

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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EDITORIAL 166

By Andy Taylor

You will have noticed that there is a “credit crunch” afflicting many aspects of life. Businesses that “were always there” aren’t there any more. Foreign plumbers have returned home. Your personal phone book is nearly all crossed out. Telephones ring unanswered. Emails bounce back, flagged as “no such address”. Web sites display “HTTP 404 - File not found”, or a “future events” list for 2008. Industrial estates are full of weeds and hungry cats. It’s unclear how all this affects Philately –several people have commented this year that auction prices for best-quality material appear to be rising, not falling as you might have expected or hoped. What is clearer is that the supply of articles for this Journal has dried up.

One of our members has not received the 2009 Spring Newsletter, Auction list, Fest invitation etc. We know this because the wreckage was returned by the Post Office in a “sorry” bag – but we don’t know who it was! If you didn’t receive yours, please get in touch.

Both members and partners have for over a decade availed themselves of the different approach to foreign travel offered by Robert Avery. I see he has reached life’s sexagesimal milestone, and wonder if his journeys will now make more use of free public transport ☺

Sundry Sales Section: Just unearthed from the archives: several copies of a 12 page pamphlet on the Slogan-type cancels of Austria 1938-45, edited by HG White and first published by the ASCofGB in 1988. Yours for £1 including p&p. First come, first served!

The APS has one copy of Kainbacher volume IV available. See Austria 164 page 62. It covers in immense detail the 1946-2007 period, with airmail rates for letters and packets, and foreign rates for surface letters and packets. Price £130 ; delivery at cost or by arrangement.

The APS also has one copy of “Pénzügyi bélyegek a Habsburg birodalomban és Magyarországon” (Revenue Philately in the Habsburg Empire and in Hungary) by Szücs et al. See Austria 164 page 64, where Martin Brumby said “If you are at all seriously interested in Hungarian (or Austrian) revenue philately, then this book is absolutely indispensable”. Price £70 including P&P.

Printed copies of the Indexes to ‘Austria’ and the Library are available: free but you pay P&P.

And a member has two author-signed copies of Postal History Of Bosnia & Herzegovina 1878-1918 by Berislav Sekelj for sale at £25 each including p&p.

For all these, contact John Anthony (details on inside front cover)

Austrian Philatelic Society: Auction No. 94 Realisations

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
7	6.50	75	8.00	208	2.60	281	3.00
8	6.50	79	9.00	210	2.60	283	7.00
11	8.50	91	5.00	215	3.60	285	6.50
19	30.00	98	14.00	224	9.00	287	4.50
37	35.00	106	5.00	231	2.00	288	1.50
38	18.00	107	6.50	233	2.00	293	4.00
39	18.00	108	6.50	237	3.70	295	8.00
40	9.00	113	7.00	239	1.00	296	55.00
45	5.00	116	6.00	240	1.00	297	80.00
46	8.00	119	7.00	243	3.20	298	5.00
47	7.00	124	3.50	247	2.00	299	6.00
50	7.50	129	2.00	252	22.00	300	2.50
51	7.00	137	4.50	253	1.00	301	5.50
52	7.00	144	5.50	254	1.00	302	8.50
55	5.00	150	3.20	261	4.20	304	7.00
59	5.00	162	4.00	262	4.20	305	1.80
62	22.00	168	2.20	263	2.50	306	2.80
63	22.00	188	3.00	266	2.50	307	0.80
64	15.00	192	2.60	267	2.50	308	22.00
65	20.00	193	3.60	269	2.50	313	8.00
66	21.00	198	3.20	270	16.00		
67	22.00	205	2.60	272	22.00		

MEMBERSHIP NEWS***We welcome:***

1300 Raymond Toogood, Gloucestershire

1301 Patrick Somers, Vancouver, Canada

1302 Edward Metcalfe, Barrow-in-Furness

1303 Jacques Forbes, Montreal, Canada

To all of them, we offer our best wishes for the future

We say goodbye to

1297 John D. Raymond

PAYMENT OF PRE-STAMP LETTERS TO AND FROM THE AUSTRIAN BORDER

By **Hubert Jungwirth** (translated by Keith Brandon)

PRE-PAYMENT TO THE BORDER

Sender → **pre-payment to border** → Border → **payment due from border** → Recipient

Initially all chargeable letters travelling abroad from Austria had to be pre-paid to the outer border of the Austrian postal territory. They are known as “Grenzfrankobriefe” = paid-to-border letters, and the following tariff in “Convention Money” (CM) applied. As an exception, letters to Spain and Portugal had to be paid up to the Spanish border - more about this in a later article on transit-post.

Austrian Tariff for Foreign Mail from 1 June 1817 to 31 July 1842:

Pre-paid to or due from the border.	Up to ½ loth	up to 1 loth	up to 1½ loth
Distance to or from the border:			
1 to 3 post stations	2 kr	4 kr	6 kr
4 to 6 post stations	8 kr	16 kr	24 kr
7 to 9 post stations	10 kr	20 kr	30 kr
10 to 12 post stations	12 kr	24 kr	36 kr
More than 12 post stations	14 kr	28 kr	42 kr

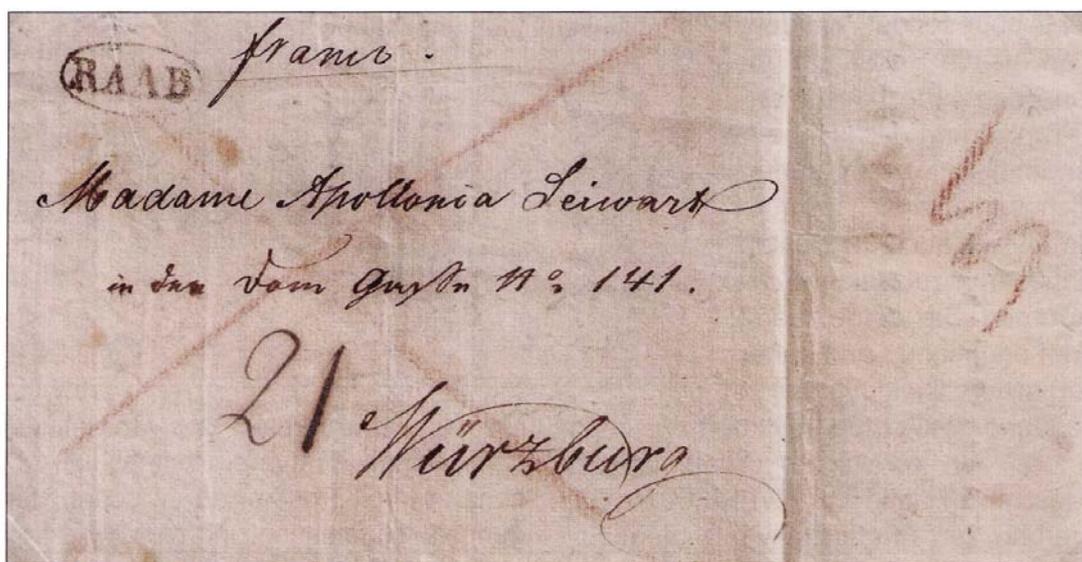
N.B. x = kreuzer CM; fl = gulden; 60x = 1fl.

From 1842 the paid-to-border system was gradually replaced, beginning with the postal treaty between Austria and Bavaria by which a single inclusive charge could be paid by either the sender or recipient. Gradually such contracts with other States followed, and the compulsory payment to the border was waived. More about this in a future article.

The compulsory charge to the border meant a division of the postal charges between the sender and the receiver. While the sender paid his postal administration’s charge to the border in advance, the addressee paid the postage from that border only when his own postal administration completed the delivery of the letter.

Translator’s note: translated from articles in the October and November 2007 issues of **Die Briefmarke**. My thanks to the publishers and to Herr Jungwirth [Hubert Jungwirth, 6156 Gries 75, hu.jung@tirol.com] for allowing us to publish his article and illustrations. Any errors of translation are of course completely mine. KMB

The charged amount had to be stated on each letter. Even one travelling a short distance into a neighbouring country carried at least two charges, in two different currencies. Postage due across several borders was measured sequentially as appropriate and used different units of weight and distance to those of Austria. Finally, knowledge of the post-route is required for a philatelic understanding of the cover. A normal paid-to-border letter from Austria to Bavaria serves as a good example to explain the detailed postal-history. The illustration shows, on the left, the address-side and, to the right of the crease, the folded-out flap from the reverse-side.



Origin and date: the only reference is in the contents: written in Raab (= Győr, Hungary), the home of the sender, on 22 September 1832.

Rating: weight assessed in Raab as $\frac{1}{2}$ loth, from which **14** kr Austrian Convention Money (CM) in line with the overseas tariff is marked in rötél on the back (upside-down in the illustration). To safely decipher the charges, the tariff-table is occasionally necessary. Gradually the rötél crayon was replaced by black ink. Unfortunately, border payments are also found on the cover-front, so that occasionally a mistake is made with the postage due from the receiver.

Dispatch: a paid-to-border letter is recognisable not only from the charges on the reverse. Efficient handling also necessitated marking on the front: hence the crossed lines (sometimes a single diagonal line), manuscript note “franco”, and frequently also **GRENZE** or **FRANCO** handstamps.

Routing details: for all letters which travelled to Bavaria via Vienna, the latter was the exchange post-office for Bavaria. (Were our letter to have been posted at, say, Peuerbach or Eferding, naturally it would not have gone back to Vienna but to the exchange post-office at Schärding near the border). Vienna had arrangements with Augsburg, Regensburg and Nuremberg for the exchange of packets of letters. For our letter, the bundle going directly to Nuremberg was applicable.

Postal handover: the Austrian postillion brought the packet via Linz and Schärding to the first Bavarian post office, where he handed it over to Bavaria. In reverse the Bavarian postillion rode to Schärding where he handed it over to the Austrian post.

The Bavarian exchange post-office, Nuremburg, was responsible for Bavarian rating. The Bavarian tariff at that time was based upon graduated distances as the crow flew. In Nuremburg the letter must have been found to weigh more than ½ loth, because the charge of **21** kr corresponds to a letter of up to one loth for a distance of 36 to 42 meilen. This is expressed in the Rheinisch (rh), also known as Reichs (RW) currency valid in Bavaria, in which 60 kreuzers again equalled 1 gulden.

Postage due from the border was always marked on the front, in Bavaria usually in blue ink. Before the letter was sent to Würzburg, the Würzburg post-office had to be debited with 21kr rh in the accounts.

Delivery: The Würzburg post office collected 21kr Bavarian currency from the addressee to balance its books. The Austrian currency was on a 20 gulden base, and the Bavarian on a 24 gulden base. 20 Austrian kreuzers corresponded to 24 Bavarian kreuzers (rh), and 21kr rh was therefore equivalent to 17.5 kr CM.

The second example shows a letter from Austria to Sardinia, and is distinguished by the small Sardinian weight-marking at upper left, which here indicates 15 grams. The letter has been pre-paid to the border **28** kr CM (upside-down in the illustration) by the Austrian sender, with **28** soldi due from the addressee in Genoa for charges beyond the border.



Double-weight, paid-to-border letter to the Kingdom of Sardinia.
Triest 11 June 1835 - Milan - Genoa 17 June 1835.

The third example shows a registered, paid-to-border letter from Austria to Saxony, with the reverse opened out and folded upwards. Marked on the back is the pre-paid **14** kr to the border plus **4** kr registration fee. There would also have been a fee of 2 kr for the posting-receipt (not marked) making a total of 20 kr from the Austrian sender

On the front upper-right are the registration “grid”, the registration number **342**, and the weight-step **1**, along with the diagonal line indicating pre-payment to the border. The postage due from the border **4** (groschens) was written in Saxony in rötél on the front, with the Saxon registration number **3**, above left.



Simple registered letter no. 342, franked to the border with Saxony.
Kowatsy 31 April 1836 - Pressburg - Wien - Dresden 15 May 1836.

PAYMENT DUE FROM THE BORDER

While the charge to the border is pre-paid by the sender, the charge from the border to the delivery post-office is payable by the recipient. Thus the paid-to-border letter of a neighbouring country of origin becomes a due-from-border letter in the recipient country. Postage due from the border was always written on the front of the letter.

For the sake of simplicity, this article is only concerned with correspondence from neighbouring countries. Transit letters which passed through one or more third-party countries will be dealt with in later articles. The table on the next page shows the relevant tariffs to 1817. Note: ½ loth was the weight of half a letter-sheet plus a cover



Lowest-weight letter, postage due from the border.

Lindau 9 June 1804 → Munich → Braunau → Linz → Steyr 13 June 1804.

Origin post-office* → Border → Destination post office**

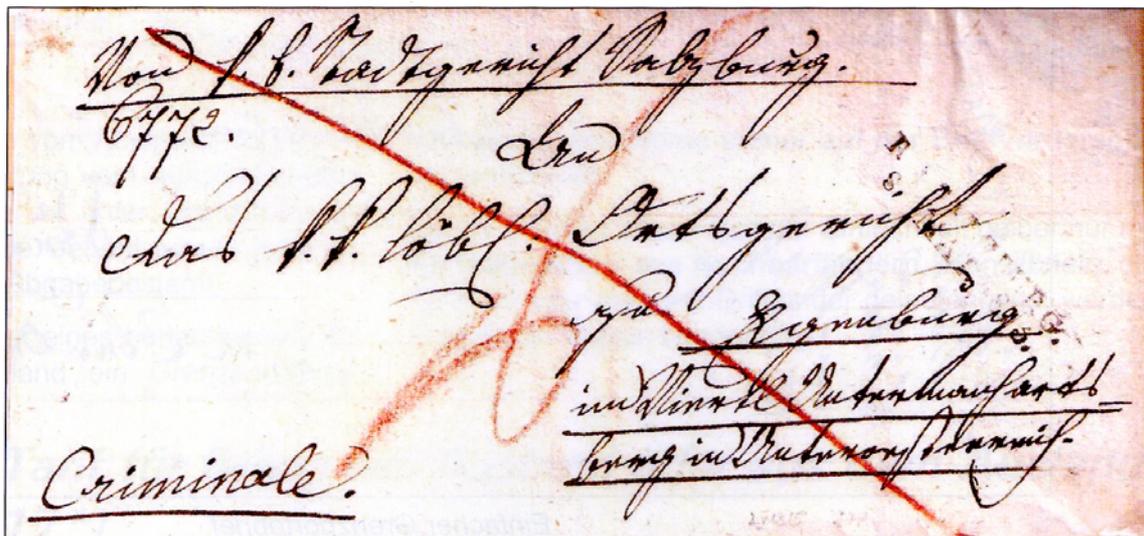
* Up to the Napoleonic period, it was the extensive post of the princely Thurn and Taxis family (T&T) which operated the post to and within Bavaria until 1808. The sender paid 8 kr rh to the border, and 16 kr CM from the border was paid by the addressee.

** Letters to Steyr are notable because of their apparent double-rating. The part-paid inland postage from the sending post-office is already marked, and the postage from the border was already rated in Linz, but the Steyr post office has assiduously written it down again. (*The third marking does not reproduce well, but can just be seen above the word "Steyr" KMB*). This is just one example of how the pre-stamp collector must constantly expect rating behaviour which breaks the normal rules.

Austrian Tariff for letters to & from Abroad from 1722 to 1817

From 1 July 1722 to 31 May 1750:			
Rate to and from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
To or from the border	6x	12x	18x
From 1 June 1750 to 31 October 1751			
Rate to or from the border.	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
Tuscany, Duchy of Milan, Mantua, Austrian Netherlands, Vorarlberg, Holy Roman Empire, Tirol and Habsburg possessions in Baden, Swabia and Alsace	6x	12x	18x
Other foreign countries	8x	16x	24x
From 1 November 1751 to 31 October 1789:			
Rate payable to the border.	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
Tuscany, etc, as above	6x	12x	18x
Other foreign countries	8x	16x	24x
Rate due from the border.	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
All foreign letters, including Tuscany, etc.	8x	16x	24x
From 1 November 1789 to 31 July 1798:			
Rate to or from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
to or from the border	8x	16x	24x
From 1 August 1798 to 14 November 1803:			
Rate to or from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
to or from the border.	12x	24x	36x
From 15 November 1803 to 31 October 1806:			
Rate to or from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
to or from the border.	16x	32x	48x
From 1 November 1806 to 30 June 1810:			
Rate to or from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
to or from the outer border.	24x	48x	1fl 12x
From 1 July 1810 to 14 March 1811:			
Rate to or from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
to or from the border.	48x	1fl 36x	2fl 24x
From 15 March 1811 to 31 January 1814: payment to be made in the new Einlösungsschein currency			
Rate to or from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
to or from the border.	14x	28x	42x
From 1 February 1814 to 15 May 1815:			
Rate to or from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
to or from the border.	16x	32x	48x
From 16 May 1815 to 31 May 1817:			
Rate to or from the border	Up to ½ loth	1 loth	1½ loth
to or from the border.	24x	48x	1fl 12x

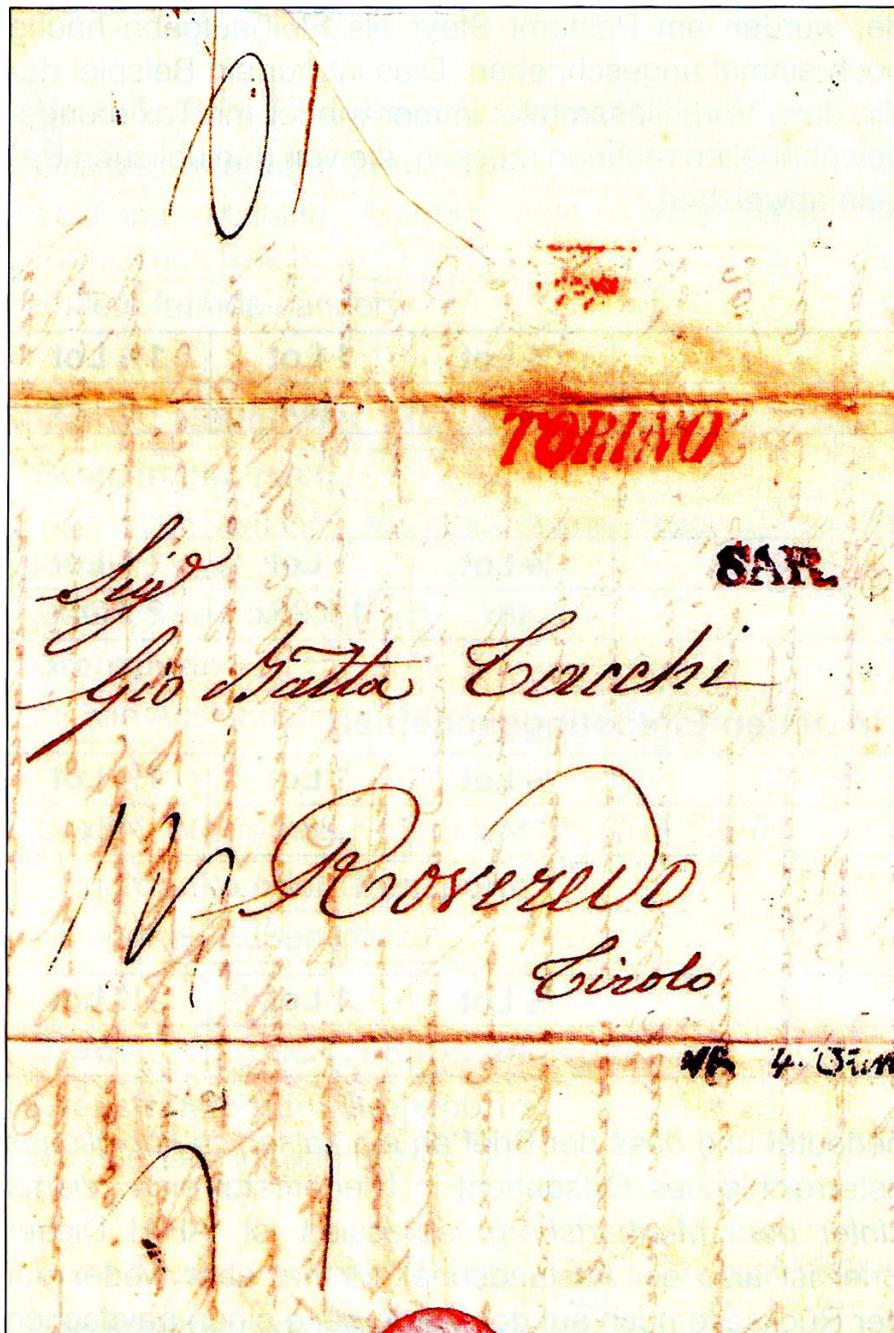
Many old letters invite us on a voyage of historical discovery, such as the following.



Lowest-weight Bavarian ex-offo letter with Austrian due-from-border charge.
Salzburg 8 May 1815 → Lambach → Eggenburg.

First the postmark **R4 SALZBURG** makes you wonder. It is a Bavarian Rayon-mark; what is it doing on an Austrian letter? The penny drops; at one time Salzburg was Bavarian. The encyclopaedia confirms that Salzburg was Bavarian from 1810 to 1816. It also emerges that the sender (front-top of the letter) is the Royal Bavarian city court, and that the letter is addressed to the K.K. Austrian local court at Eggenburg in Lower Austria (Viertel unter den Manhartsberg). Aha! The letter is therefore a foreign letter. It has, however, no Bavarian rate-mark, either on the back or the front; only the diagonal line indicating part-payment. On the left are the note “*Criminale*”, and the Austrian rötél-mark **16**, due for the Austrian lowest-weight postage from the border. Aha! It is an official letter which was exempt from charges for the Bavarian city court. However, the Austrian local court at Eggenburg was not exempt from Austrian charges, and was charged **16** kr. This voyage still awaits discovery of the course of the borders at the time, the probable postal route of the time, and the contents of the letter. Conclusion: I now know when Salzburg (with a part of Upper Austria) belonged to Bavaria, and I possess a letter which illustrates very well this small part of Austrian history.

Below is yet another example from the period 1 June 1817 to 31 July 1842; refer to the tariff above. The sender has paid **12** soldi to the border, and **14** kr CM is due from the addressee for the charge from the border. The **SAR** (= Sardinia) transit-stamp was applied in Milan.



Lowest-weight paid-to-border letter from Sardinia-Piedmont.
Turin 28 May 1826 → Milan → Rovereto 4 June 1826.

Translator's note: German compound nouns can become rather cumbersome in English! For the benefit of readers who are accustomed to different translations, I have used the following: **Grenzfrankobrief** = paid-to-border letter; **Grenzportobrief** = due-from-border letter; **Einfacher Brief** = lowest-weight letter.

Readers who have difficulty in understanding old German script may find the "Beginner's Guide" articles in AUSTRIA 160 and 161 helpful.

THE OCCUPATION AND RELIEF OF LEMBERG, SEPTEMBER 1914 TO JUNE 1915

by Inger Kuzych

My earlier article on the World War I exhibition in Lemberg in 1916 (AUSTRIA 162) – an event that celebrated the first anniversary of the liberation of the city from Russian occupation – caused me to undertake further research on the occupation itself. A surprising number of postcards document the takeover of the city and its subsequent relief, some of which will be presented below. In addition, I have collected various postal history items from the almost 10-month Russian rule in Lemberg and a number of these will be described.

Fighting for Lemberg

The Russian army's occupation of much of the Austrian crownland of Galicia as well as its capital of Lemberg was of great embarrassment to Austria-Hungary. After a brief advance into Russian territories early in the war (middle of August 1914), the Austro-Hungarian army was turned back by a series of swift Russian victories that outflanked the Austro-Hungarian forces. Lemberg – the Austro-Hungarian Empire's fifth largest city¹ – was left undefended and was entered during 2-3 September 1914. Nonetheless, fighting in the area continued.



To sustain morale on the home front, much was made of minor victories over smaller Russian detachments. The War-Aid Bureau of the Ministry of the Interior issued a series of official Red Cross charity postcards that highlighted

various successes. The card shown above is No. 4 in the series and shows Austro-Hungarian infantry, supported by a machine gun unit, driving off a Russian cossack cavalry attack during the so-called Second Battle of Lemberg (which took place after the city had already been occupied and which is the name the Austrians apparently gave to the efforts to relieve the city). Another card (No. 8 of the series) depicts fighting near Przemislany (a town some 40 km (25 miles) southeast of Lemberg, but part of the overall relief effort) where Austrian cavalry chased off a cossack troop.

This driving off of the cossacks was also highlighted on “stamp” No. 9 of the Great War 1914 Collectors Stamps (Series 2; 24 “stamps”). These labels, prepared by a Ludwig Berwald, are grey with a red and black frame; perforation 11¼. The inscription reads: “The flight of the cossacks at Lemberg.”

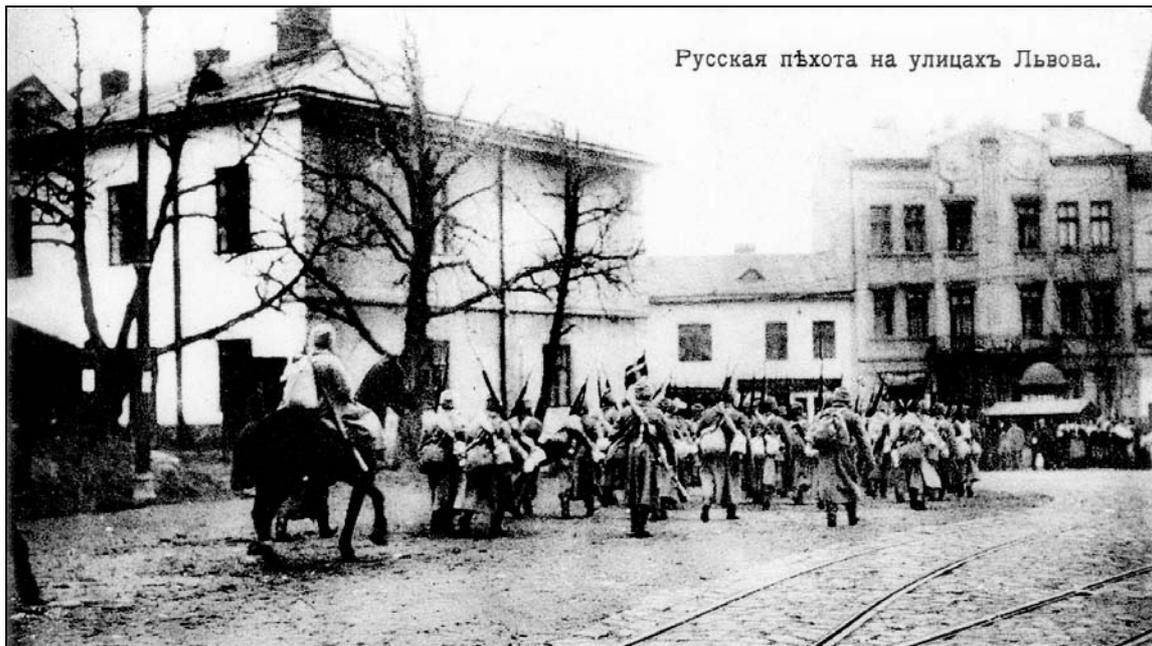


A third card from the Red Cross series (No. 10) shows the bold bayonet charge of a Bosniak unit that during the Second Battle of Lemberg overran the enemy entrenchments and so terrified the Russians that they surrendered en masse. Finally, another card (this time in full color) shows Austro-Hungarian infantry repulsing a Russian attack on a section of the Lemberg-Grodek railway line.



Views of the Occupation

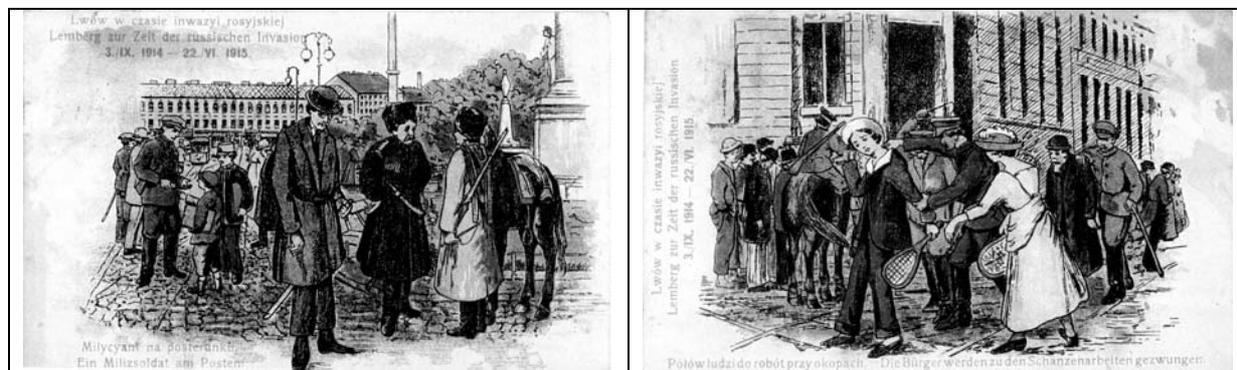
During the Russian rule of the city (which was now renamed Lvov) the occupiers printed a variety of postcards. Some of these showed typical sights of the city and did not differ much from cards made prior to the war. (The only way to distinguish them from Austrian postcards is by the Russian inscriptions on the reverse.) A number of postcards, however, showed Russian soldiers in part of the image in a not-so-subtle reminder of who was now in charge.



Apparently, regular Russian patrols through the city were common during the occupation. The legend on the card above reads: “Russian infantry on the streets of Lvov,” while the text on the left-hand card below states: “Lvov, Russian army and the monument to [Adam] Mickiewicz.” The postcard on the right was printed in Italy! On the reverse an Italian-language inscription reads: “A squadron of cossacks from the army corps occupying Leopoli.”ⁱⁱ



Following the Russian expulsion, the Austrians produced some cards entitled: “Lemberg during the time of the Russian invasion.” The illustrations showed some of the hardships that had been endured by the populace of the city. On the left is an unhappy “Milizsoldat” (conscripted militia soldier) at his post, while on the right citizens are being dragooned into working on the Russian redoubts.



Occupation Mails

Postal services initially came to a halt with the Russian occupation, but they were resumed once a censorship office was set up. Most foreign mails were forwarded to the larger censorship offices in Kyiv or Petrograd for review, but some were examined at Lvov (Lemberg). Russian army Field Post No. 114 handled all the mail for the city and any mail carrying cancellations with this number from this time period can immediately be identified as coming from Lvov.

A variety of circular Russian cancels (displaying the Julian dates ⁱⁱⁱ still used at this time in the Russian Empire) have been recorded. Although they all carry Cyrillic inscriptions, they also display the Latin “N” or “No” for “number” before the post office designation “114” ^{iv}. However, on a much smaller quantity of mails from this time period, the Cyrillic “И” was used (the “N” apparently not being available).^v Covers displaying these “И” cancels are worth three to five times what items normally fetch from this occupation period.

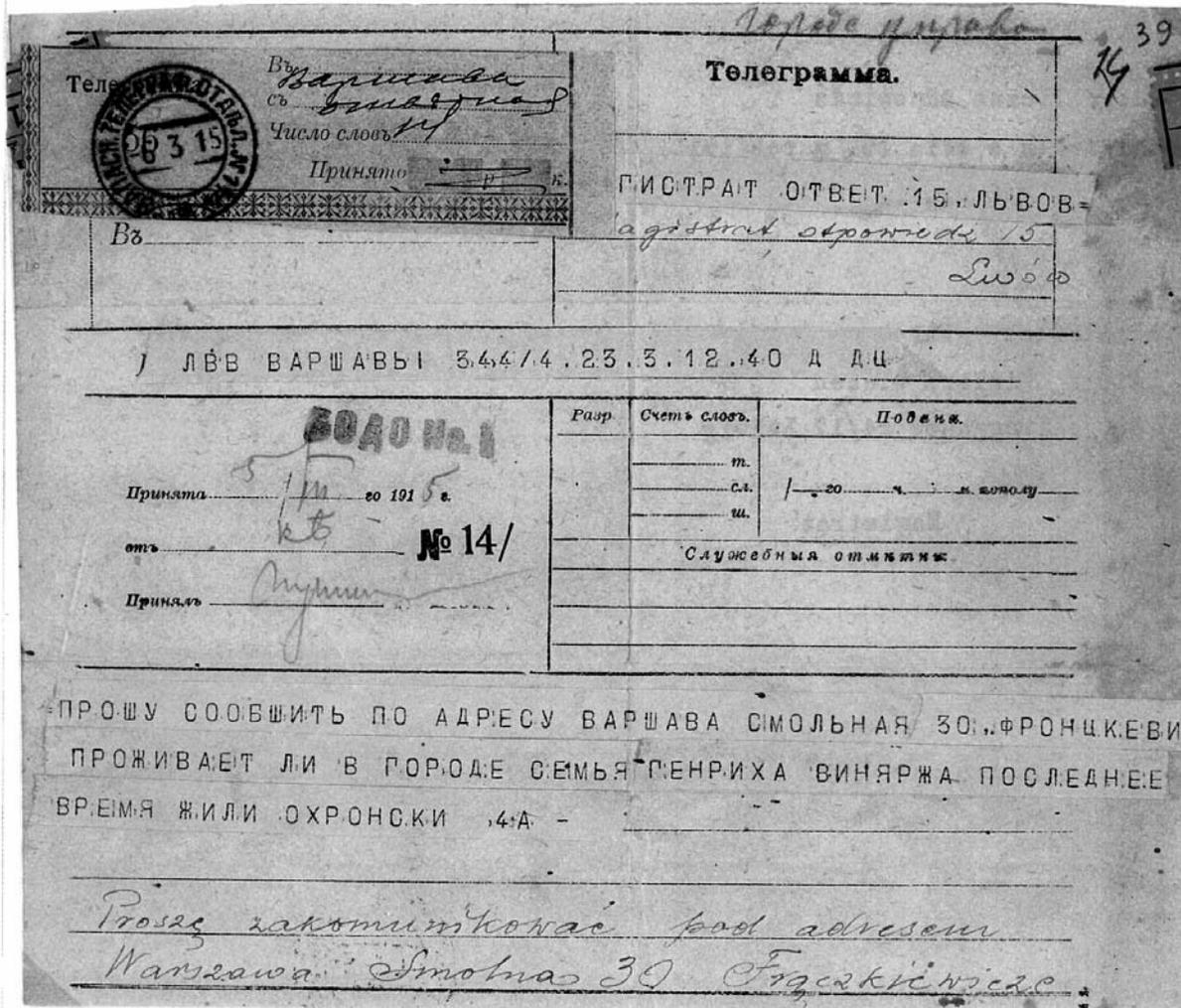
Russian postal rates of 4 kopeks for postcards and 10 kopeks for letters were put into effect. The upper card on the next page shows a postal card mailed 13 May 1915 (N.S.) to Zurich. It presents a very clear occupation cancel and the Field Post “N 114”. Below it is another postcard, this time addressed to Copenhagen on 11 April 1915 (N.S.). Note the “Ио 114” in the cancellation. Both items display additional markings applied by Petrograd censors.



Above: post card mailed 13 May 1915 (N.S.) to Zurich
Below: post card to Copenhagen on 11 April 1915 (N.S.).



This next item is a telegram sent from Warsaw (then part of the Russian Empire) to Lvov on 18 March 1915 (N.S.). The Russian-language message seeking to locate missing persons was received at the Lvov railway station post and telegraph center. The following-day arrival notice in the upper left bears the seldom-encountered stamp of the “Reserve Telegraph FPO No. 114” with the Julian date of 6 March. This message was forwarded as a registered letter.

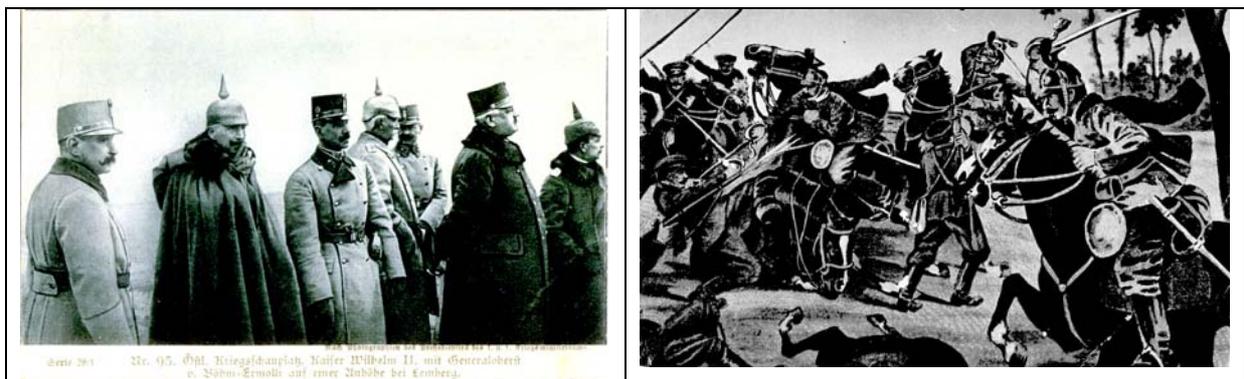


The cover below was sent from Odessa to Lvov on 8 February 1915 (N.S.) and is addressed to: “The Esteemed Mr. President Tadeusz Rutowski”. Although generously granted a grandiose title, this gentleman was not a president but instead the Polish mayor of Lvov during the Russian occupation. Not surprisingly, this letter was thoroughly censored at both the departure and arrival points as can be seen by markings on the front and back of the envelope.

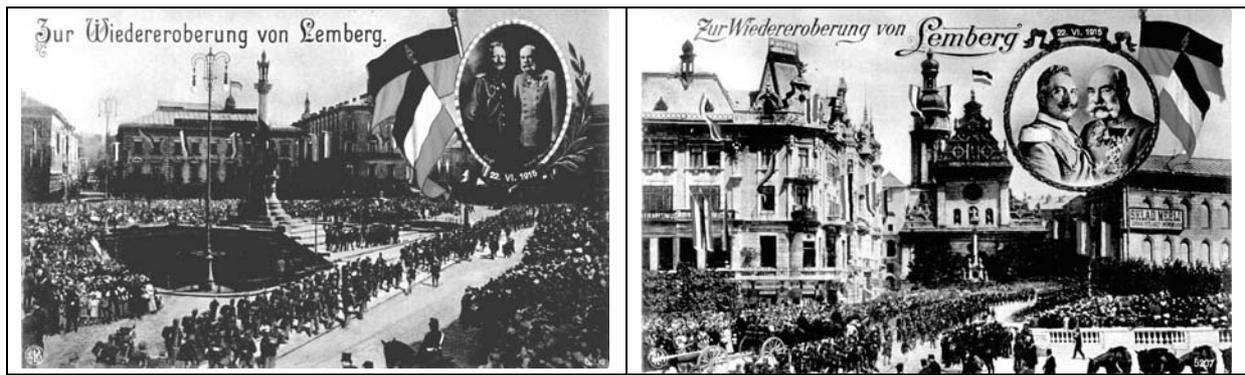


Retaking the City

Austria was able to recapture the capital of Galicia in June of 1915 with the aid of its ally Germany. The card shown below on the left is described as an: “Eastern War Viewing Spot. Kaiser Wilhelm II [of Germany, second from left] with Generaloberst Böhm-Ermolli [third from left, commander of the Austrian Second Army] on a hill overlooking Lemberg.” On the right is a painting of some of the fighting that took place near the city.



Once Lemberg was again in Austrian hands, there was great rejoicing throughout the Empire. The entry of the relieving armies into the city on 22 June 1915 was depicted on many cards meant to inspire patriotism.



These cards show the “Retaking of Lemberg” with huge crowds welcoming the troops, the Austrian and German flags prominently displayed, as well as portraits of the two allied emperors, Wilhelm II and Franz Josef.



Above is a painting of the “Joyful entry into Lemberg under the leadership of Generaloberst Böhm-Ermolli” (he is the central figure on the white horse, and in the original wears a resplendent uniform in bright blue!)

On the right the “Entry into liberated Lemberg, 23 June 1915” is depicted. Why the date of the 23rd is shown is unclear. Perhaps it took two days for all the troops to enter the city!



I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to Messrs. Roman Dubyniak and Peter Cybaniak who provided me with copies for a number of the illustrations used in this article.

References

1. Belesky, David P. "Lviv: Postmarks Through the Centuries." *Ukrainian Philatelist* No. 65/66 (1993): 7-40.
2. Herwig, Holger H. *The First World War, Germany and Austria-Hungary 1914-1918*. London: Arnold Press, 1997.
3. Mogocsi, Paul Robert. *Historical Atlas of Central Europe*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2002.

Endnotes

ⁱ The larger cities of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were Vienna (2,031,000), Budapest (880,000), Prague (640,000), and the port city of Trieste (230,000). Lemberg's population was 207,000; all figures are 1910 estimates as listed in *Historical Atlas of Central Europe*, p. 96.

ⁱⁱ Leopoli is the Italian name for Lemberg. Italian merchants heavily influenced the development of the city from the 15th to the 18th centuries. Many of the most famous historic buildings in Lemberg were designed by Italian architects and the first postal service in the city was established by a Roberto Bandinelli in 1629.

ⁱⁱⁱ Around 1914, Julian calendar dates trailed the Gregorian calendar by 13 days; they are usually designated O.S. (old style) as opposed to the system we currently use, which is sometimes described as N.S. (new style). So the occupation of Lemberg took place on 21 August 1914 (O.S.) according to the Russian reckoning, rather than 3 September 1914 (N.S.).

^{iv} The Cyrillic "Н" sound is written as the Latin "H", but this letter was not used on these cancels.

^v The Russian "И" is the Latin "I" ("ee" as in keep). It was substituted as the closest in appearance to the Latin "N".

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WWI FIELD & CIVIL POST INTERCHANGE

By Andy Taylor & Keith Brandon;
with much assistance from Gerrit Matthijssen and Henry Pollak

As often happens, what seemed like a simple question requires a complex answer! Keith discovered two Feldpost cards in an accumulation; they had cancels that “looked pneumatic”; so he asked Andy to comment, adding “and how during WWI did mail get from Vienna to the Front anyway?”.

Both cards were sent from Vienna; a grey to the field and a deep red to a domestic address in Hungary. Both are in good condition and show no signs of the characteristic folding of mail carried by the pneumatic post.



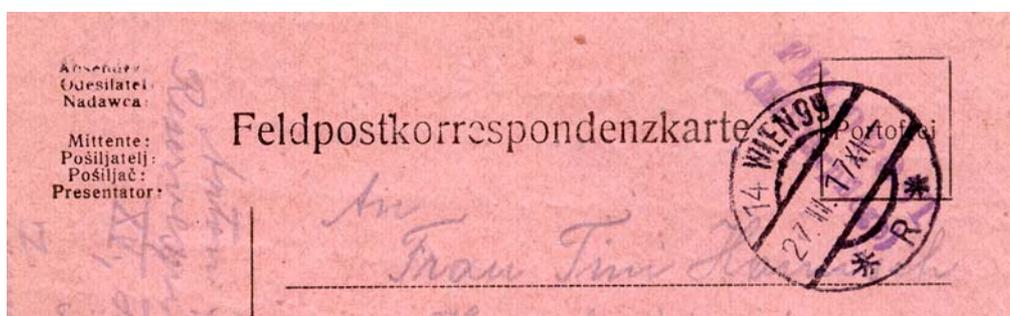
The grey, to FPA392, was posted on 2 April 1918. It has a Rohrpost cancel from Hietzing, **13/1 WIEN 88 / ■2IV.18.7- / * P. *** of a type noted by both Tobitt/Taylor and Stohl. There is a small part of a KuK Feldpost cancel, and a red scrawl "Regt ?" with an arrow pointing to the Hietzing cancel. There is no reason for this to use the pneumatic system, and no evidence that it did.

This card is addressed to a volunteer soldier: Hochw. Herrn Eing. Freiw. Alexander Frey, at some sort of unit at field post office 392. "Eing." is probably eingerückter, meaning "returning from leave" or "reporting for duty". "Marschf" means "marching formation", ie a unit heading towards the front to relieve or reinforce those already there. The sender has omitted which regiment it is. The red crayon is "Regt?": FPA 392 (or a previous step in the chain: see later) has sent it back to Wien 88 to get the missing part of the address. FPA 392

was at this date with FsABaon 1, a regiment of artillery in the area of Bruneck in Pustertal, Süd-Tirol (according to Dixon-Nuttall). Although its Marschformations would have had Roman numbering, they are not listed explicitly. Neither of the Roman number “fractions” is in a format corresponding to any postal marking; in particular “6/XIII” is not a Tarnstempel.

Why the Rohrpost cancel? Perhaps because the sender put it in the wrong letter box, although it is also conceivable that some other cancel was being repaired and this was a substitute.

Why is the bottom of the field post cancel cut off, and straight? Most probable is that they had a stack of items to receive a return impression, and lined them up overlapping to make less work. Less likely is that they had applied a little sticker with “Retour”; the sticker had part of the cancel on it and was later removed (there’s no trace of this).



The deep red card (only the top is shown here) was written on 26 Feb 1917 by Anton Kublik who is in Room 51 in Reservspital I, Henriettenplatz 6, Wien XV (so he’d be entitled to use Fieldpost) to a lady in Theben bei Posony, Hungary. The cancel is **14 WIEN 99 / 27.II.17XI- / * R *** with a dash where minutes could go. It is of a pneumatic type; but Wien 99 was never pneumatic: nor was this card. According to Schanzer, some R cancels were for Reklam (= slogan cancels); there isn’t one for Wien 99 listed in Stohl as far as we can see. Schatzby-Görig has a 14 Wien 99 R; but made in 1926! So, this cancel could have existed (ie it isn’t faked); and it exists used (here!); but the card had no reason to use the pneumatic system; and there is no evidence that it did.

Field to/from Civil mail

The primary source here is page 43 of “**E-47: Dienstbuch der K.u.k. Feldpost, Wien 1913**”. See also (a) Clement, Band 2 pp 347 & 407-8 [APS Lib 11b]; (b) Ferchenbauer, Band IV p 74ff [APS Lib 41]; (c) The Austro-Hungarian Army 1914-18 by John Dixon-Nuttall [www.austrianphilately.com/dixnut/index.htm].

The key question here is “*where is Field Post Office nnn?*”, to which Gefreiter Jones would tell his relatives to send his mail. As his unit’s name also appeared on the mail, Field Post Office locations were a Military Secret. The answer was

the **Postsortierstelle** (= fieldpost sorting centre), entrusted with the key information, ie which FPOs were served by which **Postsammelstelle** (= fieldpost collecting centres). This list was issued and presumably updated by the General-Feldpostdirektion, which was part of the General Headquarters (AOK=Armee-oberkommando). This was initially located at Vienna, but moved several times during the war, ending up in Baden bei Wien.

The Postsortierstelle were located at Army District Command Headquarters, including Brünn, Czernowitz, Graz, Innsbruck, Kassa, Klagenfurt, Knin, Kolozsvár, Laibach, Linz, Nagyvarad, Oderberg, Pecs, Pozsony, Prag, Sarajevo, Schönbrunn, Sopron, Tarnow, and Temesvár.

Home to Front:

- from: any Austro-Hungarian Post Office
- to: Postsortierstelle
- to: Postsammelstelle
- to: Haupt-Feldpostämter
- to: Feldpostämter
- from which each unit served by a FPO collected its mail

Front to Home:

- each unit collected its mail and took it to their assigned Feldpostamt (it was also permitted to use any Feldpostamt that one came across)
- whence: to a Haupt-Feldpostamt
- whence: to a Postsammelstelle
- who handed it over to the nearest (or most suitable) civilian post office
- who treated it like all other mail (and ignored the lack of franking)

What could be sent?

This depended on the date and the sender! Acknowledgement-of-receipt, Express, & COD were hardly ever possible. The main features were:

Home-to-Front permitted all normal letter-mail; registered items from 1 Oct 1918; value-letters up to 1000Kr; printed matter up to 2 kg; sometimes packets.

Front-to-Home was slightly different, allowing letter mail up to 100 gr; registered items from 1 Oct 1918; value-letters up to 1000Kr; and printed matter up to 2 kg from 15 Aug 1917

Official mail in both directions could at all times include all normal letter-mail (letters, cards, printed matter, newspapers, trade samples and business papers); registered items; declared-value letters; and packets up to 5 kg.

K.u.K. or K. k. - the abbreviations explained

By Andy Taylor with much help from Gerrit Matthijssen and Henry Pollak

Commonly-met expressions such as “A k.u.k. Postmaster in full-dress uniform” or “The opening of the k.u.k. Post office” are wrong: the “u.” is superfluous. However “k.u.k. Feldpost” is right! The following explanation may assist.

K.u.K.: The authorities responsible for common affairs acted “imperially and royally”. All agencies of the Foreign and the War Ministries thus carried the abbreviation “k.u.k.”, whereby the first k stood for the Kaiser (Emperor) of Austria, the second for the King of Hungary.

K. k.: The autonomous authorities and offices of Austria received the addition “imperially-royally”, as there were also kingdoms in Cisleithanien – for example Bohemia.

K. or Kgl.: These abbreviations were used in German-language texts for “Hungarian-royally”. In the Hungarian language it became “magyar kiraly” generally shortened to “mag.kir.” or “m.kir.”

Inevitably, from 1867 there was a doubling of the state organization for separated affairs. So for instance both Vienna and Budapest had a Department of Trade. The Austrian set “k. k.” before the designation of his agencies, the Hungarian if writing in German the abbreviation “kgl.”. And as the Department of Trade was responsible for the postal system, this too was divided; Austria had the k.k. Postal administration and Hungary the kgl. Postal administration. There was never a “k.u.k. Postal administration”! The same applies to all post- and telegraph- offices, coaches, mailboxes, telephones, uniforms etc; and for the Civil Service Grade of the staff.

The “Kingdoms and countries represented in the Reichsrat” were “k. k.” up to the breakdown of the Dual Monarchy in 1918 - hence the Austrian poet Robert Musil in his novel “Der Mann ohne Eigenschaften” (The man without qualities) immortalized Old Austria as “Kakanien” (K.k.-nien)!

“Fieldpost is different”: In the event of mobilization or war, the “k.u.k. Feldpost” swung into action. The army was k.u.k., so likewise the field post offices, the communication lines behind them, telegraphy, the entire vehicle fleet etc. This is simply because the Fieldpost was responsible to the War Ministry acting for both Austria and Hungary – and it directly to the Emperor-King. In postal history books one finds also “k.k. Feldpost” and “kgl. Feldpost”. Austria and Hungary had peacetime military organisations, which maintained Fieldpost installations - the Austrian were “k. k.” the Hungarian “kgl.” (expressed in German). When war broke out, the “k.u.k. Feldpost” took over.

KAPRUNERTHAL

By A Mangai

I know that Andy Taylor has been promising for a decade to write this article, but as it's my Heimatland and I'm impatient, I've taken over.

Kaprunerthal is located in Salzburgerland, in the Pinzgau. It's a typical glacial side valley, running south from Zell am Zee towards the Gross Glockner. The town of Kaprun lies at the northern end. The valley has majestic Alpine scenery; in summer it is full of walkers & climbers; marmots can be seen. In winter, skiers take over. This card shows the upper valley before the dams were built.



Three philatelic phases can be identified.

A: KESSELFALL ALPENHAUS & MOSERBODEN

These two hotels were opened towards the end of the 19th century, and at first were served by an Austrian government post office in the Alpenhaus and a Postablage at Moserboden.

Moserboden used the standard boxed *** MOSERBODEN *** Postablage mark from 21 July 1904. It is recorded from 1904 to 1914 in black and violet, and the office was supposedly open from 15 June to 15 Sept each year. It seems to have been closed during WWI, reopening in 1920 for a couple of years. Mail from it

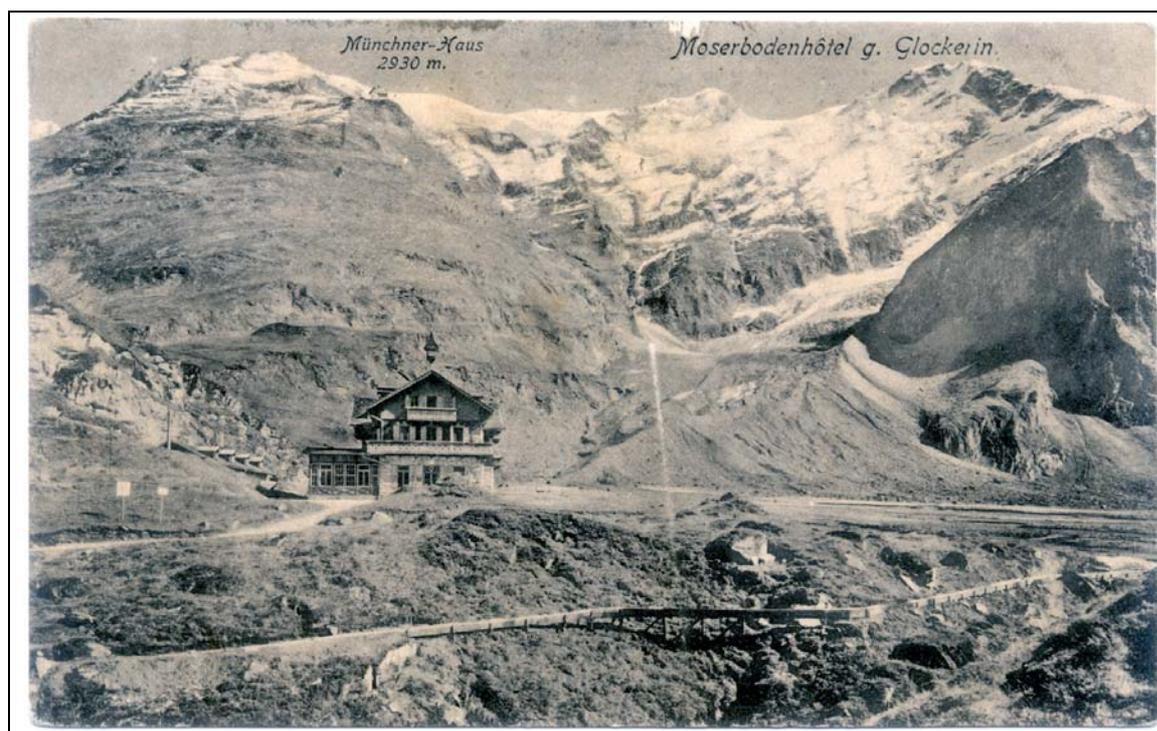
was carried by the postperson to Kesselfall Alpenhaus (where there was a summer Post Office) for franking.

Postcards sold at the hotel also received a 3-line boxed Hotel Cachet in violet or black:

HOTEL / MOSERBODEN 2000 Meter Kaprunerthal

but one could bring ones own card and post it, receiving only the Postablage mark. The two cachets are not always in the same colour, further showing that they were applied separately.

Oddly, before the Postablage opened the hotel cachet was oval and its height only 1968 meter - indeed a 1900 example has 1968m on the picture side and 2000m on the cachet. Yes, the Alps are rising, but not that fast!



The original Moserboden hotel – note also the Münchner-Haus perched near the top of the left-hand Alp. The water level today is indicated by the arrow.

The franking arrangements at the Kesselfall-Alpenhaus are more complex. **Kühnel** records it as operating as a Postablage; three cachets are listed. Kühnel adds that it was also a Summer Post Office from 1896. He doesn't record the closing date.

1. Boxed

K.K. POSTABLAG KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS.

 from 1895 to 1906

2. Double circle with **KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS** * (with a star) between the circles and the date in the middle, formatted in 3 lines DD underlined / MM / YY; this from 1898 to 1902

3. **KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS** unadorned from 1919 to 1932

Stohl has the Kesselfall-Alpenhaus as a Summer Post Office from 1896 to 1939 or 1940. He lists two cancels:

1. Double circle, 27mm dia, with **KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS** (but no star) between the circles and the date in the middle, formatted in 3 lines DD underline MM newline YY. This was used from '1900' to 1911 (Stohl uses '1900' to include 'opened before 1900 and remained open till 1900'). My examples suggest that the inner ring wore badly; it is clearly visible in 1899 but by 1910 is scarcely noticeable.

2. Ring cancel, 30mm dia, with **KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS** a in the rings and the date between the straight lines formatted as DD MM YY TT with the month in roman numbers and a time (which may be shown as two dashes). Recorded from 1911 to 1934.

I believe however that this 1911-to-1934 period is wrong. 'Austria' issue 37 reproduces an article by L. N. and M. Williams from the CINDERELLA PHILATELIST of July 1967. It says that the post office was closed, probably during World War I, and when tourist traffic increased after the war the mail had to go to or from the Austrian post office at Zell-am-See. [*Why? There was a post office at Kaprun from 1893. Perhaps the vehicle also took guests to & from the main-line railway station?*]



The hotel proprietors organised a carrying service; and in the mid-twenties issued two stamps to cover the 5 groschen fee. The stamps had a black centre; one had a blue frame and the other had a green frame.

Each stamp showed a view of the hotel whose name, in black, appeared at the top of the design, one being Kesselfall-Alpenhaus and the other Moserboden. In use the local stamps were interchangeable, and were cancelled in purple or black with a large, three-lined mark inscribed "**Moserboden / Kaprunerthal**

2000 m. / Bahnstation Zell a. See.” Also, a normal Austrian adhesive stamp was needed for onward postage.

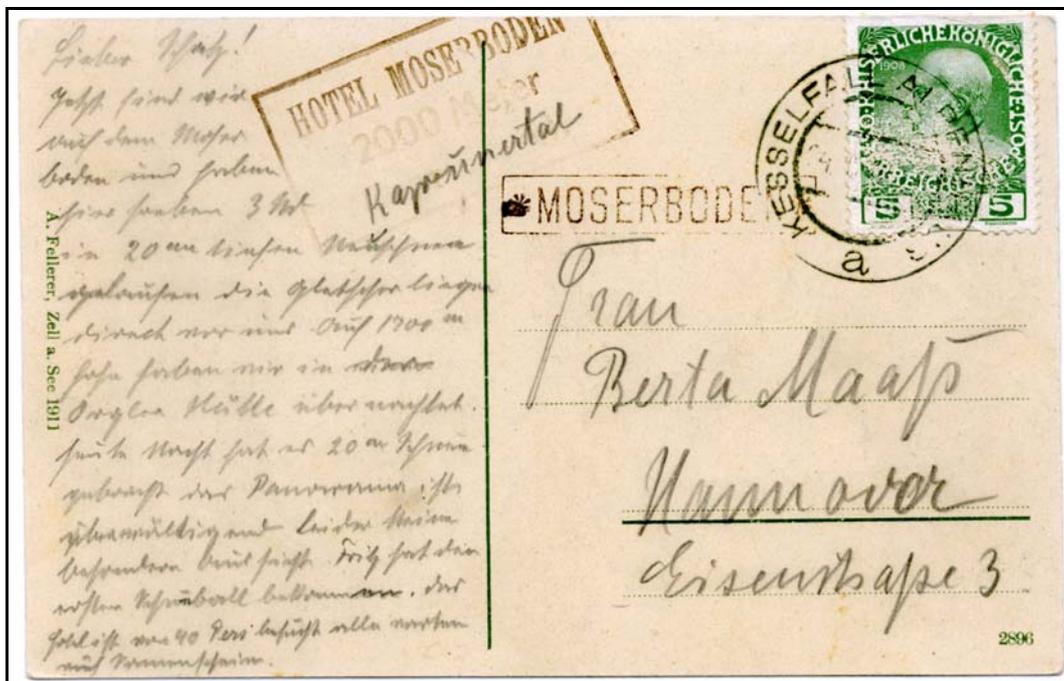


The card above shows a brand-new double circle **KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS** cancel from 24 Aug 1899. There is definitely no star. The faint oval cachet is Moserboden 1968m. The card below is from Aug 1900, still 1968m & no star; the cancel is slightly worn.





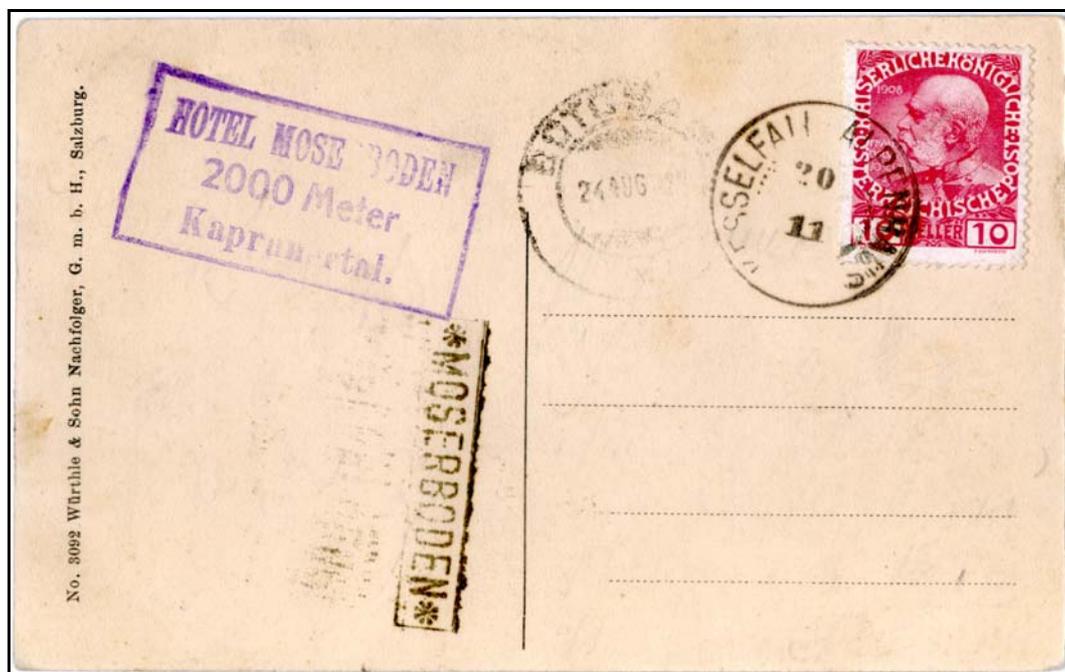
This card shows the double circle **KESELFALL-ALPENHAUS** cancel in a very worn state; the card is dated 16 July 1910. The picture on the card is of the Alpenhaus, and the absence of a Moserboden hotel cachet shows that it was carried up by its writer and posted there.



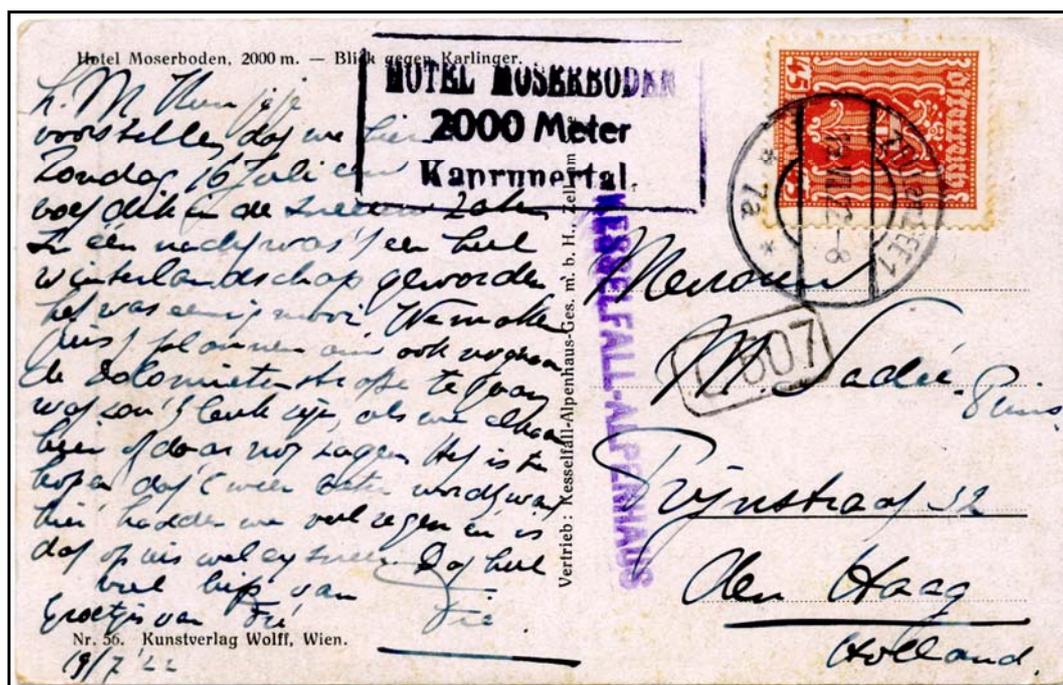
This card shows the ring cancel; the date is unreadable. Note the curious scuffing on the adhesive, which seems to be a printing flaw as the paper surface is intact. The hotel has risen to 2000m, and the cachet is so faint that the sender has rewritten the Kaprunerthal in pencil! The Postablagen cancel is black.



Here the double circle **KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS** cancel is badly worn and no date is visible. The Postablagen cancel is violet. The sender has collected two more hut cachets; there is no message nor Moserboden hotel cachet (and the picture is the Grossglockner – did he do the South-North traverse?)



Again, the worn double-circle cancel, for 20 Aug 1911. 2000m hotel cachet in violet and the Postablage in black. Both address and message were in pencil and have been erased; the arrival cancel might be Swiss as the 10h is the foreign postcard rate.



45 kr adhesive cancelled on 19 July 1922 at ZELL am SEE 1. Moserboden Hotel cachet; the **KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS** may be Kuhnel's third postablage cancel but it does look very like a hut cachet. Note the Dutch delivery-round mark. The **KESSELFALL-ALPENHAUS** post office must have been shut.

B: MOSERBODEN DAM BUILDING

The terrain plus the weather gave rise to severe flooding in many years; and the loss to Austria of the Czechoslovakian coal fields meant that the First Republic was short of energy. Plans were developed to solve both these problems by a huge hydro-electric scheme – but the plans far exceeded Austria's capabilities.

With the Anschluss came new ideas, new funds, and new labour – the latter being refugees and POWs. The first electric power was generated on 17 Nov 1944, from temporary constructions. The labour camp lay underneath the waters of today's lower reservoir; and most history books don't cover these events. However the 50th anniversary exhibition at Kaprun in 1994 did; and produced a leaflet summarising the true history as well as noting the many myths.

Some of the "guest workers" were Ukrainian. They were provided with reply-paid cards to send and receive messages from their homes; the replies are cancelled **ALEXANDERSTADT (UKRAINE) DEUTSCH DIENSTPOST UKRAINE**.



After the war was ended the temporary constructions were removed; and soon today's installation was started. The upper dam operates as a pumped storage system, whereby water is pumped uphill in off-peak times and used for generation at on-peak. A set of commemorative stamps was issued in 26 March 1962 to mark the 15th anniversary of the post-war electricity generation arrangements; one features the upper Kaprun dams. The blackprint text says:



In 1945, the power industry was in a disastrous state. In the course of World War II, extensive destruction resulted in an almost absolute interruption of power supply in Austria. It was only the public sector that was capable of coping with the repair and construction work required in the field of electricity generation. Thus, the Austrian parliament adopted the law on the nationalisation of Austria's power industry on March 26, 1947.

The large-scale production of electricity was entrusted to specialised companies organised as joint-stock corporations in which the federal state had to hold a share of at least 50 %. The Verbundgesellschaft, a central holding company entirely owned by the federal state, was created to ensure the large-scale distribution of energy in Austria. For that purpose, it operates a long-distance, high-voltage cable network, while provincial companies are responsible for the distribution to the consumers in the individual provinces. Additionally, there are municipal electricity utilities (in the provincial capitals) and power plants owned by industrial companies. Kaprun power plant, which is a storage power station, and the two dams shown in this stamp - Drossensperre and Moserbodensperre - were constructed in the years from 1952 to 1955.

C: THE MOSERBODEN DAM TODAY

In summer, hordes of tourists are taken in special buses from Kesselfall-Alpenhaus up to Moserboden. The site of the old Moserboden hotel is now under the water. A replacement was constructed (it can be seen on the commemorative stamp), but on environmental grounds it was recently demolished.

The philatelic connection? The special buses are Post Buses!



The Price of Everything and the Value of Nothing...

By Martin Brumby

Reading Andy Taylor's helpful introduction to the new book on Austrian Inflation by Dipl.Ing. Peter Kroiss (AUSTRIA 165) - and indeed my own comments on the ANK Ganzsachen catalogue in the same issue - set me to musing on the question of philatelic values.

Firstly, I should state that the book by Kroiss is excellent, very well produced and well worth having if only as a reminder of his superb Gold Medal winning display at WIPA 2008. I do have some reservations about his cursory treatment of the parcel post service but I don't suppose most collectors will be too bothered about that.

But what do we mean by 'value' anyway? To the uninitiated (many spouses!) we're talking about old bits of waste paper that at some time or another may well have been salvaged from someone's bin. An old friend always used to counsel me not to waste money on stamps. "Buy cans of beans. When times get tough, you won't go hungry." But at least at present, philatelic material certainly does have a value and there is an argument that any spare cash might be better put into collectables (with the usual caveats) rather than into a bank. Let alone equities....

How, then, to determine the price (or value) of stamps? First, remember that the only financial 'value' you can put on anything is what someone is prepared to pay you when you come to sell it. But for guidance, the collector has lots of different catalogues and price lists to choose from. There is also the opportunity now to track stamps on eBay, giving an idea for how much similar stamps will actually sell. eBay has had a significant effect on the selling price of many stamps where one suspects that dealers and auction houses had hyped prices up above anything that could be justified by actual scarcity. And we can all think of odd stamps which are almost impossible to find (thus presumably scarce) whilst others that survive in significant numbers (WIPA sheet, 10S. Dolfuss) but may nevertheless be 100 times more expensive. We should anyway be aware of the limitations of catalogue value. The latest ANK I have, values the 1908 10 Kronen fine used at €450. The 5h and 10h values are both valued at €0.10 each. So if someone has a stockbook with 4,500 mixed 5h & 10h stamps, (all worthwhile postmarks removed), would you trade your copy of the 10 Kronen for them? Obviously not. Even if it was a nice stockbook, you'd be lucky to get much more than €20 for it, if you found someone who wanted to

decorate a tray! And, it must be said, your chances of selling the 10 Kronen value for anything like €450 are slight. You'd do well to get a third of that.

Things get even more tricky when we consider postmarks on stamps. Müller had an interesting idea in including a 'popularity' multiplier together with his estimate of actual scarcity. However this makes the valuations more cumbersome and subsequent authors have just given a single 'points' value. One of new collectors' most common questions is "how much is a Müller (or Klein or Ryan or Votocek) point worth?"

All the authors try to give some explanation how they intend you to use their values (discounts for partial strikes etc.). It is worth taking the trouble to read this. And re-read it! In any case, it is important to realise that some handbooks mark high, others low. Extreme approaches are Vollmeier's superb book on prephilatelic L&V which gives a range of just 1 to 13 points and 'R' on the one hand and Gudlin's recent book on Hungary where values in hundreds (up to 1,000 and R / RR) are used. So all 'points' aren't equal! How, then, to translate these points into cash? Here I can only recommend that you read Eric FitzHenry's long letter in AUSTRIA 19 and Andrew Furst's "Thoughts of a Postmark Collector" in AUSTRIA 63. [*Appended. Ed.*] Both these articles pack an awful lot of common sense into a few pages and will help to clarify the relevant issues. Again, a bit of trawling on eBay may assist.

Does that detract from the value of the cancellation handbooks? Not at all - providing you understand how the valuations are arrived at and the limitations of the 'points' system. All the cancellation handbooks are actually very useful when trying to fix a price on a postmark on loose stamp, on piece or on cover. But you really need to take the bare 'points' estimate with a healthy pinch of salt and to have a real feel for condition and the various other factors which have a bearing on value.

What, then, about a system for valuing postal history items? In my view there is no substitute for experience and knowing your subject. Formulaic valuation systems are a minefield. For years, Specialised catalogues have given valuations for stamps 'used on cover'. Apparently this was first done (in Austria, at least), by Edwin Müller in his "Spezialkatalog für Marken nach dem ersten Weltkrieg" 1938 (which I've never seen). But "on cover" prices do help and, indeed, flag up how scarce some stamps are genuinely used. And I'm not talking about the early charity stamps, sold at ten times face, which were obviously never used non-philatelically. How about the 1920s imperforate 'Mercury' newspaper stamps which seemed always to be included in the sixpenny packets in Woolworths? These are some of the few Austrian stamps which are much more common mint than used. (One of the points I always make when answering the

question, “Why do you collect Austria?”) They aren’t easy to find genuinely used, even as loose stamps. Correctly used on newspaper wrappers they are very scarce and expensive.

Schneidebauer’s handbook (1981) gave guidance how to value postal stationery with supplementary frankings when used for particular duties (Express, Registered, or whatever). Before this, the first article I have on the inflation period is written in 1954 by Gaube and was printed in *Mitteilungsblatt des VöPV Nr.9*. (This publication became “Die Briefmarke” the following year). Gaube’s article takes the basic ‘stamp on cover’ price for a listing of the various inflation definitives and adds to this three columns for ‘single franking’, ‘multiple franking’ and ‘mixed franking’ and values each stamp in each column (where such use is feasible) in seven grades. He lists these with roman numbers I – VII. Very common frankings (I) are valued at 30 – 60 Groschen each and the ‘Rarities’ (VII) are given a value of ‘at least’ S. 150. Only the 10,000 Kronen ‘Medusa’ value as single or multiple franking and the 4 Kronen ‘Dachauer’ stamp as a multiple franking is rated as grade VII. The 10,000 K stamp in a mixed franking is rated VI (very scarce) at a very humble ‘at least’ S. 60, which I think would have been less than a pound in 1954!

Personally, I started collecting this material in the mid 1980s and remember still being able to pick up a decent batch of perhaps three dozen inflation postage due covers from the Dorotheum auction for £50 or so. Those days are gone! I also remember being interested to read an article by Helmut Swoboda in “Die Briefmarke” June 1986. This is based on and extends Gaube’s article printed 32 years earlier, and even reproduces Gaube’s valuation chart. Swoboda suggests the ‘old’ Gaube values should be multiplied by ten for contemporary use. My 1986 manuscript note suggested that this made a 10,000 K on cover worth £25 to £60.

H. Karasek entered the field in the early 1990s with a series of articles in “Die Briefmarke”, followed by his famous (or infamous) ‘red book’. It must be said that this is a bit of a curate’s egg, especially when he lists postage rates which seem never to have been put into effect. (The supposed first ‘reduced rates’ for Czechoslovakia, Hungary etc.). He also got up some collectors’ noses by rather airily suggesting that you couldn’t form a collection which would be taken seriously unless you had a 10,000 K cover. But in fairness, there were good b/w illustrations and much useful information, not least lots of reproductions of the old “Postgebührenweiser” supplements to the various “Postverordnungsblättes” published in the 1920s (although only the first few pages, unfortunately). There was also his valuation scheme which very significantly extended Gaube’s old table, with lots of multiplicands, deductions for this and that and assorted fiddle factors. I must confess I never really took this scheme to heart.

We now have the new book by Dipl. Ing. Kroiss which, no doubt will be the 'definitive' book on this area of Austrian philately for some years to come. And, of course, Andy's helpful primer. Needless to say, the system put forward by Kroiss builds on and derives from Karasek and Gaube but is significantly different. Also needless to say, you can't just flog your old Karasek, because not all the information in the earlier book is given in the latest one! The system is quite complicated but, if you are determined, quite useable. Somehow I can't see me wandering round York Stamp Fair with a copy of Kroiss under one arm and a calculator and jotting pad under the other. But it would be feasible, in fact, to put all the Kroiss system into a computer programme. You could tap in the date of posting, click on little pictures of each stamp in the franking, check a tick box for the country it is addressed to and whether it is registered or express, click 'go' and, hey presto! out comes a valuation. I guess even I could set this up – if I could be bothered. There is indeed, I fear, the danger that some computer geek dealer may do just this. So we'd better consider the question: how reliable are the valuations that the Kroiss system gives us?

Well, I think they might be helpful if you wanted to value your collection for insurance purposes. Especially if you enjoy paying insurance premiums. But I am sceptical whether you would get many takers for Andy's period 14 mixed-franking postcard 18g reduced rate to Romania (AUSTRIA 165 page 9) at the price of €120. Personally, I would be agreeably surprised if I could sell something similar for €20, never mind €120. Reduced rate postcards aren't that scarce and the period when mixed frankings were possible isn't all that short. On the other hand, I'd be interested to see what friendly comment the postal history dealers at the York fair might share with me when I suggested that covers similar to those shown on pages 10 & 11 in Andy's article (or even nicer – up to €50, no less) "should be given the "Kroiss Cutoff" and aren't worth a cracker" I might say. "But not to worry, I'll take them off your hands!". I expect their advice would be something involving sex and travel. There are some who might even attempt a 'cutoff' of their own.

Naturally enough, it all comes down to horses for courses. If you are wanting to win a Large Gold medal at WIPA, you certainly can't afford to show tatty material, especially when it is comparatively common anyway. And if you can afford to compete at that level, then it probably doesn't matter all that much if the price tag for an item you need to fill a gap is €20 or €120. But, as my aspirations are far more humble, it would be wrong not to point out that the inflation period in Austria was immediately after four years of world war leading to great loss of life, destruction and defeat and the break up of the Empire. And imagine the effect of the war, the loss of much of the labour force, the best agricultural land and industrial heartlands and most of the markets besides. Then there was the continuing warfare in the region, the threat of

revolution and the imposition of punitive reparations which wrecked the economy. There were people starving on the streets of Vienna.

As the least of the results, the quality of paper available for stationery left much to be desired (you can very often see the tell tale signs of paper acidification) and what now survives has been through nearly ninety years, not all of which were exactly tranquil. How realistic is it, then, to look only for material that is in first class condition? This is a matter of taste (and money) but, whilst it is nice to have clean crisp covers and cards, I'd rather have something that was obviously genuine but a bit dog-eared than something which looks like a modern first day cover. Or the product of a little man beavering away in an attic in Kosovo. So by all means feel free to collect together all your "Kroiss Cutoff" items and just send them to me! Thanks!

Addendum One

Letter to the Editor, Austria 19 (Oct 1970) pp 32-35

Dear Sir,

Reading Mr Tranmer's review of the Klein book in the July issue of AUSTRIA No.18, pp 15-17, one of the sentences used in his review struck me as extremely important and worth developing at greater length through the courtesy of your columns.

Although I do not profess to be an authority on the many different spheres of Austrian philately, I have spent a little time browsing over postmarks, so I was greatly interested in part of a sentence used by Mr Tranmer, which is well worth reiterating:

"The point system is used as a GUIDE to the value of each postmark".

In my opinion too much emphasis is placed, by some people, on a points system, whereby to them this is the Alpha and Omega of interpreting the valuation of any specific strike. I appreciate that it is extremely gratifying to find a stamp with a high points valuation, but after all, this points system is only a basis originating from the mind of one person and cannot be based on fact however much research he conducted to derive this figure. To be constructive it is necessary to break down into detail my reasoning for making such a statement.

Müller had access both to the records and strikes of the Austrian Posts previously in use, so, therefore, he could show a main type of postmark and also the distinctive subtypes. To many, these appear to be one postmark, whereas in

reality, there exist numerous distinctive subtypes, shown by Müller in brackets, defining the number known to him.

This number is not necessarily correct and for any errors, I do not belie him, as philately is so fluid, something new is discovered every day. It is, however, a fact as previously mentioned that some people accept the written word in a catalogue as gospel. Klein, not having the same facilities, due to the postal records having been destroyed, was content in showing postmarks only that were distinctive in their appearance and to endeavour to show subtypes that existed was beyond the scope and capabilities of this work.

Assuming that a rating of 12 points is given to a postmark and that there are five subtypes, the question is raised, which subtype is worth the 12 points and what valuation does one put on the remainder? Can anyone answer this problem, as I certainly can not? Müller in his catalogue did endeavour to give the date of issue when a new postmark was struck, and in certain cases, the dates of the subtypes. The next question arising was; how long was any type or subtype in existence? Without an answer to this question, how can one define a points valuation, other than of a general nature? Then one is faced with the dilemma of the rating for the different values in any specific series. Let me take for example Karersee, or, as defined by Klein for the early period, Hotel Karersee. May I bore your readers by a description of this place, which is relevant A large hotel, 150 rooms, with its own post and telegraph office, only open in the summer. The ascent rising 1000 feet in the last 14 miles, with a total ascent of 3000 feet in the 20 miles from Bozen. There was an inn some distance from the hotel and a few remote houses, but certainly not a village. Klein's rating is 40 points, and now one comes to the crucial point. Except for visitors staying in the hotel and the staff employed there, the amount of post must be strictly limited, and in the main, one must be certain that the 5 and 10 heller stamps will be the commonest denominations. What is the rating on, say, the 50 kreuzer, 1 and 2 Gulden, or the same values in heller and Kronen?

It is a fact that population is a most important factor, but one must also take into account the number of visitors frequenting a place, whether there was a large works there, whether they consigned by post, as for example the glass works in Gablonze, thus making the letter and higher values extremely common.

Is a stamp with a lower rating easier to come by? The answer is a long way from yes, as from experience I can say that from a single type or subtype, I have gone through hundreds and even thousands of stamps without obtaining a decent and repeatable strike. Therefore one cannot spurn the common strike, as it can be just as difficult for a person who has an interest in that place to obtain a decent copy.

One could wish that all postal clerks were as conscientious as that official, who for many years in the early days of Austrian adhesive stamps, applied a delightful strike to the letters mailed from Brünn Bahnhof.

At times one wonders how a compiler decides on the rating of a strike, as without prejudice, Müller in general, definitely gives a very low rating for those strikes in the Hungarian Kingdom compared with similar places in the Austrian Kingdom. Again, take Adelsberg, population in 1910 [of] 3865 inhabitants, rating for Klein Compound, 1890/1 issue 5 points, a popular holiday resort, yet Dornbirn with a population of 16240 on a busy road between Bregenz and Feldkirch receives a very similar rating.

This does appear to me, to be inconsistent, as from my own collecting I have found far more strikes of the latter compared with the former. I must be fair and state that other people can throw contrary examples at me, which I would not be able to answer, but generally, some of the points ratings do surprise me in both mentioned books. Nevertheless, I think Mr Klein has admirably endeavoured to fill one of the great vacua of Austrian philately, and I know that I am well satisfied with his endeavour. Many of my questions and answers have been completed by my expenditure of £18 and this book has been paid for by returns on material that I have not been interested in retaining. I have been given to understand that this book, like Müller's work, is now unobtainable. This I think is rather unfortunate for any future students of postmarks and one can only be more than thankful for the foresight of those societies who place such publications in their libraries for future generations enjoyment and enlightenment.

One final point, although we all desire to have clear strikes on any issue, I must agree with Mr Stephen of "The Austrian Post Office Abroad" fame, that it is far better to have a postmark or even a part of a postmark that can be identified rather than no postmark at all.

I hope that a 'hornet's nest' is not stirred by my controversial thoughts on the valuing of postmarks, but I have found that far too much emphasis is placed on the findings in books, without due thought to the many complex mathematical problems and interpretation needed to ascertain the value of any given strike. I therefore must agree with Mr Tranmer that the value of this book and of Müller's book is that it is a guide to collecting and not the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth as defined by certain individuals.

E. P. FitzHenry.

Addendum Two

Thoughts of a Postmark Collector

By A. Furst. Reprinted from Austria 63, Spring 1983

The Klein Compendium has been in use for over ten years now. It may be worth while to subject it to further examination, to see the effect it had on collecting trends, the way it has been used and misused.

I should state right at the outset, that though I am considered by some to be a bookworm with a voracious appetite, the Klein Compendium gave me more - and more lasting - pleasure than any other book I have ever read. I will always be grateful to Herr Generaldirektor Klein for compiling the two volumes. It must have been the labour of the best part of a lifetime. In view of this, the cost of the volumes, much objected to at the time of publication, must surely be irrelevant.

I should also be grateful to Mr Kafka, who talked me into buying the first volume on a visit to London many years ago. No persuasion was necessary to buy the second volume. At that time, 1969-70, material was still readily available. None of my collecting friends saved postmarks, I usually finished with some, George Houston - whose knowledge was far superior to mine - with the rest. In those halcyon days one could buy a packet of postmarks on the 1867 issue for 150-200 Schillings in Viennese auctions.

This then was the first great change the Klein Compendium wrought: the material has by and large disappeared. It is not at all unusual now to see single stamps with a good postmark for £25 each. Collectors outside Austria were perhaps luckier to cotton on to the new trend. Only in recent years are collectors in Austria looking for the Klein books, as evidenced by want ads in Austrian periodicals.

In view of the magnitude of Herr Klein's work, a newcomer to Austrian postmarks would expect it to be comprehensive, which of course it is not. Hungary after 1867 is not included, postal agencies are missing and the whole field of Austrian post offices abroad was left to Tchilinghirian & Stephen. One cannot help but feel sorry for the novice, to find the range of Austrian postmarks split into so many handbooks. This process will continue whenever a sequel is published to the Klein Compendium. It would mean that one lifetime is long enough to thoroughly examine one segment only. Continuation has already begun with Votocek on Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, also Lessig with his current work on Viennese suburbs. Future reference works will inevitably be based on Klein, after all many of the postmarks listed by him stayed in use well into the 20th century.

By using the Klein Compendium for a few years, one gains enough confidence to begin to doubt the master. I refer to point values in general. Mr. E. P. FitzHenry was first to direct attention to the point system as a guide to the value of each postmark. I have read and reread Mr. FitzHenry's letter many times over the years, and of course it makes perfect sense: point values can be no more than educated guesses, taking into consideration a town's population, industry or commerce, if any, opening or closing one particular office, etc. Perhaps more important than the total population of a town would be the number of people who could read or write, or were in the habit of writing a letter, information not found in the statistics. How else could one explain the relative rarity of postmarks from Bukowina or Vorarlberg? Granted there were only 114 offices in the Bukowina and 61 in Vorarlberg as against 1434 in Bohemia, the industrial hub of the Austrian Empire. But Bohemian cancellations are far more numerous in any collection than the above numbers would imply. Storzynetz, Kimpolung, Suchawa with five points each on 1890, or the thimble cancel of Pozoritta at 18 points do not stand a realistic comparison with the more common postmarks. For point values to be absolute, there would have to be a mathematical relationship between the various postmarks of one office, the various offices to one another, as well as the three stamp issues relative to each other, which is clearly an impossibility.

It would appear that Herr Klein awarded point values to the 1883 and 1890 issues, then married them to the already-existing Mueller valuations on 1867. But it seems somewhat less than a perfect marriage. In the 13 years prior to 1883 there was tremendous postal expansion, more than doubling the number of post offices from 1969 to 4034. Progress must have slowed down by comparison in the 1880s, as less than 700 new offices were opened. In the following decade expansion must have speeded up again with the addition of 1200 new offices. Also, the 1883 issue had the shortest validity of the three issues comprising the Klein catalogue. It would follow that postmarks on the 1883 issue must be dearer than either the preceding or following issue, but this is not borne out by point values. Any collector of Austrian postmarks will know at a glance, when adding up total point values: 1883 will be the lowest, 1890 the most plentiful.

Perhaps a discount would be in order on the 1890 issue as against its predecessors, though with certain exceptions, e.g. the new type double circle cancellers reintroduced from the middle of 1894 on. Many of them came into use years later, as the majority show 1898-99 dates, and so were in use for mere months during the currency of kreuzer issues. Some postmarks of the Viennese pattern are also more elusive than point values indicate: though gEjeb (399) is common, gEjebb (402) is in some cases so scarce that no example was found in time for inclusion in the catalogue. Another rarity on the 1890 issue seems to be the Bestellt (=delivered) postmarks. Though very common on postage due and

newspaper stamps, it is very scarce on 1890 and the 40 points awarded them hardly seem realistic. Coloured postmarks on 1890 are also very few and far between. However, if the relatively common blue Postal Savings Bank cancels received 40-90 points, Cortina/Tirol blue postmark with 50 points in my view seems too low. The rarest postmark of them all was quite properly illustrated, Voeslau, but not included in the catalogue part for the simple reason that it has not been found on kreuzer yet. It was introduced early in 1900 for the postmarking of letters posted in railway station posting boxes. Since the 1890 issue was valid until September 1900, and hope springs eternal, it might still turn up on kreuzer. The lucky collector who will find one will have a rarity of the first rank, putting Dollfuss to shame.

Thimble cancels occupy a special position on account of their pleasing appearance and consequent popularity. Perhaps many Austria postmark collectors save only thimble cancels, which would account for their relative scarcity. This would be borne out by Mueller, who applied a multiplier of 2 to 3 on most thimble cancels. But what is a thimble? According to Mueller, almost without exception all handstamps prepared between 1867 and 1872 were thimbles by their appearance, even though the diameter of some were over 20mm. To be able to define a thimble by measure, Mueller arbitrarily chose 20mm, the width of a stamp of the 1867 issue. Interestingly, Votocek chose 21mm as the upper limit for thimbles in his catalogue. But for all intents and purposes we are stuck with Mueller's definition in more ways than one. Some years ago I sent a few postmarks to the Herr Generaldirektor, measurably below 20mm, and not listed as thimbles by either Mueller or himself. He returned them with the remark that *"through heavy usage or warping often illusions of measurement were created. According to the original impressions of the engraver that Ing. Mueller was still in a position to see and measure, the diameter of the postmarks in question was just over 20mm."* This has puzzled me ever since. I would have thought through usage some handstamps could spread. How could they get smaller? Would it not rather be a case of a second - and smaller - handstamp having been engraved and put to use?

Which brings me to the next point, also raised by Mr. FitzHenry, that of types and subtypes. Mueller gave the number of subtypes in square brackets, occasionally even dates of delivery of the various subtypes. But then of course Mueller, still had the archives at his disposal, destroyed subsequently during World War II. Klein may be easier to follow, but to the collector it is a great disadvantage of not knowing the number of subtypes, or if any subtypes exist at all. Triest 5295k has been the subject of a query in AUSTRIA before. Well it might be, for measurements varied from 19x24 to 22x28 mm. Similarly Vienna 5737y, which varied in diameter from 21 to 27mm, and in lettering from 2.5 to 4.5mm. Within these groups there are variations in the spacing of letters also.

Since there is no checklist, each newly acquired impression has to be checked against other subtypes already in one's possession.

To develop Mr. FitzHenry's theme a little further, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that point values up to 15-20 points are really irrelevant. Of course a postmark valued at 50 points will be scarcer than another with 2. But the quality of the cancellation is far more important than the arbitrary point value placed on it. Over the years, I have exchanged many postmarks on the basis of point value. Until realisation slowly dawned that one perfect postmark of 5 points is worth far more than ten fragments with a total point value of 100. But perfect postmarks are almost as scarce as hens teeth. In my thimble collection I had about 700 postmarks at last count, and only one I would regard as perfect. A clean impression, covering the medallion, well centred, in an upright position. Huber/Wessely differentiate 6 grades of postmark from 1 = luxus through 4 = average to 6 = poor. In my opinion it would be fairer as well as more convenient to exchange on a piece for piece, quality for quality basis.

None of the foregoing was meant as advocacy to collect perfect postmarks, or complete impressions or on piece only, but rather to appreciate a good cancel, when one comes one's way. Mueller regarded only full cancels as collectable items, but times have changed and if average collectors restricted themselves to full cancels, there would be little left to collect. Nevertheless it should be mentioned here that the point system in both Mueller and Klein refers to full impressions.

To translate point values into pence or schillings across the board will also be quite unsuccessful. Auction realizations provide the only reliable guide, and it can be seen that TPOs, exhibition (temporary) postmarks, naval or manoeuvre cancellations will not fit into any framework. Point values of the 1890 issue cannot be extended to cover the same postmark on heller issues, as has been done before. The simple reason being that some postmarks (e.g. D and S), scarce on the 1890 issue, become in fact the predominant form of cancellation on the following issues.

To sum up I could not do better than Mr. FitzHenry who put it so well so many years ago: *"In my opinion too much emphasis is placed, by some people, on a points system, whereby to them this is the Alpha and Omega of interpreting the valuation of any specific strike"*.

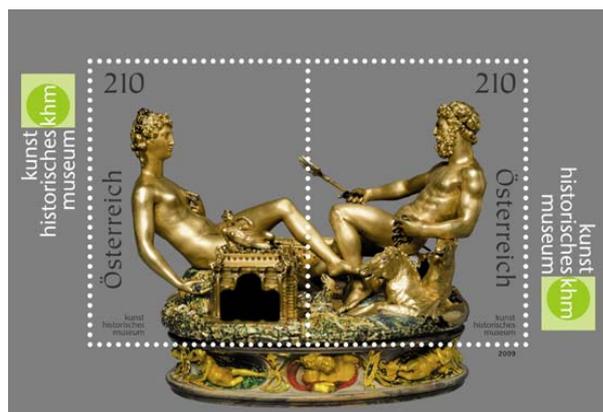
A. Furst

The 2009 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.

Saliera



2 off 2.10€ FDC: 24 Jan; ; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The Saliera is the only surviving goldsmith's work by the Florentine sculptor, medallion maker and goldsmith Benvenuto Cellini (1500-1571). The salt shaker ("Saliera" in Italian) made of gold is partly enamelled, stands on an ebony base, and is in the style of the late Renaissance. The work was commissioned by King François I of France and was made between 1540 and 1543 while the artist was in Paris. It was later given to Archduke Ferdinand II of Tyrol, thereby coming into the possession of the Habsburgs.

Landskron Castle



Issued as a boxed roll of 25 self-adhesive stamps; face value 0.55€ FDC: 30 Jan; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. The castle is one of the most impressive castles of Austria, first named in 1351.

[My thanks to Hannes for this illustration]

Classic Trademarks "Pez"

0.55€ FDC: 6 Feb; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset. Our grandparents already knew the PEZ peppermint sweets, products from the Haas family business. In the meantime, the PEZ sweets are now available in a variety of flavours and the



time, was aimed exclusively at adults until the 1950s.

dispensers have achieved cult status. PEZ (derived from P-feff-E-rmin-Z - peppermint) was invented by Eduard Haas in 1927. He was the son of a merchant family that had already been involved in innovative activity at the time of the monarchy. Shortly after the end of the First World War, Haas pudding powder, vanilla sugar and Quittin (jellying aid for making jam) were on the market; and PEZ was originally intended to provide a healthy alternative for smokers. The mint flavour, regarded as sophisticated at the

Old Austria: Cracow



1€ FDC: 13 Feb; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma. Cracow, the capital of the Voivodeship of Lesser Poland, is about 250km south of Warsaw, the country's capital. This old city, the capital of Poland until 1596, is still referred to as the country's secret capital. The old town centre and Wawel castle, the former residence of the Polish kings, are part of the UNESCO world cultural heritage.

400th birthday of Raimondo Montecuccoli



the siege of Philippsburg and spent many years studying at the Imperial Court. He created the basis for the Leopoldine Academy for Natural Research.

1€30; FDC: 20 Feb; Issue 200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. Montecuccoli originated from a highly regarded central Italian family, studied languages and the classics and joined the Imperial Army in 1625. His uncle Ernesto was Feldzeugmeister and captain of the guard. His most important victory was that over a huge Turkish army in 1664 in the battle of Mogersdorf an der Raab. Four years later Montecuccoli was appointed President of the Imperial Council of War. He ended his military career at the

National Costumes 1948 - 1952

On 1st March, the complete Costumes Series, 37 stamps, went on sale in a card wallet priced at 254€ They were prepared “in co-operation with the philatelic trade” and “only a few dozen sets are available”.

60 years of SOS Childrens Villages



0.55€ FDC: 6 Mar; Issue 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Helga Genser.

“Only a loved child can be a loving adult” - this was the principle behind the foundation of the SOS childrens villages and originates from Hermann Gmeiner, born on June 23, 1919 in Alberschwende, Vorarlberg and died 1986 in Innsbruck, Tyrol. In Austria, there are currently 10 SOS Childrens Villages and eight SOS kindergartens. Around the world, Hermann Gmeiner’s idea is already being lived out in 132 countries, financed by donations.

Formula 1 Legends: Lewis Hamilton



1€ FDC: 17 Mar; Issue 250,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Russel Harvey

Following his second place in the 2007 season, Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton, born on 7 January 1985 in Stevenage (England), became the youngest world champion in the history of Formula 1 in 2008

100 years of Vienna Technical Museum



2€65; FDC: 17 Mar; Issue 312,000; Design: Garry McLanachan; Printed by: Outer Aspect Ltd.

The new commemorative spectacularly combines the two topics of the Vienna Technical Museum and the Mercedes Silver Arrow, and is another example of modern stamp design. Produced using lenticular technology, the stamp dramatically shows the “most beautiful form of technology” with a vivid moving 3-D effect.

Schönbrunn



FDC: 20 Mar; Issue 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Audrey Möschl

The Imperial Palace of Schönbrunn with its many outbuildings and the huge park is one of Austria's most important cultural monuments, a baroque jewel in the heart of the city of Vienna and attracting nearly 7 million visitors each year. Alongside the

Palace itself, the Gloriette the impressive Palm House and of course the world's oldest zoo, the Schönbrunn Tiergarten, are also well worth a visit. The Christmas market in front of the Palace is a popular meeting point both for tourists and the citizens of Vienna.

Preserving the glaciers and polar regions



0.65€ FDC: 26 Mar; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul

The new commemorative raises one of the most serious problems of our age, the preservation of the glaciers and Polar regions. Alongside the vital efforts aimed at saving the rain forests from further logging activities, the research of the glaciologists is no doubt one of the most important in the global race against time to secure the ecologically balanced survival of our planet.

50 years of the Steyr Puch Haflinger



0.55€ FDC: 27 Mar; Issue 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld

This lightweight all-terrain vehicle of the Austrian company Steyr-Daimler-Puch AG was developed in Graz between 1957 and 1959 and produced there from 1959 to 1974. The planned successor for the Haflinger, the H2, is the Puch or Mercedes G developed and built in Graz and appreciated today by military and private

customers around the world as the all terrain vehicle. The Haflinger's large brother, the Pinzgauer, is produced in two and three axle versions with a variety of superstructures.

200th Anniversary of the Death of Joseph Haydn



0.65€ FDC: 31 Mar; Issue 1,200,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Elke Ederer

Joseph Haydn (31 March 1732 to 31 May 1809) was one of the leading Austrian Viennese Classicism composers. He was born in Rohrau in Lower Austria and grew up in modest circumstances. Discovered in 1740 by the Musical Director of St Stephen's Cathedral, who was looking for new talent at the time, he moved to Vienna where he spent nine years with the St Stephen's Boys' Choir, and also received tuition in

singing, the piano and the violin. The extensive oeuvre left behind by this great composer is still part of the concert repertoire around the world and loved by millions. Joseph Haydn wrote 108 symphonies, 24 operas, 14 masses, 6 oratorios, 35 concertos for various instruments, 83 string quartets, 46 piano trios, 21 string trios, 52 piano sonatas and an enormous quantity of lieder, motets and cantatas.

Barn owl



Issued as a boxed roll of 100 self-adhesive stamps; face value 0.55€ FDC: 4 April; Printing: Photogravure; **Design: Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

The Barn Owl is well known throughout Europe; over 30 subtypes exist. The female is darker and larger than the male.

[My thanks to Hannes for this illustration]

Christo

1€10; FDC: 15 Apr; Issue 300,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. How broad the field of modern art can be is most impressively demonstrated by the Bulgarian born Christo Vladimirov Javachev, better known as "Christo, the packaging artist".



Fred Zinnemann



0.55€ FDC: 29 Apr; Issue 1,200,000; Printing: Offset;
Design: Adolf Tuma

Fred Zinnemann was born in Vienna on April 29, 1907. As a child, he was a close friend of Billy Wilder, who like himself was later to become a famous Hollywood director. He won his first Oscar for the short film “That Mothers Might Live”. In the following four decades he directed such classics as “The Search”, “High Noon”, “From Here To Eternity”, “The Nun’s Story” and “The Day Of The Jackal” and over the years there was hardly any silver screen star with whom Zinnemann didn’t work. Fred Zimmerman was awarded a total of five Academy Oscars, and nominated a further six times. The film “High Noon” won Zinnemann the New York film critics’ Award for the Best Director in 1951.

Vienna State Opera House – The Ring of the Nibelungen



1€ FDC: 2 May; Issue 400,000; Printing: Offset;
Design: Michael Rosenfeld

Richard Wagner was amongst one of the most important innovators in European music in the 19th century. “The Ring of the Nibelungen”, a cycle of four operas, was composed over a period of more than 30 years. Two years after it was completed, the entire tetralogy (“Das Rheingold”, “Die Walküre”, “Siegfried” and “Götterdämmerung”) was given its first performance in the Bayreuth Festival Hall.

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NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 2/2009: thematic: Linz; removing self-adhesives; the latest Saliera issue; effects of Napoleon on Tirol post; thematic: armorial eagles; Kleinwalsertal; new issues; other items obtainable from Ost.Post; After Jugoslavia: Serbia; Soviet post-WWII secret censorship; postcards with labels next their stamps: some with dues; news from societies; many book reviews; letters; etc etc.

Issue 3/2009: thematic: Puch; Maximilian I; old money letters; After Jugoslavia: Slovenia; postcards of the Prater; new issues, news, books etc.

Issue 4/2009: thematic: Mucha; problems of "Felleisen", the old leather letter-bags; Newspaper Tax adhesives used in 1900 as provisional postage dues; disinfected mail; Dr Wais, Managing Director of ÖPost, retires; new issues, news, books etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 85: many short pieces; Changes & additions to the 1946 airmail rates tables (ii); Lettere Arivate Per Mare markings; Mühlviertel (ii); review of Heinzl vol II. All articles have many colour illustrations.

ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn

(formerly Arbeitsgemeinschaft Feld- und Zensurpost 1914-18)

Issue 96: Festweeks; forthcoming displays; Q&A; Marine Fieldpost from Gomiunik; officially-opened labels from Gen. Gouv. Warschau; WWI packet cards to Denmark; etc.

Austria Philatelic Society^{US}

Vol 9 No. 2: Christkindl (by J Boyer); business envelopes "By Imperial Appointment" and their post-WWI use; working with the 1 Kr 1850 (the yellow one: scan it, photoshop it into blue and you can see the details separate the subtypes!); the excellence & the demise of the Austria Philatelic Society [of] New York.

Czechout

Issue 1/2009: Much of interest from WWII and later; Q&A; etc.

Germania

Feb 2009 vol 45 no 1: Society Reports; many interesting non-Austrian articles.

Jugopošta

Vol 89 March 2009: Overview of Trieste, Fiume etc 1945-47 (part 3); Hungarian telegram cards; Montenegro in 1840; etc.

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 176: March 2009: The occupation of Bosnia up to the issue of military post stamps on 1 July 1879; the Sea Post Surcharge 1875-1892; etc.

Südost-Philatelie

Vol 109/2009: 1918 forgeries; 1989 ditto; continued discussion of certain Yugoslavian & Serbian issues since 1937; etc etc

Wiener Ganzsachsen- Frei- u Poststempelsammlerverein

Issue 1/2009: The post-WWII small (10mm) ringed 'D' censor mark of Vienna; more on Krankenkassenporto.

Additions to the Library

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
439	Postal History of the Austro-Hungarian empire's activities in the Far East 1898-1920	Expanded updated and rearranged version of the articles in 'Austria'	193	Fred Pirotte	2009	E
440	Dienst-Unterricht für die Briefträger der k. k. Postämter (1880)	The duties of a Postman	52	(Austrian Post)	1880	G
441	Vorarlberg Stempelhandbuch - von der Vorphilatelie bis 1900	Vorarlberg cancels to 1900	nn pp	Emil Rosé	2004	G

Bookmarks

☺ We thank Fred Pirotte for the donation of a copy of his new book.

Book Reviews

“POSTAL HISTORY OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FAR EAST 1898-1920”

Written and published in January 2009 by Fred Pirotte, 32, rue de Villacoublay, 78140 Velizy, FRANCE. 193pp A4, profusely illustrated in colour, soft bound. Email: f.pirotte@yahoo.fr Available from Fred to members of the Austrian Philatelic Society at 30 Euro including postage and packaging.

Readers of AUSTRIA will be aware of Fred Pirotte's extensive series of articles, published between Autumn 2005 and Spring 2008, describing the postal history of the Austro-Hungarian navy in the Far East at the time of and following the Boxer Rebellion. These articles were based on the comprehensive collection he has put together over many years, part of which was presented as the keynote display at LEEDSFEST 2006. However, the book is much more than a 'bringing together' of the various parts as published in AUSTRIA. Material released from the Kriegsministerium in Vienna and additional material made available by the widow of Frederic Patka is included. The result is a publication which fills many of the gaps left by Patka. Fred identifies, almost personalises, several correspondents of the period. This is especially true of the internees of the prison camps in Japan and China post WWI, often few in number and whose mail in and out of the camps has been carefully examined and described. Throughout, illustrations in full colour proliferate.

The handling of the mails both on-board and by the marine detachments in Tientsin and Peking is meticulously described. Hand-stamps and cachets etc are classified and listed, and a particularly useful inclusion is a full interpretation of the characters and hand-stamps and other postal markings found on POW mail originating in the internment camps in China and POW camps in Japan.

The contents, in summary, are as follows: First contacts with China; the Boxer War and the subsequent establishment and operation of the marine detachments in Peking and Tientsin; the station ships and last cruise of SMS Kaiserin

Elisabeth; the internment and POW camps of China and Japan; detailed itineraries of the station ships.

This book is essential for all those with an interest in the postal history of the Austrian Navy. For those interested in activities in the Far East and the Boxer Rebellion, it is most definitely “a must”. It has its shortcomings - not in content but in presentation (eg a sturdier binding would have been an improvement, but at a cost) - but these should not detract from what is without doubt the most comprehensive publication on the subject available to date.

At only €30 get one now whilst limited stocks last!

John Pitts.

VORARLBERG POSTMARKS

“Vorarlberg Stempelhandbuch von der Vorphilatelie bis 1900” (The Handbook of Vorarlberg postmarks from pre-stamp to 1900). By Emil Rosé, published by Philatelie-Club Montfort, 2004. A4 hardback, 418 pages, profusely illustrated in colour throughout. In German. (APS Library no. 441).

Question: How do you write a book of over 400 A4 pages about the postmarks of Vorarlberg to 1900?

Answer: Give a full page to every single postmark!

More about that later. This book was published five years ago, but has only recently been acquired by the APS Library. Although written in German, more than three-quarters of the volume comprises listings and illustrations which can easily be enjoyed by non-German-speakers.

Vorarlberg is a small sparsely-populated province that can easily be ignored, and yet it has much to commend it to the Austrian philatelist. It was a border territory, and Imperial Austria’s gateway to Switzerland and, from there, France and beyond. It had close links with the adjacent Bavaria and Liechtenstein, and was occupied during the Napoleonic Wars. Its ancillary messenger-delivery to the remote valleys in pre-philatelic times represents a fascinating area for study in its own right, and to all this we can add two topics of enduring interest to APS members: Kleinwalsertal and the Bodensee ship-post.

The introductory text, for which you do need to understand written German, describes the postal history of Vorarlberg from the Middle Ages onwards. Herr

Rosé deals in some detail with the regular messenger routes of the late eighteenth / early nineteenth centuries, particularly the commercially-important Lindau-Milan private messenger service.

The remainder of the introductory section takes each of Vorarlberg's districts and main towns, and describes their specific postal history. Details are given of the dates of various postal services and routes. If you need to know the name of the postmaster of the Hohenems office in 1813, you will find it here. If you want to understand the botenlohn charges written on Vorarlberg covers, you are not going to find a better source. Kleinwalsertal fans may feel short-changed by the four pages devoted to the postal history of this valley. They should remember that this work only takes us up to 1900, and this early period is in fact well covered.

The main part of the book, some 240 pages, is devoted to an A to Z listing of every post office, with a full page given to each postmark. This is something of an indulgence, but does allow full details of every postmark to be stated very clearly along with a colour photo of an example of the postmark in use, almost always on a cover or card, even the rarest marks. Dates are given of the earliest- and latest-known dates, and each postmark is given a points value (with 1 point = 1 Euro at the time of publication).

There is something of the coffee-table book about this volume, and it is certainly beautifully-produced and laid out. But does it offer much new information to postmark-collectors who already have the catalogues of Müller, Zoppelli, Klein and Kühnel?

Pre-stamp collectors are likely to be using Müller's "Handbook of the Pre-Stamp Postmarks of Austria" and its three supplements, and perhaps Zoppelli's "Nordtiroler und Vorarlberger Poststempel 1770 to 1850", which gives better detail than Müller on dates of usage. Can Rosé add to this?

Yes, he can. I did a spot-check on Bregenz; Rosé has two different early postmarks not listed by Zoppelli, and only one of which is found in Müller (in the first supplement). For the third postmark, he gives the measurements of the two variants mentioned by Müller, and for the fourth he finds a blue version unknown to his predecessors, and so on.

Turning to the "classic" period, I compared Rosé's coverage of the town of Feldkirch to that of Müller's handbook of cancellations on the first five issues of postage stamps. Apart from the addition of a green variant of one of the cancels, I could not see any new discoveries. The details of the earliest and latest-known dates of usage are of course additional and useful information.

Postal agencies (ablagen) are integrated into the alphabetical sequence of the regular post-offices. I could see relatively little in the way of new discoveries

for the post 1867 period that weren't already in Klein or (for ablagen) Kühnel, but both these latter publications have been updated in the not-too-distant past.

We still have a hundred or so pages left to review, and in many respects the best is still to come in a series of specialist listings. The Bodensee ship-post is described in some detail for the period to 1900, but of course concentrates on the lines sailing to and from Bregenz.. The railway chapter is excellent, dealing with the Vorarlberger Bahn - from Bregenz to Bludenz, with branches to Lindau and Vaduz - and also with the longer-distance TPOs to Innsbruck and Vienna.

A further chapter lists the "additional markings" of each office - registration, pre-paid, money-letter and postage-due. Vorarlberg was the frontier for Austrian mail to Switzerland and points west, and the border-markings have their own place. These include the treaty-marks applied in Bregenz and Feldkirch to mail destined for France (L.A.), Bavaria (O.B.C.) and Baden (E. Bad. C.) and the interesting handstamps added to mail from Switzerland destined for Tuscany. Finally, the postmarks reserved for use on postal forms and receipts are listed.

The strengths of this book are that it is comprehensive, up-to-date, has all the information in one place, and is fully-illustrated and beautifully-produced. Serious collectors of this province to 1900 will not want to be without it. However, it is not cheap, and more-general collectors of Austrian postal history should take the opportunity to borrow it from the APS Library.

Keith Brandon



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QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS etc

An Interesting Find

At the APS meeting at York each member was invited to give a short, 15 minute display. As I have shown material at various events it was difficult to decide what to show. However over the Christmas period I had brought sections of my Tirol Railways up-to-date by adding items purchased during 2008. I therefore decide to show material from the South Tirol - North Italy section of this collection.

All went well until I realised that Keith Brandon and Martin Brumby were having an in-depth discussion about the cover shown here. Keith then asked if the cancel at the bottom left was a postablage - answer "I am not sure, I have it for the TPO cancel on the stamp".



The next day Keith e-mailed me about the card/cancellation as he thought it might be a postablage, Kühnel 2288a. However the letters did not agree: Kühnel's example reads 'CASTELLNUOVO' that is with an extra 'L'. I tried contacting Herr Kühnel but discovered that he does not speak or understand English so I asked a friend in Austria who is used to my philatelic questions to translate the message I was trying to send. This produced a reply saying "The superfluous letter 'L' has been deleted from the incorrect text of the cancel. The cancel will be entered in the catalogue as 2288ax". Thanks to Keith's keen eye the APS has been responsible for adding another correction to a catalogue.

If any member finds a cancellation that is not in the catalogue or one used before or after the dates given the authors are generally pleased to receive this information for inclusion in the next edition

[*added later*] I had been a little surprised at Keith's interest in the card/cancel since it appeared to be outside his normal collecting area. However having read his article in Austria 165, pages 14-21 I now know why he was able to spot the unusual cancellation. Unfortunately the reverse of the card shows a picture of a rose and not Castel Nuovo.

Joyce Boyer

An Interesting Card

The Chilean UPU card shown below was sent to Bosnia. The stamp is Mexican (SG191 issued 1886), has an unreadable plus a half-readable cancel, and is in a strange place. At the top left is a clear KUNDK MILITPOST 6 6/3/98 TREBINJE. The picture side is of Valparaiso in Chile, but has no writing.

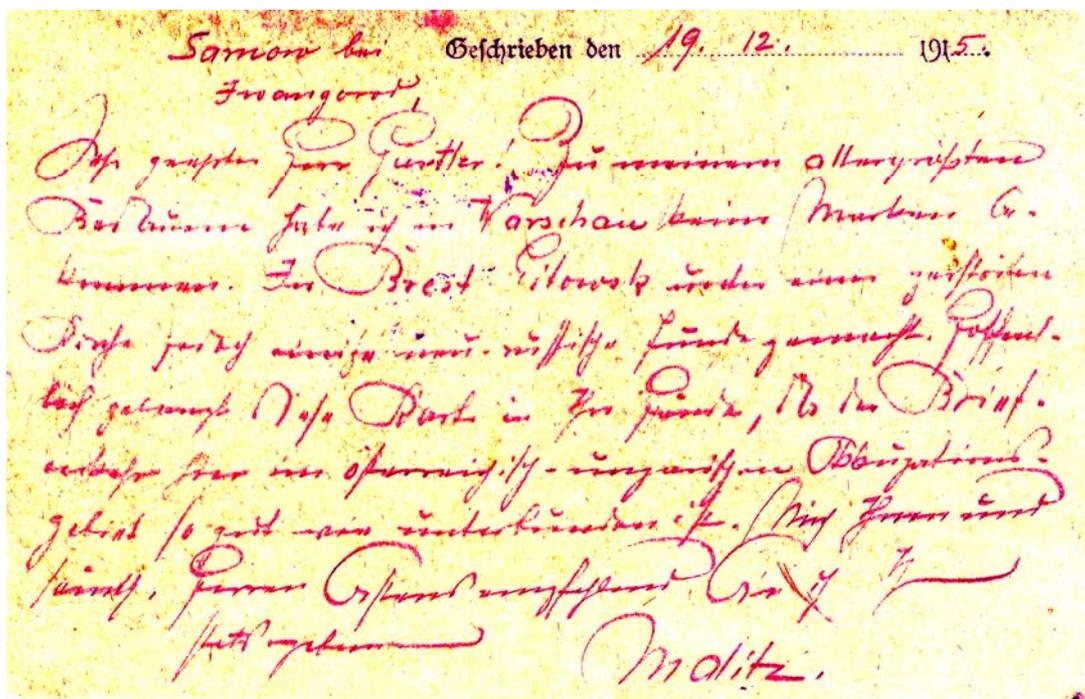


What is the 5 Kr Austrian franking for? Who applied it, and why? It isn't even valid within Bosnia! Its cancellation is not any recorded Austrian type, and is carefully smudged where the placename should be although the outer circle is sharp.

We suspect a "confection" – any views?

A Feldpostkarte saga

This German-type Feldpostkarte was written from Sarnów bei Ivangorod in occupied Russian Poland on 19 December 1915 and is addressed to Potsdam in Germany. Roger Morrell asks, what can we work out about its history? The initial diagnosis is that it was sent to a fellow philatelist by a civilian volunteer (a male nurse?) attached to the medical backup of the Bugarmee



A study of the old maps reveals that Ivangorod was the Russian name for the town now known as Dęblin, situated on the Vistula/Weichsel river southwest of

Warsaw. Sarnów is still named as such, and is a small village to the southwest of Ivangorod.

The “from” part of the front says that it was written on a German Fieldpost card by "Malitz", who gives no rank or unit but has Bugarmee as their address. It carries a large ‘*Freiwillige Krankenpflege Bugarmee*’ (German or Austrian?) cachet and a *K.u.k.Austrian* censor cachet. It's addressed to Regierungs-Ober-something Gunther in Potsdam, perhaps at Köningl. Regierung Abt W.

The postmark on the card is of neither a *K.u.k. Feld-* nor of an *Etappenpost* type, but appears to be more Austrian than Germanic. It is partially obscured by the dark green of the 5h stamp, but the letters that can be distinguished are ***CZAROWA, with the ‘C’ and the first ‘A’ questionable. A useful Polish on-line gazetteer suggests BIN CZAROWA, or possibly KOSZAROWA, but these are 100s of km away from Sarnów. Any thoughts on what the full postmark name might be?

The peacetime routing for this card on its way to Potsdam would be straight up the river by rail to Warsaw, and then due west to Germany. However, during the war almost any routing is possible. Austrian material from Ivangorod has been offered in the APS Packet.

Why was postage paid? A genuine war invalid would have had free postage facilities to Germany as well as to the Austrian Empire. The card is franked with a 5h and a 10h Austrian Feldpost stamps totalling 15h. This is almost certainly philatelic, since in December 1915 the rates were 5h (internal) & 10h (external). So who sent it? Someone with no rank, with access to a *Freiwillige Krankenpflege* cachet – and that means Volunteer Medical Duty. Was he a nurse? The postal clerk? Such non-military personnel didn't qualify for free postage; but overfranking was OK.

Does the weak pencilled spidery gothic handwriting give us a clue? Attacking it with Photoshop then consulting an expert produced the following as best-guess of the start of the message: *Sehr geehrter Herr Gunther: Zu meinem allergrößten Erstaunen habe ich in Warschau keine Marken bekommen. Im Brest-Litovsk....* [...to my great amazement I received no stamps in Warsaw...] Oddly, he writes in Kurrentschrift but with the placenames in a different script.

Why the Austrian censor mark? The Austrians and the Germans were collaborating on the Bug front at this time; the Germans were nominally in control of the area of Ivangorod. Unfortunately, the town name on this mark is indistinct. It looks like a civilian post type censor, but Thielk's book on this subject lists only three in occupied Poland of this style with large heavily serifed characters measuring about 63 mm in length, from Dzialoszyce, Pinczow, and Wloszczowa. However, all these towns are far to the southwest, just north of Krakow/Krakau, and nowhere near the obvious mail route back to

Germany. Does anyone recognise this mark? Is it a mark for military mail only, and thus not listed by Thielk? Is it in Schilling's new update / reprint of Thielk?

Better explanations welcomed!

Austrian postage rates change – 1971 or 1972?

During an investigation into some covers for a future article, the question arose: in what year of the 1970s did the Austrian foreign post rates change (eg a 20 gram surface letter to USA rose from 350 groschen to 400)? Simple: “look up the usual books and catalogues”. Doing so reveals that four of those I consulted state “1 July 1971” while two have “1 July 1972”. Since the 13th cover under study was dated June 1972, resolution of the anomaly became urgent!

Luckily, it is also simple – if you know where to look and who to ask. The PuTVOB nr 15, section I.70, was issued on 21 June 1971 and states that the new rates began on 1 July 1971 and NOT on 1972.

Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt Nr. 15

Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium für Verkehr
Generaldirektion für die Post- und Telegraphenverwaltung. – Wien, den 21. Juni 1971

- I. **70.** Kundmachung des Bundesministers für Verkehr über die Neufestsetzung der Auslandspostgebühren mit Wirkung vom 1. Juli 1971
71. Gebühren für Pakete nach dem Ausland

Artikel I

BRIEFSENDUNGEN

1. Beförderungsgebühren:

Briefe:

I. **70.** Kundmachung des Bundesministers für Verkehr über die Neufestsetzung der Auslandspostgebühren mit Wirkung vom 1. Juli 1971

Gemäß der vom Hauptausschuß des Nationalrates nach § 4 des Gesetzes vom 13. April 1920, StGBI. Nr. 180/1920, erteilten Ermächtigung vom 16. Feber 1950 werden die Auslandspostgebühren mit Wirkung vom 1. Juli 1971 wie folgt festgesetzt:

Gewichtsstufen bis Gramm	Gebühren je Sendung Schilling
20	4.—
50	7.—
100	10.—
250	20.—
500	40.—
1000	70.—
2000	110.—

Ab 1. Oktober 1973 werden nur Standardsendungen zur Gebühr der ersten Gewichtsstufe zugelassen.

I have moved the table for letters from below the introduction to beside it. Note also the quirk that from 1 October 1973 only standard-size letters qualify for the lowest weight step; a parallel restriction applies to postcards, hence an oversize postcard requires in this case 7 Schillings franking, not the 2½ you are tempted to apply!

My grateful thanks to Dr E Sinnmayer.