

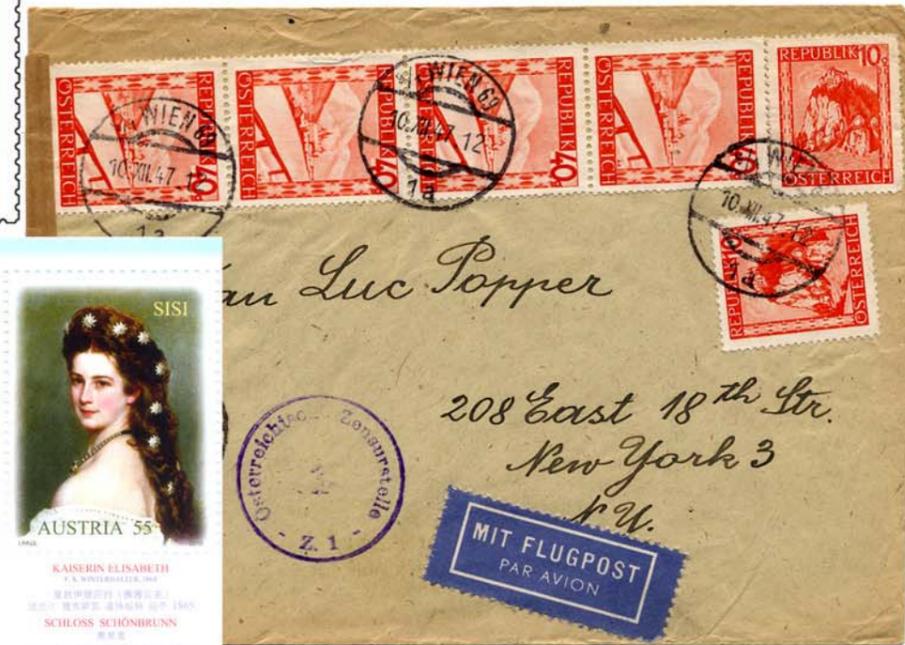
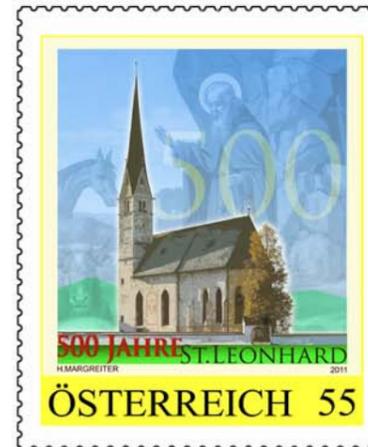
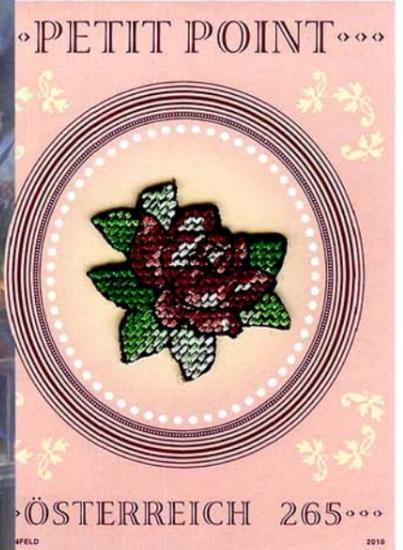
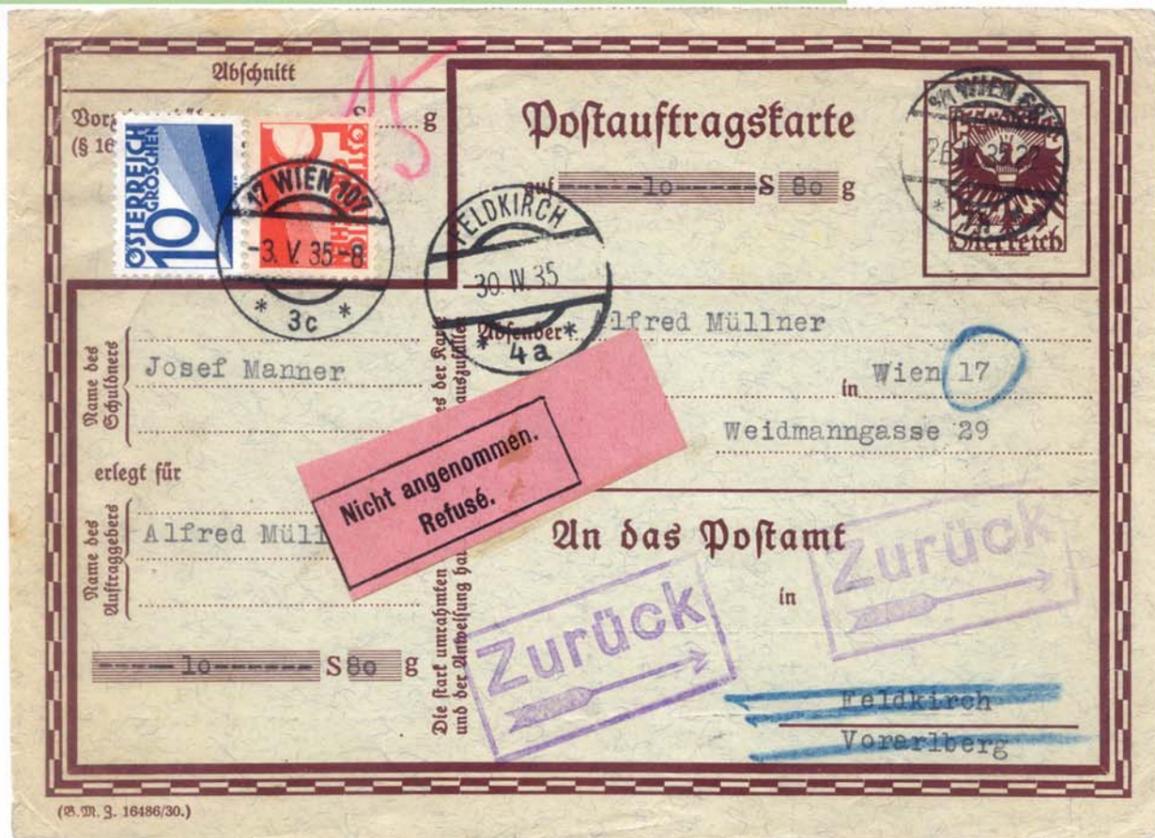
The illustrations on the cover are explained in the articles inside!



K. K. Oesterreichische Postverwaltung.

### Postauftrag.

Die Post wird beauftragt, von ..... in .....  
 (Straße und Hausnummer) .....  
 am ..... ten ..... (Fälligkeitstag) den Betrag von ..... fl. ..... fr.  
 sage: .....  
 gegen Aushändigung der Anlage (..... Stück) einzuziehen.  
 ..... den ..... 188



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**Edited by Andy Taylor**

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If this journal is undeliverable, please return it to Mrs C Ralph, 41 Battle Road, St Leonards on Sea, Sussex, TN37 7AA, Great Britain

# Aide Memoire

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➔ always use the latest list ➔

We warmly welcome Alan Jones of Oxford, who has volunteered for co-option as Honorary Secretary of the APS. His address etc are on the inside back cover; an outline of his background and career is planned for the next issue

## EDITORIAL 173 ‡

**Y**ou will have noticed the change to A4 format for this Journal, and the consequent changes to the front cover's layout. Many readers have said that the new size is an improvement; some that it is anything but. On the front cover, some readers mourned the demise of the red stripes and the double-headed eagle, affectionately known as the squashed budgie but actually closest to the coat-of-arms of Dolfuss' 1934 Standestaat. I do not know if the then Editor realised that. But it wasn't the original cover design: issues 1 to 22 had an individually-drawn illustration and were printed black-on-tint. Issues 23 to 97 had a 'utility' design of the word AUSTRIA printed diagonally. The budgie first appeared on issue 98, the red stripes on issue 102, and this design remained till issue 169 with a minor change in 145 to all-black text.

Issue 170, the first in A4, is black-on-"polar-green" with illustrations on the front and adverts on the back. The additional cost of full colour on front and back outsides plus black-on-white insides would have been excessive. However, changes in printing technology plus increased competition in the paper industry have now made the price comparable with all-black. Technical considerations include (a) the outside front and back are on the same side of the same sheet of A3 so have to be printed at the same time by the same process; (b) there has to be a 10mm all-round margin - to have the colour printed right up to the edge requires the sheet to be printed on oversized white paper which is then trimmed to size thus losing the cost reduction. A bonus of the new arrangements is that it's no more expensive to have a different cover for every issue.

So, welcome to the first Colour Cover Issue. Actually it's the second, since the anniversary issue 130 was also in colour. But I'll follow the Austrian system of narrow claim definition and call this the First A4 Colour Cover.



What shall we put on it? Feasible layouts include (1) a logo at the top, the title etc, and one or perhaps two life-size illustrations of items discussed in articles; (2) no logo, the title etc, and three or four illustrations. Doubtless there are others, and I'm sure that the inventive minds of our membership could suggest several!



One view is that "the Journal looks better and more authoritative with a 'coat-of-arms' than without". The APS as an unincorporated assemblage of like-minded persons does not have its own coat-of-arms, although it could adopt a logo if so minded. The Dolfuss coat-of-arms may not be the optimum choice for a society concerned with the philately of everything loosely defined as Austrian with no limit on date and little on location! Other historical possibilities (Maria Theresia?) bring their own mental baggage, while modern ones may in addition be forbidden to us. We could revert to an Austrian stamp, which we used on the first 18 issues - but which of the 3000 to choose?



What expertise can your Editor call on? Design by committee produces camels when you wanted racehorses – yea, even in the APS. We have accountants, engineers both civil and grumpy, marketeers, apothecaries, printers, physicists. What we need is a professional artist who is amiable, amenable, accommodating, and approachable.

Luckily the APS knows one: Hannes Margreiter. Job done! Servus, Hannes.

**I**t seemed a good idea to encourage a visit to Numiphil, held as usual in Vienna on the first Friday & Saturday of last December. However, an excessive and untimely amount of the wrong kind of snow (your Editor had half a metre) led to three members of the party getting no further than their airport's website, resplendent with "flight cancelled" or "airport closed" notices. Offers of rebooking on flights scheduled to arrive at teatime on Saturday were not especially helpful either (and come the day they too were cancelled). A

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‡ Editorials reflect the Editor's views, opinions and prejudices and are not the formal standpoint of the APS!

report from the 4+2 who did make it to Vienna is below; “a good time was had by a few”. Many interesting ideas were brought back for others to consider.

**N**ew issues: to list or not to list? Later in this issue you will find an 8-page illustrated listing of Austria’s 2010 stamp issues. A lengthy and at times heated e-committee debate raged on whether this information should appear at all. If yes, should it be as brief as possible with thumbnail illustrations  and text in the size used for socially unacceptable planning applications (text in the size used for socially unacceptable planning applications), or as extensive as feasible and in **16 point Arial bold** so that older members can read it. Your Editor soon realised that he would have to “square the circle”, and would have to measure success by equality of dissatisfaction! The listing is printed in response to some members requests; to partly satisfy the view that our coverage is excessively biased towards items created before most of our parents were born; and because not all our members speak fluent Internet. The result awaits you; he asserts it’s in as brief a format as possible consistent with being of any use. Views for and against welcomed. If we continue, it’ll appear more often than in one annual lump!



## THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, contact the Librarian. If paying by Paypal remember to add the £1 fee!

### CDs

- ❖ All CDs cost £10 or €15 including postage to anywhere in the world
- ❖ “**The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps**” by Dr. Stephan Koczynski. Enhanced and published on CD in fully-text-searchable form. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-07-4
- ❖ **1910 Post Office Index**. This is the “Verzeichnis der Post- und Telegraphen-Ämter in Österreich, Ungarn und in Bosnien-Herzegowina sowie der österreichischen Postanstalten im Fürstentum Liechtenstein und in der Levante”, published in Vienna in 1910. It lists all the Austrian post offices open anywhere at that date; with symbols indicating the facilities available at each. The CD contains pictures of the original pages, not text. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-08-1

### Books:

- ❖ For all books, P&P costs £1.50 in UK, £2.50 to Europe, & £4.50 to Elsewhere (by cheapest route).
- ❖ “**A Celebration of Austrian Philately**”: the APS 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary ‘Festschrift’. viii+162 pp A4 in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-05-0 Price **£19.95**
- ❖ “**The Pneumatic Post in Vienna**” now reprinted in one A4 volume, ISBN 978-0-900118-06-7 and still only £40 (**£32 to APS members**)
- ❖ “**The Postmarks of Dalmatia**”: Supplied complete with a 20-page update to the section on Military Unit Cachets (pages 166-171). ISBN 978-0-900118-02-9 Price **£30**
- ❖ “**Przemysl 1914-1918**” by Keith Tranmer. A very few copies still available; price **£12**
- ❖ “**The Postal History of Ukraine: KuK Ukrainische Legion Feldpost correspondence cards 1914-1918**” by Dubniak & Cybaniak. **£14**
- ❖ **German/English Philatelic Dictionary**, published by the Germany Philatelic Society in the USA. This is the 2005 edition, 298 sides of A5, spiral bound, with appendix of abbreviations. Copies cost **£16**.

**Other items – see page 48**

## Vienna 2010

by Joyce Boyer.

Setting out early on 2 December Tony and I headed for Heathrow and, hopefully, a plane to Vienna for a weeks holiday. The plan was that we would meet up with Alan Berrisford, Andy Taylor, Colin and Veronica Tobitt, James and Felicity Hooper, and Keith and Kay Brandon. With the snowy weather here and people travelling from a number of different airports on different days it would not be until the Friday night that we would all meet up for a pre-arranged meal. Robert Avery had made some of the arrangements and was the contact with our hotel. We had a relatively easy journey and on arrival I was handed a message saying that Colin and Andy had not yet left but hoped to make it on Friday.

The main reason for the philatelist visit was to attend Numiphil, the large stamp and coin fair held each December and an excellent reason to visit Vienna for the Christmas Markets, musical events and many other attractions. Vienna was experiencing the first snow of the winter and like the UK other parts of Austria were suffering unusual amounts of snowfall. This resulted in one or two dealers not making it. However there was plenty to look at, bargains and more expensive items to find and people to meet. On Friday both Maria Schulz and Hannes Margreiter spent time at the event signing material and talking to collectors. On Saturday the person at the signing table was Prof. Adolf Tuma.

There were a number of auctions being held in early December and whilst some material was available to view at Numiphil more was at the various auction houses. I ventured to H D Rauch late on Friday afternoon, and not trusting myself to cope with a German auction decided to leave two postal bids. James attended the auction on Monday and said it was easy to follow so perhaps next time ... I collected my winning bids on Tuesday. Leaving there, Tony and I entered the Graben to be welcomed by the aroma of oranges and followed the smell to a 'Punch' stall being run by Kiwanis International, a charity for children, who were 'selling' the punch which turned out to be the best we found! Visiting in late morning on another day we asked about their activities and one they spoke of could best be likened to 'Riding for the disabled' in the UK. Returning to the hotel another message awaited me to say that regrettably Colin and Andy would not make it so the party would be three less at the various pre-booked meals.

On Friday night the reduced party met at La Norma & compared notes on travel experiences and the days activities with arrangements being agreed for Saturday evening and Sunday morning and evening. On a bright but cold Sunday morning three of us set out to visit the Favoriten Briefmarken Klub - a change in the tram routes meant that whilst we went from the Opera area it was a completely different stop so we missed the first tram. We were made very welcome and again a great variety of material was available if it fitted into your collecting area. Several of those members I had seen on previous visits were not there. Favoriten is a place to find more modern, but not necessarily Euro, material. Those looking for pre-stamp or classic period material have to look a bit harder. However that said I returned on Wednesday morning and obtained a 1929 first Zeppelin flight to USA, revised start, cover for my airmail display.

Sunday evening saw the party meet at Pürstner to greet our guests, Richard Zimmerl and Hannes and Margit Margreiter for a good meal with excellent company and conversation which went on late into the evening until Richard decided he must get the last train home to the edge of Vienna - his next door neighbour lives in Lower Austria.

What did we do when not at the philatelic events? You can ask the others what they did, shop, visit museums, go to a concert etc. Tony and I visited some of the sights, had a walk in the Prater and took a ride on the Wheel on a clear morning so had excellent views over the city but were less fortunate when visiting the Vienna Woods as the clouds came down after we arrived to spoil the views. Christmas Markets were visited - because of the cold weather there were less people about - and we sampled plenty of hot wine and punch. We also had a trip to find the non-existing Südbahnhof to plan a ride over the Semmering railway. In about three years this area will be the start of the new Vienna Main Station including the Südbahnhof. However we managed to sort out the trip which was made on another good day for seeing the magnificent views.

In 2011, Numiphil is on 2 & 3 December and it is probable that some members will be attending. If you would like to join the party contact Andy Taylor for more details.

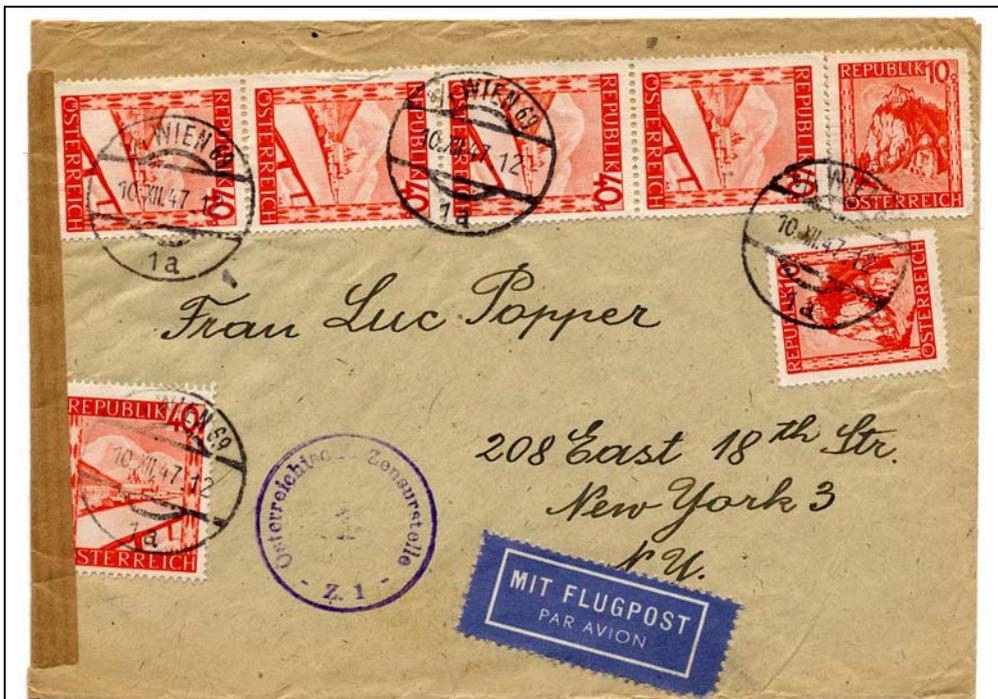
## DATES OF THE 1947 NEW-CURRENCY ISSUE

Catalogues such as Netto have issue-dates for only a few of this issue (the one with all the groschen values in orange, all the Schillings in violet). Specifically, they state that the 5g, 10g, 20g, 40g, and 1S were issued on 10 December 1947, and the remainder were issued “afterwards, but by February 1948”. **You are invited to join in a survey**, by examining all the covers you have with this issue on it and sending Andy Taylor details of the stamps used and the cancel date. A copy would be even better!

Data received so far is:

Value	Official FDI	Earliest date of use found
3g		19 Jan 1948
5g	10 Dec 1947	3 June 1948
10g	10 Dec 1947	10 Dec 1947
15g		(after 1948)
20g	10 Dec 1947	3 June 1948
30g		27 Dec 1974
40g	10 Dec 1947	10 Dec 1947
50g		10 Jan 1948

Value	Official FDI	Earliest date of use found
60g		27 Feb 1948
70g		(after 1948)
80g		25 Feb 1948
90g		21 Feb 1948
1S	10 Dec 1947	
2S		30 Dec 1947
3S		17 Feb 1948
5S		(after 1948)



10g and 40g, used on air mail to New York and cancelled 10 Dec 1947 – the official First Day.

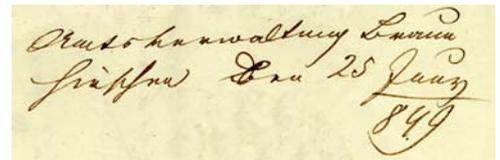
Luckily for philately, the envelope wasn't delayed by the censorship!

## THE VIENNA CITY POST ~ A NEW PRE-STAMP DISCOVERY.

by Keith Brandon

The 1849 Brauhirschen postmark described below is not recorded in Müller's pre-stamp handbook or supplements (Ref 1). It is listed in his handbook of postmarks on the first issues of stamps (Ref 2). This appears, therefore, to represent previously-unrecorded pre-stamp usage.

The letter is clearly dated Brauhirschen 25 June 1849, and is from the Amtsverwaltung (official administration) to their opposite numbers at the Oberamt in Tobitschau (in Moravia). Brauhirschen was an outer suburb of Vienna, and at that time was served by the Vienna City Post. The letter was posted at the Brauhirschen letter-collecting agency, and received there the postmark **FIL-BRAUNHIRSCHEN / 6.27. 8½ F** (on the reverse) plus the boxed **Franco** (Müller 1949a). It was transferred from the City Post to the main postal system, collecting the red postmark **Wien / 27 JUN.** (Müller 1697m).



Tobitschau did not have its own post office until the following year, and so the letter was delivered to the nearest office in Olmütz, receiving the partial blue postmark **OLLMÜTZ / 28.6** (Müller 1058i) on the reverse. The sender had pre-paid 6kr postage, marked on the reverse, and the addressee had noted receipt on 28 June 1849.



The **BRAUNHIRSCHEN** postmark was unknown to Müller in pre-stamp times, but he records it in his handbook of postmarks used on the first five issues as 310c. In his pre-stamp handbook, Müller records an identical type of postmark (1948i), but only for the Obermeidling office. It would seem that the Brauhirschen usage should be added to that of Obermeidling in future listings of pre-stamp postmarks.

[The postmark has been struck twice, overlapping in parts, as is visible in this enlargement. Ed.]

The author would be interested to learn, perhaps from one of our Austrian readers, whether there is an individual or association in Austria that collects and lists additions to Müller's handbooks for eventual publication.

References:

- (1) Edwin Müller - "Handbook of the Pre-Stamp Postmarks of Austria", New York, 1960 plus three later supplements (APS Library no.7).
- (2) Edwin Müller - "Handbook of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia Cancellations on the Postage Stamp Issues 1850-1963/64", Austria 1961 (APS Library no.8).

## Concerning Old Money-Letters

From Die Briefmarke. Nr. 3/2009, pp 18-19 By **Hubert Jungwirth**, translated by Jean Toghill

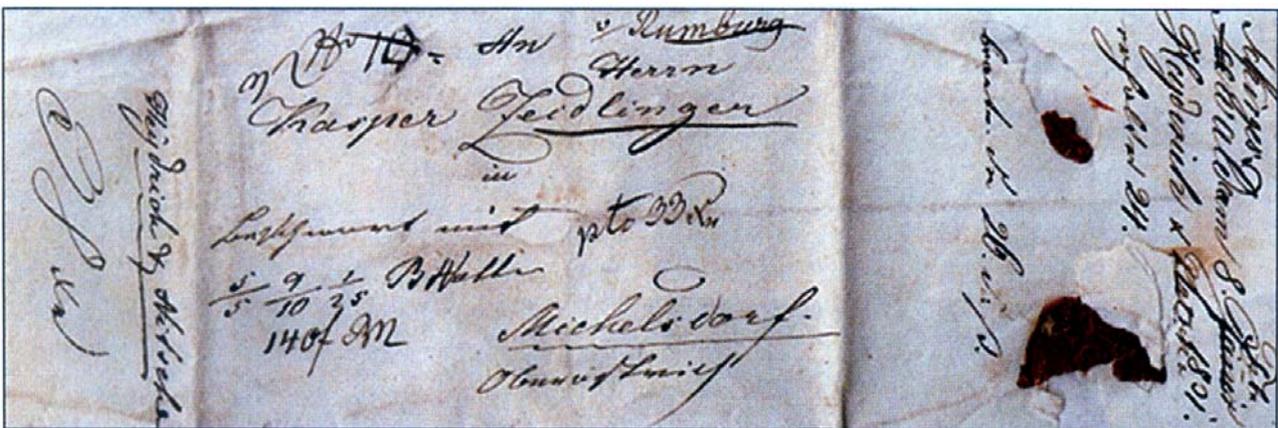
Receipts for mail carried by stage coach are almost always collected, exhibited and traded only as items of secondary interest. Little has been written about them, not to mention catalogues being unavailable. Expertisers avoid them. They vegetate in the shadow of letter-post.

From the days before postage stamps until 1889 the appearance of the old money-letters hardly changed because during this period they still had to be paid for in cash and marked with assessments. Many of these old money-letters carry very beautiful post-office seals on their reverse which almost outshine many collections of seals of a later date.

Originally, only jewels and coins packed in boxes, bags, or pouches and accompanied by a “weighted letter” (beschwerten Brief) could be sent. Only from 1762, when the first bank-notes were printed in Austria, was it possible to send a considerable amount of money in letters. However, the name “weighted letters” remained in use for some time afterwards.

In 1750, parallel to the mounted letter-post service, the post-coach expedition was set up at Vienna. In the future, this, the headquarters of the post-coach service, was responsible for the carriage of persons, goods, valuables and money. Apart from receipts for the goods conveyed, money-letters and receipts for cash sent are among the most numerous stage-coach mail vouchers.

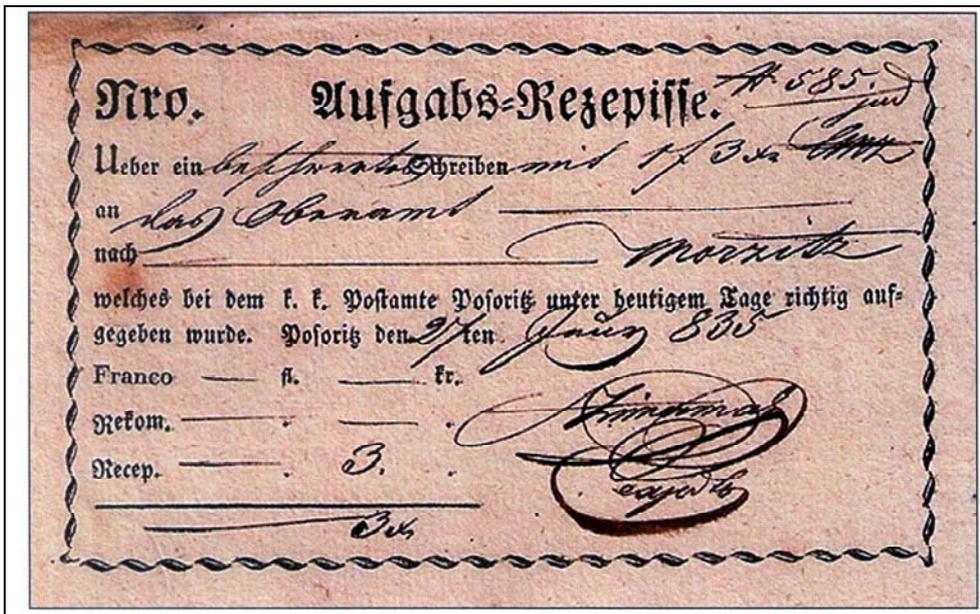
As the reverse side of money-letters was reserved for the various seals, the endorsements were clustered on the front. The most important one, showing what the letter contained, was written on the lower left-hand quarter. It begins with the word “beschwerter Brief” (weighted letter) or “mit inliegend” (enclosed) and indicates the number and value of each denomination of notes and coins. Moreover, as for registered letters, a number was written on the address side. Every item sent by post-coach was registered and its delivery was confirmed by an acknowledgement of receipt for which the sender had to pay. Not only the amount of postage due was written on the side of the letter bearing the address but also that of postage paid.



Unstamped money-letter N -10 sent from the post office at Rumburg in January 1831 and N -32 dispatched by the stage-coach post office at Linz. It contained five 5 fl, nine 10 fl and one 25 fl bank-notes, i.e. 140 fl CM. The sender had only paid for the acknowledgement of delivery .The remaining postal charges were 19x for registration and 14x postage, making 33x postage due. However, as the letter was delivered by a messenger, who brought it from Linz to Michelsdorf and apparently charged 5x for his services, the recipient had to pay a total of 38x (see left-hand flap).

Stage-coach headquarters were only found in the large cities. In all other places with a postal service, the letter-post offices also took over the duties regarding the stage-coach mail. Because of this, the same forms and stamps were often used for both services. Along unsafe stretches stage -coaches carrying larger amounts of money were accompanied by an armed military person. The post-coach service insisted that items were securely packed because it was responsible for the things it transported. Thus money-letters had not only to be closed

with the seal of the sender but also with that of the office at the place of posting. This procedure produced some attractive and also curious examples for collectors of local history



Receipt form printed with place-name, issued by the post-office at Posoritz on 27.6.1835 for money-letter N-585 containing 1fl 3x CM which was sent to the District Authority at Morwitz. The sender paid only 3x for the receipt. It was probably an official letter concerning legal matters and was recorded at Posoritz as an item for which the postal charges would be paid in a lump-sum by the Ministry of Justice at a later date.

Originally, the clerk at the place of posting had to check the money to be sent and the letters were then sealed at the post-office. In such cases, the post-coach service was responsible for the sum of money to be conveyed.

In 1850, an additional, cheaper possibility of sending money by post was introduced. Here envelopes could be handed in already sealed. As usual, the clerk wrote details of the money enclosed on the outside of the envelope and then applied the post-office seal without checking the contents. An additional stamp "NACH ANGABE" or "LAUT ANGABE" [according to declaration] was applied to the front of the cover. In such cases, the post-coach service was only responsible for delivering the money-letter intact.

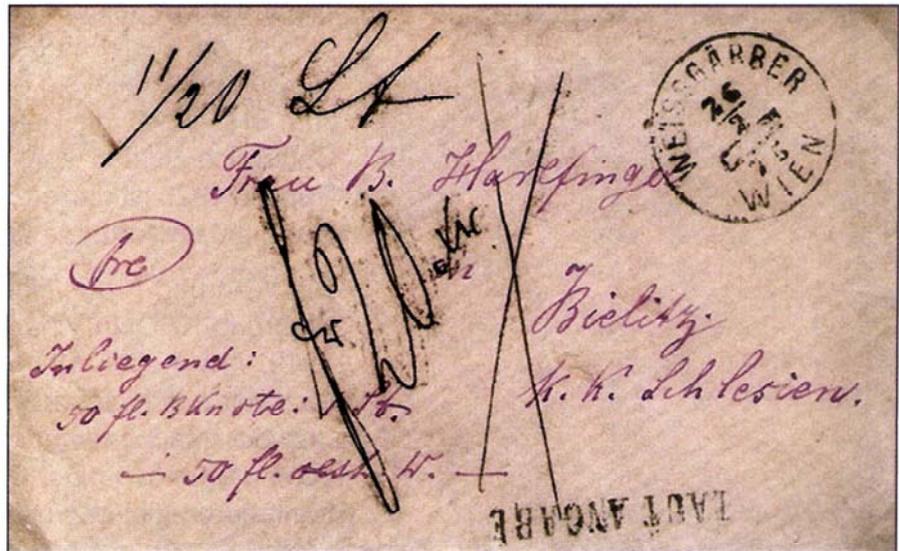
From 1874, the post-coach service offered special money-letter envelopes for sale at the price of 1kr. The use of postage stamps to pay the fees for money-letters was not introduced until 1890. However, in order to be able to see clearly that the envelopes were intact, the stamps had to be applied singly, with a space between each one. Postage due money-letters were still allowed but were subject to a surcharge of 6kr.

The resplendent back of a money-letter assessed with 40fl 81½kr, sent from Hof in Moravia to Vasarhely. In the middle is the seal of the Imperial and Royal Post Office at Hof, flanked by the seals of the Imperial and Royal District Court, Hof in Moravia.



The following book is recommended to those interested in the complicated Austrian money-letter fees: KAINBACHER, Paul: Handbuch der Brief- und Fahrpost. Band 1. (This is APS Library number 326)

Postage-paid money-letter assessed with 15fl ö.W., "LAUT ANGABE", 11/20<sup>th</sup> Lt (11/20<sup>th</sup> Lot was equal to approximately 9 grams). Posted in Vienna on 26.2.1875, to be sent to Bielitz. The postage for the money-letter, up to 50fl for a distance of 20-50 miles and 100 grams in weight, came to 20kr o.W. and was paid by the sender.



Postage due money-letter with 242fl o.W. [Österreichische Wahrung], sent from Lambach to Vienna on 28.9.1891. According to the notice in the top right-hand corner it weighed 89gr, and was assessed with 36kr. This amount was made up of 24kr for the weight, 6kr registration fee and 6kr surcharge because the sender had not applied postage stamps.

## Problems with Leather Post Bags

From Die Briefmarke. Nr. 4/2009, pp 15-17 By **Hubert Jungwirth**, translated by Jean Toghill

My collector friend, Udo Nagiller, is not one to conceal his treasures anxiously from every jealous eye. On the contrary, he is always willing to make available his abundant source material. My thanks are due to him for allowing me to use the original documents on which this article is based.

### Problems due to missing letters

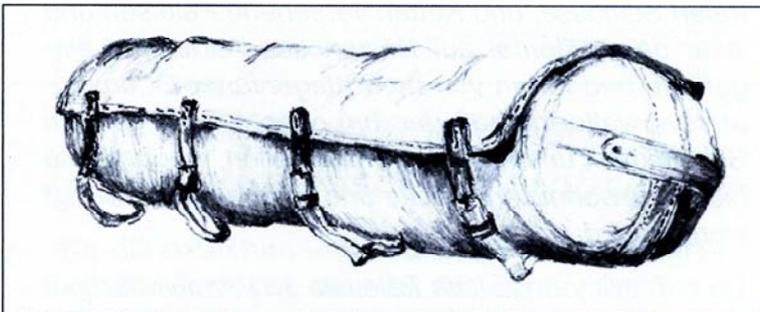
In 1778 some of the mail for Milan disappeared for the fourth time. According to the itinerary record, this consignment for Milan, which had been repacked in the Austrian leather post bag and cleared as complete at Brixen, arrived at Klagenfurt with items missing. As routine enquiries led to no results, the Head Postal Administration at Vienna authorized High Commissioner von Seidl to make a thorough investigation of the strange happenings.

Although Herr von Seidl was also unable to throw any light on the matter, he located a number of shortcomings in the delivery of mail and in the careless management of the post offices, especially regarding the office at Brixen. With the reforms he suggested, Herr von Seidl demonstrated great expert knowledge, determination and farsightedness, as shown in his report. This text not only confirms some experiences familiar to postal historians but also contains new information about the running of the old postal system.

When working with original documents, the first step is to read it word for word, taking care not to be put off by the old spelling and the varying use of it. The next step is to gather the meaning of the then German officialese and phrases no longer in current use.

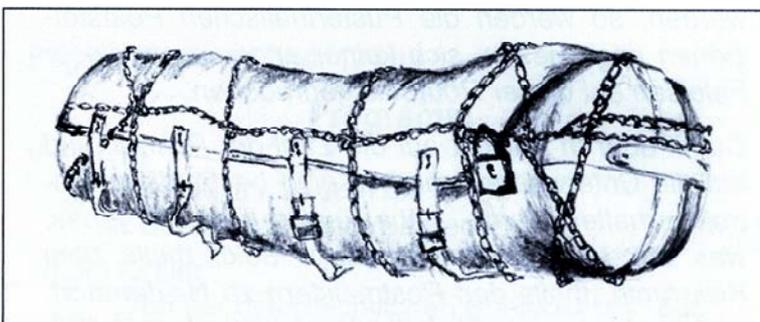
Then one receives an authentic glimpse of the former workaday routine of the letter-post service. For example, the tied-up leather post bags, which after the reform were to be bound in chains fastened with locks. In them were the bundled letters which were conveyed between large post offices, such as Brixen and Klagenfurt, and the letters which were to be delivered, or had been collected, along the way between two main offices. The handling of mail at every post office was, in future, to be carried out under the surveillance of two postillions. This was an obvious safety measure, as was the threefold documentation: the itinerary record which accompanied each journey; entries in the postillions' duty books; and the minute-books in which the post offices kept a record of incoming and outgoing mail. That the authority acted with circumspect and farsightedness is shown by the fact that other measures, such as the removal of incompetent postmasters and the moving of a relay station to another location, were also undertaken. However, the crowning action was probably the appointment of a supervisor for the post office at Brixen.

The observation that the post office at Niederdorf was the first Austrian one between Brixen and Klagenfurt makes one aware that, similar to Trent and Salzburg, the Diocese of Brixen was also an independent principality until the secularization which took place in 1803. Up to this point, Austria held the right to run the postal service on foreign territory, as it were. However, the co-operation between empire and principality appears to have worked well, as illustrated by the uncomplicated adjustment of the wages of the new post supervisor and the old postman at Brixen.



### *Felleisen*

“Felleisen” were leather sacks or bags for carrying letters. The word probably derives from the French word “valise”, which means suitcase or travelling bag. In 24 hours the leather post bags were conveyed over a distance of about 150 kilometres. Since the country lanes had not as yet been upgraded into post roads [see the *Maria Theresia Decree discussed in ‘Austria’ 137*], an overweight leather post bag would be loaded onto a second horse, which was led by the postillion. As the post roads made it possible to use faster vehicles, overweight leather post bags were transported by small, two-wheeled parcel post carriages. From 1850, a second horse was harnessed to the carriage for loads of 224 pounds or more



### *Faulty Lock on a Leather Post Bag*

Scarcely were the two specially made post bags in use on the route between Brixen and Klagenfurt than another most suspicious incident occurred - once again in Pustertal. A broken-off key was found in the lock of one of the post bags. As none of the postmasters were to blame for this, the suspicion arose that, apart from the official keys, duplicates were in circulation. Using these it would be possible to open the bags anywhere along the journey. Without delay, Ferdinand Pupetschek, from the Head Post Office Administration at Innsbruck, was

sent into Pustertal, together with an official from the District Office, to open investigations at the post office at Niederdorf. Should these bring no results, they were to proceed to Lienz for further investigations. However, in spite of the closest questioning of all postmasters and postillions, no suspect could be found.

### ***Unpunctual Leather Post Bags***

The most frequent and greatest inconvenience in connection with the post bags was caused by the "Retardenzen", as the delays in the post-chaise service were called by the bureaucrats in those days. The delays were ascertained from the itinerary, which travelled with the post bags and in which each postmaster had to note the time of arrival at and departure from his station. The fines for causing a delay started at 15 Kreuzer per half-hour and were regularly increased over the following decades.

Even if a delay were caused by circumstances beyond one's control, e.g. flooding or deep snow, presenting an apology for it involved bothersome paperwork. When, however, the delay was the result of slow handling by a postmaster or a tardy ride by a postillion, great annoyance arose as the fine was deducted from the fees which were forwarded to the postmaster every quarter-year, possibly resulting in a dispute between the postmaster and the postillion as to who was responsible for the mishap.

### ***A Burning Leather Post Bag***

Because a tobacco-smoking post-rider travelling between Vienna and Brunn accidentally set fire to his post bag, a decree was issued on 27.4.1793 which strictly forbade post-riders, under threat of heavy punishment, to smoke when conveying a bag of mail.

### ***A Wet Post Leather Bag***

After a post bag sent from Lienz to Vienna arrived there wet through, the relay stations were once again instructed to pack them carefully and to protect the barouches from moisture and rain by putting covers over them. Failure to do this had to be noted in the itinerary. A fine of 10 Gulden awaited those who refrained from making a relevant entry. All private relay stations were promised a yearly allowance of 10 Gulden to cover increased expenditure caused by the regulations concerning the leather post bags.

## ***Appendix: von Seidl's Report***

The manuscript report consists of 4½ pages; the literal transcription into print is as follows:

By means of the Royal Decree of 22nd of last month, His Majesty has graciously deigned to command that for the meantime, in order to ensure more safety for mail being conveyed between Brixen and Klagenfurt, two leather post bags fitted with [illegible] detachable locks and chains shall be procured. The cost for these first two bags will be borne by the Treasury. Henceforth, the Senior Post Office Administrator at Klagenfurt will maintain these objects in the course of the duties he already carries out. The ropes and seals which have been used up to now will be removed.

Now that two different leather post bags are to be made at Vienna and sent to the post office at Klagenfurt, the relay stations in Pustertal will be instructed to use no other than these on this route.

In order to ensure the safety of the number of bundles being conveyed, a continuous control is necessary and His Majesty demands that the measures, which High Commissioner von Seidl has suggested, be carried out faithfully. Herr von Seidl has informed the District Office and the postmasters at Niederdorf and Lienz of these measures partly in writing and partly by word of mouth. It has been laid down that sealed leather post bags being conveyed from Brixen to Klagenfurt shall be first opened at the Austrian relay station at Niederdorf, then at Lienz and then at Greifenburg according to the following instructions. Under the continuous surveillance of the incoming and outgoing postillions, the letter bundles in the locked leather post bag are to be counted exactly, packed into the bag again and the bag re-locked. As confirmation, the number of bundles is not only to be entered in the postillions' duty books but also in the accompanying itinerary and in the official minute-book of the postmaster at the relay station. He is also to note whether an old or a new leather post bag is being used and also, what has been quite neglected up to now, the marks stamped on the postbags in letters and not in ciphers.

Every postmaster who is not required to open the leather post bag must, however, also in the presence of the incoming and outgoing postillions, verify that the bag, the chain and the lock are undamaged and pay attention to what is written in the postillions' duty books, the itinerary and the minute book. He is to enter even the smallest discrepancy or damage into the above-mentioned documents. In the case of a really grave problem, or if a bundle is missing when the leather post bag is opened, he can, if he thinks fit, arrest the incoming postillion and immediately inform the relevant postmaster and the nearest District Office.

To ensure that in future the distributing post office at Brixen is not without supervision, His Majesty has been pleased to appoint a permanent inspector with an annual salary of 300 Gulden, namely Bisdomimi, at present employed at the post office at Bolzano, and, in his place, the overseer Kugstatscher. The first-mentioned is to receive his salary from the day of his arrival at Brixen and the last-named from the day on which he takes the oath of office.

Following an agreement with the post of the Principality, there will be an adjustment of salary for the postman from Brixen (Kugstatscher), so that no-one is at a disadvantage. At the same time, in order to ensure that the relay stations are in the hands of capable people, the Court wishes the station at Niederdorf to be moved to Oberfindl and that at Mittewald to Abfaltersbach. Care must be taken to ensure that these positions are given only to well-known and capable persons.

These orders will be passed to the District Office in Pustertal for execution and the Head Post Office Administration will be given this present information. Innsbruck, 4th May, 1789

## Concerning the Price of Pre-Philately Letters

From Die Briefmarke. Nr. 5/2009, pp 14-17 By Hubert Jungwirth, translated by Jean Toghill

Although we may attach more importance to the ideal value rather than to the monetary value of our old letters, their prices are not without interest when one looks at the matter realistically.

### *Survey of the State of the Market*

A survey of the state of the market is nevertheless the basis of every wise purchase or bid at an auction and offers protection when dealing with philatelic dreamers or tricksters. So far, so logical.

### *Personal Assessment of Prices*

However, how can a simple collector of pre-philately arrive at a realistic idea of prices? I do not know. Therefore, as I do not know how collectors in general achieve it, for the rest of this article I will forsake the objective style of writing and explain how I feel my way to my personal assessment of prices for Austrian, inland pre-philately letters from the 19<sup>th</sup> century . For me the starting point is a letter like the following one, which I consider to be a good average example of everyday items. I call it a “standard letter” and would gladly pay 5 Euro for it, if I needed it for some purpose.



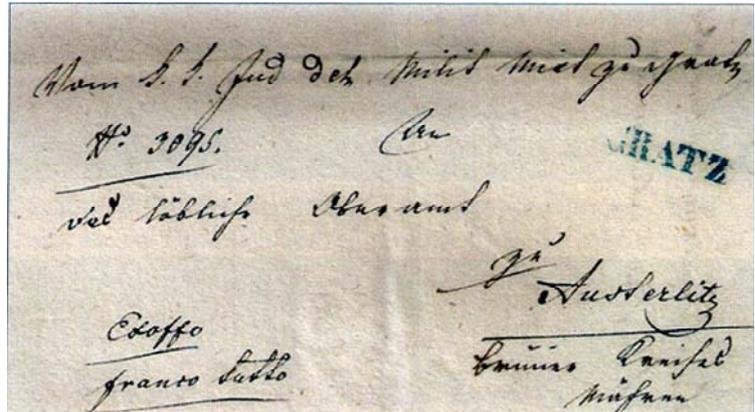
My standard letter, along with its contents, is in good condition. It is a normal postage-due letter from 1842 and has a legible assessment. Müller gives the clear blue cancel 15x2 points. It is a perfectly common item, so for me does not justify a bonus point. The crossed out words “franco Bregenz” bottom left are perhaps a flaw, but the beautiful blue notepaper makes up for this.

### **Valuation Criteria -Minus Points**

For letters which do not reach this standard, I have introduced two categories. Items in the first category end up in a box in which there are hundreds of 1-Euro letters. Letters in the category “U” are put into a much larger box whose contents are in reality unsellable. If I were not so attached to them, I would throw them into a waste-paper container!

Most of the letters to which I give a negative rating are those which exist in vast numbers. For example, ordinary letters which were conveyed between Vienna, Pest, Prague, Brünn, Linz, Steyr, St. Pölten, Lemberg, Trieste, Brody, etc. Ordinary letters from the enormous archives at Micheldorf, Klosterneuburg, Debrezin, Neuberg, etc., have also inundated the market and are, therefore, no longer of value.

This clean-looking letter was conveyed from Graz to Austerlitz in 1835. The reverse is completely blank. The green place-of-posting cancel has only been given 3x2 points by Edwin Müller, which puts the letter almost in the group of bulk items. Moreover, it bears no assessment and cannot, therefore, answer one of the most important philatelic questions. It is put in the 1-Euro box.



My standard letter, therefore, must not belong to the group of bulk items. It should be complete and show sender, addressee, date and amount of postage. These requirements cannot be fulfilled by a number of official letters because they are not assessed and show no features which would raise them above the standard level. It is presumably unnecessary to explain how a bad condition, stains, tears, covers without a date, and illegible postmarks lead to letters being given a negative rating.

### **Valuation Criteria — Bonus Points**

Whilst it takes only a minute to decide in which of the “minus” boxes an item belongs, I find it more difficult to determine which of the countless bonus levels apply and what would be an appropriate price.

Beauty is a timeless and fine characteristic feature of old letters, whether it has to do with ornate handwriting, or the fresh colours of the stamps and paper.

Until 1817, during the half-franked period, postage-due and postage-paid letters were the exception and, therefore, receive a bonus point. However, after 1817, more postage-due letters were sent. The postage-paid items were then rare and so they now earn a small bonus point.

Registered letters, printed matter and samples-of-no-value are conspicuous as a special form of mailing and, because of their complicated system of charges, require more attention from the collector.

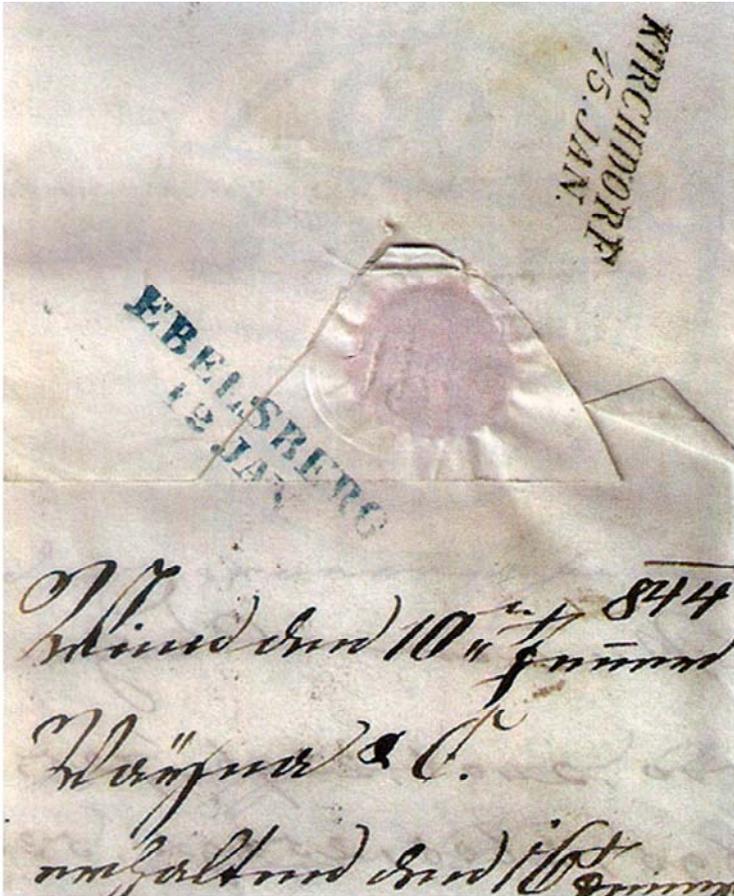
Locations of sender and addressee which lay beyond the borders of the places of posting are usually rare finds for collectors of local history and are worth more, especially when the letters were delivered by messengers who had written their fees on the covers. However, the law of supply and demand means that the piles of letters bearing messengers fees and sent to Klosterneuburg, Micheldorf or Dornbirn, only deserve a very small bonus point.

The documentation of the journeys made by letters naturally makes them more interesting, more desirable and, as a result, more expensive. The information gathered can concern the correction of assessments, a note of redirection, a forwarding note, a return note, notes on onward transmitted items, or many other unusual details, which have been acquired during the journey from the sender to the addressee.

Postmarks play a big part in establishing the price of inland letters and the so-called cancel-collectors still go by their scarcity value. At an auction, should the price of a pre-philately letter rapidly reach more than 1,000 Euro, it usually bears a very rare postmark. Collectors of local history [“Heimatsammler”] are also pleased to have

handwritten notes of origin, arrival postmarks and any additional postmarks from their area. Postal historians, also, who are mainly concerned with how interesting an example is, naturally sneak a regular look at the points in the catalogues.

The onward transmitted letter illustrated next shows that its postmark “WIEN” had nothing to do with determining the price. In this case the transit mark and the postmark combined influenced the price. Additional markings such as “Franko”, registration, control, disinfection, tax or arrival marks can also influence how many bonus points a letter receives.



When this postage-due letter was dispatched from Vienna to Micheldorf on 10.1.1844, only the note “pr Ebelsberg” could have rescued it from my negative rating “U”. However, at the post office at Ebelsberg it started to be an interesting item because, after the opening of the Kirchdorf post office in 1842, mail for Micheldorf was delivered there and was no longer the concern of Ebelsberg. The forwarding of the letter to Kirchdorf with the note “Post Kirchdorf” would have caused no problems, if it were not for the summary-of-post [*a pre-printed internal Post Office form*] on which a Viennese post office clerk would have entered that the office at Ebelsberg would collect 12kr CM for this item. As, however, not only the letter but also the income of 12kr wandered from Ebelsberg to Kirchdorf, this sum should have been deducted from the Ebelsberg account and entered in a new summary-of-post in favour of Kirchdorf. For that reason, “Abzug von Ebelsberg” was written on the letter and it became a rare onward-transmitted item, perfectly documented by the two notes in ink on the front (see arrows) and the two legible postmarks on the back. Therefore, I arrive at my price of 60 Euro.



I cannot resist asking a heretical question. Why should the date stamp from Linz, which, for example, had served as an arrival postmark on the back of a letter, be given a higher rating than a handwritten date on the back of an item to Grieskirchen?

I also admit that I value **hand-written place-names**, not only those from the days without stamps but also those from before and after this time.

Reasons for further bonus points are, for example, a short tariff period, first or last day of a tariff period, a special sender, a special addressee, exceptional contents, sent from abroad, sent to foreign places, and many more. The price of items which turn up rarely, like letters from the Imperial Court or those bearing currency conversions, can only be compared up to a certain point. This also applies to rare forms, mail coach items or foreign letters with unusual destinations. However, collectors who regularly follow the prices for single lots at

auctions, or watch how high starting prices are in eBay, how bidding progresses and how high the end prices are, are soon acquainted with the movement of the market in their particular fields of interest.

### Important Tips!

- Buy the better items first, and then the cheaper ones.
  - Sell the cheaper items first and then the more expensive ones.
  - Always make a note of the price paid, the date of purchase and the seller.

[but **do not write it on the item!!! Editor.**]

### Two closing examples:



This half-franked letter from Lemberg, dated 28 May 1775, is impressive because of its decorative, early post horn mark. The asking price for a similar item at the Deider Auction on 4 April 2009 was 380 Euro.

This letter with ornate handwriting, dated 12.3.1585, was sent from the Archduchess Madalena of Austria (the daughter of Emperor Ferdinand I) to her brother Ferdinand II, Archduke of Tirol. Asking price 200 Euro, knocked down for 210, total cost 256 Euro.



## Letters Conveyed Privately

From Die Briefmarke. Nr. 6/2009, pp 18-19 By **Hubert Jungwirth**, translated by Jean Toghill

### The Monopoly of the Letter Post

We are no longer able to imagine the real significance of the old postal service, because we experience our world through the internet, the telephone, the mobile phone, fax, radio and television. However, more than two hundred years ago, letters provided the main means of conveying personal information.

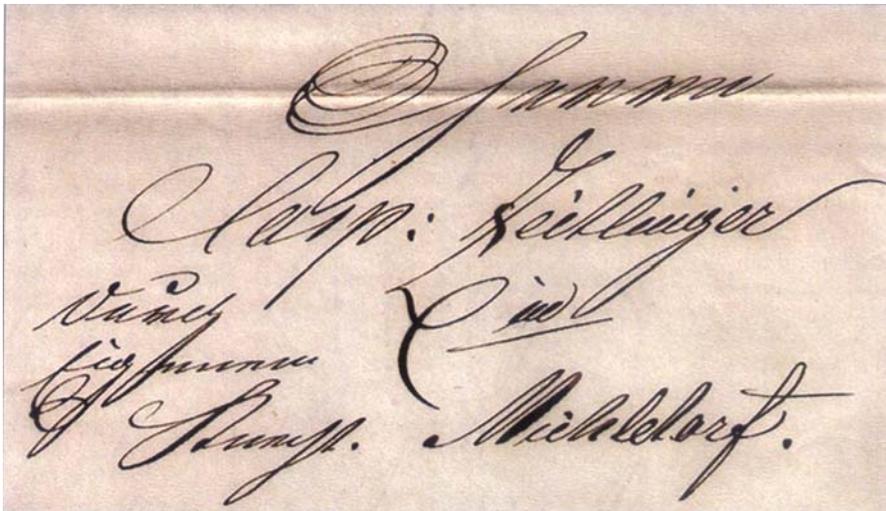
But the overall delivery network of the Post as we know it today was not attained until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. For this reason, especially for places off the post routes, the private conveyance of letters was of great importance in the pre-philately days. What was then more obvious than to ask a relation, a friend or a

neighbour, when the possibility arose, to take letters to the nearest post office or even to bring them to the addressees themselves.

Of course, the state had the monopoly for the conveyance of letters. Naturally, the running of the letter post system was on the one hand expensive, however on the other it was profitable. This was reason enough to wish to prevent the advent of any unfair competition. Thus numerous bans and warnings, such as the following from 1821, were issued. It was intended to discourage the smuggling of letters, as it was called.

“As the smuggling of letters by messengers and carriers has greatly increased and is disadvantageous to the Post, the Imperial and Royal Vereinte Gefällen Verwaltung [= *the special administration to deal with problems in the provinces, mainly to do with finances or customs*] has pleased to ordain that, from time to time and unexpectedly, messenger and carriers are to be rigorously inspected by customs officers, in consultation with an official of the Post Coach Authority, if such an office is located in the place in question, or in the presence of the postmaster. Should they find letters or items for the conveyance of which the Post Coach Authority owns the sole rights, the officials are to deal with the offenders according to the existing regulations...”

### *Admissible Private Conveyance of Letters*

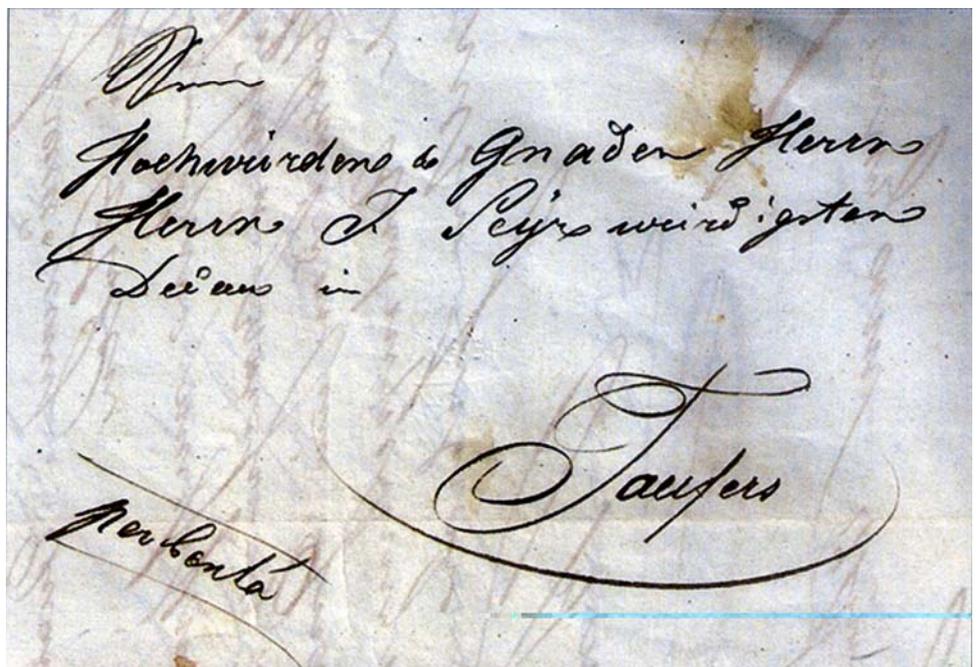


Only relations, neighbours or employees were allowed to take letters along the post routes. In addition, carriers could carry so-called “carriers letters” which concerned their load. As a sign that they were being carried free of charge, some privately conveyed letters bore the remark “Durch Güte” [= *out of kindness*], or similar words.

This letter is dated August 1846. It has never seen the inside of a post office, as an employee of the sender took it from Urfahr to

Micheldorf and then it went from Linz to Kirchdorf along the post road. The remark “Durch Eighenen Knecht” [= *by own servant*] was a precautionary statement, in order to avoid a possible punishment for smuggling a letter.

This letter was conveyed privately in 1845 along the Bruneck post route as far as Taufers. “Per bonta” [= *out of kindness*] was the phrase used in order to avoid being charged with illegally conveying a letter.



# AVAILABILITY OF DEFINITIVES IN IMPERIAL AUSTRIA

By A Taylor

How often have you looked at an envelope and wondered why it had so many stamps? Surely they could have used just one – less effort required, and it would look cleaner and have a clear cancellation. I'm not thinking of the "patriotic franking" with black and yellow stamps, nor of philatelic covers, but of normal commercial mail. When the rules changed and the registration fee was payable by a stamp on the front instead of the back, why did people still use two stamps instead of one?

One reason for such behaviour can be that there was no suitable denomination on issue. You couldn't pay 10h postage plus 25h registration with a 35h stamp in 1900 because there wasn't a 35h stamp till 1902!

I've trudged through Ferchenbauer and extracted the detail of which values were available when, for the period 1858 to 1918. I have excluded special purpose stamps (newspapers, postage dues etc) and the Gulden and Krone values; also the first issue because of the currency change in 1858. The results follow, for your delight and delectation.

## *Kronen currency*

	1858	1860	1863	1867	1883	1890/1/6
1kr						X*
2kr	X	X	X	X	X	X
3kr	X	X	X	X	X	X
5kr	X	X	X	X	X	X
6kr						
9kr						
10kr	X	X	X	X	X	X
12kr						X*
15kr	X	X	X	X		X*
20kr					X*	X
24kr						X*
25kr				X*		
30kr						X*
50kr				X*	X	X*
Issued	1.11.1858	1860-61	mid-1863	1867 as needed; * on 1.9.1867	2 <sup>nd</sup> half 1883; * on 15.8.1883	by end 1890 as needed; * on 1.9.1890
Withdrawn	31.5.1864	31.5.1864	31.8.1869	31.10.1884	30.6.1891	30.9.1900

Normally, a value in an issue would be replaced by the same value in the next issue before it was declared invalid. For example, you could always buy a 2kr stamp until 1900, but it wasn't valid to use an 1863 issue in 1893. However, there were gaps, and values were actually available for franking between:

1kr	1.9.1890 – 30.9.1900
2kr	1.11.1858 - 30.9.1900
3kr	1.11.1858 - 30.9.1900
5kr	1.11.1858 - 30.9.1900
10kr	1.11.1858 - 30.9.1900
12kr	1.9.1890 – 30.9.1900

15kr	1.11.1858 – 31.10.1884 and 1.9.1890 - 30.9.1900
20kr	15.8.1883 – 31.8.1891
24kr	1.9.1890 – 31.8.1891
25kr	1.9.1867 – 31.10.1884
30kr	1.9.1890 – 30.9.1900
50kr	1.9.1867 – 30.9.1900

**Heller currency**

	1899	1902	1904	1907	1908	1916
1h	X	X	X		X	
2h	X	X	X		X	
3h	X	X	X		X	X
5h	X	X	X	X	X	X
6h	X	X	X		X	X
10h	X	X	X	X	X	X
12h				X*	X	X
15h						X*
20h	X	X	X	X	X	X
25h	X	X	X	X	X	X
30h	X	X	X	X	X	X
35h		X*	X		X	
40h	X	X	X			X
50h	X	X	X		X	X
60h	X	X	X		X	X
72h			X*		X	
80h						X*
90h						X
Issued	Dec 1899	* 15.2.1902; rest Aug 1901	* 7.11.1904; rest Q2 1904	* 1.6.1907; rest mid 1906	1.1.1908	* 1.10.1916; rest 28.9.1916
Withdrawn	31.10.1908	31.10.1908	31.10.1908	31.10.1908	31.12.1916	15-30h: 28.2.1918; rest till 1920

The values were available for franking between

1h	Dec 1899 – 31.12.1916
2h	Dec 1899 – 31.12.1916
3h	Dec 1899 – 1920
5h	Dec 1899 – 1920
6h	Dec 1899 – 1920
10h	Dec 1899 – 1920
12h	1.6.1907 – 1920
15h	1.10.1916 – 28.2.1918
20h	Dec 1899 – 28.2.1918

25h	Dec 1899 – 28.2.1918
30h	Dec 1899 – 28.2.1918
35h	15.2.1902 – 1920
40h	Dec 1899 – 31.10.1908 and 28.9.1916 - 1920
50h	Dec 1899 – 28.2.1918
60h	Dec 1899 – 28.2.1918
72h	7.11.1904 – 31.12.1916
80h	1.10.1916 – 1920
90h	28.9.1916 – 1920

Note that for some denominations there are gaps in the availability (and validity) period. For example, between 1.11.1908 and 27.9.1916 you could neither buy a new 40h adhesive nor use an old one.

## Vienna to Munich, Nurnberg, Munich, etc. §

By Steve Schweighofer



This cover was posted in Vienna and was cancelled on 9.IX.36.18 at 13 Wien 156. The 94 groschen covers the inland registered rate with return receipt (the large blue **R.S.** = Rückschein). It was originally addressed in black pen to Andreas Petermayr, München 2 Bs, Schließfach 92, Deutsches Reich. The sender was Adele Bergold, Wien XIII, Missindorfstrasse 30/5 (on the other side).

As well as the markings on the front and back, it acquired a stuck-on tab, folded back in the above illustration and shown on the next page.

The cover arrived in München 13, 10.9.36.17, (slogan in arrival cancel: “Hauptstadt der Bewegung” = Capital of the Movement), and was cancelled on the back at München 2 BZ 10.9.36.-3 and 10.9.36.-16. (BZ = Brief Zentral?).

A second black (it appears as violet) pen address has been applied, forwarding the item to “S. S. Kaserne / Frauenau - Ziegelstädter / Landstr.”.

A München 13 12.9.36-7 marking was applied at top front and a red pen was used to cross out the original address and the second address, and a Nürnberg forwarding address was added. On the left (under the added tab) a “nachges. (nachgesendet) 12 / 9 MS (initials?)”. On the right, a “Nürnberg / Frauenturm (a Nürnberg landmark) / Schule / Haus / Gymnasium”.



In Nürnberg no arrival marking was applied; but a violet handstamp “Nicht abgefordert, / zuruck” was.

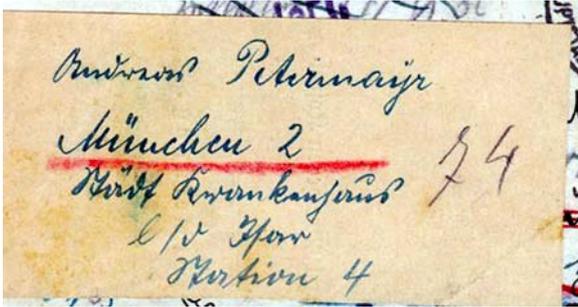
The handstamp was crossed out with grey pencil, adding in the upper left, “Lingenhessen / zustellen 14 / IX 36 (initial)” and under Andreas Petermayr in the original address “zustellen 14 / IX /36 (initial)”, and lined through the Nürnberg address.

A blue pen crossed out the grey pencil markings and added “Abgesendet nach München / Ingolstädtestrasse/ S. S. Kaserne”.

A red pencil again crossed out Nürnberg, this time with two diagonal lines, and underlined the blue pen München address. The cover arrived again at München 2 BZ 14.9.36.-5 (?) and München 13 on 15.9.36.-4. Brackets again drew attention to the Ingolstädtestrasse München blue pen address.

And finally an arrival marking München 2 BZ 30.9.36-13 (backstamped) was applied.

§ [This article shows how careful study of the markings and dates on a cover can extract much information from what initially seems an unpromising jumble! Ed.]



On a piece of scrap paper cut from an old form pasted to the front (to add writing space), the München 2 address “Städt Krankenhaus / 1 / d Isar / Station 4”, was added, with a “74” added in black pencil. Since this address is not crossed out, it must be assumed the letter finally reached Andreas Petermayr at this address.

### Other markings:

New registry number was 213 assigned in black pencil, then 275 over that in blue-green ink.

Another new number 0297 (assigned by the Munich Rohrpost office?) with a black rubber stamp, along side a “14 / IX /36 (initial)”. **The registry number had been changed during handling through Deutsche Post, but why?**

Paper tape on the back, sealing the envelope flap, reads, “Zur / Devisenüberwachung / zollamtlich / geöffnet” (officially opened by the foreign exchange monitoring office), was applied and sealed with München 10.9.36.14-15 cancels. A München 2 10.9.36.10 marking is beneath the tape at the lower left.

The author, and the Editor, ask readers who can enhance, correct, or disprove any part of these “partly explained covers” to make their views known – we do not seek to promulgate errors to delude or mislead posterity!

## More on Austrian Import/Export Tax in the Early Nineteenth Century



David Fever writes: No sooner had my article “Austrian Import/Export Tax in the Early Nineteenth Century” been published when, courtesy of a fellow member, I came into possession of another tax office cover - these covers seem to be breeding like rabbits!

A scan of the tax office cachet is shown opposite; it is on a Semlin (Zemun) local letter of 1832 addressed to the Military Court. This time the tax office cachet is in black denoting postage unpaid. The text of the cachet reads: **KÖNIG / SALZ UND / DREYSSIGST: / AMT / SEMLIN** ie “**Semlin Imperial Salt and Thirtieth Part Tax Office**”.

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### ***From the Treasurer***

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# The Postauftrag (Postal Mandate) service

By A Taylor aided by M Brumby et al

On 1 Nov 1882 the Nachnahmekarte (C.O.D.) service introduced in 1871 was refocussed on the transport of physical goods which were to be paid for on delivery, typically by Nachnahme Postbegleitadresse. A new service was introduced: the Postauftrag (Postal Mandate) service, to handle demands for payment for services that had been or were to be rendered, accompanied by documentation such as invoices. It was announced in a Decree from the Ministry of Trade:

## 144.

### Verordnung des Handelsministeriums vom 9. October 1882, betreffend die Einführung von Postaufträgen im internen Verkehre von Oesterreich-Ungarn.

In Folge Einvernehmens mit dem königl. ungarischen Ministerium für öffentliche Arbeiten und Communication können vom 1. November d. J. angefangen, im internen Verkehre der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie Geldbeträge bis inclusive 200 fl. österr. Währ. durch Postaufträge (Postmandate) unter den folgenden Modalitäten eingezogen werden:

(and so on for 2½ pages plus a form). As was customary, the text of the Decree was repeated verbatim in a Postverordnung, Nr 84 dated 17 Oct 1882, with the addition that this new system would be publicised in the regional newspapers, and that the existing C.O.D. system remained unchanged. The Postverordnung was accompanied by three pages of Durchführungs-Bestimmungen giving explanatory details for the postal employees, and details of the reverse of the form and of the dual-language versions.

A. A. Oesterreichische Postverwaltung.

**Postauftrag.**

Die Post wird beauftragt, von ..... in .....  
(Straße und Hausnummer) .....  
am ..... ten ..... (Fälligkeitstag) den Betrag von ..... fl. fr.  
sage: .....  
gegen Aushändigung der Anlage (..... Stück) einzuziehen.  
den ..... 188  
Name und Adresse des Auftraggebers .....

**Bestellungs-Formulare.**

a) Eingelöst am	18	(Unterschrift des Postbediensteten.)
b) Verweigert am	18	(Unterschrift des Postbediensteten.)
c) Frist verlangt am	18	(Unterschrift des Postbediensteten.)

**Bemerkungen für den Gebrauch der Postaufträge.**

- Durch Postauftrag können Geldbeträge bis zu 200 fl. österr. Währ. eingezogen werden. Aufträge über höhere Beträge werden als unbestellbar behandelt.
- Der Postauftrag ist unter Couvert an das Postamt des Bestimmungsortes zu überreichen.  
Die Sendung ist bei der Aufgabe zu frankiren und mit dem Vermerk „Postauftrag“ zu versehen.
- Die Tage für einen Postauftrag ist dieselbe, wie für einen recommandirten Brief desselben Gewichtes.
- Der eingezogene Betrag wird abzüglich der Postanweisunggebühr durch Postanweisung an den Aufgeber übermittelt.
- Die Ausfüllung des Fälligkeitstages steht im Belieben des Absenders.
- Die Postverwaltung haftet für die Beförderung des Postauftrags-Briefes, wie für einen recommandirten Brief für den eingezogenen Betrag, wie für die auf Postanweisungen eingezahlten Beträge.

The new service is simplest to explain by an example (I'll refrain from inflicting a flow-chart on you!). Let's say that Bob wishes Alice to pay him 100 Gulden for something. Bob goes to a Post Office or a Stamp Reseller, buys a Postauftrag form for ½kr. and fills it in. He puts the form plus his supporting 'Anlage' (eg his invoice, bill of exchange, begging letter etc) in an envelope which he supplies; he decides if he wants only one delivery attempt to be made (if yes, he writes "Sofort zurück" on the back of the Postauftrag form); he addresses the envelope to Alice's Post Office [not to Alice; her details go on the form]; and he takes it to his own. They check the details and enter them in their registers; and sell him adhesives to cover postage plus registration. These are applied to Bob's envelope which is then transmitted to Alice's Post Office as a registered letter. There were restrictions:

- The amount was limited to 200fl.
- Bob's envelope was not to weigh over 250 gram and to be properly franked and sealed.
- Any specified delivery date had to be at least 10 days away.
- Only one Postauftrag was allowed per envelope.
- The postage was the same as for a registered letter of the same weight and destination; imprinted stamps could be supplemented with adhesives if necessary.

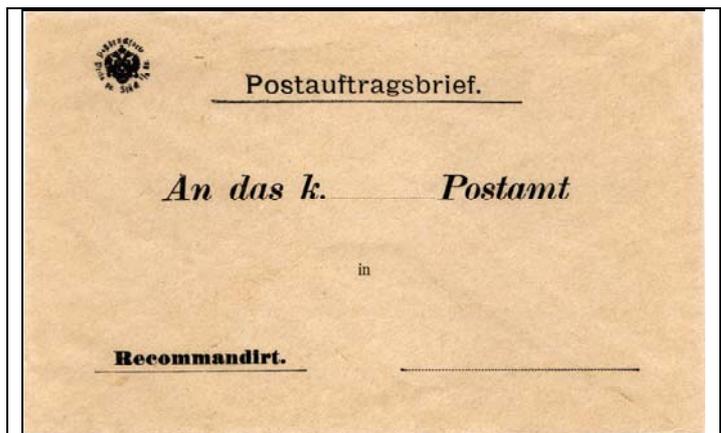
Alice's Post Office opens the letter and duly records it. They send the form and the Anlage via the delivery postman to Alice, who reads Bob's form demanding 100 Gulden and then:

- a) Alice immediately pays the postman 100 Gulden in cash; he hands her a receipt to sign (the Abgabescheine) and gives her the Anlage.
- b) Alice says she will never ever pay it, how dare Bob so insult a respectable citizen such as her, etc etc. The Anlage are sent back to Bob as a registered letter, free of further charge.
- c) Alice does not pay the postman at that first delivery attempt and Bob has said "Sofort zurück". The Anlage are sent back to Bob as a registered letter, free of further charge.
- d) Alice does not pay the postman at that first delivery attempt; the postman retains the form and also the Anlage. Alice has 14 days to go to her Post Office and hand over the cash, receiving the Anlage in exchange. If she doesn't, the postman makes one final delivery attempt.
- e) Alice does not pay the postman at that first delivery attempt, nor does she pay at her Post Office within the 14 days, nor does she pay the postman at the final demand. The Anlage are sent back to Bob as a registered letter, free of further charge.

If Alice **does** pay the 100fl, her Post Office creates a money order (an Auftrags-Postanweisung) in favour of Bob, BUT they deduct the standard charge (for 100fl in 1882, 20kr) from the gross amount of Alice's cash - so instead of 100 Gulden he would receive 99.80. This Auftrags-Postanweisung is sent through the system to Bob's Post Office, and eventually Bob's postman brings him 99fl80 in cash and awaits a large tip. [Aside: this is why the forms and envelopes do not carry any trace of these charges being paid.]

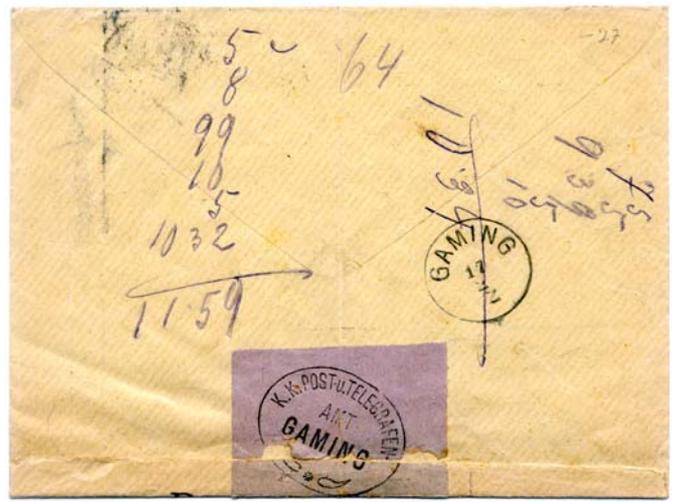
***In 1883 some changes were introduced.***

- In late May 1883 [PVOBlatt 60 of 23 May], official envelopes were introduced at a price of ½kr, but people could still use their own if they preferred.
- At the same date, a light green envelope was introduced, for sending back the Anlage if Alice did not pay the sum demanded
- From 1 July [PVOBlatt 70 of 28 June] the sender was allowed to include a completed Postanweisung form in his envelope, instead of relying on the delivery office's best efforts. He had to write "Auftrags-" before the title "Postanweisung". He was also permitted to add reference numbers, and could prepay the fee if he wished.
- On 1 Nov [PVOBlatt 100 of 16 Oct] the Postauftrag service was extended to Bosnia, Hercegovina and the Sanjak. For details see Austria 154 page 18.
- On 14 Dec [PVOBlatt 117 of 14 Dec] the forwarding of Postauftrage to a new delivery address was banned.



From 1 May 1886 [PVOBlatt 42 of 17 April] the service was extended to foreign countries such as Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, Switzerland; and a long list of specified Post Offices in Egypt. A range of official forms was created, catering for sending, successful delivery, failure to deliver, and so forth. The form below is the German-Czech version of the one for the claimant (Bob above) to list the recipients (Alice, Eugenie, Iolanthe, Ophelia, Urania etc); it was permitted to put several payment-demands on the one form provided they were all handled by the same office. These multi-language forms were introduced in February 1887 by PVOB 17 of 16 Feb.





Sent in 1902 by a publisher in Vienna; franked with adhesives: 10kr post & 25kr reg<sup>n</sup>. Redirected by the Gaming post office (whose stamp is on the resealing label) to Gossen – “contrary to 1902’s Regulations”!.

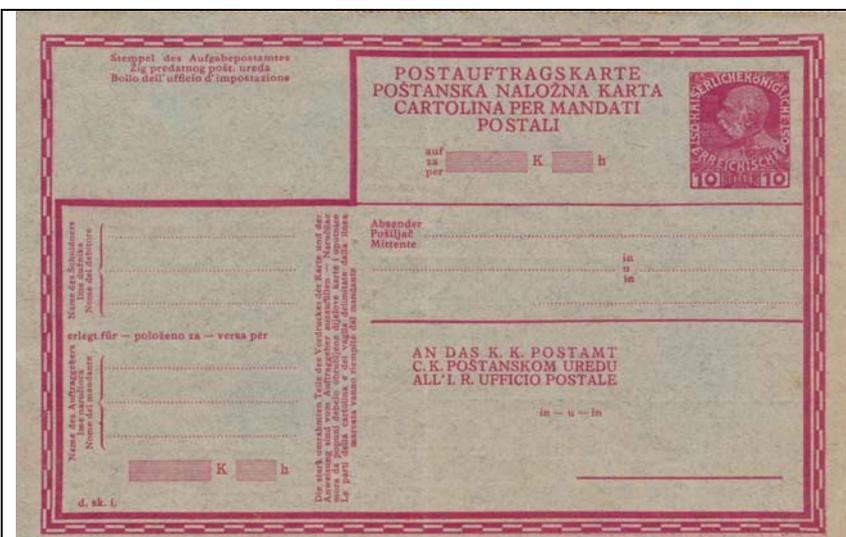
From 15 September 1906, claims and payments of over 1000Kr were permitted but subjected to a typically complex set of regulations.



Envelope sent in 1907 from Vienna to Hungary. It’s the sold-at-the-Post-Office envelope introduced by the 1886 extension of service to foreign countries (it’s PVOBlatt 42 appendix B). It seems to have replaced the specimens of the time are dual-language.

Envelope with privately imprinted 10kr & 25kr to pay registration and postage. Sent on 11.5.1911 from Vienna to Daschitz

**The 1913 Postauftragskarte**



From 1 July 1913 a new stand-alone Postauftragskarte appeared; it was for claiming small amounts up to 10Kr (typically magazine subscriptions and the like). An inclusive charge of 10h was made, shown by a 10h imprint. An Auftragspostanweisung formed a second part, which the sender also filled in.

From 1 November these cards could be sent to and from Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sandjak.

This is the three-language German-SerboCroat-Italian version.

Ankunftsnummer	1050		Raum zum Aufkleben der Briefmarken
AUFTRAGSPOSTANWEISUNG			
auf	9 K 70h		
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	K 70h		
an na	SINGER CO. NÄHMASCHINEN ACT. GES.		
in u	Sarajevo		
Straße, Hausnummer Ulica, kućni broj			
teichte Post (Land) zadnja pošta (zemlja)			
Annahmenummer	Bezirksstempel	Unterschrift des Postbeamten	
MZ	SARAJEVO	[Signature]	

[Ref: RGB 104 of 30 May 1913 plus a 4 page long 'Durchführungsbestimmung' of explanations and copies of forms!]

Left: Money order, originally attached to a Postauftrag, sent from Trebinje on 6 Mar 1918, to Sarajevo. 20h fee + 10h for collection.

For more details of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Sandjak. see Austria 154 page 18.

### ***The October 1916 Postordnung [RGB 317 of 22 September] – a new start***

This Postordnung revoked all previous Postordnungen and their amendments and stated in 82 pages the detailed rules and regulations for every aspect of the inland postal service. It is the starting point for all inland postal matters until 1938 and to some extent after 1945. Sections 90-93 deal with Postauftragsbriefe; 94 with Postauftragskarte; and 118 with the charges.

90: A wide variety of documents (invoices, receipts, bills of exchange etc) may be sent in a Postauftragsbriefe, which the addressee can take possession of in exchange for payment of a stated amount not exceeding 1000Kr. [These documents, previously called 'Anlage', are now called 'Forderungsurkunde'.]

91: The Postauftrag details are to be entered on a 2-part form (sold by the Post Office at 3h) which has the Auftrag with the delivery instructions at the bottom; at the top is the Anweisung for remitting the payment back to the sender.

92: The sender is to put the form and the documents in an envelope, address it to the recipient's Post Office, and add his own name and address. He can use a Post Office-supplied envelope, or supply his own which must be conspicuously marked Postauftrag.

93: Postauftragsbriefe are treated as registered letters, but any specified delivery date must be at least seven days after posting.

94: Postauftragskarte can be used to claim up to 20Kr; accompanying documents are impossible; they have an imprinted 10h stamp to cover the postage and are sold by the Post Office at 10h; privately-produced cards are forbidden. They are a 2-part card [similar to the Postauftrag of para 91].

118: If the recipient pays the amount claimed, the remittance back to the sender is charged as an ordinary Postanweisung and the fees deducted from the gross amount. If the recipient does not pay, the documents are returned to the sender who pays the Vorzeigegebühr. [It used to be free!]

### ***The "Vorzeigegebühr"?***

The "Vorzeigegebühr" was introduced in §168 of the 1916 Postordnung. It was a fee charged for the return to the sender of a C.O.D. packet, a Postauftrag, etc which had not been delivered to the addressee for whatever reason – normally a straightforward refusal to pay! It started at a rate of 10 heller, rising as inflation bit to 800Kr/8gr at 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1925 and to 15gr by the Anschluss. It applied to inland post, and to foreign post till Aug

1921 and again from Dec 1924. Initially it was payable by postage adhesives. From 14 Jan 1920 postage dues were applied, redeemed in cash by the recipient ie the original sender. After the Anschluss, as the Reichspost didn't use postage dues a simple cash payment was charged. On 1 Jan 1947, following the principle "let it be as it used to be" [also expressed as "Now, where were we before we were so rudely interrupted?"], the Vorzeigegebühr reappeared as 15gr [BGBl 206 of 21 Nov 1946], soon rising to 30gr, and charged by postage dues. In 1955 it rose to 70gr – but in the 1957 Postordnung [BGBl 110] it was unceremoniously abolished.

**In the First Republic**

The maximum permitted amount, and the postal charges, steadily rose as inflation bit. The Postauftragsbriefe continued to be treated as a registered letter of the same weight and destination.

On 15 Jan 1920 the Postauftragskarte limit was raised to 50K<sub>r</sub>; further increases followed to 500,000K<sub>r</sub>; for Postauftragbriefe it rose to 3 million Kronen!

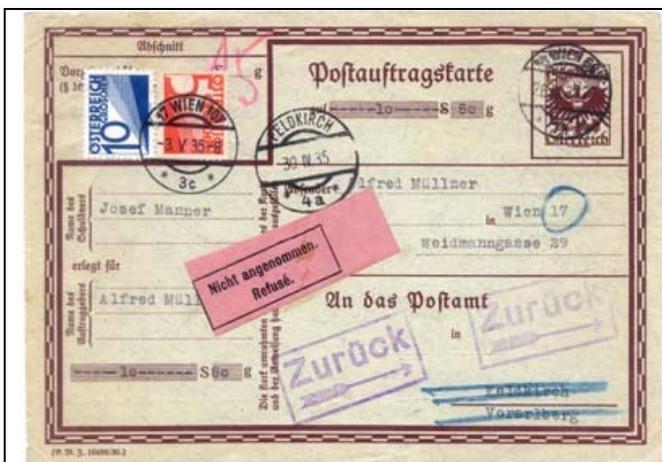
The illustration shows a 1920 issue Postauftragskarte

On 15 July 1922 the requirement was restated that a specified delivery date should be at least 7 days after posting. Also, Postauftragbriefe found un- or under-franked in letter boxes would not be delivered, but returned to the sender.

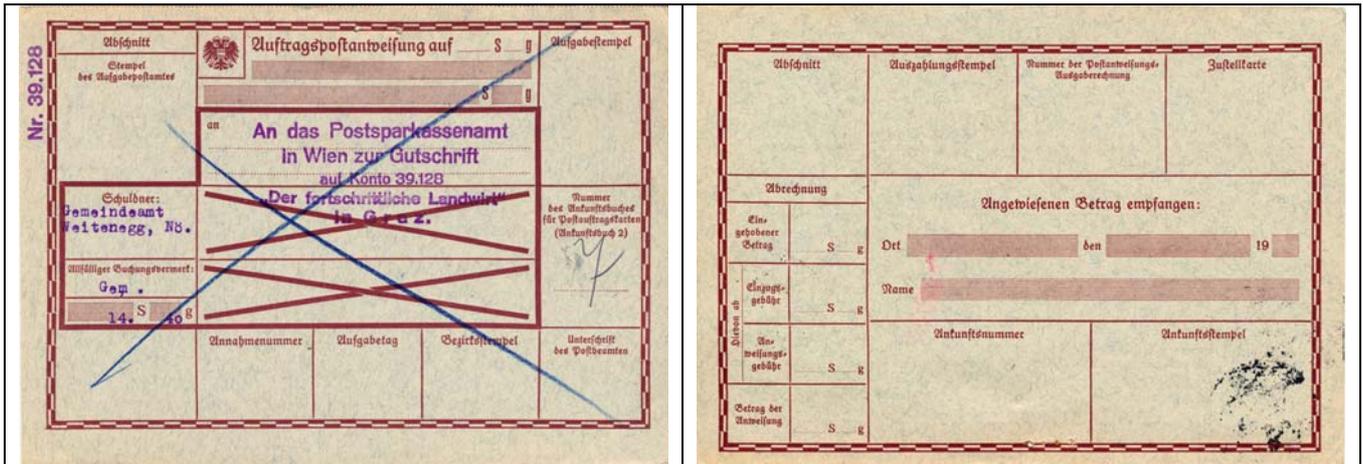


On 4 Oct 1923 the imprint on existing Postauftragskarte was devalued; old ones were to be used up as if they had no imprint and new printings didn't have one. The cards were sold at a nominal fee of 200K.

The illustration is an imprintless card used in 1931 with 15 groschen postage for sending it from Vienna to Agnes Mlakar in Gablitz. She didn't pay the 4 Schilling demanded so Dr Fischl had to pay another 15 groschen Vorzeigegebühr to get it back.

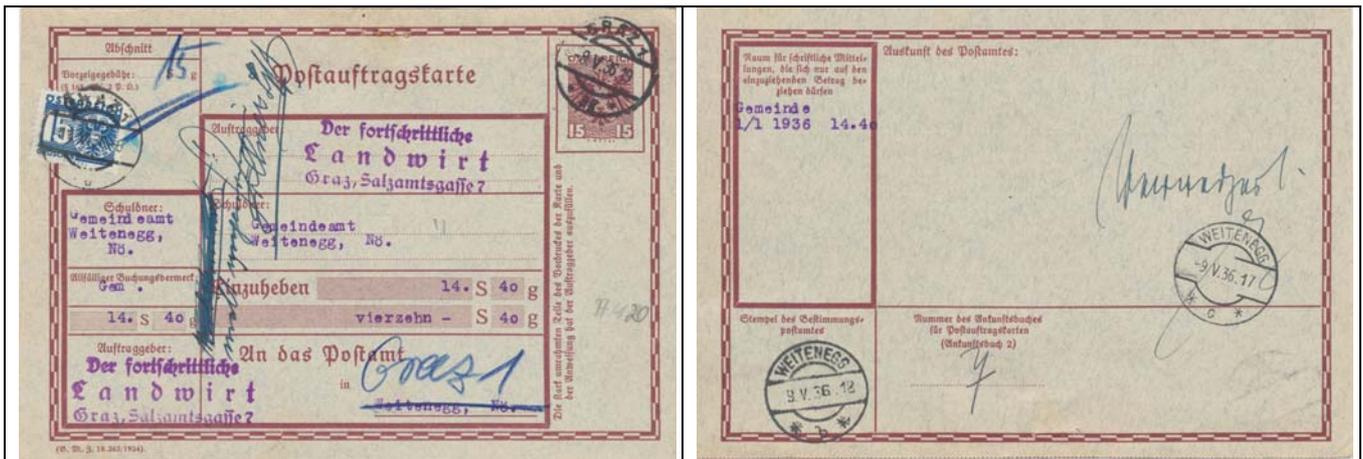


This Postauftragskarte is a request by Alfred Müller in Vienna to J. Manner & Co in Feldkirch to pay 10Sch 80gr for an invoice dated 19 Jan 1935. This would be transacted at the Feldkirch post office. However Herr Manner refused; and Herr Müller had to pay 15gr Vorzeigegebühr to have his card returned.



This is an Auftragspostanweisung, prepared so that the municipal authorities of Weidenegg could pay 14Sch40 into a Postsparkassen account to benefit “The Progressive Farmer” (probably a newspaper) in Graz. It’s unfranked and crossed out in blue so can’t have been used – although it could have been sent to Weidenegg in an envelope with a covering letter or invoice.

Sometimes the rejected Postauftragskarte- Auftragspostanweisung pair were returned by the Post Office glued together; this shows the system the advantage but is difficult or impossible to make into an illustration!



A Postauftragskarte showing the Dollfus Standestaat double-headed eagle imprint. Posted by The Progressive Farmer in Graz, again to the municipal authorities of Weidenegg in 1936, unpaid, sent back, and the 15 groschen Vorzeigebühr duly levied.

**Anschluss & 3. Reich**

The system was converted to the German one, which achieved similar ends using slightly different details. A Zahlkarte is sometimes encountered, especially in the Russian Zone until Dec 1945: see Austria 171 page 48. It is an alternative remittance method alongside the Postanweisung.

**Second Republic**

By 1 Jan 1947 the Austrian system was fully back in action.

On 1 Sept 1947 it was clarified that the recipient must pay in full before receiving the documents, unless the sender had stated that a part payment was acceptable; and that the return remittance could be on either the official or a sender-supplied form. The charge was as previously, ie the same as that for a standard Postanweisung.

On 27 May 1957, Postauftragsbriefe and Postauftragskarte were combined and a unified card issued (see below). Customers could choose between sending it as a card and as a registered letter (to which they could add enclosures), and had to frank accordingly. The actual card is in livid Post Office Yellow. [Picture from the Postordnung, BGB 110 of 27 May 1957; the BGBs for such dates are available on-line in colour!]

<b>Abschnitt</b> Für den Empfänger		<b>Auftragspostanweisung</b>		Gebühr: S g	
S g Schuldner:		auf S g, in Worten <b>Schilling</b>		S g wie oben	
An:		in:		Straße, Haus-Nr.:	
Ann. Nr.:		Unterschrift des Postbesitzers:		Stempel des Abgabepostamtes:	
<b>Abschnitt</b> Für den Schuldner		<b>Postauftrag</b>		<b>Abrechnung:</b>	
Auftraggeber:		Auftraggeber:		Eingehobener Betrag S g	
Schuldner:		Einzuhoben S g, in Worten <b>Schilling</b>		hievon ab:	
An das Postamt		in:		Anweisungsgeld S g	
S g		Die stark unvollständigen Teile des Vordruckes sind vom Auftraggeber anzufüllen!		Betrag der Anweisung S g	
Buchungsvermerk (Postauftrag):		Bestätigung des Empfängers.		Buchungsvermerk (Postauftrag):	
Nr. im Ankunftsbuch:		Unseitig angegebenen Betrag erhalten:		Nr. im Ankunftsbuch:	
Nr. in der Zustellkarte:		, am / 19		Nr. in der Zustellkarte:	
Nr. im Lagerbogen:		(Vor- und Zuname)		Nr. im Lagerbogen:	
Zustellvermerk (Postanweisung):		Anstellung (Vordruckstempel)		Nr. im Ankunftsvermerk:	
Nr. in der Zustellkarte:		Anstellung (Vordruckstempel)		Nr. in der Zustellkarte:	
Nr. in der Ausgaberechnung:		Anstellung (Vordruckstempel)		Nr. in der Ausgaberechnung:	

<b>Abschnitt</b> Für den Schuldner		<b>Postauftrag</b>		27/11	
FA. f. Geb. u. Verkehrst. in Wien 1011 Wien		Auftraggeber:		150	
Schuldner:		Einzuhoben S 47 g 10, in Worten <b>Schilling</b>		10.2.	
An das Postamt		in:		3300 - Amstetten	
S 47 g 10		Die stark unvollständigen Teile des Vordruckes sind vom Auftraggeber anzufüllen!		Fig. 2a	
Buchungsvermerk (Postauftrag):		Bestätigung des Empfängers.		Buchungsvermerk (Postauftrag):	
Nr. im Ankunftsbuch:		Unseitig angegebenen Betrag erhalten:		Nr. im Ankunftsbuch:	
Nr. in der Zustellkarte:		, am / 19		Nr. in der Zustellkarte:	
Nr. im Lagerbogen:		(Vor- und Zuname)		Nr. im Lagerbogen:	
Zustellvermerk (Postanweisung):		Anstellung (Vordruckstempel)		Nr. im Ankunftsvermerk:	
Nr. in der Zustellkarte:		Anstellung (Vordruckstempel)		Nr. in der Zustellkarte:	
Nr. in der Ausgaberechnung:		Anstellung (Vordruckstempel)		Nr. in der Ausgaberechnung:	

This Postauftrag is a request dated Feb 1971 from the Finanzamt für Gebühren und Verkehrsteuern in Vienna (they dealt with requests to postpone the payment of taxes) to someone in Amstetten to pay 47Sch 10gro. They didn't, so the card was returned.

The image shows a historical Austrian 'Postauftrag' form. The form is yellowed and has a red 'X' drawn over it. It contains handwritten entries: 'Abschnitt' with '2/4/76', 'Auftraggeber' as 'Finanzamt f. Gebühren u. Verkehrssteuern 1030 Wien', 'Schuldner' as 'RIEBERER Traumpolgaracht Harzupone 506', and 'Einzuleben' as 'S 2706 g'. There are also stamps and a large vertical stamp that says 'beheben'.

In the last week of February 1981, complex transitional arrangements were in force: this was to avoid difficulties when the system changed: from 1 March, the sender had to prepay (with postage stamps) the fees for remitting back the money, from which no deductions were made. The remittance would come to a Post Office account that the sender had specified; cash delivery was still available but at an extra fee. This may not have applied if the sender was a governmental organisation; this undelivered Postauftrag from the Finanzamt für Gebühren und Verkehrssteuern dated July 1997 was returned without any visible prepayment.

On 1 September 2003, the organisation of this aspect of Post Office services changed, and since then has changed again – so, this is a good date to end the article at. Also, from that date the option of cash delivery ceased.

### Further reading

Kainbacher, “Handbuch der Brief- und Fahrpost in Österreich-Ungarn 1588-1918”, volume 2, pp 185-218

Kainbacher, “Postgebühren von Österreich 1919-2006 für den Inlandsverkehr”, volume 3 part I pp 404-429

Reich- or Bundes-gesetzblatt (available on line) and Post (und Telegraph) Verordnungsblatt (accessible in Vienna)

### A note about the examples

You may have noticed that all the examples are either mint; or not-sent; or sent but returned and charged for with postage dues. Why aren't there normally-used examples, liberated from the archives of offices or sold by the grandchildren of the recipients? There are at least three reasons for this anomaly.

1. An Austrian legal textbook published in 1926 has an interesting section 20 entitled “*Eigentum an Postganzsachen und Postvordrucken*” [Ownership of postal stationery and postal forms]. Paragraph 1 says “*Postbegleitadressen, Postanweisungen und Postauftragskarten samt den darauf befindlichen Marken gehen mit der Aufgabe in das Eigentum der Post über.*” Translation: The three named forms together with any adhesive stamps that are on them become the property of the Post at mailing. Paragraph 2 says in colloquial translation: When you receive a package or the amount of a Postanweisung or a Zahlungsanweisung, you are only entitled to keep the coupon (Abschnitt) of a package card or of a Postanweisung. With a Postzahlungsanweisung you are entitled to keep the Buchauszug (the extract from the book or ledger), and with Postauftragskarten the coupon. It goes on: The Post has the right NOT TO DELIVER packages and money, and to treat what has been sent as undeliverable, if the recipient removes stamps from the package card or the Postanweisung and refuses to return them or to pay their face value.

2. As I understand the system, the Postanweisung generated by a Postauftrag is handled the same way as one handed over the counter. It's an instruction to the money side of the Post Office (the Postsparkasse) to remit money to somebody. All such went via Otto Wagner's Postsparkasse building in Vienna, even if from Innsbruck to Igls. The form brought to the recipient's door (that he couldn't have) was not the same form as the originator had filled in. Indeed, with later versions of the system whereby payments could be made from or to a named P.O. account, Vienna would certainly have kept the original as authorisation for shifting the money.

3. When Post Office forms reached the end of the appropriate retention time, they were auctioned on the philatelic market as kilogram bags of “Skart” which consisted only of stuff they knew they could sell, ie items with adhesives. The rest was recycled as waste paper.

## 2010 NEW ISSUES

by Andy Taylor

### Author's Notes

- The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date; quantity printed; printing method; designer (and engraver if relevant); printer if not Österreichische Staatsdruckerei; and some details on the design. More extensive descriptions and effusive essays can be read on the English version of the Post.at website. The illustrations are mostly 85% of life size, although blocks & strips are smaller.
- The following issues were announced at the end of 2009 but seem to have been cancelled: Europa 2010; Children's books "Fridolin"; 100 years International Society of Photogrammetry; Traditional handicraft pottery. Others changed their dates.
- The dates are those on the Post.at website; I have kept their order where more than one stamp has appeared on the same day – catalogues may well list them differently.



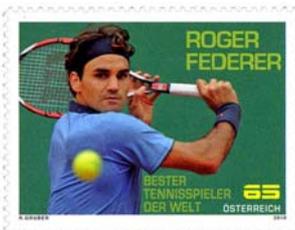
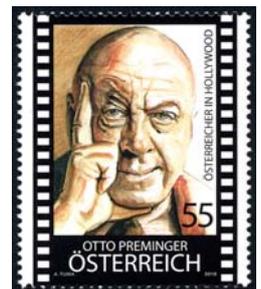
**Animals - brook trout and otter:** 75c; 8/1/2010; 500,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Self Adhesive, sold on a card containing 5 of each stamp. The trout originates from a salmon-like migratory fish forced by glaciers to become a freshwater resident. The otter is an endangered species – and it eats trout!

**Animals – Wild cat.** 65c; 13/1/2010; 6,110,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Printer: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Self Adhesive in a boxed roll of 100. The European wildcat or woodcat (*Felis silvestris silvestris*) is found in Europe, some Mediterranean islands and parts of southwest Asia. It is renowned for its bushy, banded tail; and is not a close relative of the domestic cat although cross-breeding is possible.



**Salzburg Old Town Centre.** 1€; 29/1/2010; 250,000; Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinawebl; Engraver: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Salzburg's historic old town centre, bisected by the Salzach river, is one of the most beautiful places in Europe – as was confirmed by its being made part of the World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 1997.

**Austrians in Hollywood - Otto Preminger.** 55c; 5/2/2010; 900,000; Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma (minisheet of 10 stamps). Otto Preminger (1905-1986) although holding a doctorate in law is better known as an Austro-American film director, producer and theatre director; he made his first film in 1931 and emigrated to the USA in 1935.



**Roger Federer.** 55c; 8/2/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Renate Gruber. Federer, born 8 August 1981 as the son of a Swiss father and a South African mother, has become the absolute master of his sport of tennis in which his record of successes is unparalleled. In April 2006, Roger Federer became the first Swiss to be appointed as a UNICEF ambassador

**Modern Art in Austria: Helmut Kand.** 55c; 10/2/2010; 400,000; Offset; Design: Prof. Helmut Kand. This commemorative is a cheerful and colourful continuation of the popular "Modern Art in Austria" series; it depicts a painting by Helmut Kand, a "poetic Surrealist", entitled "Annual Rings Of Scent And Bliss". Kand was born in Styria, and after study in Vienna travelled world-wide. He is the official "Painting Ambassador" of the Greek island of Ios, where he has spent forty summers.





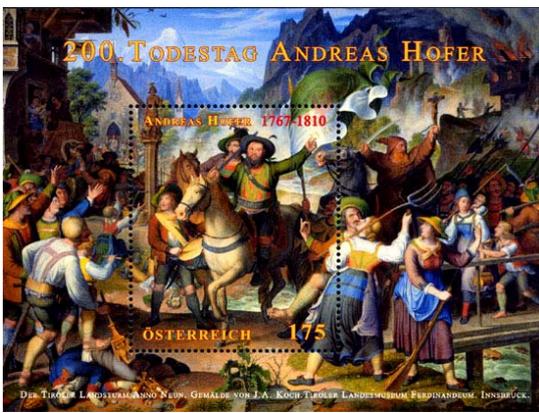
**Prince Eugene of Savoy (1663 to 1736).** 65c; 12/2/2010; 200,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Engraver: Michael Rosenfeld. The stamp commemorates one of Austria's most famous generals and diplomats; born a Frenchman of Italian origins, he lived from 1663 to 1736. The portrait is by the Imperial Court painter, Jacob van Schuppen. The Belvedere was built as Prince Eugene's summer palace.

**Classic trademarks: Kleinbahn.** 55c; 16/2/2010; 400,000; Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul. "Kleinbahn, mechanische Werkstätte – Spielwarenerzeugung Ing. Erich Klein" is an

Austrian manufacturer founded in 1947 and now known for its inexpensive but sturdy and popular HO scale model railways. They specialised in Austrian models, which were largely ignored by the dominant German manufacturers. A spin-off company made higher-quality true-detail products; however this was a commercial failure.



**200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Andreas Hofer.**



1€75; 19/2/2010; 170,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter. Andreas Hofer (1767-1810) was the leader of the 1809 Tyrolean uprising against the Bavarian occupation imposed by the Peace of Pressburg. The magnificent commemorative block issued on the 200th anniversary of his death depicts the impressive painting entitled "The Tyrolean Land Army Year Nine" by Joseph Anton Koch; the original can be seen in the Tyrolean Ferdinandeum Regional Museum in Innsbruck. Andreas Hofer was eventually buried in Innsbruck's Hofkirche.

**Vienna State Opera: Medea.** 1€

24/2/2010; 250,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The stamp shows the stage setting created by Marco Arturo Marelli for the premiere on 24 February of Aribert Reimann's opera "Medea" in the Vienna State Opera House. Reimann, taking Grillparzer's text as his basis, has created his own approach to the classical Greek myth.



**100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Max Weiler.** 75c; 18/3/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. Max Weiler (1910 to 2001) born in Hall in Tirol, was an innovative and important artist of classical Modern and of contemporary art. The featured painting, "Soon the sun will rise", was painted in 1970 and belongs to the series "Landscapes on Resonant Grounds"; it is held by the Essl Museum.

**Wien Museum: Max Kurzweil.** 65c; 19/3/2010; 900,000; Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul; Printed: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. One of the most valuable paintings in the Wien Museum collection is the painting 'Lady in Yellow' by Max Kurzweil (1867-1916), an

Austrian artist of the fin-de siècle school who became one of the founding members of the Vienna Secession.



**Belvedere Palace.** 65c; 24/3/2010; 900,000; Offset; Design: Audrey Möschl. Built by Johann Lucas von Hildebrandt for Prince Eugene of Savoy, the Upper and Lower Belvedere with their gardens form a unique baroque ensemble, which UNESCO listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site some years ago. The Austrian State Treaty was signed there in 1955. The buildings now house a famous art collection, including the world's largest collection of works by Gustav Klimt.



**Trains: 150 years Graz Köflacher Bahn.** 1€; 10/4/2010; 300,000; Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraver: Prof. Gerhart Schmir. The stamp shows the legendary 671 steam locomotive from the Southern Railway series, built in 1860, one of the oldest operational steam locomotives in service in the world. The railway was sponsored by Archduke Johann (whose coal mines it served!), and began regular passenger traffic on 3 April 1860.

**Old Austria: Prague.** 65c; 16/4/2010; 200,000; Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma. The stamp shows an old view of the famous Prague Castle (Pražský hrad), residence of kings and emperors, and dominated by the imposing St Vitus Cathedral. Prague has a cultural history rivalling (some say exceeding) that of Vienna.



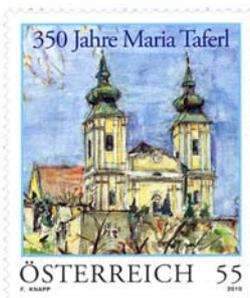
**Shanghai exhibition.** 55c; 30/4/2010; Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul; Printed: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. From 1 May to 31 October 2010, the Chinese city of Shanghai (home to 19 million people) hosted the Expo 2010 World Exposition on a 5kmsq site under the motto “Better City, Better Life”. Austrian enterprises were extensively represented, although the country “has already got its foot in the door”; amongst them is the Austrian Post Office.

**The Mendel Railway.** 8/5/2010; 250,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The Mendel Railway, opened in 1903, was the first electric funicular railway in Austria, the steepest of its kind in continental Europe, and the longest in the world. It runs from Kaltern in South Tyrol 850 metres up to the Mendel Pass southwest of Bozen/Bolzano. The funicular closed in 1983 but reopened five years later with modern rolling stock



**Post Office (self) Publicity Campaign 2010.** 55c; 10/5/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Dirnberger de Felice Grüber. The Austrian Post Office “wished to communicate the Post Office’s many virtues and services in a self-assured and yet charming advertising campaign”.

**Imperial Palace at Hof.** 55c; 13/5/2010; 900,000; Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul; Printed: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. Less than an hour’s drive from Vienna, the Imperial Festival Palace Hof was built from 1725 to 1729 for Prince Eugene by his architect, Lucas von Hildebrandt. The splendour and grace of this palace so impressed Empress Maria Theresa that when Prince Eugene died she bought it! It has recently been restored and the original furniture, stored in the Imperial Warehouse in Vienna, replaced. The stamp shows a painting of the palace by Canaletto.



**350 years Maria Taferl.** 55c; 16/5/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Franz Knapp. The village of Maria Taferl is located in the Lower Austrian Nibelungengau on a hill above the Danube and is amongst the most famous places of pilgrimage in Austria. In 1660, construction of today’s pilgrimage church began, to designs by the Imperial architect Georg Gerstenbrandt and the Italian Carlo Lurago. The dome was built by Jakob Prandtauer and the main altar by Joseph Matthias Götz. The local spring water is believed to cure illnesses of the eyes.



**150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Gustav Mahler.** 1€ 18/5/2010; 250,000; Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma. Gustav Mahler (1860 to 1911) is regarded as the genius of the fin de siècle and the precursor of modern music. Born in Bohemia, Mahler studied at the Vienna conservatory, later attending Bruckner's courses in harmony. After several posts all over the Empire, Mahler became Kapellmeister of the Vienna Opera House, later being appointed conductor by the Emperor Franz Joseph; he resigned in 1907.

**90 years Salzburg Festival.** 55c; 20/5/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Eric Pratter. The Salzburg Festival is one of the most important cultural events in Austria, its excellent reputation having had a decisive influence on the image of the country. See "The Salzburg Festival" in AUSTRIA issue 153 for a history of this event.



**Sacred art in Austria: Gebhard's Crosier, Admont Monastery.** 75c; 28/5/2010; 250,000; Photogravure and Intaglio; Design & Engraver: Mag. Robert Trsek. The Benedictine monastery at Admont, founded in 1074 by Archbishop Gebhard of Salzburg, is the oldest surviving monastery in Styria. The ivory crook of this crosier dates from the late 12th century.

**European roller.** 55c; 28/5/2010; 21,124,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Printed: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Self Adhesive Stamps, in a boxed roll of 100. The European Roller's colourful plumage makes it unmistakable. This bird is very rare in Austria.



**Golden eagle.** 75c; 28/5/2010; 5,120,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Printed: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B. V. Self Adhesive Stamps, in a boxed roll of 100. Golden eagles are actually dark and light brown. With their 2m wingspan, they can catch marmots & squirrels and have been known to tackle a deer.

**120<sup>th</sup> birthday of Egon Schiele.** 1€40; 12/6/2010; 250,000; Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Adolf Tuma; Engraver: Prof. Wolfgang Seidel. Egon Schiele (1890 to 1918) is beyond doubt one of the most significant painters of what is known as the Viennese Modern. His works enthralled some critics and enraged others. He died in the 1918 flu epidemic in Vienna.



**Simon Wiesenthal - joint issue with Israel.** 14/6/2010; 494,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Printed: British Thai Security Printing, Laser: Outer Aspect Ltd. The stamp shows a portrait of Simon Wiesenthal (1908 to 2005) in a frame in the form of the Star of David, applied using a special laser printing technology. The text is in both German and Hebrew, with the words "Recht, nicht Rache" (Right, not revenge) printed on the margin underneath the mini-sheet.

**100 years of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Viennese Mountain Spring Pipeline.** 55c; 14/6/2010; 900,000; Offset; Design: Silvia Moucka; Printed: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. This pipeline supplies Vienna with water from the Hochschwab area in Styria. The 200-kilometre pipeline, consisting largely of ducts cut out of stone, crosses over 100 aqueducts and 19 culverts; the water takes about 36 hours to reach Vienna.





**Ioan Holender's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.** 1€ 20/6/2010; 250,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter. Ioan Holender, the longest-serving director in the history of the Vienna State Opera House, retired in 2010. He was appointed director of the State Opera House in 1992 and at once he implemented changes, such as putting the original-language names of the operas on the posters (!)



**Austria's oldest churches: Pfalzkirche in Karnburg.** 1€ 25/6/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Mag. Helga Herger. This stamp is the first in a new series on “interesting churches in Austria”. Karnburg, a princely capital in the middle ages, now has some 600 inhabitants. The Karnburg church was begun before 888; its good condition is primarily due to two extensive restoration projects in 1928 and 1970.



**Johann Joseph Fux: 350<sup>th</sup> birthday.** 1€ 26/6/2010; 250,000; Offset; Design: Brigitte Heiden. Issued on the 350th birth anniversary of the Austrian musical theorist and composer Johann Joseph Fux, who rose to become Director of Music at the Viennese court. His theory of composition “Gradus ad Parnassum”, first published in 1772, was still in use in the 20th century

**Grete Rehor's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.** 55c; /6/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Renate Gruber. Grete Rehor became in 1966 the first female minister in the political history of Austria. Born in Vienna in 1910, she trained as a teacher but had to become a textile worker. She became an active Trades Unionist, especially after 1945, and saw over a hundred pieces of social legislation through Parliament. She died in 1987, and a park in Vienna commemorates her name.

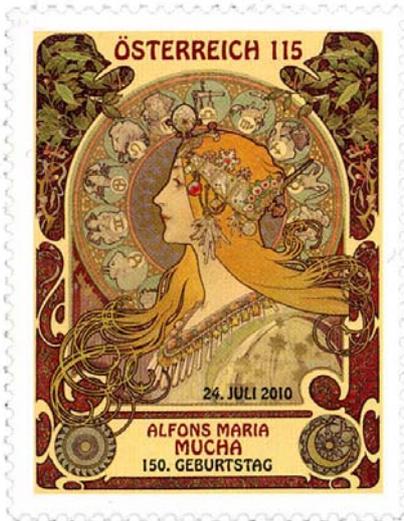


**15 years of the Rainbow Parade.** 55c; 3/7/2010; 250,000; Offset; Design: Christian Högl. The Rainbow Parade is a political demonstration held annually on the Ringstrasse in the form of a rumbustious and colourful procession proclaiming support for equal treatment of homosexuals. It is symbolic that the parade marches anticlockwise around the Ringstrasse, ie against the flow of traffic. [Hmmm. So do some tram routes ☺]

**125 years of the Frontier Railway Spielfeld-Strass – Bad Radkersburg (Grenzlandbahn).** 1€ 10/7/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Ernst Sladek; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. The stamp shows both a historic steam locomotive of 1885 and a modern train. The town of Bad Radkersburg lies on the Slovenian border. Originally it extended across the River Mur, but by the Treaty of St Germain after WWI the river became the border with the new state of Yugoslavia.



**Grafenegg.** 17/7/2010; 5,749,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Printed: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V.; Self Adhesive Stamps (roll of 25). Grafenegg Castle, east of Krems in Lower Austria, is one of the most magnificent buildings of Austrian romanticism. First mentioned in 1294, the former farmhouse became the property of Emperor Friedrich III in 1477. It was rebuilt in the early 16th century, and turned into a fortified castle between 1622 and 1633. In the second half of the 19th century, the castle was given its present appearance by Leopold Ernst, cathedral architect of St Stephan's in Vienna. After WWII the building and its furniture were damaged by the occupying Russian forces. In 1967 work started on the restoration of the castle, which is now open to the public.



**150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Alfons Maria Mucha.** 1€15; 23/7/2010; 250,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. Alfons Maria Mucha (1860–1939) was a Czech painter, graphic artist and illustrator and is regarded as one of the most important representatives of the Jugendstil. The stamp shows his colour lithograph “La Plume”.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of the Diocese of Eisenstadt.** 12/8/2010; 300,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The Diocese was created by Pope John XXIII in 1960; the stamp shows the Cathedral of St Martin in Eisenstadt, elevated from a church first mentioned in documents as far back as the 13th century



**100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mother Teresa.** 1€30 26/8/2010; 250,000; Offset; Design: Prof. Adolf Tuma.

**Day of the stamp 2010** 1€30 surcharge on face value of 2€65; 27/8/2010; 440,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter. The traditional “Day of the Stamp” commemorative, with a surcharge of 1€30 to support

organised philately in Austria. It was launched at the largest federation exhibition of the year, ÖVEBRIA, and shows a modern Austrian Railways Railjet train and the coat of arms of Gmunden.



**Rose** (bonus gift for subscribers; cannot be ordered!). 55c; 3/9/2010; 200,000; Offset; Design: Brigitte Heiden. The stamp is the subscribers 2010 loyalty bonus, and shows a simple rose, painted by the famous stamp artist Mag. Brigitte Heiden.

**Joint issue with Romania.** 2 x 65c; 6/9/2010; 170,000; Offset; Design: Razvan Popescu; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. The theme is the Orient Express set against a map of the route. Vignettes show the Gare de l’Est in Paris, the Prater wheel in Vienna, and the “Hagia Sofia” mosque in Istanbul. The stamps show a train leaving Salzburg and another leaving Sinaia.



**50 Years of OPEC.** 1€40; 14/9/2010; 160,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was founded in Baghdad in September 1960; since 1965 its headquarters have been in Vienna.



**Sacred art in Austria: St. Peter's Abbey, Salzburg.** 14/9/2010; 160,000; Photogravure and Intaglio; Design & Engraver: Mag. Robert Trsek. The crucifix, now named "Adlhart Crucifix" after its creator, has hung since 1926 at the spot for which it was created by Jakob Adlhart in the foyer of the College of St Benedict, the third courtyard of St. Peter's Archabbey in Salzburg, with only a short interruption between 1941 and 1945.

**Petit Point (embroidery).** 2€65; 17/9/2010; 180,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. Stamp manufactured in petit point by the

Vorarlberg embroidery company Hämmerle & Vogel. This style of embroidery, originally practised by the Imperial Court and then by the upper middle classes, during the Biedermeier period it was taken up by ladies-of-leisure (see the masthead of "Die Gartenlaube"!)



**Trains: 100 Years Wechselbahn** 1€ 19/9/2010; 160,000; Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinaweil; Engraver: Prof. Gerhart Schmir. The Wechsel railway, ceremonially opened on 12 October 1910, links Aspang-Markt in Lower Austria and Friedberg in Styria.

**Day of Sports: the Linger Brothers** 1€ 25/9/2010; 160,000; Offset; Design: Renate Gruber. Andreas and Wolfgang Linger from Absam in Tyrol are Olympic gold medallists for Luge. They had joined the federal army, where as top-level sportsmen they were given the support they needed.



**Design from Austria: Peter Zuchi** 65c; 1/10/2010; 185,000; Offset; Design: Silvia Moucka. Peter Zuchi's designs for unusual pieces of furniture use an inlay method based on an old craft technique that gives the furniture a unique patterned surface. They combine attractive aesthetics and modern functionality.

**Maria Theresa** 65c; 8/10/2010; 200,000; Offset; Design: Ralf Schweighofer. The stamp shows the portrait of Maria Theresa of Austria (1717-1780) of the House of Hapsburg, sovereign Archduchess of Austria and Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, painted by the Viennese court painter Martin van Meytens around 1750. Lasting measures during her reign included the creation of a uniform criminal law and the introduction of general compulsory schooling in all the Habsburg lands



**Joint Issue with Argentina.** 65c + 1€40; 13/10/2010; 150,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. This miniature sheet is Austria's first joint issue with Argentina. The stamps depict the meteorological station built around 1910 by the Austrian-Hungarian Society at the Botanical Garden of Buenos Aires & the historical weather station at Vienna Stadtpark.



**250th birthday of Jakob Degen**, inventor. 1€25; 15/10/2010; 160,000; Offset; Design: Peter Konkolits. Jakob Degen, inventor and aviation pioneer, born 27 Feb 1760 in Liedertswil in Switzerland but moved to Vienna in his childhood. In 1807, he designed his first flying machine fitted with movable wings powered by muscular effort. A year later he fitted this machine with a hydrogen balloon, which gave it the necessary lift; and with it achieved the first controlled flight in November 1808.

**Austrian Army: 50th anniversary of first operation abroad.** 65c; 6/10/2010; 700,000; Offset; Design: Irmgard Paul; Printed by Joh. Enschedé Stamps B. V. The Field Hospital in the Congo from November 1960 to September 1963 was the first of many missions abroad. Since then over 90,000 Austrian soldiers have been sent on deployments to the various hot spots of the world – ready to take the measures necessary to secure peace within the framework of the United Nations and similar bodies.



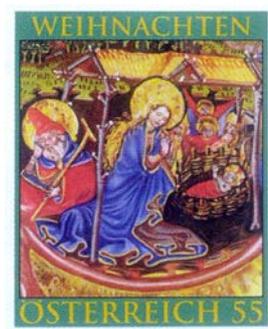
**UNESCO World Heritage: Vienna city centre.** 1€ 5/11/2010; 160,000; Photogravure and Intaglio; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraver: Thomas Schmidt. This view of the historic old town centre of Vienna with St Stephen's Cathedral and the Church of St Peter in the foreground concludes the "UNESCO World Cultural Heritage" series.

**Advent 2010.** 65c; 11/11/2010; 1,500,000; Offset; Design: Dr. Reinhold Stecher, the former Bishop of Innsbruck. It shows the most famous symbol of his home town Innsbruck, the Goldenes Dachl, next to an illuminated tree, bathed in the peaceful aura of the period leading up to Christmas.



**Christmas 2010: St. Florian.** 12/11/2010; 2,500,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Printed: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. Self Adhesive Stamps, issued in a boxed roll of 25. The motif is from a 12<sup>th</sup> century missal at St. Florian monastery. The stamp has no indication of value, but is treated as if it was 55c.

**Christmas 2010.** 19/11/2010; 4,000,000; Offset; Design: Adolf Tuma. This year's Christmas stamp shows part of an antiphonal of the Cistercian monastery at Rein in Styria. The choral manuscript with precious initials dates from the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and once served as a liturgical book for the hourly prayers of the local monks. The stamp shows the "classical scene" of the birth of Christ in the artistic interpretation of the early Renaissance.



## THE COSTUMES SET OF 1948-1959.

By Andy Taylor

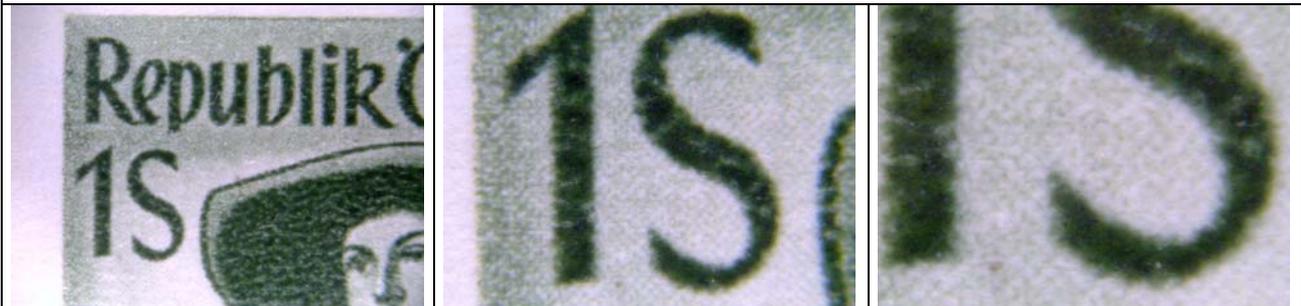
A definitive article on these definitive stamps is in preparation, intended to pull together all (or most) of the available information on them. An aspect of the study may interest readers – the use of a digital microscope to separate the screens used in the photogravure printing.

During the long life of this issue, two main changes occurred: (a) the substitution of a 100-screen for the original 70-screen in the photogravure process; and (b) the use of a thin white paper with white gum for some of the values instead of the original greyish paper with yellowish gum. The differences due to the screen change may be seen from a study of these micrographs.



The 3 groschen stamp was only issued in 70-screen.

The 1 Schilling and the 2 Schilling 40 stamps were only issued in 100-screen



This illustration shows the screen sizing for the 3g issue, which was only printed in 70-screen. The longer & shorter straight lines indicate whole and half millimetres (originally measured on a copy of the actual stamp). The screen dots are on a rectangular grid at 45 degrees to the image's horizontal. A row of dots has had circles added for clarity, and one can count seven inter-dot gaps per millimetre. That is a screen of 70 dots per centimetre.

The 100-dot issues are less clear – the screen seems to have been deliberately smudged.

## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS etc

### *Air mailed to New York??*

Another of Steve Schweighofer's unanswered questions... "please explain the franking on this"!



This envelope was sent from Vienna to New York in December 1949. The block-of-four and the solitary 40g both have cancels dated 3 Dec 1949, which was the First Day of the 60+15 groschen Tag der Briefmarke stamp. and also of the 40 groschen green.

On the back are two different registry arrival markings, 12-7 1949 and DEC 8 1949, and an undated censor marking. The envelope flap is gummed but not sealed, not even tucked in as one of the arrival markings shows the flap was open when cancelled. There must however have been some minimal content, since the censorship

authorities objected to empty envelopes. (A letter is known from this period that had only a piece of toilet paper in it, duly censored - and hopefully mint.)

There is no evidence of any other postage having been applied anywhere else on the front or back of the cover. If the cancel dates are correct, it must have travelled by air.

It is addressed to Clyde J Sarzin - he was a well-known importer of FDCs. Other covers are known made by Kosel and sent to Sarzin; they were open, they had filling in them to provide some stiffening, and Kosel sent covers to himself as well as to Sarzin (and probably many more customers). They have a censor marking outside on the back. A FDC of the 1948 Christmas stamp is known, registered airmail with block of 4 and no other franking, sent from Vienna to Sarzin. It was sent open, and has a light card postal form inside as a filler to keep the envelope from getting creased. The type font is identical with this article's 1949 cover & was made by some duplicating machine. It looks like Kosel's font.

### **RATES (all in groschen)**

Sources of information: 'H1' means Heinzl volume 1; 'K1' means Kainbacher volume IV.1 (the air surcharges); 'K2' means Kainbacher volume IV.2 (the surface post)

Both sources give the foreign registration surcharge as 140 groschen.

H1 and K2 have the surface letter rates for Dec 1949 as those introduced on 1 Sept 1947, namely 100 groschen for 20 grams, 160 for 40 grams, 220 for 60 grams... (page 288)

K2 gives the foreign printed matter rate as 40 groschen up to 50 grams; 60 up to 100 grams etc; starting from 1 July 1949. H1 has the same rates but starting on 1 June 1949.

Both H1 & K1 give the air surcharge to the US for all types of mail as 105 groschen per 5 grams. For this rate, H1 has a start date of "late 1949", but K1 quotes a Directive's date of 25 Nov 1949. Both these dates predate our cover.

The sources disagree on the existence of an "air speeded rate" for material flown to New York and forwarded within the USA by surface mail. K1 mentions a "40 groschen per 5 gram" rate, but in the context of mail for eg Mexico sent by air to New York and onwards by ship; these countries have a higher rate for "by air all the way

to Mexico City”. H1 however says that for “Briefsendungen that are not Brief or Postcard” the “40 to New York” rate is available.

***The item is franked  $4 \times 60 + 40 = 280$ . What matches? Nothing!***

Assuming the registration surcharge rate of 140 was correctly applied, 140 is left for surface postage plus air surcharge. Assume also that envelope-plus-stiffener fall into the lowest weight step.

a) say it was printed matter (it’s cacheted as such!). Apply Kainbacher. Surface rate = 40; air = 105; total 145. Would/should have been postage-dued.

b) ditto but apply Heinzl. Surface rate = 40; air = 40; total 80; 60 overfranked. (Aside: there is no printed-matter weight for which surface plus air-at-40-per-5 makes 140)

c) treat as letter, apply Kainbacher. Surface rate = 100; air = 105; total 205; Would/should have been dued.

d) treat as letter, apply Heinzl. Same result.

e) IF it was correctly franked as a registered foreign surface letter, it would need  $100 + 140 = 240$  which is the value of the block-of-four. If some devious manipulator then converted it to airmailed printed matter for NY, they might add the explicit 40g for the special Pmat-to-NY air rate “to make it look kosher”, and even add an airmail label after arrival.

***Conclusions?***

Andy’s best guess: Heinzl applies; it is philatelically overfranked printed matter, sporting a block of four because the recipient is a known FDC dealer who has a market for them.

Steve’s conclusion: Kainbacher applies; the cover is underpaid by 5 groschen which has been overlooked.

Or was the 40g added later, with a forged cancel? Over to you, reader!

***Breaking Healey’s Law?***

(= “*When in a hole stop digging*”) Hans Smith writes: I am puzzled by the comment that Lieut. Rudolph dug tunnels ‘more likely to be for road-building .. than for undermining fortifications’. Whoever came up with this daft idea? Since it took 21 years to complete the Mont Blanc road tunnel, he is hardly likely to have made much progress on his way to the front lines.

Yes, in World War II a tunnelling unit could dig a tunnel purely for communications (as was extensively done in Gibraltar) but in World War I, a tunnelling unit was formed for one specific purpose - to dig a tunnel far enough and fast enough below the enemy’s position so you could pack it with explosives and blow them all to Kingdom Come. In the 1917-18 period the Austrians and Italians mined and counter-mined each other in the Dolomites to such an extent that whole mountains disappeared, while on the Western front, the British exploded the biggest military mine ever (dug beneath the Messines Ridge in June 1916) with the result that over 10,000 of the enemy lost their lives (not counting the 7,000 or so killed during mopping up in the aftermath). The shock wave was felt not only in London but reportedly in Dublin.

What else did Lieut. Rudolph do during the war? Probably not much since tunnellers had the shortest life expectancy of any active serviceman. You always knew when you were being tunnelled under so you could take appropriate action at the right moment - with any luck, a high explosive charge detonated at the mouth of the tunnel (by surprise attack) would cause it to collapse throughout its length, on top of the miners inside.

Not that this really has anything to do with philately.

Hans

[A Google search for “*Bau der Passstraße Tovenä - Trichiana im Ersten Weltkrieg 1918*” will lead you to a spectacular example of World War I alpine road tunnelling! Ed.]



**Wotamess!**



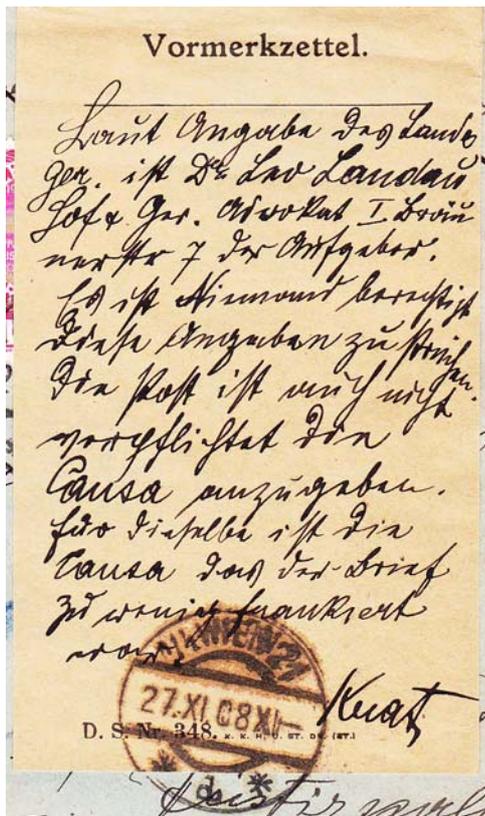
This wondrous mess is not exactly simple to interpret! Our best endeavours follow; alternative readings welcomed.

There is a Vormerkzettel (basically, a piece of paper big enough to write a, official missive on) covering some of the front, and ten postage dues on the back plus two on the front.

The next illustrations are a fullsize copy of the front, with the Vormerkzettel folded back; and of the top part of the back.



Note that all the postage dues on the back have been stamped UNGULTIG ie invalid.



The envelope is addressed to the “Landesgericht in C.R.S.” at the Justizpalasz in Vienna. The rest of the writings and crossings-out on the front simply give the sender's address, apparently repeated by three people in the court or the post office. They looked him up and confirmed that he existed.

The Vermerkzettel says: *Laut Angabe des Landesgerichts ist Dr. Leo Landau Hof und Gerichtsadvokat, I Braunerstr. 7 der Aufgeber. Es ist niemand berechtigt, diese Angaben zu streichen. Der Post ist auch nicht verpflichtet den Causa anzugeben, für dieselbe ist die Causa dass der Brief zu wenig frankiert war.*

That is: The Landesgericht states that Dr. Leo Landau, Hof und Gerichts Advokat, (Wien) 1. Braunerstr. 7 is the sender. Nobody [at the Court?] is empowered to remove the postage due notice. Nor is the Post required to state WHY there was a postage due; it is up to them to declare if the letter is underfranked.

The back of the envelope says: *Ich verweigere die Zahlung, weil es anzugeben wäre, welche Causa dieses Porto betrifft, und dass Dr. Landau der Aufgeber ist.* I refuse to pay, because it doesn't say why postage due has been levied, and [anyway] Dr. Landau posted it.

The original mailing is from a lawyer to a court and makes no claim to be on official business nor to be connected with a specific case. Hence, it does not qualify for any of the special rates, eg 10 heller for 50 grams, and is liable to pay standard letter rates which

in 1908 were 10 heller for 20 grams, 20 heller for up to the maximum of 250 grams. It is likely that the item should have been franked 20 heller; so going by Bernadini & Pfalz page 229 it would acquire postage dues of 10h + 10h = 20h – these will be the ones on the back.

It all seems to be a petty fight over the postage due. The original mailing was franked 10h and posted on 21 Nov 1908, the 20 heller in ten 2 heller postage dues on the back are cancelled on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The court then refused to accept the letter and pay the (unexplained) postage due. The Vormerkzettel is dated the 27th, and the postage due on the front looks like the 28th.

The item was then sent back from the court to the sender. As no postage had been paid for this return journey, and it weighed over 20 grams, postage dues of 20 + 20 = 40 heller were duly applied to the front, and Dr Landau would have had to pay them.

## Questions about WIPA 1933

Were there only three special WIPA flights from Budapest during the show? I've been told so, and found only 24 June, 30 June and 5 July.

Why the different colours of day ticket booklets? (WIPA 1965 had three different ticket colours, IFA 1968 had two different)

What was the meaning of the markings on the day ticket booklet covers, such as “BEZAHLT”? I know the meaning of the word, but what would it mean for ticket booklets which do not have that marking?

Why are there different admission prices? One booklet I'd seen had a large “S.1-” rubber-stamped on it, another had nothing. The published admission price was S1.60.

Were there minimum ordering quantities for the printed-to-private-order stationery?

The red, blue & green 1933 WIPA sheet facsimile reprints in small size - weren't these provided by Netto to catalogue purchasers? If not, who and when?

Is there some book, in any language, where all these and other WIPA questions are already answered?

## Revenue Collector's Album

Your Editor has received some specimen pages produced by Custom Impressions of Illinois, USA for a "Highly Specialised Album for Austrian Empire Revenue Stamps". They are pre-printed with brief descriptions and shades-of-grey illustrations on high quality white card, in quarto size and punched for a standard American 3-ring binder. They are suitable only for loose used stamps. Part 1 is for the 'Austrian' issues and has 339 pages; part 2 is for Lombardy-Venetia, Montenegro etc and has 195 pages. Both are apparently based on the Barefoot catalogue. Ask Andy Taylor for more information; their website is [www.albumcreations.com](http://www.albumcreations.com) but it appears to have been hijacked! [[www.album-creations.com](http://www.album-creations.com) with a hyphen is a different company.]

## Mutter ohne Wert



This package was described as a "sample without value". It contained "a banner" and was sent from Austria to Cardiff on 9 July 1934. The sender franked it with 40 groschen, but in London it was ruled to be "inadmissible at sample rate" and a Customs Charge of 1/- levied, to which the Post Office added 6d clearance fee. 1/6d was duly charged and British postage dues applied

- Why was it inadmissible?
- Why didn't London charge additional postage?
- And **where can one find the Austrian Muster ohne Wert foreign rates?**

## Linz signatures?

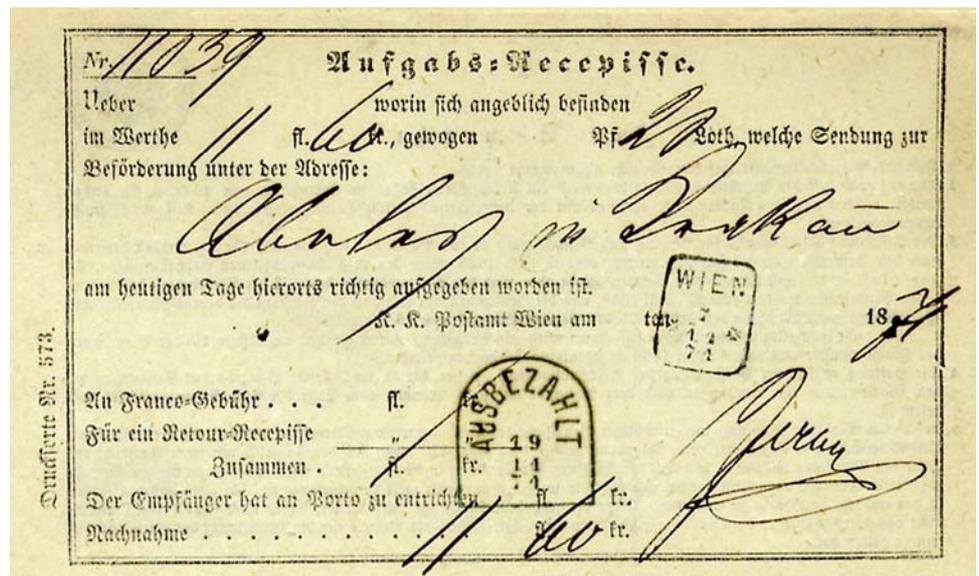
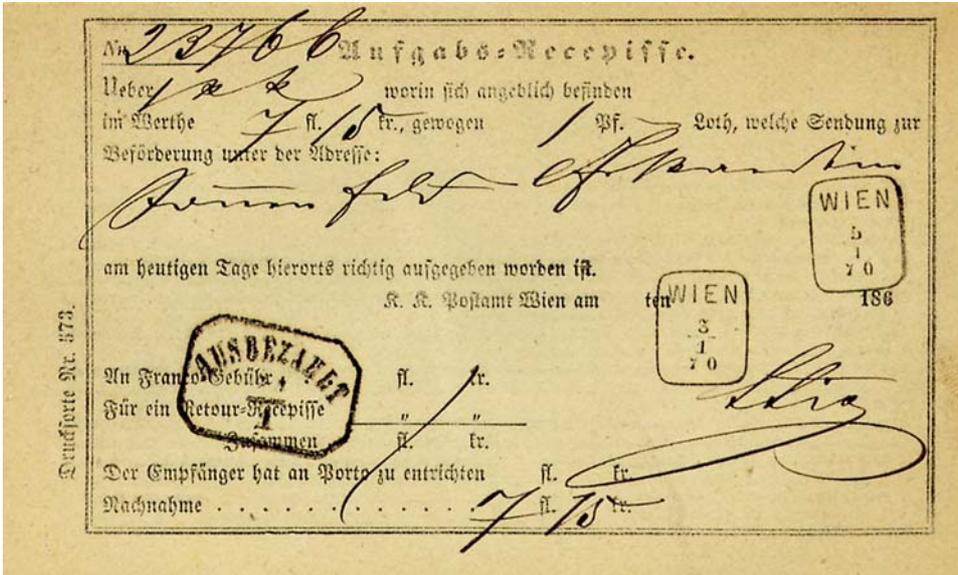
Austria 172 page 39 noted that the Linz Cathedral folder on the following page had been signed by three of those illustrated on the stamps. That copy only has two of the signatures, although others exist with the three. And for the sake of completeness, the fourth person shown, Bishop Rüdiger (who laid the first stone of the "New Cathedral"), did not sign – possibly because he died in 1884, 40 years before the cathedral was completed and the stamps issued.

## Hungarian TPOs

Lutz Ihnken of Germany has made a catalogue of Hungarian TPOs and placed it on-line at [www.lutz-ihnken.de](http://www.lutz-ihnken.de) for you to enjoy, use, and add to. It's also available as a 6Mb PDF file – email Andy Taylor.

### AUSBEZAHLT

Keith Brandon has acquired a couple of Fahrposts for money letters, from Vienna to Squiggle in 1870 and to Krakau in 1871. Does anyone know anything about the function of the AUSBEZAHLT cancels?



Are you coming to the Fest in Harrogate in September?

## Hannes makes his Marke



Hannes Margreiter – artist, world-famed stamp designer, and friend of the APS – has designed this Personal Stamp as a gift for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the pilgrimage church of “St. Leonhard auf der Wiese” at Kundl in the Tirol. St Leonhard is the patron saint of animals. Hannes was born in Kundl, and the proceeds from selling the stamp will benefit the renovation fund of the church.

Kundl is a market town near Wörgl in the Tirol, on the south side of the Inn River. In 1658 Bartlmä Plank founded a brewery which produced Kundler Bier. This brewery was converted into a pharmaceutical plant, the Biochemie Kundl, in 1946 and later taken over by Sandoz. Here, in 1951 two chemists Hans Margreiter (no relation!) and Ernst Brandl developed Penicillin V

In the summer many tourists (including your Editor) visit Kundl to stroll through the picturesque Kundler Klamm gorge, which connects Kundl with the alpine valley of Wildschönau.

## NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS.

### ***ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn***

**Issue 103:** Keith Tranmer’s 85<sup>th</sup> birthday; meetings and greetings; Q&A; “Kuk Mob. Gesteinsbohrzug Nr 57” cachet on Feldpost card with illustration of a vehicle-size tunnel; Radiostation Rose in Bocche di Cattaro; Przemysl and after – the Feldweibel Krautwurm correspondence; “Erklärt” clarified? (de Bellis; 6pp); intro to B&H postal history (Matthijssen, 5pp); parcel censorship in Vienna at Wien 77, Ostbahnhof; Tiszaújlak censor mark; etc.

### ***Austria Philatelic Society<sup>US</sup>***

**Vol X1 nr 1 (Jan 2011):** Still wanted: auctioneer, article-authors, and translators; Late-arrival Mail & the fees; Austrian Post in Liechtenstein (Ferch2000); does stamp collecting have a future?; all-issues Index.

### ***Czechout***

**Issue 4/2010:** new editor elected; reviews; WWI personalities & buildings; P.H. of Frydek-Mistec; etc

### ***Die Briefmarke:***

**Issue 09/2010:** garden creepy-crawlies; Alphonse Mucha; Feldpost with UN in Congo; Space-mail; the Petit Point stamp; usual reports; Favoriten 80-year jubilee exhibition; letters-to-editor; etc

**Issue 10/2010:** Croatian stamps & themes; 75 years of Tag der Briefmarke; cancels with numerically-interesting dates and postcodes (eg 19.12.1912 or Wien 1234 dated 5.6.78.-9); Tirol in Romania; info on some new issues; registration labels; Otto Wagner and his buildings; reports from events and Societies; etc

**Issue 11/2010:** Schloss Eggenberg; deadly philately; 3 rare covers (Dr Ferchenbauer); weather stations; when the railway reached Vorarlberg; numerous 1-page articles; etc etc

**Issue 12/2010:** Xmas stamps & meter-marks worldwide; covers from 1945 & 1946; Michelangelo; what's a Doppel-Notpacketkarte?; etc.

**Issue 1/2011:** New Year cards; Estonia joins the Euro; "A Kingdom hopes for a baby" (Great Britain!!!!); the Sperati Story; Thematic: European saints; a modern canceller rarity (not?); postcode-matching dates in 2011; new-stamp-news; money-letters after 1945; Doppel-Notpacketkarte; the VÖPh library; letters; etc.

## **Germania**

**Nov 2010 vol 46 no 4:** AGM & local reports; many non-Austrian but interesting articles such as "Queen Luise of Prussia" and "The birth of German Stamp Booklets". The presentation remains excellent, with interspersed illustrations in full colour. Your editor is probably showing his age in detesting the Historical Present Tense ☹

## **Jugopošta**

**Vol 96 Dec 2010:** London2010 – a wondrous showcase or a grievous disappointment?; postmarks of Sremska Mitrovica updated; unknown Laibach official cancel from 1919 on parcel card with Customs marks and labels; the YSG.s website ([www.yugosg.org](http://www.yugosg.org)); India-to-EssegFestung Feldpost, 1906; etc.

## **Militär und Philatelie**

**Issue 235 Oct 2010:** various activities in 2010; etc.

## **Stamps of Hungary**

**Issue 183: Dec 2010:** review of Furfie's International Postage Rates; Zeppelin Mail forgeries; those corner dots on Austrian PS cards; battles in the Carpathians, 1914-15; WWII Hungarian mail censored in Vienna; postage due oddities; etc

## **Südost-Philatelie**

**Issue 114 (Winter 2010):** Much of post-1938 interest, much in colour. The usefulness of Ferchenbauer2008 to Balkan philatelists, especially Vol 4. OBC has a useful table of "who-is-what in Balkan Philately", covering five societies.

## **Wiener Ganzsachen usw**

**Issue 3/2010 (Oct 2010):** Review of Prof Dr M Bockisch's book on Bildpostkarten; extracts from the 1907 regulations for handling registered mail in Lemberg; closure on 31 Aug 2010 of the Vienna Airport Post Office [your Editor adds that one had to be exceptionally persistent to find it (landside, it was down a corridor underneath the stairs; airside, behind the Swarovski shop) and exceptionally lucky to find it open!]

**Issue 4/2010 (Nov 2010):** costumes-series reply-paid postcards; private messenger posts; etc.

## ADDITIONS and CHANGES TO THE LIBRARY

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
174	Zivilpost-Zensur in Oesterreich-Ungarn 1914 - 1918	Handbook and catalogue. The third edition of Horst Thielk's work	546	Oscar Schilling [ArGe Feld u Zensur]	2008	G
Note: the previous editions are withdrawn						
349-2	Die Feldpost der k.u.k. Kriegsmarine in 1. Weltkrieg 1914/1918	Covers all non-capital ships	492	Karl Kalis and Alfred Kohl [ArGe Feld u Zensur]	2008	G
Note: Part 1 becomes our number 349-1; it covers the capital ships.						
446-1	Bosnien-Herzegowina 1812 to 1920	Part 1 - Introduction, Forerunners, Feldpost in the Occupation period, and Stable Military Post Offices	616	Gerhard Weber [ArGe Ost-Ungarn]	2010	G
446-2		Part 2 - Dienstempel, Military Postablagen, TPO and Railway Station cancels, Sandschak Novipazar, Feldpost	658			
in the Southern Provinces (Insurgenten), Postamt Neum, Handwritten cancels, unusual cancellations, Post during WWI, Military Post in Serbia, Cancels of the Gendarmerie, Senders marks, Franco marks, Forgery and Manipulation, Statistics, Gazetteer, Index, Supplementary information on items in part 1 ( <i>presumably information received after part 1 printed.</i> )						

Librarian's Logistics - each of these books weighs in excess of 2 kilo and would be sent parcel post unless a different service was requested. Price of posting as at 1 February is £7.06. The APS subsidy is limited to £4.50-to-you so the minimum borrowing cost is £9.62 - more of course after the price increases in April. You need only borrow the part(s) you want.

## BOOK REVIEWS

ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn is undoubtedly the premier Society for collectors of Austrian WWI postal history. As well as regular meetings and an excellent quarterly journal, they have published some first rate books on the subject. Two fairly recent additions to their list are:

Oskar Schilling: "**Zivilpost-Zensur in Österreich-Ungarn 1914-1918, Handbuch und Katalog. 3. erweiterte Ausgabe des Handbuches von Horst Thielk**", Wien 2008. ISBN 978-3-9502580-1-1. A4, hardbound, 546 pages, many b/w & colour illustrations, maps. German. €80

Karl Kalis and Alfred Kohl: "**Die Feldpost der k.u.k. Kriegsmarine im 1. Weltkrieg 1914/18 Band II**". Mödling – Wien – Graz 2008. ISBN 978-3-9502580-0-4. A4, hardbound, 492 pages, many b/w & colour illustrations. German. €80

In fact the origin of both books can be traced to A4 supplements published in instalments with the ARGE's quarterly Rundbrief and starting soon after their first issue in 1983. Thielk subsequently published a softbound book of the censor markings in 19XX followed by a greatly expanded hardbound book in 2000. A supplement was also produced. But after Horst Thielk's untimely death, Oskar Schilling picked up the baton and has produced this further expanded and profusely illustrated tome. This is re-organised compared to earlier editions, which grouped all the recorded censor markings together by province or occupied territory. (A review of an earlier edition appeared in AUSTRIA 89).

This time, after a general introduction, there is discussion of the censoring arrangements together with a map and colour illustrations of exhibition items from each province or occupied territory in turn from Albania,

through Bohemia, Bosnia-Herzegovina & Bukowina to Hungary (Ungarn) and Vorarlberg. Chapters on censorship of POW & Internee's mail and police censors follow.

The main section of the book is a detailed handbook listing (alphabetically) every censor office and every recorded marking from Abbazia & Ada Kaleh to Zvornik and Zwettl.

Next comes a useful illustrated listing of recorded markings not including place name. (There are some 50 different varieties of "Zensuriert" alone!). A section on Factory-based censor offices and a copy of service instructions for censors rounds off the book. Anyone wanting to understand and write up letters or cards posted during the war years will need to consult this book. It is also a pleasure to browse through!

AUSTRIA 140 carried a review of the first volume of Kallis & Kohl monumental work on the Kriegsmarine. This covered discussion of every ship (with all the 'nautical' details of length, beam width, displacement, where built, crew complement, history after WWI etc.) and all the recorded markings of all Capital ships (battleships, cruisers, destroyers, torpedo boats etc.) Volume II, now published, covers "all the rest". This comprises the fairly obvious (hospital ships, training ships, minelayers, colliers, U-boat depot ships and who knows what else? Flotillas on Lake Garda, Lake Scutari, Lake Ochrid, and Lake Constance, the Danube fleet, the Black Sea fleet, the Bug and Vistula flotillas and "much else besides"!

Don't imagine that all the ships listed and their markings are impossibly obscure. OK, numerically, most probably are. And quite a lot of small boats have no recorded markings. But it is surprising that, even after 95 years, there are still new discoveries. And there are quite a few ships that are comparatively common.

There are also impressively long lists of all the recorded ships of every type. So you should be able to identify any weird and wonderful cachets you might have been pondering about. There are also lists of Officers and the Adriatic Fleet's order of battle of 1914 and 1917. Altogether, this is another essential reference book.

If you are interested in these books you should consider joining the ARGE. It costs €35 per year, there are discounts for members on the book selling prices and you get Die Briefmarke sent monthly from Vienna as part of the deal! Good value!

*Martin Brumby*

## >>>> THE APS BOOKSHOP (continued) <<<<<

To purchase any of these items, contact the Librarian. If paying by Paypal remember to add the £1 fee!

### **Other items**

- ❖ Back numbers of "Austria" are £1 each, subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. That prices include P&P (by cheapest route).
- ❖ Non-members may purchase back numbers of Austria, at £5 per copy. It may be better value to join the Society.
- ❖ Binders for A5 issues of 'Austria' cost £3.75 and hold 10-12 earlier issues, 8 of the recent issues. There's very few left and it won't be re-ordered – get yours now!
- ❖ **NEW!! Blue-covered binders for A4 issues of 'Austria' are available at £4.99 each and will comfortably hold 8 issues (or 10-12 with a squash). Postage at cost (it's a "Packet"), or delivery by arrangement.**
- ❖ **Ties and Cravats** are available in blue from the Librarian: ties £6.75; cravats £7.50.