. However, seven covers are known with postage dues, cancelled 31.12.2001 at Post Office 2261 Angern. A modern rarity?

A new innovation?



Cancel 13 May 2005; inland rate 55 cents, fee 50 cents, charged 105 cents indicated by a lurid yellow Nachentgelt sticker.

The 2008 New Issues

By Andy Taylor

All stamps are printed by the Österreichische Staatsdruckerei unless otherwise stated. The descriptions are taken from the English version of the Post.at website and ruthlessly abbreviated.

Flowers - Lady Slipper Orchid



0.15€ FDC: 15 Jan; Issue 10,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

Lady slipper orchid, *Cypripedium calceolus* L. The best-known orchid in Austria is the Lady slipper, blossoming from May to July in thin mountain forests, areas of bush and boulders, and occasionally at altitudes between the riverside meadows up to 1600 or even 1900 metres. Like most Orchidaceae, it thrives only on mouldy, humous-rich chalky clay soils.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Venues

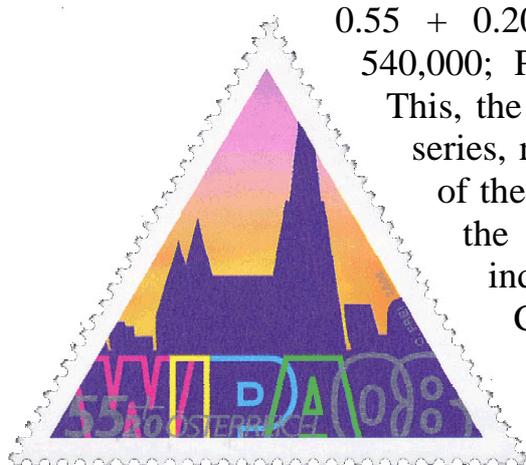
8x0.6 = 4€80; FDC: 17 Jan; issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber

The Austrian Post Office, a national sponsor of the UEFA EURO 2008™, presents the eight venues of this sporting event in this block of stamps: four



towns in each of the two host countries Austria and Switzerland. New stadia were constructed in Salzburg and Klagenfurt.

The Lead-up to WIPA 2008 - St. Stephen's Cathedral



0.55 + 0.20 surcharge = 0.75€, FDC: 18 Jan; issue: 540,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Charly Frei. This, the third stamp in the "On the way to WIPA08" series, represents both the completion and the climax of the series: the triangular surcharged stamp shows the most famous sight not only in Vienna but indeed in the whole of Austria, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the "Stephansdom" in the heart of the country's capital.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Trix and Flix - Box of 100 Stamps



0.55€ FDC: 22 Jan; Issue: 8,130.000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh.Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Self Adhesive Stamps

Trix and Flix are the official mascots - now on the practical box of 100 stamps costing 55€, also available as a strip of 5 stamps at 2€75.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Logo - Box of 25 Stamps



0.65€ FDC: 22 Jan; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Printed by: Joh.Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Self Adhesive Stamps

A box with 25 pieces of 65 cent stamps with the Logo of UEFA EURO 2008™ costing 16€25; also available as a strip of 5 stamps at 3€25.

Hans Robert Pippal - Portrait of Martina



0.65€ FDC: 31 Jan; issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld

Vienna was the focal point of the life and works of Hans Robert Pippal (1915-1998), even though travel and commissions took him to many countries of Europe and the USA. He was only 21 years old when he exhibited in the Vienna Künstlerhaus, but his promising career was interrupted by WWII.

The painting shown on the stamp dates from 1970 and shows the artist's daughter Martina at the age of 13.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Children's Drawing - Footballing Europe



0.55€ FDC: 4 Feb; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Corina Payr

The new children's drawings series is the result of an Austria-wide drawing competition held by the Post Office in co-operation with the provincial schools inspectorates. Children were invited to participate in this competition and produce creative works on the topic of the European Football Championships.

Thousands produced their ideas as part of art classes and created designs for a stamp that will be seen around the world.

The first stamp in this series was created by 19-year-old Corina Payr from Ebreichsdorf in Lower Austria. Her work "Footballing Europe" is an ambitious and original representation of the topic.

Ditto: Switzerland and Austria

0.55€ FDC: 4 Feb; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Alexandra Payer

The image on this commemorative was created by 14-year-old Alexandra Payer from Waidhofen an der Thaya. The subject of her picture is the host countries, Austria and Switzerland, a topic she present with the cheerfulness of youth.



WIPA 2008 [18-21 Sep] - GOLD



FDC: 15 Feb; Issue: 250,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The block GOLD in a limited edition of 250.000 was only available for existing OPost subscribers or as a package containing the entry card and a special block issue. The three triangular WIPA stamps create the letter W as the initial for the WIPA, and show three of the world-famous sights in Vienna: the Ferris wheel, the Gloriette and St Stephen's Cathedral.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Children's Drawing - Stars



0.65€ FDC: 19 Feb; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Saskia Puchegger from Wiener Neustadt, born in 1991. Her almost professional work represents a skilful graphic interpretation of the topic of football.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Maria Lassnig: Defence

0.55€ FDC: 21 Feb; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Maria Lassnig

Maria Lassnig was born on 8 September 1919 in Kappel am Krappfeld, and began her studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna in 1941. Wartime and post-war interruptions led her to Paris and elsewhere; it was only



in 1954 that she returned to the Academy and completed her academic training. Maria Lassnig has received awards for her paintings, including the Austrian State Prize in 1988, and the Oscar Kokoschka prize. The Carinthian painter is one of the most important contemporary artists, and her “body feeling painting” has achieved international recognition.

Animals - Tree frog and Kingfisher

0.65€ FDC: 25 Feb; Issue 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**

Self adhesive stamps in a set of 10 (2 strips of 5), showing the European tree frog and a European Kingfisher. Sold on cards. [*Illustration not printable. Ed.*]

50 Years of Austrian Airlines



1€40; FDC: 28 Feb; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Amir Aghamiri

Austrian Airlines AG was founded on 30 September 1957 and began regular flights on the Vienna-London route on 31 March 1958 using four chartered Vickers Viscounts 779. In the course of the 1990s the company acquired Tyrolean Airways and Lauda Air,

thereby gradually consolidating the Austrian airline industry.

Vienna State Opera - La forza del destino

0.55€ FDC: 1 Mar; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

Once again, a premier at the Vienna State Opera House is the occasion for a commemorative, this time “La forza del destino” (The Force of Destiny), a four-act opera by Giuseppe Verdi. The work is to be directed by the British director David Pountney, with a set designed by Richard Hudson.



Liechtenstein Museum Vienna: Amerling - Prinzessin Marie Franziska von Liechtenstein

1€25; FDC: 3 Mar; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design & engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel.



The last of the joint issues with Liechtenstein shows the portrait of Princess Marie Franziska von Liechtenstein (1834-1909) at the age of two. It was created by the famous painter Friedrich von Amerling in 1836. The original 27 x 33 cm oil painting on card was acquired by Fürst Johann II von Liechtenstein in 1927 from his sister Princess Therese Maria von Bayern and added to his collection.

Modern Art in Austria - Soshana

0.55€ FDC: 7 Mar; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Soshana

Soshana was born as Susanne Schüller in Vienna on 1 September 1927. In 1938 she fled the city together with her Jewish parents and moved to England, then America. In 1949 she left America, travelled around Europe and eventually made Paris her artistic home for many years from which she undertook long journeys to all parts of the globe. In 1972, she moved to Jerusalem, then New York, finally returning to Vienna in 1985.



UEFA EURO 2008™ - adidas Europass



3€75; FDC: 12 Mar; Issue: 490,000; Printing: Serigraphy; Design: adidas; Printed by: Cartor Security Printing

The “adidas” commemorative’s special feature is that it is made of the same material, a synthetic mixture containing polyurethane, as the original ball used for the UEFA EURO 2008™ presented on the occasion of the draw in Lucerne on 2 December 2007. The company “adidas” was founded in 1920 by Adi Dassler at Herzogenaurach near Nuremberg.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Football(field)



0.55€ FDC: 20 Mar; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Offset; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**

Football is often referred to as “the most important triviality in the world”; others regard it with apathy or indifference; for some “it is far more important than life or death”. The design of this stamp was entrusted to the tried and tested hands of Hannes Margreiter, a highly reputed artist who has designed countless stamps for the Austrian Post Office over more than two decades.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Children´s Drawing - Lindwurm

1€25; FDC: 2 Apr; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Bolona Jencic

This painting by Bolona Jencic drew attention through its particularly original subject. The motif selected for the new stamp in this “refreshingly young” series of stamps shows the symbol of the town of Klagenfurt, the Lindwurm, in a successful and imaginative interpretation.



UNESCO World Heritage List: Wachau

1€ FDC: 9 Apr; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinaweil; Engraving: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel



The Wachau is the part of the Danube Valley between Melk and Krems, together with the hills on both sides, the serpentine Krems Valley to the north and the Dunkelsteinerwald forest to the south. It is a region with a high quality of life and has been settled for thousands of years.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Children's Drawing - Großglockner



0.55€ FDC: 18 Apr; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Stefan Gritsch

The snow-covered peaks of the Alps and the green turf of the football pitches inspired this work by Stefan Gritsch from western Styria. It merges the flags of Austria and Switzerland, the two host countries of UEFA EURO 2008™.

Ditto: Lederhosen

1€ FDC: 19 Apr; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Vanessa Schennach

There can be no doubt that lederhosen are the traditional clothing for men in the Alpine regions of Austria – and have been worn in their present form since the 17th century. The lederhosen are of course accompanied by the traditional broad-brimmed hat with a tuft of chamois hair. The original idea for this stamp was created by 12-year-old Vanessa Schennach from Burgstall in the district of Mutters (and is not a representation of a previous editor).



100 Years of the Tyrolean Federation of Traditional Provincial Costumes



0.75€ FDC: 26 Apr; issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The Tiroler Landestrachtenverband (Tyrolean Federation of Traditional Provincial Costumes) is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2008 with a wide variety of festive activities in all the districts of Tyrol under the motto

“Sensitively continuing the traditions”.

Animals - Southern White-breasted Hedgehog and European Hare

0.55€, FDC: 5 May; Issue 650,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**

Self adhesive stamps in a set of 10 (2 strips of 5), showing the Eastern European hedgehog (*Erinaceus concolor*) and the hare (*Lepus europaeus*). Sold on cards. *[Illustration not printable. Ed.]*

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Andreas Herzog's goal



5€45; FDC: 5 May; Issue: 350,000; Design: Outer Aspect Ltd.; Printed by: Outer Aspect Ltd.

Andreas Herzog, born 10 September 1968 in Vienna, is the Austrian record holder, scoring a total of 26 goals in 103 games for the national team. One of the most important was on 6 September 1997 during the World Cup qualifier against Sweden. A film of him scoring, which lasts about three seconds, was processed

image by image and stored in one single picture using lenticular technology. By moving the photo manually, the impression is created of a continuous action. The reproduction of an entire film on a stamp is truly new.



Federal Stud in Piber

0.55€, FDC: 9 May; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Manfred Schaffrian

The Lipizzaner dates back to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a symbol of Austria and a tourist attraction par excellence. Archduke Karl II of Austria founded the Lipizza stud close to Trieste in 1580. For decades, the Lipizzaners have been associated with the Spanish Riding School in Vienna, in which the noble horses are trained in accordance with the classical art of riding. The foals are dark in colour and

only once they are four to ten year old adults do they turn white.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Children's Drawing - Lawn



0.75€ FDC: 10 May; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Silvia Holemar, Denise Prosegger and Guso Aldijana.

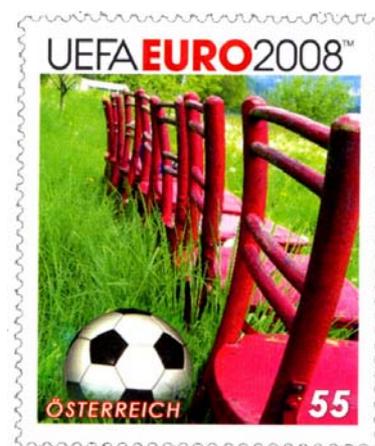
So many people dream of being able to call a small patch of lawn their own. Of course, not everyone can afford a lawn the size of a football pitch. But now we can all have a small piece of affordable lawn!

Ditto: Chair

0.55€ FDC: 16 May; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset;

Design: Andrea Kastrun

Red chairs standing on a field, abandoned, with a football behind them, as if forgotten, as if there was something more important to do. And the only thing that could be more important will be the UEFA EURO 2008™ games being shown on TV, with everyone gathered around the screen to watch. When the best teams in Europe meet, you've simply got to be there, and the game on the field can wait.



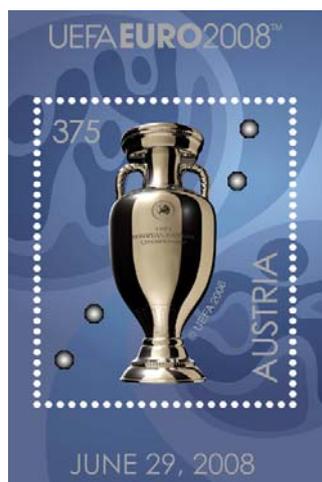
UEFA EURO 2008™ - Participating Countries I

2€20 per block of 8; FDC: 16 May; Issue: 500,000 each; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber



This issue is two blocks each of 8 stamps. The design is uniform: a face painted in the colours of the national flag of the participating countries. [As these are largely red, they won't reproduce well here so I've provided one example. Ed.] Block I shows Italy (10), Spain (65), Croatia (10), Austria (20), Sweden (15), Portugal (20), the Czech Republic (65) and Greece (15). Block 2 presents Switzerland (25), Russia (55), Germany (25), the Netherlands (35), Romania (30), Poland (35), France (55) and Turkey (30). The bracketed number is the face value; the different nominal values of the individual stamps allow them to be combined as needed.

UEFA EURO 2008™ - Coupe Henri Delaunay - Swarovski



3€75; FDC: 5 June; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld

After the final on 29 June 2008 in Vienna, the winning team will receive the coveted Henri Delaunay Cup. The stamp (borders trimmed here) shows the Cup against a blue background, and is decorated with four Swarovski crystals.

Europa 2008 - Writing Letters

0.65€ FDC: 6 June; Issue: 800,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma

The oldest surviving letters date from ancient Egypt and Babylon, written on papyrus or clay tablets. The Greeks and Romans scratched their letters into wooden tablets covered with wax, while the Indians and the Chinese used palm leaves from a very early stage. In the Middle Ages in Europe, parchment was used at first, then paper.



Patron Saints: St. Notburga



0.55€ FDC: 6 June; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Maria Schulz; Engraver: Mag. Robert Trsek

According to legend, Notburga was born around 1265 in Rattenberg. She worked as a maid at the Castle and cared for the poor and the sick; and the Count's family allowed her to distribute leftover food to the needy. After her master died, she was evicted from the castle; misfortunes followed and she was brought back to resume her charitable works. The cult of St Notburga was officially confirmed by Pope Pius IX in 1862. St Notburga is

the patron saint of maids, the poor and farmers. She is also regarded as the protector of the Sunday rest.

Animals - Hoopoe and Bee Hawk-Moth

0.75€ FDC: 13 June; Issue 350,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**

Self adhesive stamps in a set of 10 (2 strips of 5), showing the bee hawk-moth (*Hemaris fuciformis*) and the hoopoe (*Upupa epops*). Sold on cards. *Illustration not printable. Ed.]*

Series Locomotives - The Vienna Urban Railway



0.75€ FDC: 20 June; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraver: Prof. Gerhart Schmirl

On 9 May 1898, the Vienna Urban Railway was ceremonially opened by Emperor Franz Josef. Today its routes are part of the underground network and the Vienna rapid transit railway. It was the only transport system in the world to be planned and

designed as a whole by a single architect: k.k. Oberbaurat Prof. Otto Wagner. Particularly elaborate are the pavilions at Karlsplatz and the Court Pavilion in Hietzing. Otto Wagner's urban railway buildings, designed in the Jugendstil, are today regarded as one of the most important works of art in Vienna.

100th anniversary of the death of Josef Maria Olbrich



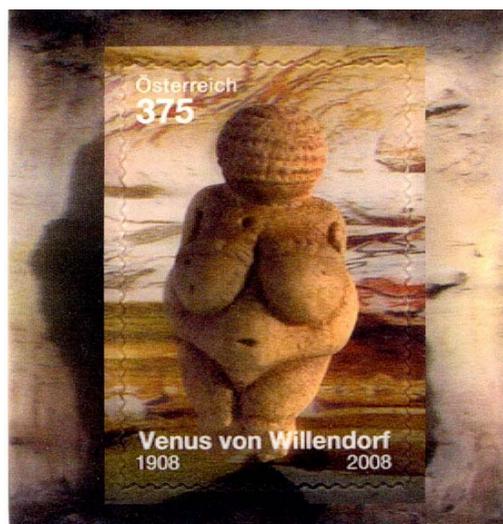
0.65€ FDC: 5 Aug; Issue: 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**

Josef Maria Olbrich, born on 22 December 1867 in Troppau, studied at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts; later joining Otto Wagner's office. The young architect created a special exhibition room for the newly founded

artists' association, the Viennese Secession. The building later became known as the Secession building, and entered history as one of the main works of the Vienna Jugendstil.

The Willendorf Venus in 3D

3€75; FDC: 8 Aug; Issue: 350,000; Design & Printing: Outer Aspect Ltd



The Willendorf Venus is Austria's most famous and valuable find from the later Palaeolithic age. A very special stamp has been created for this outstanding object. A three-dimensional effect makes the Venus appear particularly vividly. There is no doubt that this innovative lenticular image stamp is a further milestone in contemporary stamp design. The figure is 11 cm high, made of fine limestone and has survived almost undamaged.

Flowers - The Columbine

0.50€ FDC: 1 Sept; Issue: 2,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Rudolf Galler; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. Definitive stamp.

The Columbine, *Aquilegia vulgaris* L. with its beautiful blossoms is one of the three species occurring wild in Central Europe of the huge genus (roughly 120 species worldwide, of which 19 together with a number of subspecies are found in Europe) of the ranunculaceae.



Ranunculus



0.55€ FDC: 1 Sept; Issue: 200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Judith Schimany; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

Judith Schimany studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna under Anton Lehmden. She has been awarded many prizes, and has participated in numerous exhibitions in Austria and abroad, including the Vienna Art fair, the Dorotheum, the Infeld Gallery Vienna, the Galerie an der Düssel in Düsseldorf, the Hartmann Gallery in Munich, the Artisart Gallery in Maastricht, and most recently in the Old Town Hall in Vienna.

WIPA 2008 - Five Stamps



The WIPA self-adhesive stamp, face value 0.55€, was offered as strips of 5 or a box of 25. FDC: 2 Sep; Issue: 3,880,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

Empress Elizabeth Western Railway



1€, FDC: 10 Sept; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinaweil; Engraver: Prof. Gerhart Schmirl

The Austrian Western Railway was originally known as the Imperial and Royal Privileged Empress Elizabeth Railway, and runs to Salzburg via Linz. This railway was agreed in an 1851 treaty between Bavaria and Austria, primarily to enable the Empress to travel quickly and comfortably back to her Bavarian home.

Mail coach

2€65; FDC: 12 Sept; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio;



Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Engraver: Wolfgang Seidel

Two international philately exhibitions taking place almost immediately after each other, "Praga 2008" and "WIPA08" are the occasion for this joint issue by the Czech Republic and Austria. The attractively designed block of stamps shows a historic painting of a mail coach, the epitome of the post in bygone days.

WIPA 2008 Silver

Unit price: 2€25; postage of 1€65 plus surcharge of 0.60€ FDC: 18 Sept; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Michael Rosenfeld

Design: same as the “gold” of 15 Feb but some colours different.



Day of the stamp 2008

3€95; FDC: 18 Sept; Issue: 660,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma

The SCHÖNBRUNN, a paddle wheel steamer, was built in 1912 at the DDSG shipyards in Obuda (Altofen) and played its part in the mail-carrying service. Although the ship survived the wars, the split-up of the DDSG threatened its future; so the company management had the ship classified as a technical monument in 1995 and sold it to the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Eisenbahngeschichte (ÖGEG) for one Schilling plus 20% VAT.

80th birthday anniversary of Friedensreich Hundertwasser



3€55; FDC: 18 Sept; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design and engraving: Wolfgang Seidel

“Hundertwasser was a unique figure in the contemporary art and architecture scene. He didn’t belong anywhere, and is hence difficult to classify. That is what makes it so difficult to do him justice.”

The motifs of these stamps were designed personally by the artist but not issued during the era of the Austrian Schilling. They will probably be the last Hundertwasser stamps ever to be issued.

Nude on stamp - Female nude

0.55€ FDC: 19 Sept; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Dina Larot

Dina Larot was born in Vienna on 6 January 1942 as Maria Elisabeth Lebzelter. She studied art at Graz, and has travelled through much of the world. Although her artistic creativity covers a broad range of topics, the focal point of Dina Larot's work is without doubt the attractive nudes and pictures of young women.



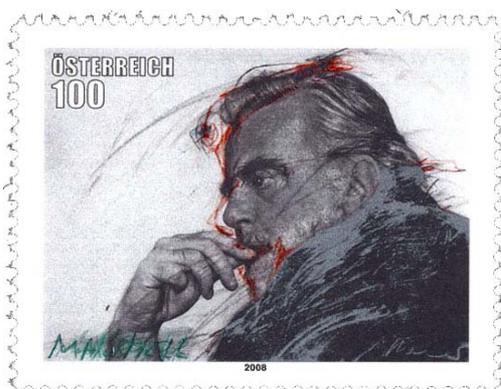
Gentian



3€75; FDC: 19 Sept; Issue: 400,000; Design & 'printing': Hämmerle & Vogel GesmbH & Co KG.

The embroidered Gentian stamp is, like the previous "Edelweiss", a product of the Austrian firm Hämmerle & Vogel. The threads and the colour follow the natural shape of the Clusius gentian (*gentiana clusii*), discovered around 100 BC by King Gentius of Illyria.

The example here was commercially used with a first day cancel on a large parcel to the UK.



Maximilian Schell

1€ FDC: 20 Sept; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Professor Arnulf Rainer

Maximilian Schell was born in Vienna on 8 December 1930, the son of the Swiss author Hermann Ferdinand Schell and the Viennese actress Margarethe Noé von Nordberg. Following the Anschluß, the family fled to Switzerland where after study he became an internationally-known actor and producer. The stamp shows his portrait as painted by the Austrian Arnulf Rainer, celebrated for his overpainting technique.

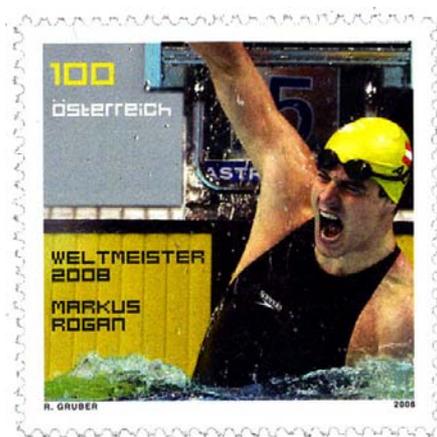
Romy Schneider



1€ FDC: 21 Sept; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Andreas Reimann

Romy Schneider was born in Vienna on 23rd September 1938, the daughter of the actors Magda Schneider and Wolf Albach-Retty. Even as a young girl, she wrote in her diary that “I must become an actress, I must!” Romy Schneider’s life was a series of highs and lows – the celebrated film star on the one hand, the actress abandoned by the international press on the other hand. She died in Paris in 1982.

Markus Rogan



1€ FDC: 27 Sept; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber

The stamp depicts top Austrian sportsman of today, Markus Rogan, the most successful Austrian swimmer of all times. In September 2004, he was awarded the Special Fair Play Award for this exemplary sporting behaviour by the European Fair Play Movement (EFP), and in addition in 2004 he was voted Austrian Sportsman of the Year.

Thomas Morgenstern



1€ FDC: 27 Sept; Issue: 700,000; Printing: 700,000 Design: Renate Gruber

At the age of only 22, Thomas Morgenstern is already one of the most successful Austrian ski-jumpers ever. Twice the Olympic winner and overall World Cup winner in the 2007/2008 season, this congenial Carinthian has been a source of enthusiastic delight for his

many fans over the last two years.

European Champions 2008



0.65€ FDC: 27 Sept; Issue: 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld

This "European Champions 2008" issue marks the end of UEFA EURO 2008™.

On 29 June, Spain defeated Germany 1:0 and the design shows the delighted captain of the Spanish team, the goalkeeper Iker Casillas, exuberantly holding up the UEFA Cup.

70th birthday of Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer



0.55€ FDC: 7 Oct; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The Austrian Post Office is delighted to release a commemorative in honour of the Federal President Dr. Heinz Fischer's 70th birthday.

Dr Fischer studied law and political science at the University of Vienna; after graduating, he entered politics, joining the Socialist party. Alongside his political career, Dr. Fischer has always had an interest in the academic and legal worlds, particularly in the fields of politics, constitutional law and political science. Since 1978, he has been a university lecturer for political science at the University of Innsbruck and was appointed Full Professor in 1994. In 2004, Dr. Heinz Fischer was elected to the Federal Presidency.

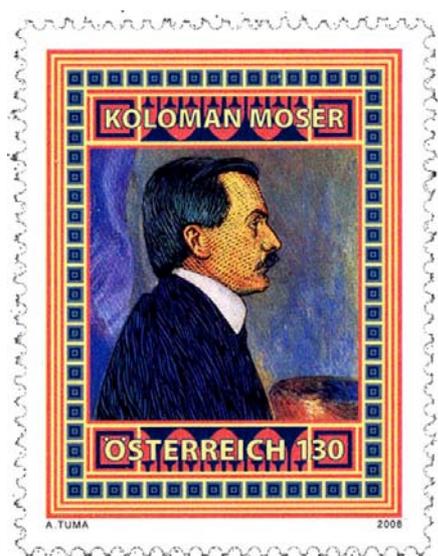
Classic Trademarks "Manner"

0.55€ FDC: 16 Oct; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Designer unknown.

Josef Manner had a small shop on Stephansplatz, where he sold chocolates and fig coffee. Dissatisfied with the quality of the chocolate from his supplier, he decided to go into production himself, and on 1 March 1890 he founded the "Chocoladenfabrik Josef Manner." The company's best-known product today is the hazelnut-filled Neapolitan Wafer.



Koloman Moser



1€30; FDC: 31 Oct; Issue: 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma

Together with Josef Hoffmann, Egon Schiele, Gustav Klimt and Adolf Loos, Koloman Moser (1868 to 1918) was one of the internationally important artists who around the turn of the century began the great age of the Austrian Modern. They had in common a commitment to art that was not limited to the imitation of historical styles. Moser's quest, however, was for a new all-encompassing art in which everything, from architecture to the smallest decorative element of everyday utilitarian objects, was to be

be created in a strict artistic form. "Simplification is not to be found in omission but rather in concentration", he asserted.

Old Austria: Trieste

0.65€ FDC: 3 Nov; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma

This new stamp from the popular "Old Austria" series shows the service hall of the Trieste Imperial and Royal Post Office building. Incidentally, few people know that the tide gauge fitted to the Molo Sartorio in the harbour has been used since the 19th century as the Central European "metres above the Adriatic" zero point.

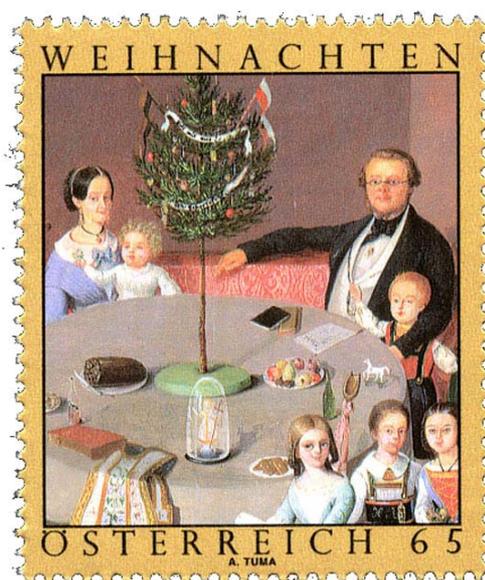


century as the Central European

Christmas 2008 - The First Christmas Tree in Ried

0.65€ FDC: 5 Nov; Issue: 3,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma

The first Christmas tree in Ried was in the house of the wealthy Rapolter family; The painter Felix Ignaz Pollinger originated from Munich and later worked in Vienna, and it was he who created in this painting a convincing depiction of the Biedermeier family idyll.



Patron Saints: St. Martin

0.55€ FDC: 7 Nov; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Maria Schulz; Engraver: Mag. Robert Trsek

St Martin of Tours lived from around 316 to 397. He was consecrated Bishop of Tours on 4 July 372. In Austria, he is the patron saint of the province of Burgenland. His feast day is 11th November, celebrated in many villages and towns by the Lantern Festival with its ceremonial procession that is so popular amongst children.



70th Birthday of Karl Schranz



0.65€ FDC: 11 Nov; Issue: 700,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Renate Gruber

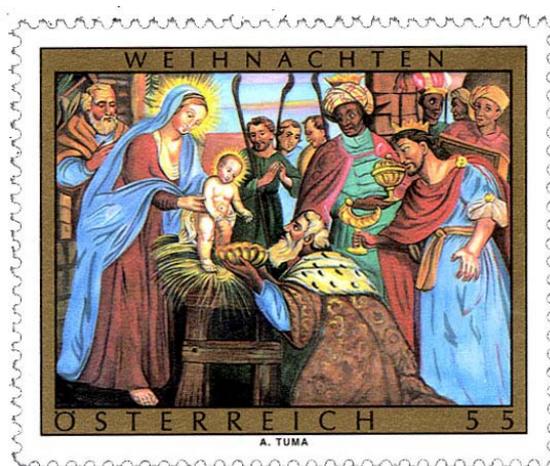
Karl Schranz was born in 1938 in one of the most attractive winter sport regions in Austria, St. Anton am Arlberg. He was soon attracted to competitive sport. In the course of his international career, he won the World Champion title three times, the overall World Cup twice and a silver medal at the

Olympic Games in Innsbruck in 1964.

Christmas 2008 - Ceiling Fresco from Mattsee

0.55€ FDC: 21 Nov; Issue: 8,000,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: Adolf Tuma.

The stamp shows a detail from the Adoration of the Magi, the middle painting of the ceiling fresco over the central nave of the Collegiate Monastery and Parish Church of St Michael in the Three Lakes region of the Flachgau; it was created by an unknown Salzburg painter around 1700. On the occasion of the renovation of most of the stucco-framed ceiling paintings in 1851-2, the Salzburg painter Josef Rattensperger probably also painted over this fresco in the popular Nazarene style.



NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 11/2008: thematic: van Gogh; stampless letters after 1.6.1850; Postübernahmskarte; the Anschluß and stamp dealers; the “VIP Club Philatelie”; background to new issues; the WIPA 2008 post mortem, mostly in photographs; news from societies; book reviews; letters; etc etc.

Issue 12/2008: thematic: Christmas; that French Field Post Office in 1951; dimensional specification for the Automatenwertzeichen; the 2009 new issues programme [51 of them. Ed]; today’s names of places which were in Oberdonau in WWII (eg Theresiendorf is now Pohorsky Ves); Rudolph von Habsburg; dates in 2009 that are also postcodes; news from societies; book reviews; letters; etc etc.

Issue 1/2009: thematic: pacifism & Bertha v. Suttner; Posthorns (and their signals!); the collapse of Yugoslavia; Rudolph von Habsburg (ii); some of the rarities at WIPA; new issues; other items obtainable from Ost.Post including an HO gauge model TPO; Passau Bahnhof cancel; “WIPA was a great success”; Hannes Margreiter and 2008’s Philatelist-Wine; news from societies; book reviews; letters; etc etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 84: AGM report; Changes & additions to the 1946 airmail rates tables; forged dumb cancels; WWII packet cards; Constantinopel single-circle cancel: questions; Dues in Mühlviertel; review of Kainbacher vol II. All articles have many colour illustrations.

ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn

(formerly Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-18)

Issue 95: AGM report; Happy 65th to RTC and GM; exhibition-prizewinnings; numerous queries and one answer; changes to FIP rules on Postal History; “The end of Feldpost” (in 1918); illustrated Christmas Cards by Ernst Kutzer; WWI anti-espionage arrangements; Tokoe & Troitzky camps; packets to USA in 1914; Fieldpost-attachment details; book reviews; etc

Austria Philatelic Society^{US}

Vol 9 No. 1: Comments on WIPA; Viribus Unitis; The First Postal Cards (translation of Ferch2000 pp813-23); detailed review of Ferchenbauer 2008 (concludes by describing it as “the new gold standard”!).

Czechout

Issue 4/2008: Reports of exhibitions at Prague and at the Czech Embassy; and of meetings and of exchange-journal articles; Czech army fieldpost and the BBC; Slovak army 1939-45; Q&A; etc.

Supplement: Complete Index to Czechout, vols 1-25, 1975-2007.

Germania

Nov 2008 vol 44 no 4: Society, Study Group, AGM & Regional Reports; list of useful websites; and many articles of non-Austrian interest.

Jugopošta

Vol 88 December 2008: Overview of Trieste, Fiume etc 1945-47 (part 2); Yugoslavia-related awards in 2008's international exhibitions.

London Philatelist

November 2008: review of the APS Festschrift (... "*a worthwhile way of celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Society*"); etc.

MILITÄR und PHILATELIE

(also ARGE Militaria Austriaca Philatelia)

Issue 229: The old Post Office at Küb; WIPA2008 and allied events; book reviews; personalised-stamp items; etc. Plus 44-side full-colour auction list!!!

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 175: December 2008: Meeting reports; book reviews including "Hungarian Perfins (1877-1964)"; etc. One article makes a good general point: if people a century ago hadn't kept cards & envelopes there would be no Postal History today! We should do the same for our descendants.

A Commemoration of Gary Ryan is included as a supplement.

Südost-Philatelie

Vol 108/2008: The Montenegrin Post in Bordeaux, 1916; discussion of certain Yugoslavian & Serbian issues since 1937; on the politically-driven changing of placenames; ArGe Bulgaria and its publications (7 so far!); etc etc

Special issue (not numbered in the sequence; ISSN 1861-8804): Jugoslavian POWs of WWII in German camps. History; organisational details; items posted. 44pp A4.

Ukrainian Philatelist

Vol 56 No. 2: members' favourite covers; Western Ukraine national republic and the transition from the Habsburgs; Ukraine 1917-23 postal history part III; express mail (from 1871!); much on Mariupil; etc.

Wiener Ganzsachsen- Frei- u Poststempelsammlerverein

Issue 3/2008: International Reply coupons; view-cards of Seefeld (issues 90/11 and 91/13) with mirror-imaged picture; list of Zustellbasis cancels.

Issue 4/2008: The End of the Schilling (useful diagram of what happened, or was valid, when).

Additions to the Library

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
437	Pénzügyi bélyegek a Habsburg birodalomban és Magyarországon	Revenue Philately in the Habsburg Empire and in Hungary	312	Burján, Fodor, Kernács, Székely & Szücs	2007	H
438	Ganzsachen ab 1861	Austrian postal stationery catalogue, 1861 to date. 3000 illustrations.	190	ANK	2008	G

Delete item 388 "Stempelprotokoll"

Replace the text for item 140 by "see 330". The books are the same but 330 is a reprint to which a different number was given.

Bookmarks

Baedeker

Old editions of Baedeker and Murray guides, both English & German, can be purchased from Dr Roger Hickley, 11 St Quentin Drive, Sheffield, S17 4PN.

Lombardy

“The Postal History of Lombardy under Austrian Rule, 1707-1796” by Giorgio Migliavacca (the 2006 revised reprint) covers what it promises. Timelines and chronologies have been added to previously-published work; significant postal developments are covered; and appendixes deal with rates, coinage, and the 1785 Postal Agreement with Venice. 60 pages USA-letter-size.

One of the many ‘stories’ is the complaints made by postmasters when they discovered that “disinfection by heating” caused a significant weight loss: typically 20% each time. As mail was in effect bought from the previous postmaster and sold on to the next at a fixed rate by weight, their income also dropped by 20%.

ANK Ganzsachen ab 1861 – some first impressions

- ❖ It looks good, it’s only 190pp but with every piece of stationery in picture form although much reduced, the first issues of cards with all the different languages are all illustrated.
- ❖ The sets of view cards (Bildpostkarte) are not listed: highly regrettable. I will have to keep my Schneiderbauer!
- ❖ Take p37 for example. With 22 pictures (+ descriptions) on an A5 page, even with a strong magnifying glass I can’t read the text on the language-variant cards. What use is that?
- ❖ Compared with other catalogues, the listing order is better (though not perfect) and the item numbers are different.

Now see full review on next page.

Kainbacher (et al)

Further work has confirmed that, in the 1920s at least, the amendments to the postal regulations ARE cumulative. Hence, missing one during a search of the dusty tomes or their on-line equivalents could invalidate conclusions drawn about the rates applicable at later dates.

Review of ANK “Ganzsachen ab 1861”

Firstly, this is a contribution to be welcomed, the first new one on the stationery for some years. Only Michel-Ganzsachen & Ferchenbauer have appeared since Schneidebauer's second edition and that (Schn) is now very hard to find.

Michel is still one of the best but covers all of Western Europe and consequently is quite abbreviated - and some find it hard to navigate. Ferchenbauer has recently been much expanded but only covers the period to 1918 and has some glaring omissions. As is often the case with Ferchenbauer, emphasis is put on bravura (Gold Medal Winning?) frankings.

I had hoped that someone would do a comprehensive update of Schneidebauer. This, however, ain't it. And indeed, for those diehards who also have Ascher and Berliner Ganzsachen Sammler Vereine and Higgins-and-Gage on their shelves, this latest book doesn't entirely supercede any of them. For example, Ascher still gives the best account of the various printings of the early Imperial postcards.

The new catalogue seems to have been based on three editorial decisions. Firstly, it seems to have been decreed that the book should be similar in size to the European 'standard' Netto or Michel catalogue. Slips conveniently into a coat pocket. Secondly, (almost) every card should be illustrated. In colour. That sounds great, doesn't it? But the reality is that you have pages and pages of tiny pictures of cards (and I mean tiny: the 1869-1973 cards measure just 24x17mm, around 4% of the area of the original card). Even with a magnifying glass, details which might be clarified by a good illustration are here unrecognisable. What is the point (for example) in illustrating 24 different 1883 2kr postcards when the details of the language versions etc. are below the resolution of the printing process? The third editorial decision (which isn't made clear in the adverts I have seen) is that the picture stationery cards are entirely absent. And I mean entirely. They aren't even given the very brief listing that Michel (for example) provides. We are promised (if you assiduously go through the introduction) a separate volume on the picture cards. In due course. Hopefully it will answer the many questions around the first (1927) series. 'Private' stationery are also absent. Again they 'may' be included in future editions.

On the other hand, there are some very good things here. Throughout the catalogue there are items of detail which were new to me. The listing of the tax cards, money order stationery and the like I find helpful as the illustrations may be tiny (and inclined to have moiré fringes because of the screening process) but they do make it a lot easier to identify different printings. There is even a healthy section on the parcels stationery, although this is of course revenue

stationery, other than a the few cards issued in 1919/20 which did have postal imprints. Actually, even this is a bit odd. In addition to the postal imprint (showing the main parcels delivery office in Vienna!) there is still a fiscal imprint of sorts as well, which indicates that the (then) parcel tax of 10 heller is paid directly in cash and, indeed, the selling price of the card includes the value of both postal and revenue imprints. However, when the experiment with the postal imprint was discontinued, further series of parcel cards were produced with the same tax imprint. Schneidebauer lists these, Netto, for some reason, doesn't. Also included are B&H, L&V, Levant and United Nations (Vienna). I think this is the first listing of the latter I have seen. [*They're in the back of the ANK Öst. Spezialkatalog. Ed*] Not that it made my day, or anything. But someone must collect them?

The other comment that must be made concerns pricing. Thanks to recent currency movements, the catalogue itself is now quite an expensive item, although, on balance, probably worth having. More importantly, the valuation of the material itself. Here, comparing prices with Schneidebauer (1981) and Michel (1990, not the latest edition, I admit), it is clear that some of the better material has shot up in value. An example, more or less at random, is the 1922/24 letter cards with a 'square' Österreich imprint in a series 20K, 25K, 400K, 600K, 1000K. Schneidebauer lists the five cards at £15 mint / £23 used (cheapest frankings). Michel had them at £17 / £43. Netto now has £94 / £325. (All currency conversions approximate). To be honest, I can't see you getting anything like £94 for a mint set. But you might struggle to find them used, even at Netto's price! And there are still modestly catalogued items which I search for very regularly and still haven't found. No, I'm not saying what they are until I've got 'em!

Martin Brumby

New Year Puzzle



In the Dorotheum auction on 19 Sept 2008, a 4-margin mint red Mercury was sold for 26,840 Euro (no, not to your Editor).



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Mag. Peter Zoller

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QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS etc

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest the report of your roving reporter on WIPA 08.

When I spoke with him, just after I had had my one-to-them with the judges, I think we concentrated more on “What could or should be done to make ‘London 2010’ a better experience for visitors and exhibitors” rather than the good side of WIPA, and this may have affected his report. As an exhibitor I asked about the Judging Seminar on three occasions before finally discovering that I needed to book a timed meeting with the judges rather than there being a general meeting followed by smaller group discussions as is normal in the UK. With regard to the frame numbering, whilst waiting for the judges I saw three official-looking men peering at frames to find out where they were supposed to be!

When I found what I wanted to see in the exhibits, there were certainly some very interesting displays which gave an ordinary or advanced collector the chance to drool over those unobtainable items. It also had a downside; I had recently added a very nice Lemberg-Vienna military mail heavy item with high franking to my display only to see two similar covers with even more stamps on them! I took the opportunity to meet and talk with other collectors and attended an interesting meeting of the Zeppelin Study Group that was conducted in German and English.

Having the APS stand which gave a chance to meet and talk with our friends from Innsbruck and other APS members was a definite plus to the event. It also made a set place to meet other philatelists, or my husband Tony when he did his own thing in the morning and came to meet me for lunch. I found the many places to eat at a reasonable price unusual and hope that this is something that ‘London 2010’ will take note of.

As one of the philatelists I spent a lot of time at WIPA whilst as mentioned Tony often did his own thing. The very cold weather did not encourage visits to the Prater or Vienna Woods. The evening get-togethers and breakfast at the Hotel Royal (no noise problems here) gave a collector like me the chance to catch up with the wives who were certainly enjoying the other attractions Vienna has to offer. Tony and I took advantage of these by staying on for an extra few days.

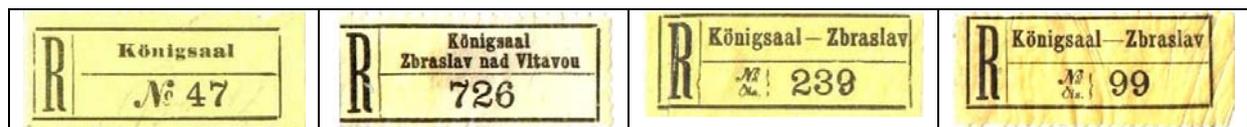
Joyce Boyer.

Mr Koláč adds two points of clarification to his report: (1) it was based on what was said, not on what was unsaid; (2) the “*modern hotel in a quiet side street which was on the main tram route to the depot*” was not within the Ring; while trams did once enter the Innenstadt they had gone by the time the APS visited Vienna, and they never ever ran up the Graben (although horse buses did).

Your editor adds: the APS Committee has decided that it would not be a good use of the Society’s money to spend £250 plus VAT for a table’n’chair (with a prohibition on any display stand) at the back of the hall at London2010; similarly for half-a-day of a meeting room. A plus point to WIPA is that we were not charged for room or stand hire (only the laptop/projector).

Königsaal

Herr Hermann Sanbach, a member of 1.österr.Rekozettel Sammlerverein Wien, writes to say that the article “125 Years of Registration Labels” shows an R-label of “Königsaal”. [*This is in Austria 131 page 50, and also on the APS web site where that article is cloned. Ed*] That one is a known error, printed with double ‘s’ instead of a single ‘s’. He sent us 4 different examples of R-labels from Königsaal:



My thanks to him.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome back:

703 William H. Farrell, Florida, USA back

We welcome:

1298 Marcel Fuller, Essex

1299 Carl Barna, Colorado, USA

We say goodbye to

493 Leonard Mayrisch of Sonoma, Calif. USA

1029 Michael Imbriani of Berwyn, Penn. USA

1263 Dan Goldman of San Antonio, Texas USA

To all of them, we thank you for your support in years past and we offer our best wishes for the future