

AUSTRIA

Edited by Andy Taylor

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EDITORIAL 168

By Andy Taylor

We have learned that DI Herwig Rainer (known to us for the ARGE Feldpost and the Feldpoststempel Handbuch) died on 12 Sept after a long period of illness. The APS has sent a condolence card.

Congratulations to APS member Fred Pirotte, who entered ÖVEBRIA 09 and won (a) in the Postal History class, a gold medal for his display “Postal History of the Austro-Hungarian Empire’s Activities in the Far East 1898 – 1920” (b) in the Literature class, a grand vermeil medal for his book on the same theme.

Please note that at the 2009 AGM there were changes in the Society’s Office-holders. The list on the inside front cover was correct when sent for printing ☺ You should find the AGM minutes enclosed with this issue of Austria, printed on yellow paper.

I’m writing on Day Two of the Postal Strike, not knowing if (formerly-)Great Britain will have a functioning postal service by the time it’s printed. We, which of course means you the membership, cannot afford courier delivery unless the subscription were doubled; and sending the Journal by email while technically possible is no help to most of you. Ah well, if you are reading this then the strike is over (till the next one) – and so I wish you Happy Next Bank Holiday, hoping that it is Christmas 2009 and not Easter 2010.

A successful “Fest Weekend” was held at Coulsdon, and brief reports appear elsewhere. The friendship was excellent, likewise the food, and the golfers only disturbed a few of our members with loud post-midnight discussions of their achievements on and off the course. Nevertheless, following Winchester and Coulsdon it’s the Turn Of The North next year. The 2010 Fest will be in the Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate, from 8 to 10 October, and a booking form will appear with the first newsletter of 2010. I am the ‘Festmeister’ and am considering one or two little innovations – painless ones I assure you. October is a popular month for specialist society weekends, some of you will have to choose between the Fat Rascals of Harrogate and the Clotted Creams of Devon – such is life.

Finally, have you ever wondered “Why are commemorative stamps produced when they’re rarely obtainable at Post Offices either in Austria or in UK? Is it perchance more for profit than for philately? Are they meant for us to use?” The Austrian Post Office has perhaps inadvertently let this particular Kater out of its Kiste! Read more on page 30.

The APS Bookshop

CD prices include postage to anywhere. For all books, P&P costs £1.50 in UK, £2.50 to Europe, and £4.50 to Elsewhere. Back number prices include P&P. To purchase these items, contact the Treasurer.

CDs

- ❖ “**The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps**” by Dr. Stephan Koczynski. Enhanced and published it on CD in fully-text-searchable form. The CD costs **£12**. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-07-4
- ❖ **Index to “Die Briefmarke”** complete to 1999; in German but then so is the magazine. Prepared by Dr Moser of PKM Innsbruck. Available to APS members (only) for **£12**. In MSWord on CD.

Books:

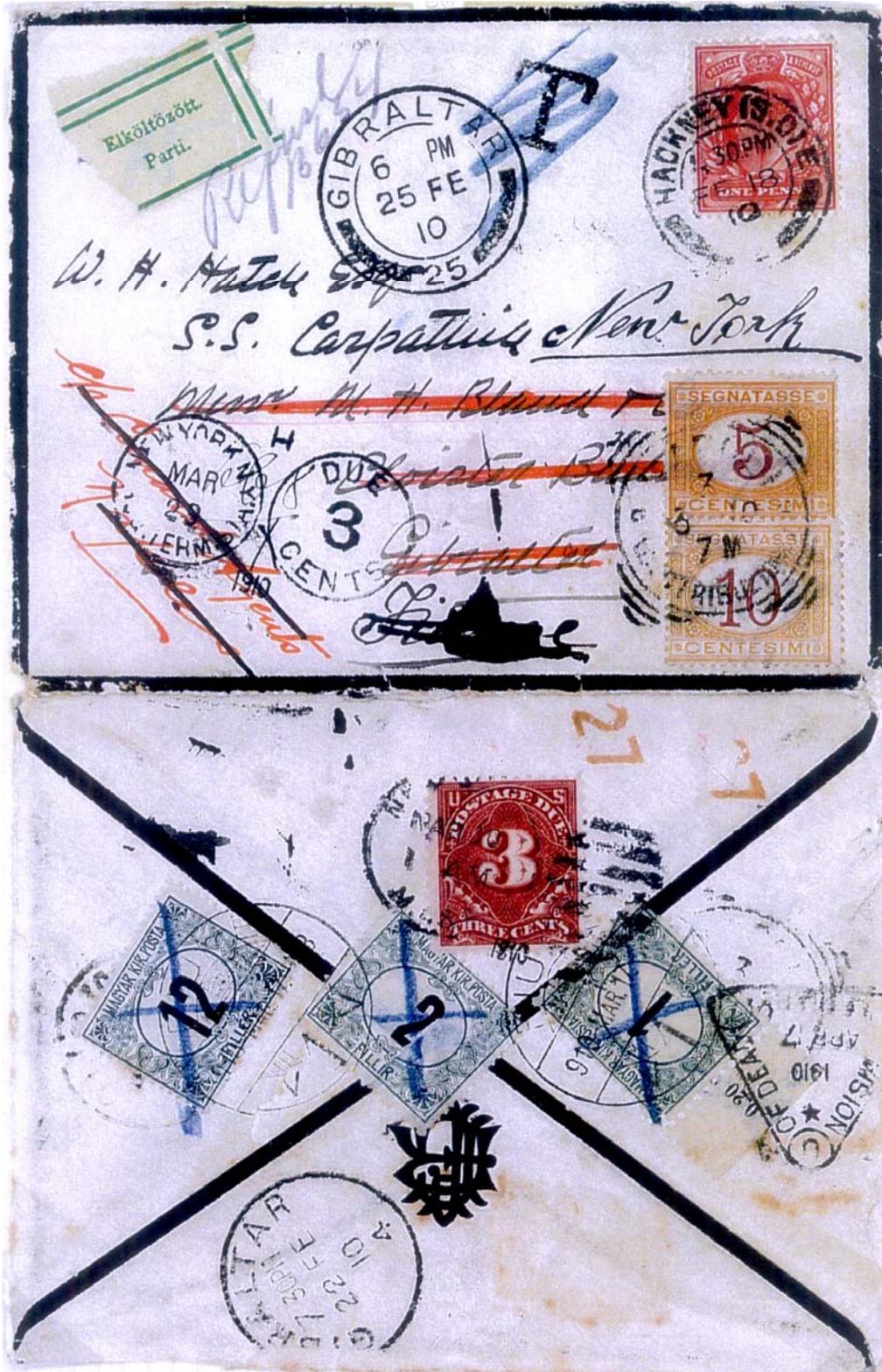
- ❖ “**A Celebration of Austrian Philately**”: the APS 60th anniversary ‘Festschrift’. viii+162 pp A4 in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-05-0
Now reduced to £19.95
- ❖ “**The Pneumatic Post in Vienna**” now reprinted in one A4 volume, ISBN 978-0-900118-06-7 Still only £40 (**£32 to APS members**)
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- ❖ “**Przemysl 1914-1918**” by Keith Tranmer. A very few copies still available at the reduced price of **£12**
- ❖ “**The Postal History of Ukraine: KuK Ukrainische Legion Feldpost correspondence cards 1914-1918**” by Dubniak & Cybaniak. **£14**

Back numbers of “Austria”

- ❖ Nos 1-99 are £2.25 each; later issues £1.75. For ten or more ordered at the same time, a reduced price applies of £2 each for nos 1-99, £1.50 for 100 onwards. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Special offer: 1 copy of each issue of Austria, ie numbers 1 to date, will be sent to you for £275. Binders for ‘Austria’ cost £3.75 and hold 10-12 earlier issues, 8 of the recent issues. **P&P is included in these prices.**
- ❖ Non-members may also purchase back numbers of Austria, at **£5 per copy**. It may be better value to join the Society!

HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD FOR A PENNY.

By Brian Madeley



This mourning envelope began its travels in Hackney, East London, where it was franked with a 1d red and posted on the 18th of February 1910. It is addressed to Mr W H Hatch, Cloister Building, in Gibraltar, and reached there on the 22nd. He however had moved on, as it is readdressed in red ink as c/o Commercial Agents in Naples. The letter left Gibraltar on the 25th Feb (double ring cancel on front) and arrived in Naples where it received 5 + 10 centesimi in postage dues.

Inevitably, by the time it arrived Mr Hatch had departed, to Fiume. The letter followed him, leaving Naples on 7th March and arriving in Fiume where dues of 12 + 2 + 1 Filler were applied on the 17th....

...by when, he had set sail for America! The R.M.S. Carpathia was owned by the Cunard Hungarian-American Shipping Line which operated the Trieste – New York route; she was built by Swan Hunter on the Tyne, launched on 6th Sept 1903, and sunk while on convoy duties on 17th July 1918. She is best known as the ship that first reached the Titanic's survivors in 1912 and picked up 705 from the lifeboats. Presumably Mr Hatch was on the Carpathia and his letter on the following boat.

It arrived in New York on the 29th March, and acquired yet more dues: 3 cents. It may even have caught up with Mr Hatch, as "Refused" is written in English in pencil on the front – perhaps he had received the news by another route. On the back is a triangular mark, from the New York dead letter department, dated 17th April.

Also on the envelope are a T-marking, crossed out in blue crayon; and a Hungarian "Return to sender" label applied over the "Refused".

Somehow, the letter made its way to Plymouth – there is no return address on the envelope but the contents must have included details.

And now it's in Lincoln!

The Joint Societies Meeting at the Latvian Club, Bradford, 8 August 2009

by Roger Morrell

A total of 25 people attended this year's event, the biggest attendance yet, organised by Yvonne Wheatley supported by husband Richard. As has become the normal format, a wide spread of Eastern European material was displayed, this time expanded to include representation from the Oriental Philatelic Association of London (OPAL) and the British Society of Russian Philately.



“Tallest at the back, shortest at the front...”

Despite this wide range, clear efforts were made by presenters to put their displays into historical context and to link them to the interests of the audience, like pieces in a philatelic jigsaw. The cast in order of appearance was as follows:

Pat Rothnie	Montenegro (history, stamps and postal history)
Philip Longbottom	Prestamp mail in the Ottoman Empire (mostly items from Turkey in Europe, including postman's mail lists)

Andy Taylor	First issues of Austria (and thus of today's Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, etc etc...)
Mervyn Benford	Hungarian railway station postmarks (noting P.U. (<i>palyudvár</i>), as opposed to postal agencies P.Ü (<i>postai ügyn</i>) with an accent on the Ü)
Edmund Jagielski	Internment camps for the Polish, 1938-45 (mail to and from Polish belligerents held in other countries, notably Hungary)
Reg Hounsell	The pneumatic post of Prague (postal stationery and the development of the Prague network in the Austrian period)
Garth Taylor	Czech forces in England (focusing on a correspondence to the USA with decorative envelopes and cancellations)
Barry Clarke	Postal agencies in Czechoslovakia before WW1 (<i>Postablage</i> , boxed cachets, often bilingual, on cards and letters from smaller towns and villages)
Keith Brandon	Hungarian postmarks (a range of the less usual for the period 1900-1920, including maritime, postage due, etc.)
Brian Madeley	Postmarks of Budapest (Ofen/Buda and Pest eventually merging to Budapest, 1800-1870s)
Reg Hounsell	Questions about individual items (with a Czech association – many of them answered by the audience)
John Whiteside	Parcel cards of Czechoslovakia 1919-1925 (inland and foreign cards, format and usage explained)
Hans Smith	Early mail from Croatia (pre-stamp, from the earliest usage in Karlstadt and Fiume, through the Napoleonic time, and finally under Austria)
Joyce Boyer	Railway commemorations in Austria (the centenaries and 150 th Anniversaries of various lines in Austria)
Roger Morrell	The Bulgarian occupation of Serbia and Montenegro (the Bulgarian operated mail service in occupied territory 1916-1918)
Alan Berrisford	Poland, stamps and postmarks of LOPP (the League for the Defence from Air and Gas Attack, 1918-1939)
Edward Klempka	Yugoslav forces in Russia 1919-1927 (a telegram correspondence concerning Yugoslavs trapped in Vladivostok after WWI)

Reg Hindley	Tannou Tuva (rarely seen stamps from the short-lived republic 1925-39)
Andy Taylor	Austro-Hungarian newspaper tax (examples of how newspapers were taxed from the earliest days till 1899)
John Whiteside	Hungarian Hyperinflation postage due usage (examples of cards, letters and parcels cards from May 1945 with postage due stamps)
Derek Baron	Mail from Olomouc, Czechoslovakia (various items associated with the town)
Joyce Boyer	Very recent Austrian post office issues (including 'personalised' stamps officially printed in quantities as low as 100)



Brian Madeley showing yet another rare stamp that had cost him 7/6d

Alas, time ran out before everyone had a chance to display everything they had brought with them, but there's always next year, as Yvonne said. This wide variety made for a very interesting day, with plenty of time for chat as well, aided and abetted by an excellent buffet lunch – and later by Yvonne's famous cakes. Many thanks were expressed by all those present to Yvonne for a most enjoyable day. Don't miss next year's event!

AMAZING ACQUISITIONS FROM THE WORLD'S FIRST AIRMAIL SERVICE

by Inger Kuzych

Previous articles in AUSTRIA, as well as a major contribution to last year's society Festschrift, introduced readers to the world's first regular and first international airmail service, which functioned between Vienna in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Kyiv in newly independent Ukraine. It operated from 31 March to 15 October 1918, i.e., during the last year of WWI. This line featured daily flights in both directions with intermediate stops in Krakau (Krakow, now in Poland) and Lemberg (Lviv, in present-day Ukraine); see Figure 1. Different planes flew each leg of the service with the mailbag quickly transferred from the arriving flight to the warmed-up-and-waiting departing plane.



Figure 1. The solid lines show the Vienna-Krakau-Lemberg-Kyiv air route of the world's first international airmail service. The dashed lines represent a proposed southern route into Ukraine that was never set up.

The flight distance between the two end points was about 1,200 km and the entire route was completed on average in about 12 hours. Most mails travelled between the Austrian cities of Vienna, Krakau, and Lemberg, with relatively few items carried onwards to Kyiv (and most of these were of military correspondence). On 31 March, three special Austrian airmail stamps (1.50, 2.50, and 4.00 kronen) were introduced for the civilian mail that began to be carried on that day.

For almost three weeks in July of 1918 (from the 4th to the 24th) a Vienna to Budapest leg also functioned as part of this airmail service. A considerable amount of mail was transported during this short time between these two major cities of the Empire, but this segment was discontinued after a couple of fatal crashes. Two special Hungarian airmail stamps were created for this service by overprinting two values of the Hungarian Parliament set “REPULO POSTA” (air mail): the 75 filler value was redesignated 1K 50f and the 2 Korona became 4K 50f.

We now skip ahead 90 years. During the closing months of 2008, I was involved in some prolonged negotiations with a renowned airmail collector from Germany who owned some of the finest covers flown on this first airmail service of 1918 and who used these items to help him win gold medals for his various airmail exhibits. The announcement at WIPA 2008 that he would be selling his holdings drew interest from collectors around the world.

Several times during our email correspondences I despaired of ever acquiring these materials and by the end of the year had given up hope entirely. Abruptly, however, in early January, the owner contacted me and let me know that he would be willing to let me have just the items from the 1918 service — exactly what I’d originally requested! This article will describe and illustrate all nineteen of the covers from this purchase plus one other first day cover that I acquired at about the same time.

Pre-Service Cover

Figure 2 (below) is a cover mailed on 20 March 1918 from Krakau to Lemberg. This item was flown on the very first day of the 11-day trial period (20-30 March) when experimental flights were made to test the feasibility of a regular airmail service (Figure 3). These flights carried only military dispatches, and as such did not require any stamps.

The card features three special handstamps. The three lines of the violet-blue marking in the upper left translate as: Imperial and Royal Air Reserve Troops / Air Reserve Battalion I / Air Reserve Company 10. The two-line handstamps, applied at the beginning and end points of the flight, read: Imperial and Royal Air Courier Service Vienna-Kyiv 1 Flight Station Krakau (or Lemberg) in red (or violet, respectively). Very few letters were carried on these experimental

junkets, and items from the very first day are amazingly scarce. This item was the third most expensive of all the items acquired.

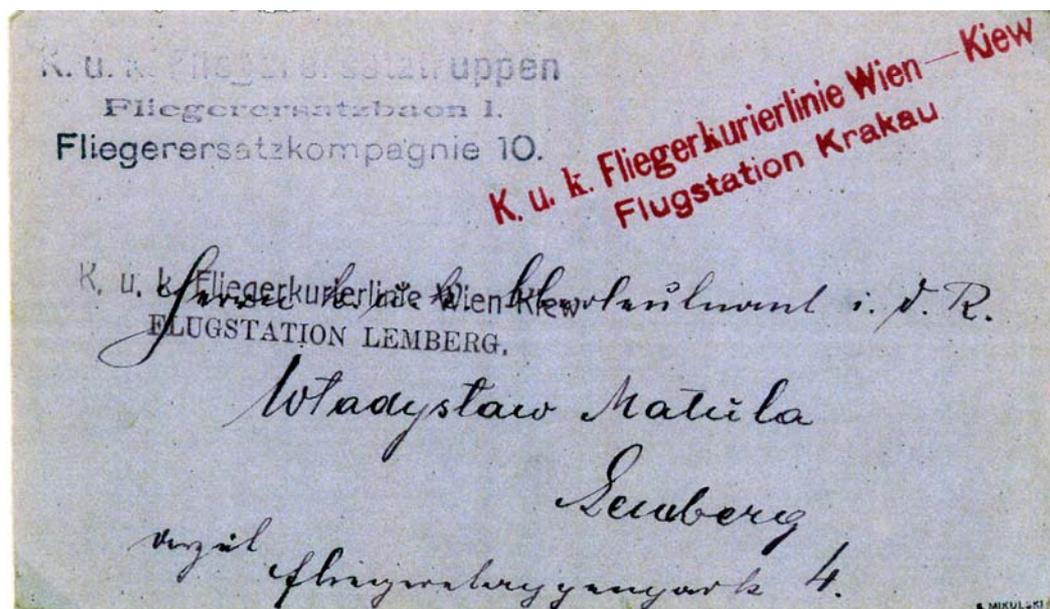


Figure 2. A letter sent on 20 March 1918, the very first day of the “practice flights” to test the feasibility of an airmail service.

Figure 3. The launching of the first regular airmail service in the world as depicted on an Austrian stamp from 1989.



Domestic Flights

Inaugural Flight Vienna to Lemberg. On 31 March 1918, the first-ever regular civilian airmail service was launched from Vienna to Lemberg (Figure 3). Initially, only military mail was carried on the final Lemberg-to-Kyiv leg. At the end of June 1918, this restriction was lifted and private mail was allowed to proceed all the way to Kyiv. Thus the Vienna-Krakov-Lemberg-Kyiv line became the “First Regular International Airmail Service in the World”.

The second cover (Figure 4) was carried on the first Vienna-to-Lemberg flight. The 15-heller stamp in the upper right paid the letter rate and 4 kronen paid for air delivery: a 1-krone handling charge and 1.5 kronen for each leg of the flight. This letter, however, is overfranked, since the sender wanted to affix all three new airmail stamps (totalling 8 kronen) on this the first day of their use. This is the one item that was not part of the negotiated purchase. Nonetheless, it is a very fine item with sharp cancellations.

The next cover (Figure 5) is of a card carried on this first civilian flight. Here the imprinted 8 heller paid the postal card rate while the 4 kronen paid for air delivery.



Figure 4. Letter mailed on the first civilian airmail flight from Vienna to Lemberg (Lviv) on 31 March 1918.



Figure 5. Postal card mailed on the first civilian airmail flight from Vienna to Lemberg (Lviv).

Single-Leg Flights. The item shown in Figure 6 is a sort of first day cover. Although dated 31 March, this first flight from Krakow to Vienna had to make a forced landing and the mail subsequently was forwarded by train. Attempted first flight covers between these two cities are actually valued about 30% more in Ferchenbauer than are regular first flight covers.



Figure 6. Cover carried on the first (unsuccessful) Krakow to Vienna flight. 31 March 1918.

The next item is a genuine first day cover (Figure 7), this time travelling in the opposite direction, Vienna-Krakow. Cancelled on the 30th, the day it was dropped off at the post office, the letter flew successfully on the following day. What makes this item especially nice is that it is correctly franked (1-krone handling charge, 1.5 kronen for a single leg, and 15 heller letter fee). Most first day covers were overfranked to carry the entire air mail set.



Figure 7. Letter from the first successful Vienna to Krakow flight of 31 March 1918.

Figure 8 presents both sides of a unique postcard mailed on 19 May 1918 from Lemberg to Krakau. Since this was only a one-leg mailing, the franking consists of just one airmail stamp of 2.50 kronen (1 krone handling plus 1.5 kronen for the one leg) plus a 10-heller stamp to cover the post card rate. What is especially noteworthy about this item is that it pictures the very plane on which it was carried! In addition, this card's value is further enhanced by the fact that it travelled on such a short stretch (most mails went further to Vienna the capital).



Figure 8. This post card from Lemberg to Krakau depicts the very plane on which it was flown!



Multiple-Weight-Increment Covers. The next covers mailed from Lemberg to Vienna (Figures 9 and 10) are a natural pair and were addressed to the same person (they are consecutively numbered in the bottom left) and flown together on the same flight (13 June 1918). They were both overweight and bear 13 kronen in airmail stamps to cover the cost for letters of the fourth weight increment (61-80 grams in weight). The fee is calculated as 1 krone for handling and 1.50 kronen for every 20 grams and for each flight segment ($8 \times 1.50 = 12$ kronen). Additionally, since this was a civilian letter, a regular stamp of 30 heller also needed to be applied (15 heller for the first 20 grams, 5 heller for each additional 20 grams).



Figures 9 and 10. Overweight letters (both weighing between 61 and 80 grams) sent together on the same flight from Lemberg to Vienna.

Such overweight covers are particularly sought after. The first item is attractive in that it shows all three airmail stamps properly used. (It is also illustrated in Ferchenbauer 2008, page 348.) The lower item is noteworthy in that it contains a complete block of six airmail stamps, something rarely encountered on covers.

Unusual Stamp Varieties. Upon first glance, the envelope in Figure 11 (mailed 16 May 1918 from Lemberg to Vienna) seems fairly typical. It bears 4 kronen in airmail stamps on the front and a regular 15-heller postage stamp on the reverse. What makes this item so special is the unusual perforation on the 2.50-kronen stamp. Virtually all of the airmail stamps produced for the airmail service display a perforation of 12½. However, a few hundred of the 2.50-kronen stamps (85,900 produced in total) were perforated 11½. Finding this stamp used on cover is almost like finding a needle in a haystack. Covers with this unusual variety are valued up to 20 times higher than typical covers from this airmail service.



Figure 11. The 2.50-kronen stamp on this cover bears a very rare perforation.

The cover in Figure 12 again does not initially seem to be anything special. Mailed on 7 July 1918, it is overfranked to display all three airmail stamps since the mailer wanted to show the entire stamp set. These three stamps, however, are part of the second printing (first released on 24 June 1918) which was on *cream-coloured* paper (the first printing was on gray-coloured paper). Far fewer covers bear stamps with this lighter paper variety.

Another thing that makes this cover noteworthy is that it was carried on a flight that experienced an emergency landing. Forced down by bad weather near the town of Selowitz, the mail was returned to Krakow by automobile the following day and reflight to Vienna on 9 July, as verified by a receiving cancel on the reverse.



Figure 13. This unusual cover was carried from Czernowitz (present day Chernivtsi) to Lemberg by train and then flown on to Vienna.



Figure 14. Post card sent as military mail from Kyiv to Vienna.

Included among the purchased covers were several overweight military dispatches carrying extra airmail stamps. Figure 15 shows such a cover flown on 30 June 1918 from Vienna via Krakow to Lemberg; it was of the second weight increment with 7 kronen in airmail stamps [a 1-krone handling charge,

and 1.50 kronen for every 20 grams and each flight segment; 4 x 1.50 = 6 kronen]. Since only official military messages were being transmitted, i.e., no civilian mail was included, letter fees were waived and no regular postage stamps needed to be applied.

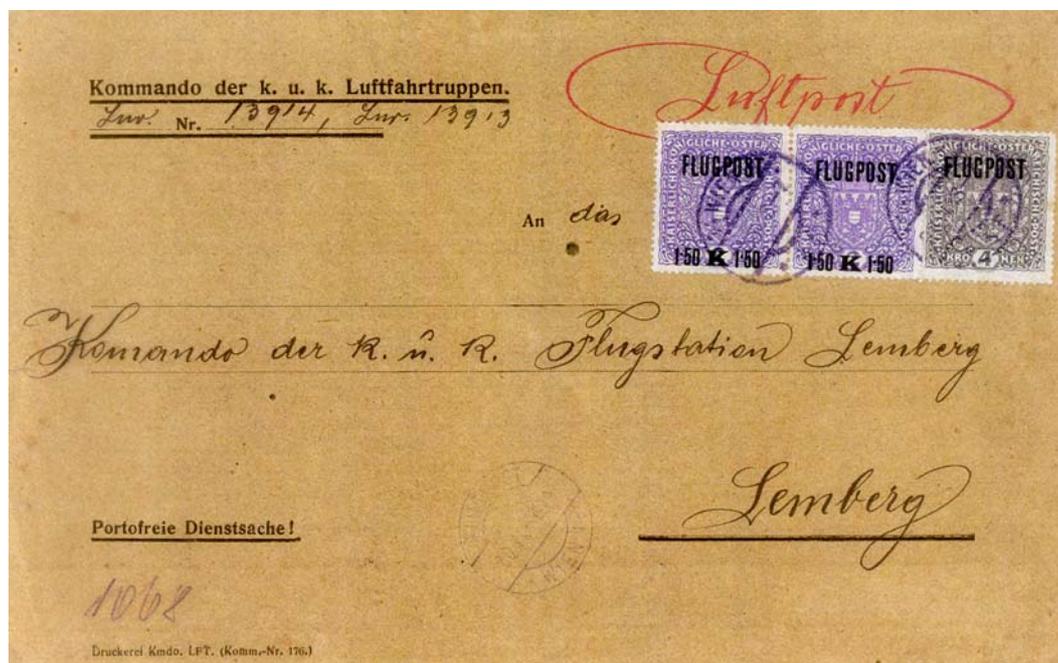


Figure 15. Overweight military dispatch flown from Vienna to Lemberg.



Figure 16. Very heavy military letter (weighing between 181 and 200 grams) sent from Krakow to Lemberg.

The next item (Figure 16) was only flown on one leg from Krakow to Lemberg (on 9 May 1918), but it was substantially heavier, weighing between 181 and 200 grams (10th weight increment). Here the postage would have been a 1-krone

airmail handling charge plus 1.50 kronen for every weight step (1.50 x 10 = 15) or 16 kronen total. This amount was covered with a block of four 4-kronen airmail stamps. Since a civilian letter was included, an additional 15-heller stamp was affixed. The cover also displays a two-line “Flugstation Lemberg” (Flight Station Lemberg) marking that is not often encountered. All in all, quite an amazing piece.

The final military item is even more spectacular and may well be **the heaviest item flown during the entire seven and a half months that the airmail service functioned** (Figure 17). Flown from Vienna to Lemberg on 21 May 1918, it weighed 468 grams (just over a pound) and carried no less than 19 airmail stamps (totalling 73 kronen) that paid postage for the 24th weight increment! (No other cover from this service has ever been described that even approaches its total weight.) It was this item — quite possibly the rarest from this first airmail service — that was my chief interest while pursuing the arduous negotiation process. Needless to say, it was also the priciest of the covers purchased.



Figure 17. This oversized packet may well have been the heaviest object flown on the first airmail service; it weighed 468 grams (about a pound).

Here again, because only military dispatches were being sent, the packet was “postage free” and did not require ordinary postage. The many airmail stamps simply represent payment for the extra weight (similar to the item shown in Figure 15).

Flights Between the Capitals

First Budapest to Vienna Flight. The first flight from Budapest to Vienna on 4 July 1918 carried 520 pieces of mail (as well as 300 telegrams) and was piloted by an Austrian Captain Ralt von Marwil. He was accompanied by a Hungarian pilot. Lt. Emil Varga, in order to make this first flight a truly international (Austrian and Hungarian) endeavour (Figure 18). The pilots made this inaugural trip of some 225 km in a Hansa-Brandenburg aircraft; it took just over two hours (from 10:30 to 12:33), arriving twenty minutes late because they had to

fly around a storm. They handed over their mail pouches to waiting representatives of the Vienna Main Post Office.



Figure 18. Loading the mail in preparation for the first Budapest to Vienna flight, 4 July 1918.

The Hungarian air rates were a bit more complicated than those in the Austrian half of the empire.

- ❖ In addition to normal postage (10 filler for postal cards and 20 filler for regular letters),
- ❖ a 60 filler express (special delivery) fee was required, and a registry fee of 25 filler was charged when applicable.
- ❖ Additionally, there was a 1 Korona delivery (handling) charge for transporting mail from the Budapest Main Post Office to the airport.
- ❖ Finally, the airmail surcharge consisted of 1.50 Korona for each 20 grams of weight and for each flight segment.

The obverse of the cover in Figure 19 shows a 1K 50f airmail stamp, while the reverse bears 1.80 Korona in franking (20f letter rate + 60f express fee + 1K handling fee), as well as a Vienna 4 July arrival cancel.

All mail on this first flight displayed the hand-written word “*expresse*”, i.e., special delivery. The blue pencilled marks were in some instances (as on this cover) erased by a well-meaning collector seeking to “clean up” his covers. Nevertheless, the word can still be faintly made out in the lower left corner. The requirement for this inscription was dropped after the first few days of the service.

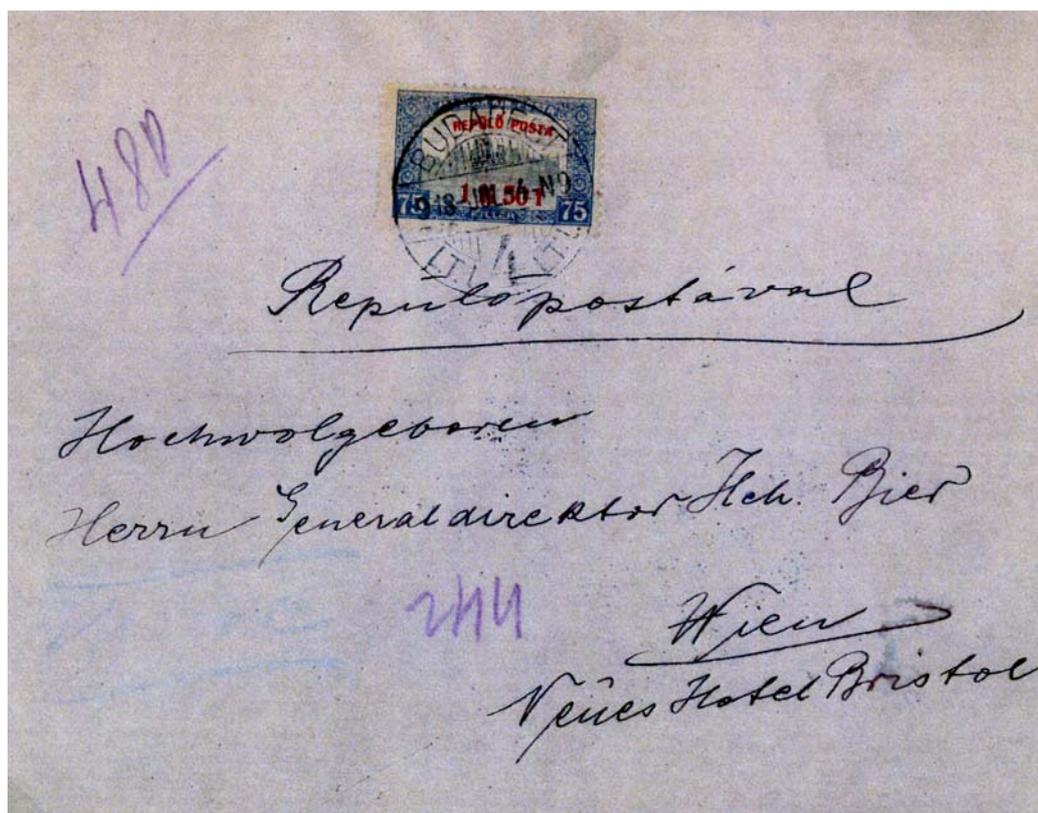


Figure 19. Cover carried on the first Budapest to Vienna flight.

First Budapest to Krakow Flight. As mentioned above, Hungarian airmail letters were permitted to be sent registered. This practice differed from the Austrian regulations, which did not allow registered mail to be carried on flights originating in Vienna. Most registered items flown consisted of official mail and dispatches that never became available to philatelists. Therefore, registered airmail from Budapest is quite scarce.

The item illustrated in Figure 20, however, is unique. Until recently, no registered letters were recorded as having been flown on the first flight from Budapest. It was thought that perhaps a few might have been included in the 520 letter total to Vienna, but none was recorded to either Krakow or Lemberg. Recently a registered letter to Lemberg was reported; now the cover in Figure 20 verifies that a registered letter also travelled from Budapest to Krakow on 4 July.

The 5.05 Korona franking breaks down as follows: 20f letter rate + 25f registry fee + 60f express fee + 1K handling fee + 3K airmail delivery (for two flight legs: 1.5K + 1.5K). There is no doubt that this is one of the finest pieces from this first airmail service. Note the bold blue **expresse** in the lower left.

First Vienna to Budapest Flight. Figure 21 displays a cover flown on the first return flight to Budapest. Although the stamps are cancelled 4 July (the day they were dropped off at the post office), the departure cancel underneath shows 5 July as does the arrival cancel. A total of 263 items are reported to have been carried on this flight.



Figure 20. The only known cover that travelled from Budapest all the way to Krakow on the first day of the Hungarian airmail service, 4 July 1918.



Figure 21. A cover flown on the first return trip Vienna to Budapest on 5 July 1918.

During the next three weeks, the planes left Budapest's Mátásföld Airport between 16:00 and 17:00 and arrived in Vienna about 19:00. The mail for destinations beyond Vienna was kept overnight and dispatched with the airmail that left the next morning heading further east. The plane that had flown to Vienna in the evening returned to Budapest the following morning with mail from the Austrian capital.

Vienna to Budapest — without Air Mail Stamps. The next cover is another astonishingly exceptional item (Figure 22). It is one of only two airmail items I have ever seen from this service that did not carry any airmail stamps! (A third cover was once mentioned to me, but it remains unconfirmed.)



Figure 22. The franking on this rare cover is composed solely of regular postage stamps, not airmail stamps.

The piece flew on 9 July 1918 and displays the correct franking of 2.65 Kronen (15 heller letter rate + 1K handling fee + 1.5K air mail fee). In terms of rarity, this item ranks with covers from Budapest to Kyiv, of which only three are reportedly known (two of which I have seen and can verify). It was the most expensive of the Hungarian-related items purchased.

Last Budapest to Vienna Flight. Some published reports which state that the link to Hungary closed because of lack of use are not credible. The numbers speak for themselves:

- ❖ Budapest-Vienna and other Austrian destinations - 6,247 items

- ❖ Budapest-Krakow - 409 items
- ❖ Budapest-Lemberg - 200 items
- ❖ Vienna-Budapest - 2,411 items.

In reality, the shutdown was caused by a couple of unfortunate plane crashes, the first on 13 July and the second on 21 July, both of which saw the two-man crews killed. The Empire's resources were already considerably stretched by this time in the war and planes and crew were not easily replaced. Since the original plan to set up a second air service to Odessa had been abandoned, the need for a regular Budapest-Vienna mail link could no longer be justified. Nonetheless, a military air courier service continued to operate between the two capitals until the last days of the war.



Figure 23. Overweight cover carried on the last Budapest to Vienna flight on 23 July 1918.

The last flight from Hungary's capital (23 July 1918) carried either 148 or 154 pieces of mail (the sources are unclear) most of them registered. What makes the item in Figure 23 so special, however, is that it was not only registered, but severely overweight (the fourth weight step, somewhere between 61 and 80 grams). The 8.20 Korona franking consisted of: 35f letter rate + 25f registry + 60f express fee + 1K handling fee + 6K airmail (1.5K for each weight

increment). A very nice piece, especially since it displays **both** airmail stamps — something that doesn't crop up all that frequently.

According to the Austrian Ferchenbauer handbook, very heavy mailings of this type are worth at least five times what a typical flight cover goes for. Since this was a special last-flight item, its overall value was quite high. It was the second most expensive of the covers flown to or from Budapest.

In conclusion, I feel very fortunate to have been able to obtain these extraordinarily rare items, many of which have never been previously described. This article is the first complete report not only of the acquisition of these items but, for some of the objects, the very first announcement of their existence. I plan to further publicise the materials in the philatelic literature and to show most of them extensively as part of my ever-growing "Lemberg" exhibit.

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5. Kuzych, Inger. "The World's First Regular and First International Airmail Service" in *A Celebration of Austrian Philately*. (Austrian Philatelic Society, 2008): 1-46.
6. Szilagyi, Paul J. "1918 Airmail". *Stamps of Hungary* No. 169 (June 2007): 9-26.

SPECIAL SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

The four covers described in this article that travelled between Budapest and Vienna are available for sale! Although the author ardently collects items from this airmail service, he specialises in collecting covers from the Austrian routes eastward toward Krakow, Lemberg, and Kyiv. He is, therefore, willing to part with his recently obtained items that travelled between the capitals of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Vienna and Budapest.

Contact Inger Kuzych at: ingert@starpower.net or at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150, U.S.A.

FORM OF THE QUARTER

By Andy Taylor

3665 Gutenbrunn
Bez. Zwettl

Postamt
Monat FEBRUAR 19. 2001

Ausweis
über Verschleißeranteile

GUTENBRUNN, BEZ. ZWETTL
28-2.01-15
3665
Ort-Stampel

Lfd. Nr.	Tag	Nr.	Name des Verschleißers	Betrag der Fassung		%	Verschleißeranteil		Anmerkung
				S	g		Betrag	Tagessumme	
1	2.	3437	PECKSTEINER	700	-	7	49	49	14
2	9.	3440	HAHN ANNA	770	~	7	5390	5390	BL 01
				1470	~		10290	10290	Sk
3	13.	3437	JOSEF PECKSTEINER	850	~	7	5950	5950	BL 15
				2320	~		16240	16240	Sk
4	23.	3437	JOSEF PECKSTEINER	700	-	7	49	49	BL 16
				3020	~		21140	21140	Sk
Übertrag/Summe									

661 064 900. GZ 16 393/III-41/80. - Österreichische Staatsdruckerei. 4875 5 ads/efa 5 4 3 2 1

112 6

Form Title:
Ausweis über Verschleißeranteile.

Post Office
cachet: 3665
Gutenbrunn
Bez. Zwettl

Cancellations:
Gutenbrunn
Bez. Zwettl /
d / -2.-2.01.-
15 / 3665 at
top; same but
28.-2.01-5 at
bottom.

Top part lists
Verschleißer
names, cash
amounts and
calculations
of 7% thereof.

The second
form is an
order for 240
stamps, with
the same
name & date
as entry 2 in
the top form.

Verschleißerverzeichnis Nr. 3440 01

Post
Ausweis über
Verschleißerprovisionen Nr. 2

Gattung	Stück	Das Stück zu S	Betrag	
			S	g
Briefmarken	100	7	700	00
Briefmarken	140	0,50	70	00
Summe des Betrages:			770	00
Ab 7% Verschleißerprovision:			53	90
Bareinzahlung:			716	10

661 009 410. GZ 2005-PN/99 - BAUER/TW/799

Ort BARNKOPF, 09.02.2001 Datum

HANN ANNA
KAUF-TANST. TRAFIK
3665 BARNKOPF 112
TELEFAX 0287718278

EUR: € c

Mitarbeiter/In. Österreichische Post AG

GUTENBRUNN
28-2.01-15
3665
Ort-Stampel
UID: ATU 49674503
BVR 1008803

What is all this for? First try the Regulations. Go to the Austrian Post web site www.post.at If necessary, click “English” under the logo at top left. In the ‘Search’ box at top right enter Verschleisser. Click the little arrow to execute the search – bingo! Three matches. Lets try the first one: Aha. A picture of a Tabac appears, plus the heading “Retailer Service” which is expanded on the left side into four subheadings: Retailer Agreement, Centralised Collection, Order Form, and Special-Issue Stamps. Let’s examine what these say.

“THE VERSCHLEISSER-SERVICE”

Retailer Service.

Retailers are employed and self-employed tobacconists who are authorised to operate a tobacco store pursuant to the Tobacco Monopoly Act of 1968 and the "general terms of contract for tobacconists". For information provided by the representative association of tobacconists, please visit the web site of the federal committee of tobacconists. You can register for our retailer service from July 2008 at the postal branch of your choice.

Retailer Agreement.

To become a distribution partner of Austrian Post, you need to register as a retailer first. The basis for the retail sale of stamps are the Retailer Provisions (*attached to the page as a PDF file*). To register, you need proof of your retailing activity, and two copies of the retailer agreement, signed & with your company seal affixed. You choose a postal branch which will then be your Collection Postal Branch. And you send it all to Österreichische Post AG, Verschleißer-Service. Postgasse 8. 1010 Vienna

Centralized Collection.

Distribution partners of Austrian Post can order their stamps and telephone cards by letter, fax, or email. Monthly delivery is free. Invoicing is via direct debit (amount due will be debited three days after delivery) [*Or you can collect in person, paying in cash in full in advance.*]

Order Form.

Every delivery includes an updated order or collection form for next time. [*This form shows what can and cannot be ordered, and the quantities involved. It's reproduced on the next page.*]

Special-Issue Stamps.

Due to the considerably smaller number of copies printed, special-issue stamps are available for retailers in limited quantities only. We differentiate between classic special issue stamps and message stamps.

Message stamps are intended for resale and are available for purchase through our centralized collection service by using your order form only. Austrian Post issues message stamps for different occasions and subjects (eg Christmas).

Fassung von Postwertzeichen/Telefonwertkarten

Satz- und Druckfehler vorbehalten / Solange der Vorrat reicht

Österreichische Post AG
Philatelie
Steinheilgasse 1
1210 Wien

Telefon 057767 95 096

Telefax 057767 95 196

e-mail verschleisser@post.at

Familienname (der zum Verschleiß berechtigten Person):

Kunden-Nummer:

	Einheit	SAP-CODE	Einzelwert EUR	Gesamtwert EUR	Stück	Wert
Dauermarke Trauer	100	100060700	0,55	55,--		
Dauermarke Glückwunsch	100	100060710	0,55	55,--		
Dauermarke Alpenblume	100	100061550	0,55	55,--		
Dauermarke Schneerose	100	100061750	0,75	75,--		
Dauermarke Frühlingsblumen	100	100062250	1,25	125,--		
Dauermarke Veilchen	100	100062000	1,--	100,--		
Dauermarke Bildstock Hochosterwitz / Kärnten	100	201010375	3,75	375,--		
Dauermarke Löwenzahn	100	100061040	0,04	4,--		
Dauermarke Alpen-Goldregen	100	100061100	0,10	10,--		
Dauermarke Frauenschuh	100	100061150	0,15	15,--		
Dauermarke Schneeball	100	100061650	0,65	65,--		
Dauermarke Fransenezian	100	100062150	1,15	115,--		
Dauermarke Waldrebe	100	100062400	1,40	140,--		
Dauermarke Akelei	100	100061500	0,50	50,--		
NEU: 100er Rolle selbstklebend „Alpenbock“	1	100071061	0,75	75,--		
25er Rolle selbstklebend „Burg Landskron“	1	100071041	0,55	13,75		
25er Rolle selbstklebend „Sammlung Essl“	1	100060871	0,55	13,75		
100er Rolle selbstklebend „Schleiereule“	1	100071051	0,55	55,--		
25er Rolle selbstklebend WIPA 2008	1	100071031	0,55	13,75		
25er Rolle selbstklebend UEFA EURO 2008™ - Logo	1	100071011	0,65	16,25		
NEU: Sondermarke „Maximilian Schell“	50	100208390	1,--	50,--		
Sondermarke „Europa 2008 – Briefschreiben“	50	100208310	0,65	32,50		
Sondermarke „Michael Blümelhuber“	50	100207320	0,75	37,50		
Sondermarke „100.Todestag J. M. Olbrich“	10	100208350	0,65	6,50		
Sondermarke „Akt auf Marke - Dina Larot“	50	100208380	0,55	27,50		
Sondermarke „70. Geb. Bundespräs. Dr. H. Fischer“	50	100208440	0,55	27,50		
Sondermarke „Bregenzerwaldbahn, Reihe U“	50	100207260	0,75	37,50		
Sondermarke „Kardinal Franz König“	50	201204810	1,--	50,--		
Vorratssack Marken.Set Fußball, 10 Stück à 0,55	1	201100016	5,50	5,50		
Tierschutz.Post Europa Frosch & Vogel 10 Stk à 0,65	1	100070020	6,50	6,50		
NEU: Tierschutz.Post Bienenfr.& Biene 10 Stk à 0,55	1	100070050	5,50	5,50		
Tierschutz.Post Inland Hummels.& Wiedehopf à 0,75	1	100070040	7,50	7,50		
Glückwunsch.Set: 5 Karten & Marken à 0,55	1	100580601	5,--	5,--		
Postkarte „Hauptplatz Linz“, 10er-Set	1	100410911	5,50	5,50		
Postkarte „550. Geb. Kaiser Maximilian I.“ 10er-Set	1	100410912	5,50	5,50		
Briefumschlag Stephansdom C6, 10er-Set	1	201441010	6,50	6,50		
Briefumschlag Kunsthaus Graz, C5/6, 10er-Set	1	201441008	6,50	6,50		
Briefumschlag Albertina, mit Fenster, 10er-Set	1	201441009	6,50	6,50		
Einschreib-Etikett à EUR 2,10, Rolle 100 Stück	1	201600063	205,80	205,80		
Einschreib-Etikett à EUR 2,10, Packung 50 Stück	1	201600062	102,90	102,90		
Einschreib-Etikett à EUR 2,10, Set zu 3 Stück	1	201600061	6,30	6,30		
Telefonwertkarte € 3,60	25	201500360	3,60	90,--		
Telefonwertkarte € 6,90	25	201500690	6,90	172,50		
Datum:	Unterschrift:			Gesamt:		

Special issue stamps are available as subscriptions only. Since special issue stamps are not intended to be resold, but to be collected, there is no discount for resellers. For information about our stamp subscriptions, please go to <http://www.philatelie.at/>.

*I'll repeat the last paragraph of Special-Issue Stamps,
in case you missed it:*

**Since special issue stamps are not intended to be resold,
but to be collected...**

[or in the German version "Da diese für Sammler und nicht für den Handel bestimmt sind"] - That explains quite a lot ☺

Buried on the Opost web site are:

- ❖ A Verschleißer is not only the classic "Tabaktrafik" but also a "Wiederverkäufer mit Gewerbeschein", ie a reseller with an official piece of paper allowing him to do so. It's unclear to me if this is a named person or a business.
- ❖ The Provision, ie the discount or commission, was 7% until April 2001; it was reduced to 2% from 1 May 2001 but raised to 3% in January 2004. [*Other figures have been quoted to me, but these are the ones used on the forms illustrated here. It's not widely-publicised! The important aspect is the principle.*]
- ❖ The restrictions on the availability of Sondermarken to a Verschleißer are repeated several times; the best guide is the current order form. [*which changes frequently*]
- ❖ The Verschleißer is responsible for all errors of commission and omission!
- ❖ The Verschleißer may only sell stamps on or after their date of validity even if stocks arrive in advance; and must sell them at their face value.
- ❖ The Inspector, Taxman, Accountant and all such may descend upon the poor Verschleißer at any time.

Verschleißverzeichnis Nr. 1930 03 Ausweis über Verschleißeranteile Nr. 2

1 Gattung	2 Stück	3 Das Stück zu S	4 Betrag	
			S	g
	200	6,50	1300,-	
	200	7,-	1400,-	
Summe des Betrages ..			2700,-	
Ab 7% Verschleißeranteile ..			189,-	
Bareinzahlung ..			2511,-	

Anzahl	Noten Münzen	Betrag	
		S	g
	5000		
2	1000	2000,-	
1	500	500,-	
2	100	200,-	
	50		
	20		
	50		
	25		
	20		
	10		
	5		
	1		
	-50		
	-10		
	-05		
Summe		2700,-	

TABAK TRAFIK
 355 875 13 1074
 KOSSNER LEOPOLD
 3874 LITSCHAU
 020007 220

Unterschrift des Beamten: *[Signature]*

LITSCHAU a. d. R. 13.11.97-16
3874

661 009 410. GZ 19920/III-41/81. - ÖSD. 933242 d/f/o 5 4 3 2

Verschleißverzeichnis Nr. 1630 23 Ausweis über Verschleißeranteile Nr. 1

1 Gattung	2 Stück	3 Das Stück zu S	4 Betrag	
			S	g
Briefmarken	100	6,50	650,-	
"	100	7,-	700,-	
Summe des Betrages ..			1350,-	
Ab 7% Verschleißeranteile ..			94,50	
Bareinzahlung ..			1255,50	

Anzahl	Noten Münzen	Betrag	
		S	g
	5000		
1	1000	1000,-	
	500		
3	100	300,-	
1	50	50,-	
	20		
	50		
	25		
	20		
	10		
	5		
	1		
	-50		
	-10		
	-05		
Summe		1350,-	

Litschau 13.10.97
 Larina Frasch
 Unterschrift des Verschleißers

Unterschrift des Beamten: *[Signature]*

LITSCHAU a. d. R. 13.11.97-16
3874

661 009 410. GZ 19920/III-41/81. - ÖSD. 933242 d/f/o 5 4 3 2

Individual-retailer stamp-ordering forms from Litschau.
 The year is 1997 and the discount 7%.

Ausweis
über Verschleißeranteile

Postamt **3874 Litschau**
Monat **Oktober 19 97**



Lfd. Nr.	Tag	Nr.	Name des Verschleißers	Betrag der Fassung		%	Verschleißeranteil				Anmerkung
				Übertrag			Betrag		Tagessumme		
				s	g		s	g	s	g	
1	13	1632	Fritz Kreuzer	1350	-7	9450				-23	
2	11	1430	Leopold Kreuzer	2700	-7	1890			28350	-03	
3	10	1436	Prinzess Kreuzer	1450	-7	10150			10150	-07	
4	22	98	Elisabeth Kreuzer	700	-7	490			490	-10	
5	23	1426	Prinzess Kreuzer	1400	-7	980			980	-08	
6	27	1430	Leopold Kreuzer	2800	-7	1960			1960	-04	
7	28	1632	Fritz Kreuzer	2700	-7	1890			1890	-24	
8	4	1430	Leopold Kreuzer	800	-7	560			2450	-05	
Übertrag / Summe				13900	X	970			970		



P. KVD. 1-549 A GZ. 16.393/III-41/80 - III/85 S 400 N

112 | 6

A summary sheet from Litschau for October 1997.
Possibly the Christmas stocks?

NOTES FROM CROYDON

Andy et al

Proceedings began as is traditional with an Auction on the Friday evening, featuring 110 varied lots of which 63 were sold at an average of £17.31. Over half the successful bids were by post, so the postal strike couldn't have been better timed ☺

Saturday consisted of displays by those present, interspersed by breaks for refreshment (or should that be refreshments interrupted by displays?). A competition on 'J' followed by a Bourse preceded dinner; on Sunday Hans Smith showed part of his "**Postal History of Bosnia**" which was followed by the AGM and the Review. Saturday displays included:

Alan Berrisford: Perfins [*which were introduced by Postverordnungsblatt 23 of 4 April 1877*]

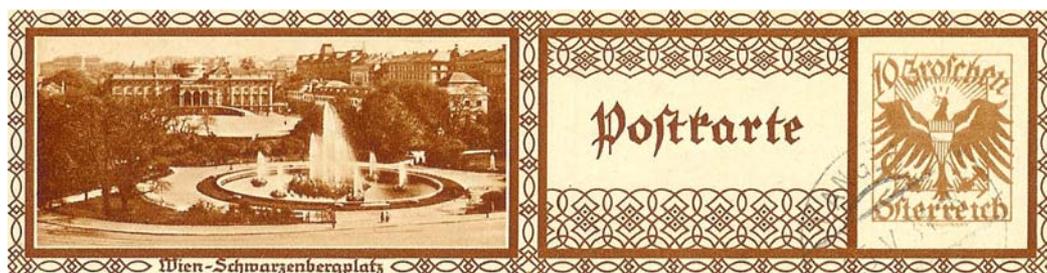
Keith Brandon: Postmarks of the Postmarkless Period [*see separate article*]

Keith Brandon: Prephilatelic Postmarks of Prossnitz [*beginning in Feb 1818; all 7 of them, several with colour varieties*]

Joyce Boyer: 150 years of Austrian Railways [*also 100, 125 ...; the 150th was made much of by special cancel sellers!*]

Joyce Boyer: WIPA 1933 also Modern Austria [*especially the difficulties in displaying it*]

Martin Brumby: 1927-30 Picture Stationery Cards [*researches into their availability and printing*]



Barry Clark: TPOs

Barry Clark: Postablagen from interesting places

Geoff Frost: Austrian Philatelic Exhibitions [*1909, 1911 ...*]

Geoff Frost: Austria in the Turkish Empire [*also Turkish Troops in Poland – but were they Albanians?*]

James Hooper: Anschluss [*and 3rd Reich*]

John May: Vienna 1941 also 'Austrian Airlines First Flights' with U.N. stamps

Clive Murray: Austrian Navy [*mainly destroyers*]

Geoff Richardson: Costume Flaws

Andy Taylor: Music Hath Charms [*special postcards, special cancels. The display was mounted on a single oversized sheet, which had been difficult to transport and despite his lengthy explanations didn't seem to offer much advantage over row-sized long sheets. Recipient of the Nick Harty Award for the display least conforming to the stated requirements!*]

Paul Taylor: Postal History from A-Z [*items posted to places beginning A, B etc*]

Paul Taylor: 1916-1918 Covers

Henry White: Postal Stationery Cards – the Buildings and Scenic Series [*highlighting the enormous number of design variations, most having no obvious cause or justification.*]

Alan Berrisford: Galicia 1818-1850 [*the material is plain but exceedingly rare!*]

Fest Weekend Picture Gallery:



The photo is misleading – some philatelists do have hair; and all have heads.



Above: viewing the displays. Below: the Bourse.





Keith Brandon won the letter-J competition for "The Julian Calendar"



Barry explaining a Postablage problem.

The 2009 New Issues (ii)

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.

850th anniversary of the founding of St. Pölten



0.55€ FDC: 2 May; issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

In 1159 St. Pölten obtained the first town charter of modern Austria. In 1481 it was pledged to the Hungarian king, but when he was expelled Maximilian I claimed the town as booty in the Peace of Bratislava. In the 17th and 18th centuries, St. Pölten flourished, gaining its attractive appearance with the cathedral, the town hall facade, the Church of the Carmelites, the Convent of the English Ladies and various palaces. In 1785, the bishopric was transferred from Wiener Neustadt to the town. In 1986, St. Pölten was made the capital of the province of Lower Austria, and since 1997 has also been the seat of the Lower Austrian provincial government.

100th anniversary of the launch of the Thalia propeller steamer



0.55€ FDC: 7 May; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Dr. Stefan Klampferer; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

“With this new commemorative, the Austrian Post Office is celebrating what is without doubt a unique piece of floating culture”; the German text is somewhat more helpful (!) saying that the Thalia is one of the last screw-propeller steam-driven boats in Europe. Built in Dresden in 1909, it was taken out of service in 1974 but repaired in 1988 and is now the flagship of the Wörthersee fleet. The 2-cylinder engine produces 110kW; the ship is 40 metres long and displaces 91 tonnes. 300 passengers can enjoy its restaurant, bar and saloons.

Religious art in Austria - Baptismal font in the Old Cathedral, Linz



0.55€, FDC: 8 May; Printing: Engraved-recess; Design & engraving: Mag. Robert Trsek; Printed: ÖSD.

The Old Cathedral was constructed from 1669 to 1678 and is renowned for the spaciousness of the single-nave building. The Diocese of Linz was founded in 1784; by the end of the 19th century Linz had grown so much that a new larger cathedral was built.

An important feature of the Old Cathedral is the famous “Bruckner Organ”, originally made for the Engelszell Monastery Church but moved to Linz when the Cistercian monastery was dissolved. The organ was adapted especially according to the wishes of Anton Bruckner, who was cathedral organist here from 1855 to 1868.

140th anniversary of the Vienna State Opera House



1€, FDC: 25 May; Issue: 400,000; Printing: Offset; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.

Viewed from the Opernring, i.e. from the front, one sees the historic part of this elegant building that has survived from the original of 1869. The facades are in the Renaissance style, while the loggia on the Ringstrasse side impressively underlines the public character of the opera house. Although much of the interior of the old Opera House was destroyed on 12 March 1945, the main facade, the central staircase with the “ceremonial stairs”, the “Schwind” foyer and the Tea Salon on the first floor were all spared.



Formula 1 Legends - 3

4x0.55€, FDC: 27 May; Issue: 250,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Printed by: ÖSD. This block of stamps brings the Formula One Legends series to its provisional end.



200th anniversary of the Battle of Aspern and Essling

1€10; FDC: 4 June; Issue: 300,000; Printing: Offset; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: ÖSD. Block issue.

The Battle of Aspern took place on 21 and 22 May 1809 between the Napoleonic armies and Austria, near the villages of Aspern and Essling (now part of Vienna). It was of historic importance because it was the first time Napoleon was defeated on the battlefield.

Europe 2009 - Astronomy



0€65; FDC: 5 June; Issue: 600,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul; Printed: ÖSD

Under the direction of the Technical University of Graz, experts from Austrian universities have constructed the first Austrian satellite, TUGSAT-1, which is equipped with telescope, computer, mass memory and memory controls, thermal controls, power supply and data transmission; it will weigh only around 6 kg. An astronomical camera on board opens up new possibilities for exploring the stars.

UNESCO World Heritage List: Graz historic old town centre



1€; FDC: 12 June; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Engraved-recess printing; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraver: Professor Wolfgang Seidel.

For background information see the article on World Heritage Sites, AUSTRIA 167 page 70.

100 years of the Wiener Neustadt airfield



1€40; FDC: 12 June; Issue: 250,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma.

On June 11, 1909 the municipal council of Wiener Neustadt resolved that: "For the purpose of promoting mechanical flight, the municipal council shall construct an aeroplane hall on a plot of land located at Wöllerdorferstrasse on the Steinfeld, shall

make the plots of land in this area available to the tenants of the hall for purposes of flight trials, and shall permit other interested parties to construct similar halls." It opened on November 17, 1909, three hangars accommodated the first Imperial and Royal military aircraft.

Animals - Longhorn beetle - Box of 100 stamps



0€75; FDC: 19 June; Issue: 4,130,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Self Adhesive Stamps

The Rosalia longhorn has antennae up to twice as long as the body in males, and the same length in females. The coloration serves as good camouflage with their preferred habitat, the European Beech. They are found from the Alps east to Slovakia.

100 years of the Wachau Railway



0€75; FDC: 20 June; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Engraved-recess; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraver: Prof. Gerhart SchmirL.

Opened in 1909, the line runs through the Danube regions of Wachau, Nibelungengau and Strudengau, linking the towns of Krems, Grein and St. Valentin. The journey is full of variety, running past vineyards and historical sites, following the course of the Danube. The landscape is characterised

by natural beauties such as the terraces of the old vineyards as well as numerous cultural monuments.

Animals - honeybee and bee-eater



10 x 0.55; FDC: 28 June; Issue: 650,000; Printing: Photogravure; Design: **Hannes Margreiter**; Self Adhesive Stamps in a set of 10 on a yellow card like previous issues.

Anemones



0.55; FDC: 1 Sept; Issue: 200,000; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé.

This stamp was issued as a “loyalty bonus gift for 2009” to Opost subscribers. It shows a bunch of anemones, based on an ancient depiction in the ‘Florilegium of Prince Eugen of Savoy’ which is kept in the Austrian National Library.

60 years since the filming of “The Third Man”

0.65; FDC: 2 Sept; Issue: 900,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The story was set in Vienna after the Second World War. The city is divided into five zones, one administered by each of the occupying forces, the USA, the Soviet Union, France and the UK, plus the international zone administered jointly by all four. The black market is flourishing, and anyone who resists the gangs of black marketers ends up in the Danube. One of the most famous scenes is without doubt the chase through the



extensive sewers (in reality nearly all was a stage set at Pinewood Studios built by Hans Smith's Uncle Bert!), in which Harry Lime, played by Orson Welles, is injured by gunfire and then, trapped in an exit shaft, is finally shot dead. The theme music, played on the Zither, is perhaps even better known than the film!

20th anniversary of the opening of the border between Hungary and Austria



0€65; FDC: 10 Sept; Issue: 1,000,000; Printing: Offset; Design: I. Benedek; Printed by: Hungarian Banknote Printing Co.

This joint issue, “20th anniversary of the opening of the border between Hungary and Austria”, is the commemoration by the post offices of Hungary, Germany and Austria of one of the most important political events of recent history. The fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 led to permanent changes in and for Europe, not only from a political point of view but also for the economy and society.

Commemorative block "Carnuntum-Gerulata Roman excavations"



0€55 & 0€65; FDC: 11 Sept; Issue: 250,000; Printing: Engraved-recess; Block issue, jointly by Austria and Slovakia.

Carnuntum, just past Schwechat, was founded by the Roman general Tiberias roughly 2000 years ago and became the capital of the province of Upper Pannonia. At its greatest, Carnuntum occupied an area of around 10 square km and had a population of some 50,000. It was a base for the Roman Danube fleet. Hadrian raised Carnuntum to the status of a town, Septimus Severus made it a “colonia”. After the Romans withdrew in the middle of the fifth century, Carnuntum increasingly sank into oblivion.

Gerulata was a Roman military camp close to modern Rusovce, a district of the Slovakian capital Bratislava. The camp was abandoned in the 4th century; the best surviving building is the foundations of a square house 30 by 30 metres, with walls roughly 2½ metres thick.

Day of the Stamp 2009



2€5+1€30; FDC: 11 Sept; Issue: 500,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Special issue with surcharge

The MS Österreich was ceremoniously launched on July 29, 1928. It survived WWII as a rundown wreck, and after lengthy restoration made its second highly acclaimed maiden voyage in the summer of 1953. The MS Österreich with its three salons has a capacity of 600, including seating for 230 inside. Catering for the passengers comes from the ship's own kitchen, which supplies one restaurant and two on-board buffets.

Berta von Suttner: 120 years since the writing of "Lay Down Your Arms!"



0€5; FDC: 12 Sept; Issue: 900,000; Printing: Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma.

Born Bertha Kinsky, her upbringing was left to her mother who was addicted to gambling. When the money ran out in 1873, Bertha took up the post of governess for the four daughters of Baron von Suttner. However, Bertha and Suttner's son Arthur fell in love, much to the displeasure of his parents, and Berta was forced to resign in 1876. On 12 June 1876, she and Arthur secretly married in Vienna, then travelled to Mingrelia in Western Georgia to stay with Princess Ekatarina Dadiani, spending nine hard-working years there and becoming skilled authors and journalists. Once they returned to Austria, Berta was able to devote herself increasingly to pacifism.

Her anti-war novel "Lay Down Your Arms!" was published in autumn 1889, and was immediately a world bestseller – much to the annoyance of the military and the armaments industry. She was convinced that mass murder was no solution to any problem. In 1902, her husband Arthur died, a great loss for which not even the 1905 Nobel Peace Prize could console her. She died on 21 June 1914 in Vienna, where she had lived since 1903. Seven days later, the heir to the Austrian throne was assassinated in Sarajevo, the start of the First World War.

Stanley Gibbons Part 2 - the 7th edition

By A Taylor

The Stanley Gibbons Austria & Hungary Catalogue is the only catalogue published in English which contains complete, up to date stamp listings for both Austria and Hungary in a single volume priced at £34.95. Over 4000 of the illustrations are in colour; the earliest is 1922 and all are in colour from 1933.

The lists for Austria and Hungary are separated by the United Nations (Vienna), for which a new design index has been added. Nearly all the catalogue has been re-priced, with over 10,000 changes since the last edition (the 6th, in 2002). There are 384 pages within soft covers; the book is larger than previous editions at the nice-to-use albeit odd size of 240 x 170mm.

Judging by the contents list, the coverage is unchanged from the 6th edition: Austria and Hungary (both with updated design indexes); Lombardy & Venetia; Bosnia & Herzegovina; Austro-Hungarian Military Post; Austrian Territories acquired by Italy; Danube Steam Navigation Company; Austro-Hungarian Post Offices in Turkish Empire; Szeged; French Occupation of Arad; Romanian and Serbian Occupations of Hungary.

The catalogue contains summarised booklet and machine labels listings for Austria. Major varieties including perforation, watermark and shade variations, overprint types and major errors are also included. The International Philatelic Glossary has been enhanced to cover English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. Personal Stamps receive brief mention, one of the two illustrated being the APS Anniversary Issue!

In general, all pre-WWII prices have risen: by about 2½-fold up to 1867, 3-fold from 1867 to 1918. The 10-Sch Dolfuss used was £800 and is now £1500; mint Renner sheets were £1700 and are £2500 while a used set is £17,000.

There are the inevitable minor quibbles. The list of countries into which the Austrian Empire disintegrated in 1918 (end of page 4) is well out of date. The Ergänzungsmarke with handwritten values is absent and the 45-cent version mis-described. Following SG's normal custom, only one stamp in a block of separable stamps (eg the Pandas of 2003) is illustrated, which leaves the remaining stamps without a catalogue number. Those interested in "only in Netto" items such as Court Delivery Stamps, Verrechnungsmarken, variants of Parlament, Official reprints, or the classification of the 1867 newspaper postage stamp into 12 categories will still need that work.

Nevertheless, compared with the 6th edition, the sharper print and glossier paper makes the new SG easier to read. The use of colour solves the problem of red stamps which are impossible to illustrate in B/W; perhaps the 8th edition will extend the colour-coverage back to 1850? This catalogue will be an essential resource for english-speaking specialist collectors.

“SERVICE SUSPENDED”

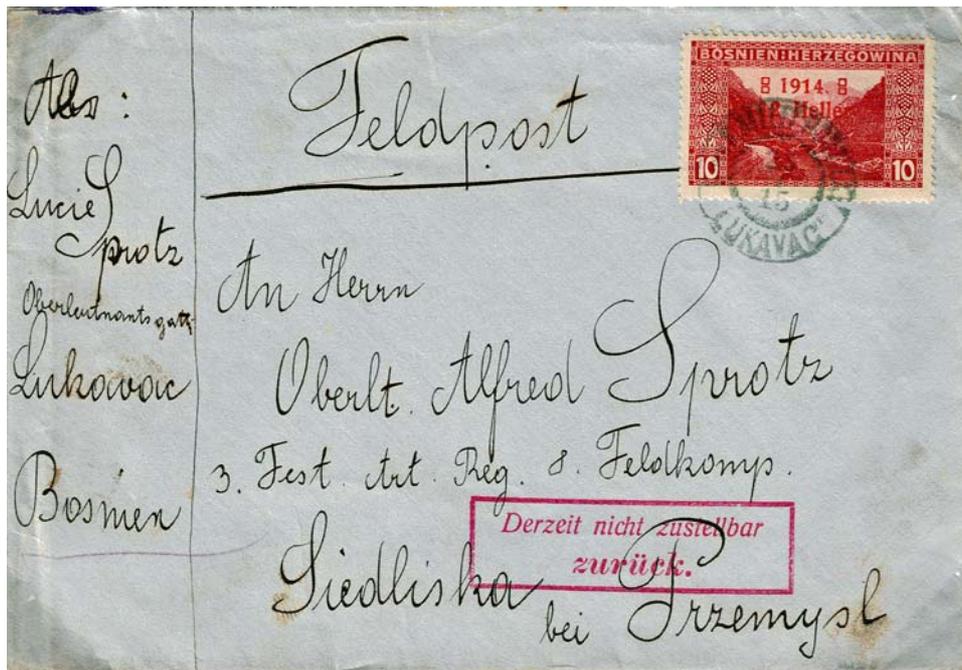
These four covers, kindly supplied as scans by Robert Johnson, show examples of the mail service being denied. If a knowledgeable APS member appears, more could be made of this topic ☺



1915: Internees were forbidden to receive registered or express mail



1948: “Service suspended due to Cholera” possibly applied in Istanbul



Jan 1915: “Derzeit nicht zustellbar zurück” (undeliverable for the time being, return it) applied in Bosnia on a letter to Fort XV of Przemysl then under siege by the Russians.



11-11-1945: mail to Czechoslovakia had been suspended on 7 Nov 1945.

The 1919-21 Parliament issue

By Andy Taylor & friends

In 1919, the Republic of German Austria had just been proclaimed. Its first postage stamp issue consisted of Austrian Empire stamps diagonally overprinted with “**Deutschösterreich**”. The young Republic believed that its future lay in uniting with Germany, and the Allies had not finalised the Treaty of St Germain (10 Sept 1919), article 88 of which would effectively forbid any such union and result in the dropping of Deutschösterreich on 1 Jan 1922.

So, a new issue of stamps (and postal stationery) was required, depicting the new country’s German-Austrian aspirations. On 12 July 1919, the Postal Gazette PTVOB 30 [¹] appeared, consisting almost entirely of Decree Nr 85 dated 11 July and entitled “*Ausgabe neuer Postwertzeichen*” (Issue of new postage stamps). The lower values, 3 heller to 1 krone, had designs (described in detail) of a Posthorn, an Allegory, or the State Arms; the designation Deutschösterreich was in an arc at the top in “German writing in gothic characters”. The Decree carefully added that unnecessary values could be withdrawn and new ones added “as required”. The new stamps would become available at counters etc as the old ones ran out. Mixed Franking was thus allowed, and is indeed found; the valuation thereof depends on the mixture! Consult Kroiss, pp 59-61.

By October 1919 a need had arisen for stamps of higher denominations, and Decree 123 “*Ausgabe neuer Postwertzeichen*” of 10 Oct appeared in PTVOB 44 referring back to the 12 July decree and announcing the issue of values of 2, 3, 4 & 10 Kronen. These are usually called the Parliament issue, as the design is the Austrian Parliament building on the Ring in Vienna. As for the lower values, a detailed description is given. The stamps are to be in 2-colour recess printing (Kupferdruck) on “granite” paper (Faserpapier, the one with little threads embedded). “Deutschösterreich” is at the top; at the bottom is “Kronen” flanked by the value in circles. The printed area is 34 x 21 mm with an unprinted border of 1½ mm which is to be perforated with 7 teeth per centimeter. [²] The stamps were to be in sheets of 120; the design is by Josef Franz Renner whose name is printed at the bottom. (Michel and SG add that the engraving is by Ferdinand Schirnböck, whose name as was normal isn’t).

¹ PTVOB means Post- und Telegraph Verordnungs Blatt; they are numbered 1, 2 etc throughout the calendar year (sometimes the first issues appear in late December of the previous year). They contain Decrees, also numbered 1, 2 etc. PVOB is the same document in a time when Post and Telegraph were separated (these two Departments were merged and separated about 8 times!)

² Perforation is defined as holes per 2cm, not teeth. 7 teeth/cm = 14 teeth/2cm; but is this 13, 14 or 15 holes? The catalogues list perms 11½, 12½, & 11½x12½

An emaciated, nay filleted, part of this Decree is printed in Karasek's 'red book' covering 1918-1925; see p75. It omits the colours, the size, the design... On pages 75-78 Karasek gives a little of the content of the other PVOBs.

More values became necessary, partly because of new rates introduced on 15 Jan 1920 and "Article 4 of the UPU Treaty": this must be anticipation of the details in the Madrid treaty of late 1920, formally adopted by Austria on 10 Jan 1922. PVOB 1 of 1920 included Verordnung Nr 2 "*Abschluß der mit der Verfügung Nr 85, PuTVBl Nr 30/1919, eingeleiten Ausgabe von Postwertzeichen,*" dated 31 Dec 1919 which (alongside many other items) introduced Parliament denominations of 2½, 5 & 7½Kr. These were to be recess printed as before, with 100 stamps per sheet. They are in single colours, not two – presumably to reduce the costs of production which were becoming a concern. As before, the Decree refers back to the 12 July 1919 decree.

Difficulties were experienced with the availability of raw materials and the production of stamps. Decree 11 of 11 Jan 1920 introduced the imperf values of the heller stamps, which Post Offices were enjoined to use. The sale of more than 5 perforated stamps of the same value to one customer was banned: they were to receive imperfs instead.

PVOB 18 of 1920 published Decree 55 "*Ausgabe neuer Postwertzeichen*" dated 14 April 1920 announcing several new stamps, including a 20Kr denomination of the Parliament series. As before, the 1919 decree was invoked; the new stamp would be of the same design as the 2 etc Kr, having "a red illustration in a grey-violet frame". The number of stamps per sheet is not stated.

Finally, a 50Kr value was introduced by a decree of 26 July 1921. The Decree is, interestingly, classified as a "Verfügung" not a "Verordnung". It is in PVOB 40 of 1921; numbered 113; entitled "*Ausgabe neuer Postwertzeichen; unmittelbarer Briefmarkenaufdruck*", and states that consequent upon the postal rates increase of 1 Aug 1921 the following items would be added to the issue [...] "*a 50Kr denomination in recess printing*". An appendix states that it was to be printed in the same design as the 20Kr, in violet colour on yellow paper in sheets of 100.

The intended colours of the Parliament series are prescribed in the Decrees. However, the various catalogues list many varieties; and the newer the catalogue the more it has; nor are the names consistent! The frame/picture colours for the complete series are tabulated later. The 50Kr was printed in one colour, but on coloured non-granite paper.

The stamps were valid till 31 July 1922, except that they could be used until 30 Sep 1922 as supplementary franking on postal stationery. The first values issued were intended for use in the Fahrpost, but the ravages of inflation soon meant that they were used on letters. For example, the 20Kr could be used in Period 5

for a registered foreign letter; in Period 6 for a reduced-rate foreign letter; and in Period 7 for a local letter.

Postal usage of the 2Kr is rare, a single franking even rarer; this is partly due to speculative purchases. Indeed, a contemporary journal (D-Ö Briefmarkenzeitung for Jan/Feb 1920) says that the 2, 3 & 4Kr values never reached the Post Office counters, and were only obtainable on the black market at an enhanced price.

As the Parliament stamps were recess-printed, production costs were high, and the number issued is low for a definitive series. Replacement series were soon introduced: the “broad Arms” and the Dachauer, printed by the much cheaper offset process.

The stamps come in three perforations, tabulated next, and in different physical sizes. This is caused by the dampening of the paper necessary in relief printing, and the differential shrinkage on drying. It is not unknown for a stamp issued with a common (= cheap) perforation on wide margins, to have them trimmed off and a rare (= dear) perforation applied.

Face	2	2.5	3	4	5	7.5	10	20	50
Perf 12½	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Perf 11½	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Perf 11½:12½					Y	Y	Y		

In the 1930s Edwin Müller published in pamphlet form a couple of editions of an Austria specialized catalogue for 1918 to whatever-year. The numbers printed are given as follows.

ANK	Face	Quantity
316	2	1887500
317	2.5	1817500
318	3	2322500
319	4	2240000
320	5	2810000

ANK	Face	Quantity
321	7.5	950000
322	10	2600000
323	20	1440000
324	50	2750000

In the 1937 edition of Müller’s catalogue, he listed the make-up of the sheets, given in columns 2 & 3 below. Columns 4-6 are the first-printing dates as given in various sources. The earlier dates are when the “instruction to print” was issued, the later dates “release at counters”.

Face	Plate 1	Plate 2	Karasek	Michel	Kroiss
2	10x6=60	10x5=50	Oct 1919	1919	Dec 1919
2.5	10x10=100	---	31 Dec 1919	Feb 1920	Feb 1920
3	10x6=60	10x5=50	Oct 1919	1919	Dec 1919
4	10x6=60	10x5=50	Oct 1919	1919	Dec 1919
5	10x10=100	---	31 Dec 1919	Feb 1920	Feb 1920
7.5	10x10=100	---	31 Dec 1919	Feb 1920	Feb 1920
10	10x6=60	10x5=50	Oct 1919	1919	Nov 1919
20	---	10x5=50	14 Apr 1920	May 1920	May 1920
50	10x10=100	---	26 July 1921	Aug 1921	Aug 1921

Errors and oddities

The catalogues list several errors, all of which have at times been forged. There was a severe shortage of raw materials in the post-war period, so there would be an incentive to issue printers waste instead of scrapping it.

- ❖ The most famous – and expensive – error is the Inverted Centre, which I'll deal with last.
- ❖ All values are found imperforate; the 2Kr is considerably dearer than the others, especially if genuinely used.
- ❖ Several values (the newer the catalogue, the more are listed!) are found with the designer's name omitted.
- ❖ Several values (this time, fewer are listed in newer catalogues) are found in vertical pairs with the perfs between the pair missing.
- ❖ Many examples exist of the wrong colours, papers etc. This is another post-war effect: they were doing the best they could, and it's not an error as such.
- ❖ Müller (1937) lists several plate flaws.
- ❖ Finally, there is a large range of trials in all manner of colours – the so-called Rainbow Series. These have no gum. Many are imperf; all those that are perforated were supposed to have been signed. Their existence was not suspected until they were unearthed from an old file in 1980; very few existed so almost nobody has copies. Despite that, they are catalogued relatively inexpensively (a few 100 Eu): in practice there is no market in them to fix the value.

The stamps are found with 15 or 16 teeth vertically, giving a clearly visible size difference:



Spectacular paper folds are also found. The example at top right was folded when the first colour was printed, then flattened before the second printing; this shows that the frame was printed first, the illustration second.



The colours of the Parliament series

The varied names given by the various catalogues, and the varieties they list, are tabulated on the next page.

The colours of the Parliament series

Face	Decree	Müller 1937	ANK 2008/9	Michel 1998	Michel 2009
2	orange/schwarz	orange/schwarz	orangerot/schwarz	orangerot/schwarz	dunkelorange/ schwarz
		braunorange/schwarz			orangerot/ schwarz
2½	olivbraun		gelblicholiv	gelblicholiv	olivbraun
			braunlicholiv	braunlicholiv	schwärzlichbraunoliv
3	blau/dunkelbraun		dunkelblau/ braun	dunkelblau/ schwarz	schwärzlichviolett- ultramarine/ schwarzbraun
			rosa/ schwarz	rosa/ schwarz	rosakarmin/ schwarz
5	rot/schwarz	karmin/schwarz	rosa/ schwarz	olivschwarz	braunschwarz
		weinrot/schwarz	grauschwarz	bräunlila	schwärzlichrotlila
7½	purpur		bräunlila	bräunlila	schwarzgrünlicholiv/ schwarzsiena
10	olivgrün/ dunkelbraun		olivgrün/ braun	olivgrün/ braun	
			violett/ rötlichbraun	violett/ rötlichbraun	dunkelviolettgrau/ dunkelbräunlichrot
20	grauviolett/ rot	hochviolett/ rot			
			violett/ rötlichbraun	violett/ rötlichbraun	
50	violett auf gelbem Papier	d' lila auf gelb	schwarzpurpur	schwarzpurpur/ gelb	violettischwarz
		schwarzlila			schwarzgrauviolett

[Original German quoted to avoid translation errors.]

Inverted centres



The “inverted centre” error has been discovered in the 2Kr, 4Kr and 20Kr values. It is catalogued at several thousand Euro; the latest available catalogue (Michel 2009) lists all three values both mint and used. The error could be “inverted centre” or “inverted frame” depending on which was printed first. Our expert on printing has examined a 4Kr and pronounced it as “definitely printed frame first, so it is a true inverted centre”.

There are very few references to this error in the commonly-available literature. Nothing in *Die Briefmarke* up to 1.1.2000, and nothing useful in ‘AUSTRIA’. Some of the issues of *Die Postmarke* that cover 1919-1921 are available: there is nothing in them either. However the *Donaupost* contains five references.

In the June 1921 *Donaupost*, volume 4, number 6, page 99: *“The 4Kr parliament stamps has been discovered with inverted centre! Only one sheet appears to exist, from which 30 copies were sold in Vienna for fantasy prices.”*

In the November 1922 *Donaupost*, volume 5, number 11, page 167. *“The Viennese Day of Philately has its great sensation: A collector from St. Pölten showed the 20Kr parliament stamp with inverted centre Only 3 copies of this great rarity have become known.”*

In the December 1922 *Donaupost*, volume 5, number 12, page 183. *“As we read in the ‘Sammler-Woche’, this 20Kr stamp was discovered in Siegen in Westphalia by Franz Fuchs, a member of the Siegen philatelic society, who ordered 20 such stamps from Vienna and only noticed after having distributed a few copies that he was dealing with an inverted centre. Today there are still 8 copies of the inverted centre in Siegen, partly mint, partly used, for example 29.5.22 Wien 117, 7a. Also the gentleman from St. Pölten who showed the stamp at the Vienna Day of Philately got it from Siegen.”*

On page 8 of the first issue of 1923, the *Donaupost* says that the 4Kr invert was one sheet of 60.

In 1925, in an article on the Hungarian 5000 madonna with inverted centre, the *Donaupost* throws in the assertion that “as is well known” (bekanntlich) there was one sheet each of the 4Kr and the 20Kr parliament inverted centre.

So assuming that the truth is that there were just one sheet each of inverted centres, the 4Kr would have had 60 copies since it was presumably plate 1 (we know the 4Kr with inverted centre was found much earlier than the 20Kr), the 20Kr would have had 50 copies, since it was printed only from plate 2.

A beautifully forged registered cover with the 20Kr inverted centre is known, and is discussed at the end of this article.

The “Postmarke” was revived briefly in Austria after WW2, edited by Rudolf Fürst. Issues from 1946-1948, probably all that there were, are available; and they contain one reference to inverted centres. The February 25, 1948 issue, on page 16, says: *“Parlament stamps with inverted centre have hitherto been known only of the 4Kr and the 20Kr values, while other values of this great rarity, which have shown up occasionally, have always turned out to be more or less successful forgeries or falsifications. Now a block of four of the 2Kr value has been seriously presented, and it is without doubt genuine. It is remarkable that this piece has been discovered only recently, thirty years after its issue, in a packet of wholesale material as a block of ten, which was divided into one pair and two blocks of four. So far, these are the only copies known.”*

Examples

The item shown at the top of the next page was posted from Gnigl to Teplitz-Schönau in Böhmen, seemingly to and from the same person. It's cancelled GNIGL / 6.II.22- / * c *, registered, and franked 56Kr. At that date mail to Czechoslovakia was charged a reduced rate for the first weight step; so it needed 25Kr for registration plus 20Kr postage: total 45Kr. If it had been heavier, the second step would have needed an extra 12½Kr totalling 57½Kr. If it had been first-weight-step and charged the full foreign rate, that's 25Kr + 25Kr = 50Kr. Conclusion: a philatelic overfranking.

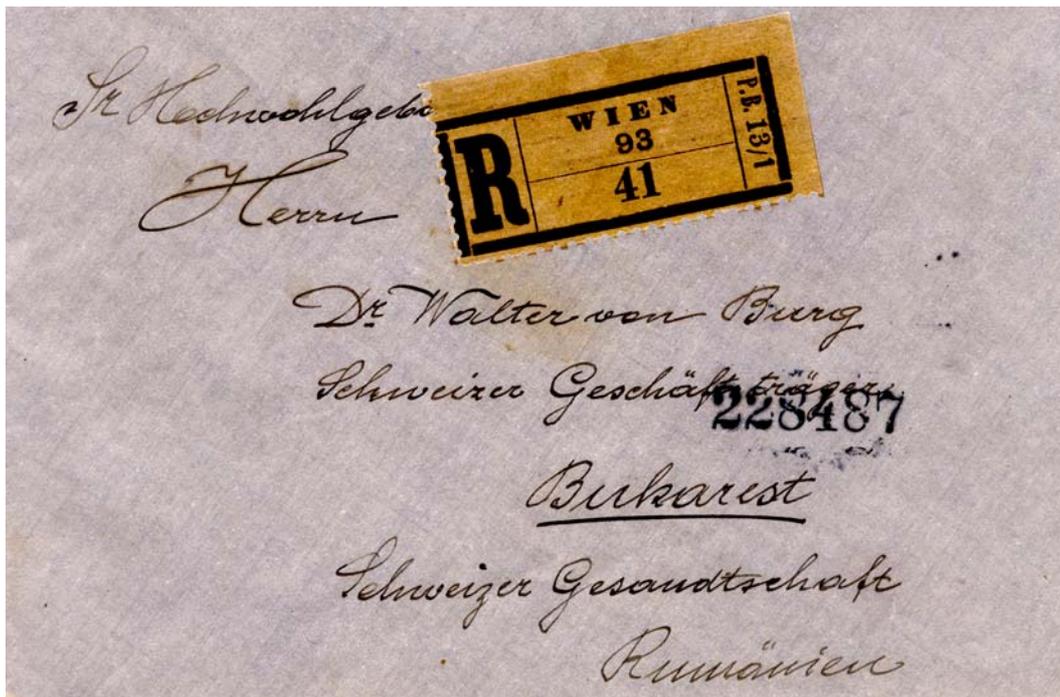
The lower item, again registered, went from Salzburg to Herr Hübner at Gnigl-Bahnhof. Cancelled SALZBURG / 24.I.22.15 / * 4c * and franked 20Kr 15h. Period 6; rate is 10Kr reg plus 10Kr basic letter totalling 20Kr. There isn't actually a superfluous 15 heller stamp on it so it's “OK” albeit probably philatelic.



Hübner at Gnigl to Hübner at Teplitz-Schönau in Böhmen.



Hübner Hofman at Salzburg to Hübner at Gnigl-Bahnhof.



The front of an envelope from Vienna to Bucharest; the **228487** is probably the Romanian registration number for the item...



and the back.. Period 3. Cancelled 13/1 WIEN xx / 17.VI.20.-4 / * b *. Traces of a label in Romanian and of an arrival cancel. Franked 4Kr. Full postal rate chargeable, ie 2Kr reg plus 2Kr post making 4Kr.



Front of a letter from Graz to Romania cancelled GRAZ 1 / 23.I.22IX- / * 3a *. Franked 20Kroner. Romania was a reduced-rate country from 1 to 17 Jan 1922, the amount being 20Kroner – but...



he missed the post! On 23 Jan, the despatching office must have demanded the extra 5Kroner to make up the full rate of 25Kroner chargeable from 18 Jan. Arrival mark for SZELINDEK.



Local rate; period 4; commercial heavy weight cover dated 1.2.21 (first day of rate). 1½Kr + 1Kr post + 2Kr reg.



Inland rates; period 4; reg express dated 12.2.21 from Leoben to Germany. letter rate 2½ + reg 2 + express 2 = 6½Kr. Franked 5½ on front + 2x½ on back.



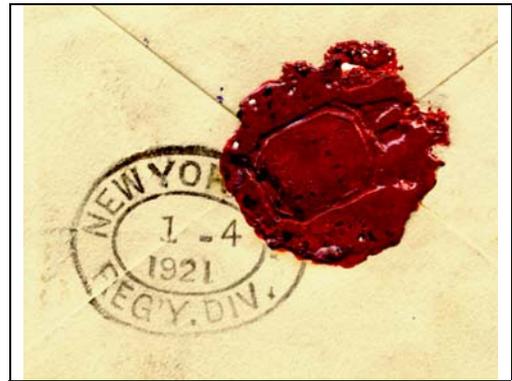
Foreign letter; period 6; Innsbruck to Belgium. Post 25 + reg 25 = 50Kr



Letter sent in period 6 on 2.10.21 to Czechoslovakia (= abroad) franked at inland rate of 10Kr; no postage dues levied.

The “Inverted Centre Forgery”

A beautifully forged registered cover with a 20Kr inverted centre is known, ostensibly mailed from Wien 66 in December 1920 to a stamp dealer on Nassau Street in NY, and backstamped NY on January 4, 1921. However the rate of 20Kr didn't begin until 1 Aug 1921. Expert opinion is that a forged 20Kr stamp has been applied to a genuine 1920/21 cover to replace an original 4Kr and the cancel 'repaired'.



The arrival mark on the back



(The 76704 is the item's reference in the New York registration records.)

How did they do it? Ignore any apparent shade differences in the illustrations below; both have been through several electronic processes and the colours cannot be guaranteed. The lines however are unaltered. It is definitely NOT a collage of parts of two stamps: there is no paper join. Nor is it likely to be a genuine stamp with the frame or centre bleached out and a new one printed upside down; the inks used are bleach-resistant and, since the centre overlaps the frame, the bleaching would have to be colour-specific.



This stamp is genuine. Note the sharp outlines of the edges and of the overlaps of the centre & frame.

This is the fake. The frame is slightly, the centre considerably, less sharp. The overlaps at the top are indistinct. The centre “doesn’t fit” at the top. The top of the shape enclosing the right ‘20’ is doubled. Above ‘kronen’, the diamonds contain too much centre; and the right one has a strange top.



One theory, which is technically feasible, is that the forger obtained copies of the original printer’s proofs for the frame and the centre; made lithograph plates from the proofs, devised closely-matched inks, stole a sheet of granite paper (or used a blank marginal tab on a genuine stamp), printed it, & added perforations. This would require a huge amount of work; but forgeries made solely to demonstrate the skills and ingenuity of the forger do occur in the philatelic world as well as outside it.



NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 7-8/2009: Gmunden-09; thematic: moon flights; OeSD (Austrian State Printers) at Parlament; Rosenkranz-Triptych; thematic: railways in war and its aftermath; 1800s Official Mail and Messengers; thematic: puerperal fever; Phistory: late postings; background to several new issues; special cancel lists; exhibition society and event reports; index for 2008's issues.

Issue 9/2009: Ovebria-09; doubled-print of the 'Großen Bartfledermaus' ANK2678; a 1794 letter mystery; Liliputstadt; late postings (ii); "copies of the WIPA2008 Festschrift are still available" (*Ha! Ed*); self-adhesive personalised stamps; long list of Post Office changes; PKMI's Heroes and Idols exhibition at Hall and their 120 years of the Achenseebahn; etc etc.

Issue 10/2009: Common issues with Spain; Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller; name-day cards; unusual postal arrangements in 1800s; thematic: chemists; new information on Kleinwalsertal; POWs in Russia in 1945; Kaiser Leopold the First; the 1900 Nagelberg provisional; Gmunder-09; new issues (including "Tierbabys"...), society news etc.

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V.

Issue 87: bad effects on the society of German post increases; riposte on CTO vs 'genuine' cancellations; new 'RETOUR' cancel from Hernals III, Vienna; provisional postcards in 1945-47 (7pp); mixed frankings of red landscapes and costumes (9pp); Mühlviertel (iv); New Articles Wanted!!

Czechout

Issue 3/2009: Weekend-meeting report; News'n'views; Q&A; Czech FDCs from 1947; SO1920 overprints; Box 252, New York; Carpatho-Ukraine (includes a useful summary of its history); etc.

Germania

Aug 2009 vol 45 no 3: Group Reports & meetings; Königsberg Exchange Control, 1918-1925 (explains some of the odd markings on Austria-Germany mail); Postleitzahl 7b on cover; Brest Litowsk; book reviews (including one on WWII civil censorship) etc;

Jugopošta

Vol 91 Sept 2009: their 25th anniversary; highlights of their history; Trieste etc part 4 (with table of 1945-era post offices and their names in Italian & Croat/Slovene); etc

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 178: Sept 2009: Society room booked at London2010 on 10 May; reviews of books in Hungarian; the fate of Hungarian postmarks after WWI in countries no longer Hungarian; etc. Plus the Address by their President, Bill Hedley, given to MAFITT.

Wiener Ganssachsen- Frei- u Poststempelsammlerverein

Issue 3/2009: previously-unknown American censor numbers from 1946; more on the “small D”. [*The envelope in which it arrived has a corner stamp of the recent Third Man issue, with Harry Lime staring enigmatically from the sheet corner. For reasons best known to Opost, it has both a special and a roller cancellation!*]

Deletion from the Library

Item 110 “Österreichische Briefmarken-Zeitung 1951-1954” has been reviewed (perhaps for the first time?), deemed not worth the space it occupies, and recycled. It was basically a large brown folder with no contents index and stuffed with faded newspaper cuttings.

Bookmarks

The Michel catalogues covering Germany have had new editions; the Specialised is also available in English. Coverage includes Anschlussed Austria; they also publish a Handbook of Rates including the same period. Enthusiastic reviews were published in the London Philatelist, Sept 2009 issue.

A new edition of Stanley Gibbons Part 2 has just been published – see page 45.

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Mag. Peter Zoller

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POSTMARKS OF THE POSTMARKLESS PERIOD

by Keith Brandon

With a few exceptions, Austria ceased the use of postmarks for twenty-eight years in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. At first sight, this might seem to be rather infertile ground for postmark collectors, but in fact there is much of interest to find.

1. Postmark History to 1790

Austria issued its first handstamp postmark in 1751 (for Vienna). There was already a long-standing postal regulation that the postmaster must write the name of the origin town on the front of the cover if the sender had failed to do so. In fact manuscript town-names in a different hand to that of the sender attract a premium because these are considered to be postal markings. This requirement became a nuisance in the busier post offices; hence the introduction of the first handstamped postmark. Whether the origin town was in manuscript or handstamped, the functions (in pre-philatelic times) were the same:

- ❖ to enable the postage rate paid, or payable, to be checked or calculated as required on the letter's journey,
- ❖ to indicate to where undeliverable mail should be returned.

The same movement towards the use of handstamped postmarks was taking place in parallel in other European countries. Development in Austria, however, was slow at first. According to Müller's Handbook [¹], only thirty-seven different postmarks are known from the period 1751 to 1770, and a further twenty-nine were introduced in the next decade. The process then picked up speed with the introduction of a further one hundred and eleven new postmarks known from 1781 to 1790. (The supplements to Müller's Handbook add a few more to the above figures).

Then the most extraordinary thing happened. The use of postmarks in Austria ceased in 1790, and they were not reintroduced until the end of 1817, some twenty-eight years later. Only very occasional use has been recorded in the Austrian provinces during that period.

Meanwhile development of the use of postmarks continued apace in the surrounding countries, and indeed postmarks were introduced into the Austrian territory occupied by foreign powers during the Napoleonic Wars.

¹ E. Müller - "Handbook of the Pre-Stamp Postmarks of Austria", New York, 1960

2. The Postmarkless Period

We don't really know why the use of postmarks suddenly ceased. No directive has been found which indicates a change of policy, and, indeed, the postal regulations continued throughout this period to say that the town of origin had to be marked on the cover. Müller gives us a likely explanation which, to the best of my knowledge, has not been superseded by a better one:

“Documents from later years, when the reintroduction of postmarks was ordered, state that the use of postmarks had been discontinued due to “laziness and lack of control”, but it seems unbelievable that such a general change of policy at practically all post offices, including the largest ones, such as Wien, Ofen, Pest, Triest, Prag, etc., could have been based on such superficial grounds. We are quite sure that a general misunderstanding of a new regulation was responsible for the suspension of the use of postmarks.

The most probable explanation is that the new system of postal rates introduced on January 1, 1789 gave the impetus to the development. The new rates were based on weight only, while for the previous ones the distance had been taken into consideration. In the new regulations, it was stated several times that now the place of mailing as well as the destination was irrelevant for the postal rate to be charged, and that the weight was the only factor to be considered. It seems that the postmasters now thought that the indication of the place of mailing on letters was unnecessary and the handstamping of them, which was additional work anyway, could be dropped.

Official documents show that the postal administration still considered the indication of the place of mailing important to check on the payment of postage, and to be able to return to the sender letters which could not be delivered. Several reminders were issued - the first as early as December 18, 1788, before the new rates came into force - but the use of postmarks was nevertheless discontinued, and was not reintroduced despite all reminders. Shortly afterwards the Napoleonic Wars made themselves felt, and more important matters had to be considered than the use of postmarks. Even when in 1810 new postal rates, based again on weight and distance, were introduced, no change in policy in regard to postmarks occurred. Only at the end of 1817, when the first general order regarding postmarks was issued, a reversal of this policy took place.”

Typical examples from this period of letters without postmarks follow (figs 1 and 2).

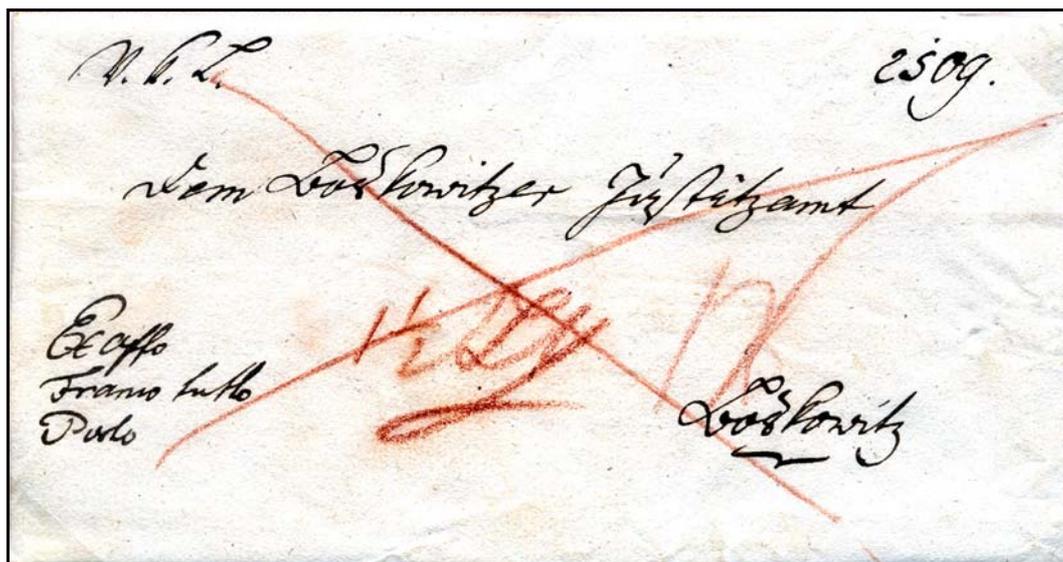


Fig.1. Official mail from Brunn, dated inside 21 June 1800. No markings on front or back, by the sender or the postal service, to indicate whence it came.

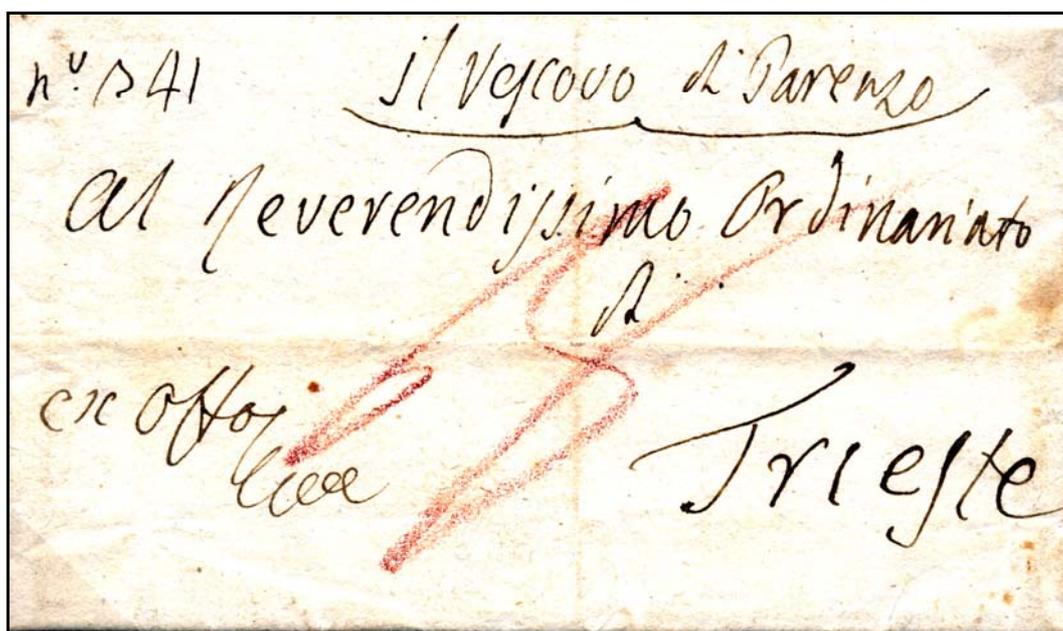


Fig.2. Church mail dated 31 July 1815 from Parenzo. Name of sender in manuscript (The Bishop of Parenzo).

There was a growth in the use, by government and local-government institutions, of their own handstamps during the postmarkless period (fig.3). Such handstamps had existed before, but their increased use during this period seemed to indicate a vacuum that these institutions felt the need to fill. Probably they were concerned to ensure that undeliverable mail was returned to them.



Fig.3. 1800 cover from Vienna with sender's handstamp

There was occasional usage of postmarks on Austro-Hungarian territory during this period, but examples are quite hard to find (Fig.4).

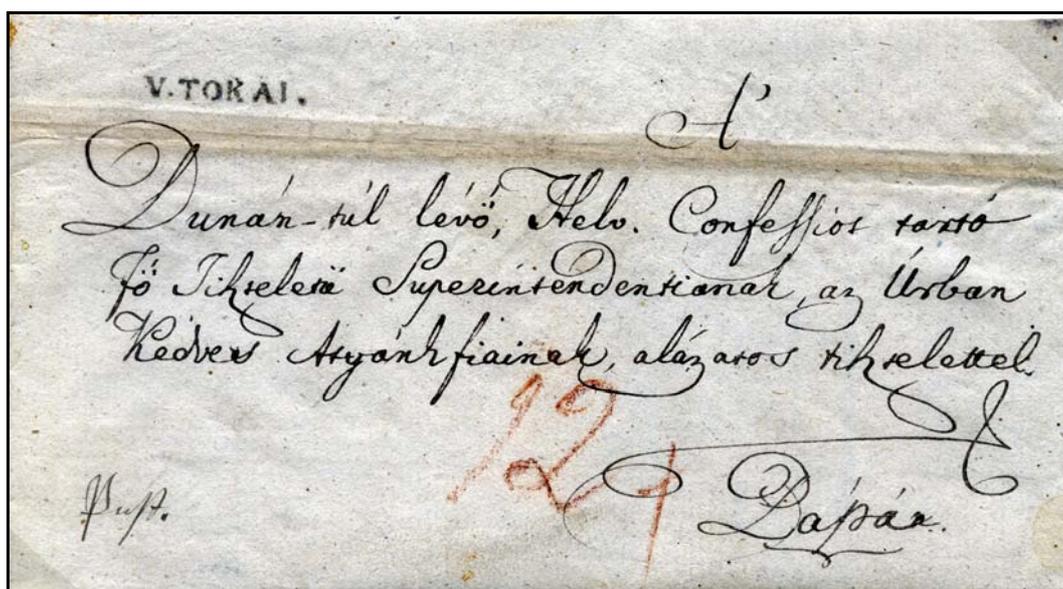


Fig.4. 1803 folded letter from Hungary postmarked **V. TOKAI.**

Collectors of postmarks of this period will also be interested in foreign mail to, from or through Austria. Although no Austrian postmarks will be present, other countries assiduously applied their own origin, arrival and transit markings. Only Austria had ceased to use them.

3. *The Occupied Territories*

During the Napoleonic Wars, various parts of Austrian Territory were occupied by the French and their allies, Bavaria and the Kingdom of Italy. Although no postmarks were used during this period in the territories remaining under Austrian rule, exactly the opposite was true in the occupied provinces.

The French, Bavarian and Italian postal administrations brought their own regulations and procedures to their newly-acquired territories. This included the use of postmarks by all post offices. Where new postmarks were introduced, they were in the styles used in the occupiers' "mother countries" rather than the styles typical of the rest of Austria. Hence some of the most distinctive designs in Austrian postmark history emanate from this period.

The detailed history and geography of these occupations are well explained in Müller's handbook and are not repeated here. A few notes on the postmark types follow:

Bavarian postmarks were introduced gradually in the territories under Bavarian control from 1805. The zone ("rayon") postmarks, which already existed in Vorarlberg, were introduced into the other occupied territories in 1810. Vorarlberg fell in the R3 rayon, and the other territories within R4. Bavarian postmarks often included the date (unlike most Austrian marks of that era). Until the rayon postmarks were brought in, the Bavarians revived dormant Austrian handstamps or introduced new ones of their own (*figs 5 and 6*).



Fig.5. From Innsbruck, in Bavarian-occupied Tyrol, dated 19 September 1807. Austrian postmark **INSPRUCK**, first introduced in 1785, lapsed during the postmarkless period, and brought back by the Bavarian administration in 1807.



Fig. 6. From Brixen in Bavarian-occupied Tyrol, dated 26 October 1813 and postmarked with the Bavarian-style **R4 BRIXEN / 26 OCT. 1813.**

In the provinces under Italian rule, new postmarks were generally introduced shortly after occupation, were typical of other parts of the Kingdom of Italy, and were centrally procured. They were always undated (*figs 7 and 8*).



Fig.7. From Botzen (Bolzano) in Italian-occupied South Tyrol and dated 12 April 1811. Italian-style postmark **BOLZANO**.



Fig.8. From Roveredo in Italian-occupied South Tyrol and dated 27 June 1813.
Postmarked Italian-style **ROVEREDO / DIP^{to} ALTO ADIGE**.

In the province of Illyria, under French rule, old postmarks, especially the Italian types, continued in use, but many new postmarks were introduced in 1810, all incorporating the province name **ILLYRIE**, and again undated (*Figs 9 and 10*).

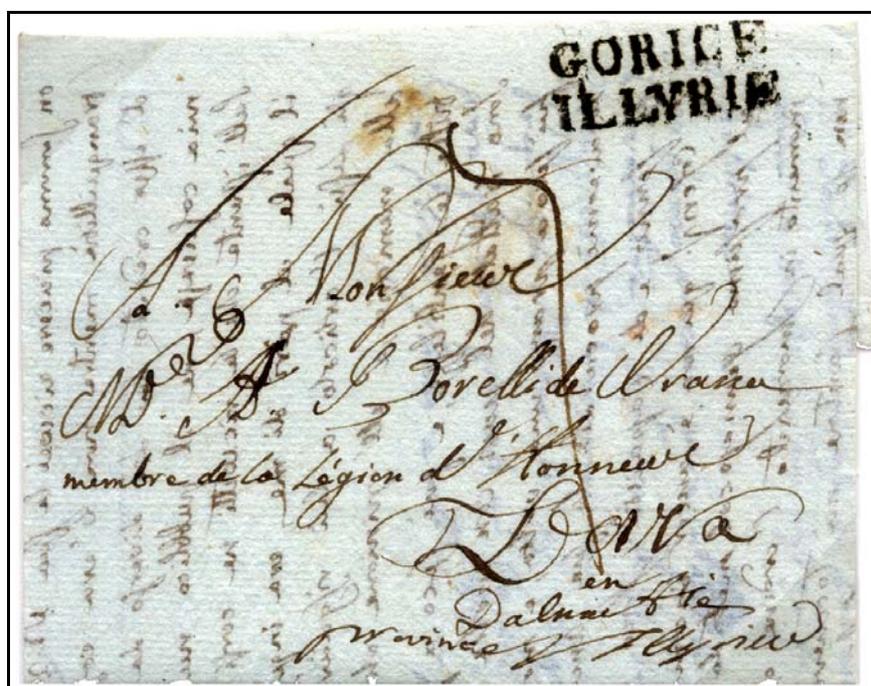


Fig.9. From Görz (Gorizia) in the French-occupied Coastal Province, dated
17 September 1811 and postmarked **GORICE / ILLYRIE**.



Fig.10. From Spalato (Split) in French-occupied Dalmatia, dated 1813 and postmarked **SPALATO / ILLYRIE**

The situation was complicated by territory changing hands between the occupying powers. In 1809 Bavaria lost part of the South Tyrol to Italy and the East Tyrol to the French province of Illyria. Thus we can find Bavarian-style postmarks for, say, **BOTZEN** to 1809, then Italian-style **BOLZANO** marks.

After the Treaty of Vienna in 1815, the use of postmarks in territories restored to Austria often withered on the vine in the still-postmarkless Austria, but in some towns the postmark habit remained throughout the 1815-18 period (*fig.11*).

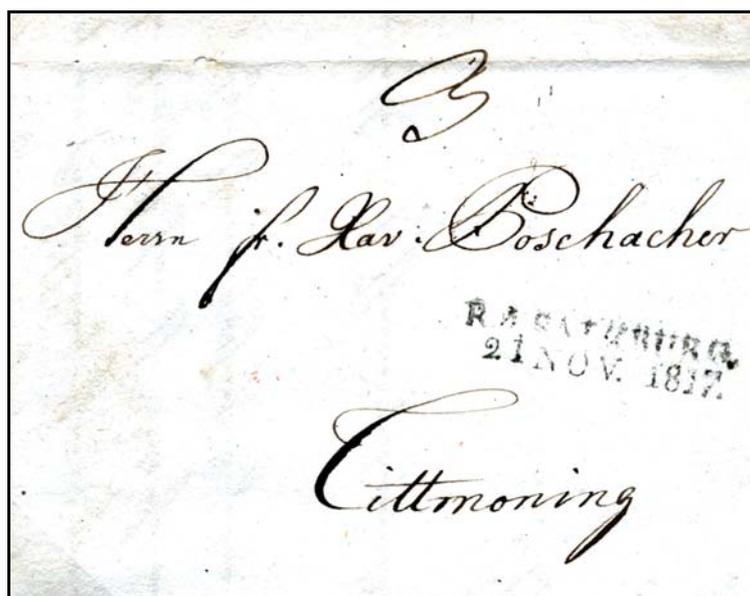


Fig.11. From Salzburg, dated 21 November 1817, and still using the Bavarian-style postmark **R4 SALZBURG / 21 NOV 1817**.

Lombardy and Venetia were recovered by Austria in 1815. Both provinces had been committed postmark-users before this date. Although they were joining a postmarkless Austria, no pressure appears to have been put on Lombardy and Venetia to conform, and they continued to use their existing postmarks (*fig.12*).

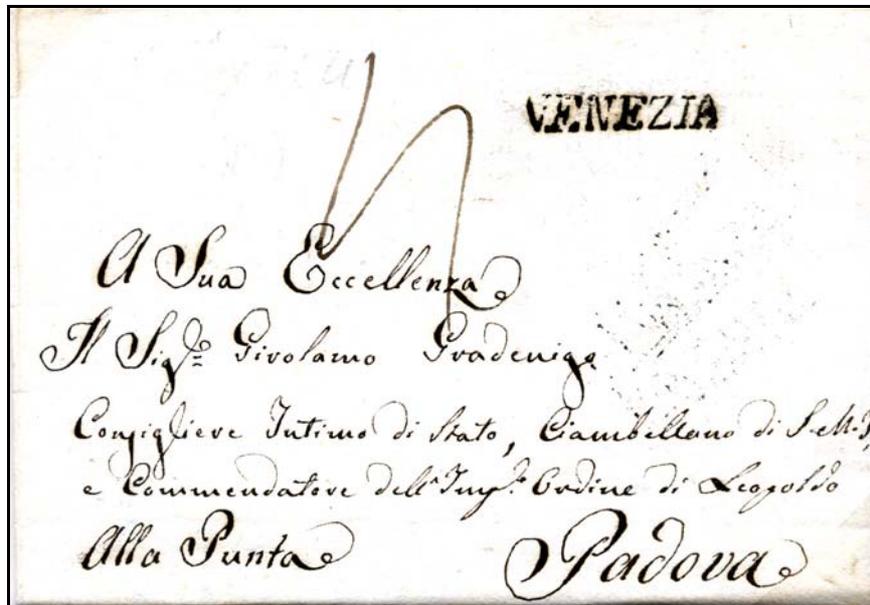


Fig.12. 1817 letter from Venice postmarked **VENEZIA**.

4. The Return of Postmarks

A decree of 18 November 1817 ordered all post offices (and letter-collecting agencies) to start using postmarks not later than 1 January 1818. The only exception was for offices with insignificant letter traffic, and generally the decree was obeyed.

A few post offices still retained handstamps from the eighteenth century, and brought them back into service in 1818 (*fig.13*).

Rather more common was the re-use of postmarks of the territories occupied by Napoleon and his allies. The cancellers would have been in use until around 1815, and were therefore likely to still be at hand (*figs 14 to 16*).



Fig.13. From Steinach (Styria) dated 20 July 1829. The postmark **STAINACH** was first used from 1788 to 1790, and came back into use after the postmarkless period.



Fig 14. From Trento, South Tyrol dated 24 April 1819 and postmarked **DA TRENTO**. This handstamp was first used from 1811 to 1813 by the occupying Italian administration, but re-emerged at the end of the postmarkless period.

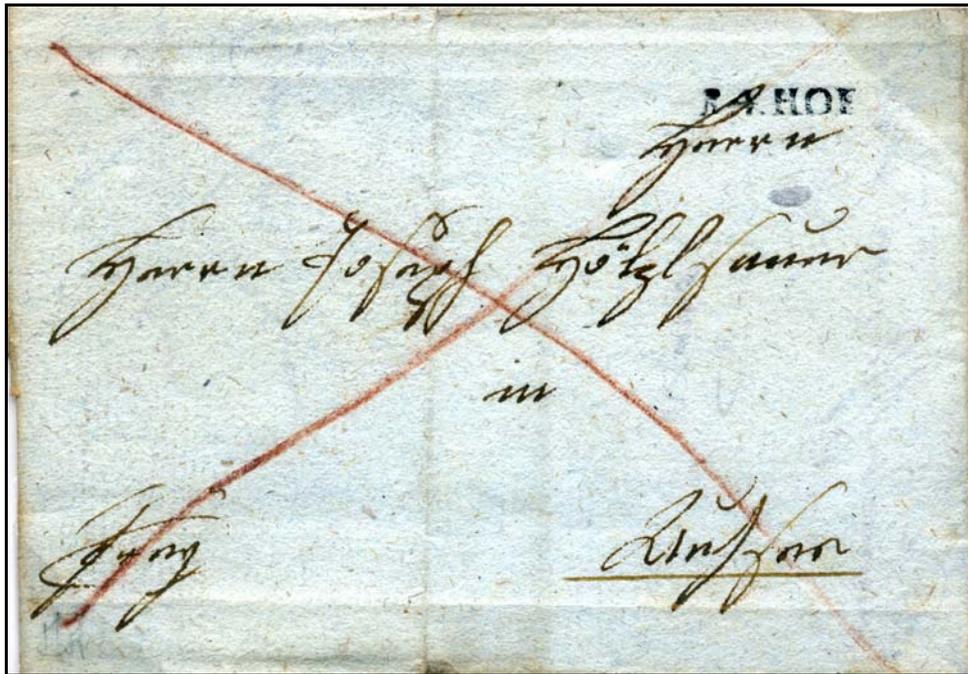


Fig.15. From Hof in the Salzburg District, dated 11 August 1822. The handstamp **R4 HOF** was first used by the Bavarian occupiers in 1813, and re-emerged at the end of the postmarkless period.

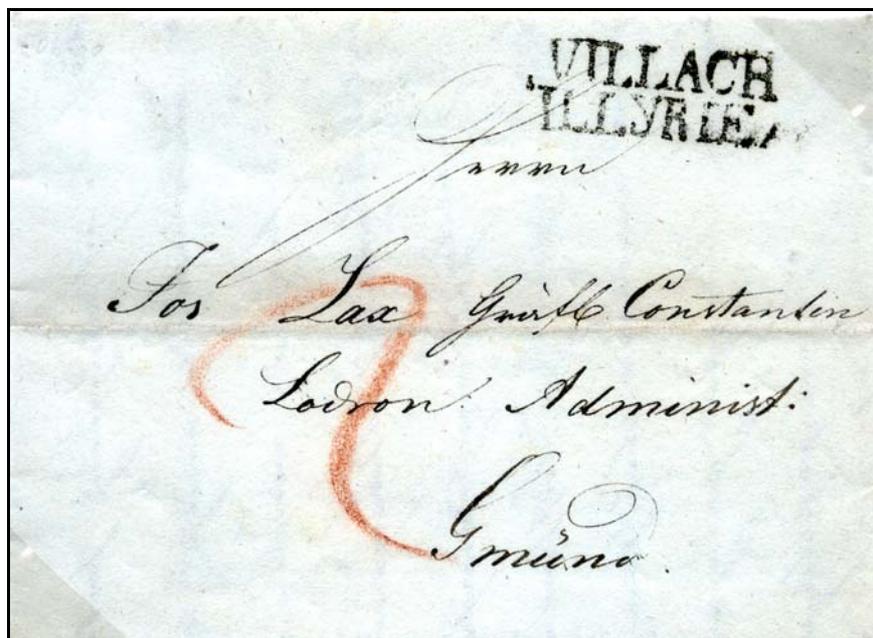


Fig.16. From Villach in Carinthia, dated 1 May 1830, and postmarked with the French-occupation **VILLACH / ILLYRIE**. Originally used by the occupiers, but brought back in 1818.

Many of these postmarks remained in use for a further decade or two, as exemplified by the **VILLACH / ILLYRIE** cover above. Usually the occupation postmarks were unchanged, but a few were “Austrianised”. The example below (*Fig 17*), from 1824, was formed by removing the **R3** from the Bavarian **BREGENZ R3** handstamp.

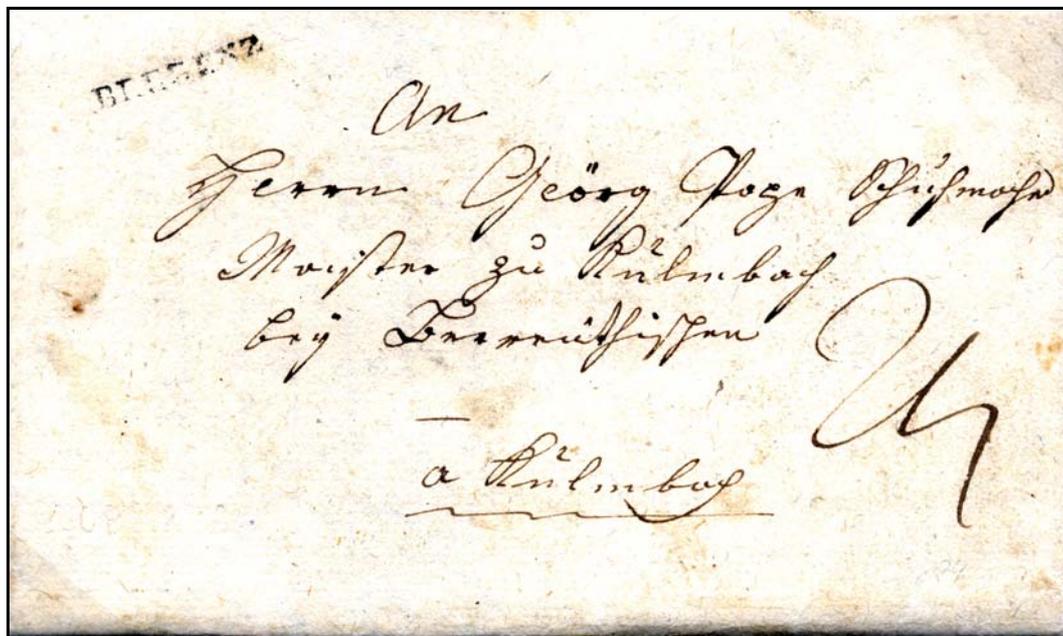


Fig 17: Letter dated 7 October 1824 and postmarked **BREGENZ**

The remaining post offices - those which did not have retained eighteenth century handstamps, and which had not been occupied - had to procure new postmarks by 1 January 1818. Then, at last, postmarks were used throughout the Austrian Empire.



New Members:

We welcome Mr Reg Hounsell of Royston, Herts as member 1307

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS etc

Stamp alchemy

I have found Lighter fuel (Petroleum Spirit) to be very good, I have used it for many a year, also for showing watermarks on used stamps when on a black background eg tile, which we do in the Royal PSL expert room. We used it in the print to clean the spacers on the Linotype machine as the liquid was oil free.

I also use it to remove those horrid red labels the Royal Mail use for 'to be signed for' which always seem to be put over some of the stamps. I haven't noticed any detriment to the envelope or the stamp surface.

I don't think the Post Office wants us to collect or use stamps, they prefer the sticky labels as produced by their machine which they don't have to cancel.

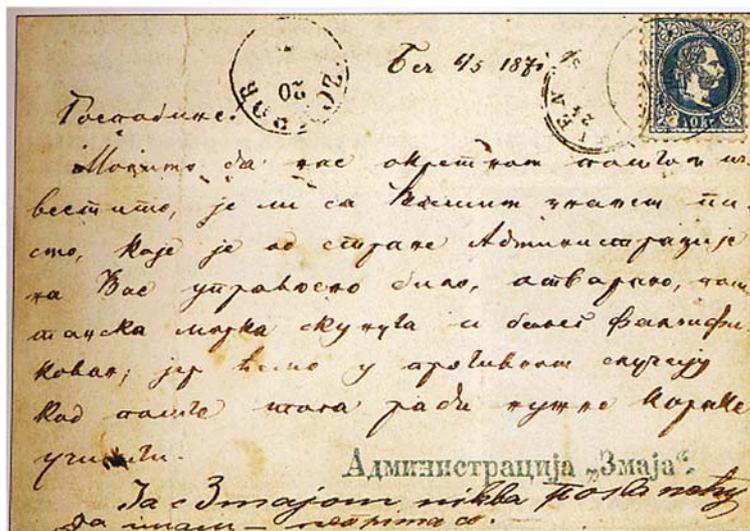
Colin Tobitt



Q: *This is in the Oct 2009 Weissenböck Philatelic Auction, described as a REKOKARTE – and as “The World’s First Illustrated Postcard”! Can you tell me more?*

A: It's a registered postcard. The partly-boxed cancellation at the top left of the scroll carried by the dragon is a Vienna registered postal mark - the 270 underneath will be the serial number of the item in the register.

It was sent to Zombor alias Sombor, then in Hungary now in Serbia, (arrival cancel on back) and redirected to Squiggle.



On 19.5.1871 the registration fee for a non-local item was 10Krk, and should have been paid by an adhesive on the back (= the non-address side). And indeed it is.

The postage is paid by the 5Krk red on the front. That's odd: the inland postcard rate was 2Krk, Hungary was inland, and there was no foreign postcard rate until 1875 anyway. You could register a postcard. The answer will be that it was not an official postcard, which would be plain with an imprinted stamp, so it was treated as a letter, and charged at the 5Krk letter rate.

The card, incidentally, is a visual pun: ZMAI was a popular Serbian satirical journal, and ZMAI is Serbian for a dragon! The card seems to have been sent from the Vienna office or agent of the journal.

CROYDONFEST 2009 – AUCTION RESULTS

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	£9	34	£13	58	£5	91	£25
3	£10	35	£12	63	£2	92	£40
4	£4	36	£16	64	£3	94	£1
5	£5	36	£16	65	£2	95	£15
7	£16	37	£30	66	£2	96	£10
9	£2	38	£40	67	£20	97	£10
12	£3	39	£80	69	£3	98	£35
14	£10	41	£18	70	£3	100	£32
16	£6	43	£26	78	£95	101	£8
23	£5	44	£30	79	£8	102	£4
25	£5	45	£31	80	£5	105	£11
27	£5	46	£15	82	£8	106	£7.50
28	£3	50	£50	87	£28	107	£4
29	£5	52	£3	88	£20	108	£8
32	£2	54	£9	89	£12	109	£70
33	£34	56	£2	90	£25	110	£70