

A selection of the items discussed in this issue.



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Edited by Andy Taylor

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We offer various items (books, CDs, ties, etc) to buy. The actual stock is spread around the country in the houses of various committee members, and moves around from time to time. Mrs Joyce Boyer has kindly agreed to be the single point of contact for anyone who wants to buy anything we offer. Order from Joyce (and pay her where appropriate), and she will arrange for whoever holds the stock to send it to you. Full details of our offerings are on page 9 and on the inside back cover; where you will also find Joyce's contact details

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

**Don't forget to look at the Society's web site on
<http://www.austrianphilately.com>
It is regularly updated and enhanced.**

Aide Memoire

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AUCTION: we run a quarterly postal Auction for members worldwide. Prospective sellers should contact the Auctioneer.

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APS INTERNET SITE: see <http://www.austrianphilately.com> for a wide variety of information, comprehensive indexes of 'Austria' and of the library, expanded & illustrated versions of articles, etc.

ADVERTISING IN 'AUSTRIA': full A4 page £85 (€100) per insertion; half page £45 (€50); four consecutive insertions for the price of three. Requests to the Editor.

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

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PRESIDENT	Martin H. Brumby 2 Darfield Close, Strensall, York, YO32 5PH	Tel 01904 491066 brumbym1850@btinternet.com
CHAIRMAN	Colin Tobitt 59 Dumbreck Road, Eltham Park, London, SE9 1XF	Tel 020 83 33 09 12 tobittc@ntlworld.com
SECRETARY	Alan Jones 24 Lakeside, Oxford, OX2 8JG	Tel: 01865-516996 APS1865@hotmail.co.uk
EXCHANGE PACKET SECRETARY	Barry Clark 65 Annandale Road, Kirk Ella, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU10 7UR	Tel 01482 653789 clark65@clark65.karoo.co.uk
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LIBRARIAN	Mrs J Boyer 1 Catherines Way, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 3YF	Tel & fax 01775 76 26 61 joyceb@d-lweb.net
EDITOR	Andy Taylor 10 Eastfields, Stokesley, North Yorkshire, TS9 5EJ	Tel 01642 71 15 59 editor@austrianphilately.com
AUCTIONEER	Keith Brandon Cartoft Manor, Kirbymoorside, North Yorkshire, YO62 6NU	Tel 01751 430248 auctioneer@austrianphilately.com
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Hans Smith 99 North End Road, Golders Green, London, NW11 7TA	Tel 020 8458 7353 Hanssmith99@aol.com

→ always use the latest list ←

EDITORIAL 176

NB! At the recent AGM several Offices changed incumbent. See (and use) the latest list on the inside back cover!

My colleague Herr Mangai has been to Cambridge, to visit an exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum of over 60 treasures from the Kunstkammer of the Kunsthistorische Museum in Vienna. He has talked of little else since, and strongly recommends that you make a visit before Jan 8th next year when it closes. His musings appear later, slightly toned down from the gushing original.

Meanwhile your Editor apart from producing this Journal is busy trying to merge far too many documents into one comprehensive work on The Austrian Newspaper Post; and improve a display of the same; and reduce the volume of paper on his office floor; and attend to sundry domestic matters; and get organised for The Extended Family Xmas Happening; and so on and so forth... Visiting Numiphil in December, weather and strikes permitting, will be an enjoyable break!

Room to air the Editorial Disclaimer: the contents of this journal in general, and the editorial in particular, do not represent the collective view of the Austrian Philatelic Society or of its committee unless this be explicitly stated.

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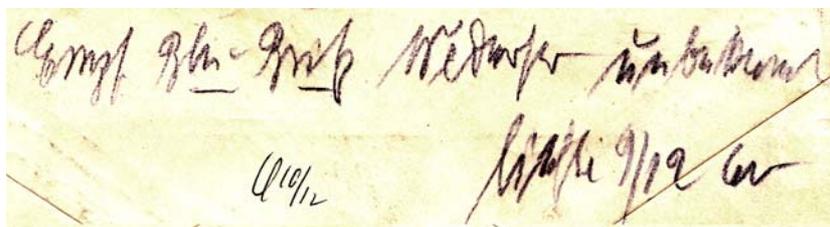
LEOBEN TO BERLIN-BRITZ

By Steve Schweighofer

This 5½" X 7¼" over-sized envelope probably contained a Christmas greeting card, which was sent through the Christkindl post office. A Leoben 1 circular cancel of 3 December 1960 was properly applied to the Type 2b "über CHRISTKINDL" label. The Post Office forwards all [OK, almost all. Ed] Christkindl mail to the special seasonal post office where the special cancellations are applied. This cover received its Christkindl cancellation two days later on 5 December and was sent on its way to Berlin-Britz, Germany.



The envelope is addressed to S.g. Herr Walter Wagner, Berlin-Britz, Werdenstraße 81-82, Deutschland. The original address has been lined through with a light blue ball-point pen and a new address, Friedrichsbrunner 18, was added followed with an underlined "anfragen" (anfragen = ask). This address has also been lined through, this time in pencil, with an explanation added to the back: "Empf Bln-Britz Wederstr. unbekannt / (illegible) 9/12 (initial)", and below that is another initial and the 10/12 date without explanation.

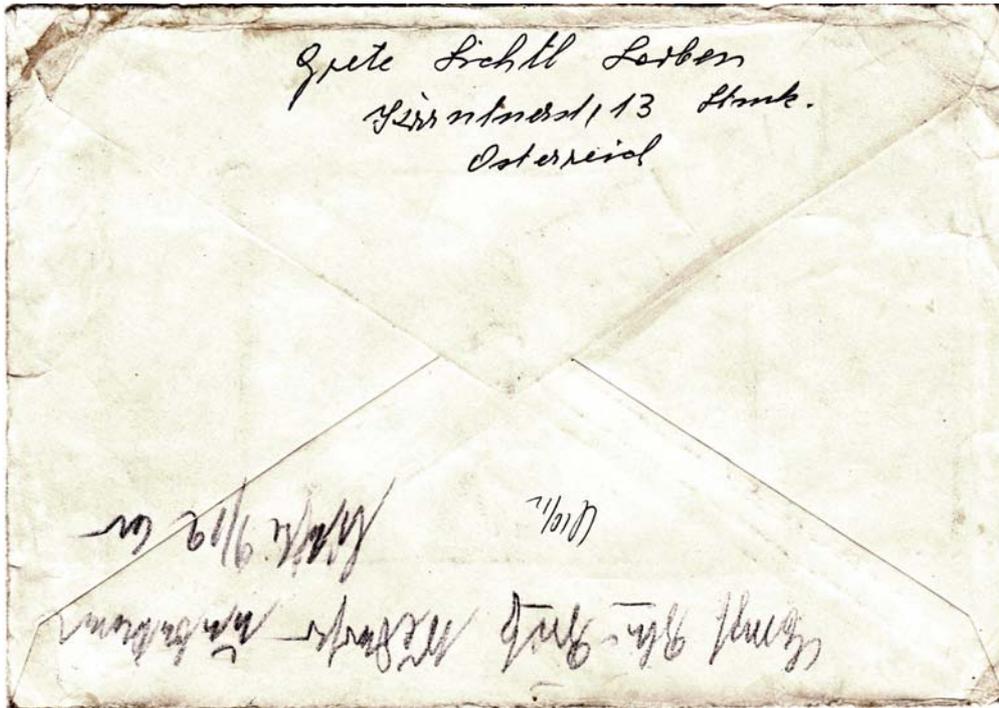


(The explanation, inverted for ease in reading)

At the Berlin-Britz post office, a 10 December marking was applied twice (the one in the upper right is blurry) with different times in the dial as well as a small label was applied in the upper right indicating this address is insufficient along with a handwritten date of 10/12.

The order of the next markings applied is not known. There is a green "Retour" at left center and a smaller magenta "retour" at right center, and a partially legible magenta "Empfänger und Straße / hier (?) unbekannt" with a handwritten "Bln-Britz" in blue pen.

The envelope was presumably soon afterwards returned to the sender, Grete Lichtl, Leoben, Kärntnerst. 13, Stmk. Österreich (note the abbreviations, the absence of umlauts and the incomplete "h" of Österreich).



About the research

Once again, searching the Internet helped gather the missing information. By reading only part of the sender's street name I was able to determine there is a Kärntnerstrasse in Leoben. A guess that Bln is short for Berlin proved correct when Britz was found to be a suburb of Berlin. The Britz street names' correct spelling was also verified with the help of the Internet.

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, LETTERS etc

Arrived Damaged (1)

Looking at the cover that arrived damaged I would offer these thoughts. Although posted on 21st June in good time for the return journey of the "Bremen" was the letter delayed in the post arriving after the mail had been prepared for loaded in New York?

In Europe it was possible to send mail 24 hours after the ship sailed and this was forwarded on the plane to the ship somewhere in the Eastern Atlantic - a Nachbringefluege. I do not know if such flights operated from New York but assume they would.

Was our cover sent on such a flight from New York on 23rd June to the "Bremen"? Did the aircraft capsize whilst being loaded in New York or were there perhaps more letters than usual and the plane was overweight thus causing it to capsize whilst being recovered somewhere in the Western Atlantic? This would account for the word 'Laden' being included in the message dated 23rd June.

Joyce Boyer.

Arrived Damaged (2)

I was just reading the article "Arrived Damaged" in the Autumn 2011 issue of AUSTRIA. In the last paragraph, on page 29, the question is raised about the reading of what appears to be "Laden". Since the catapult cachet was already applied, it probably was not "loading" in New York, but rather the cachet would have been applied at sea, and the unknown word could be a reference to the aircraft capsizing on "landing" (that is, "Landung"). If that was not considered a crash then it would not be listed as such. Have there been any other explanations?

Steve Schweighofer

Arrived Damaged (3)

On the first cover(illustrated) on the front cover, I would comment:

The red cachet reads MIT LUFTPOST BEFORDERT/ ZWEIGLUFTPOSTAMT/BERLIN/ZENTRALFLUGHAFEN. That is, Forwarded by airmail branch, airmail office, Berlin Central Airport. According to Roger Stanley Smith, whom I regard as the authority on such matters, the float plane was launched from the Bremen 1064km from Southampton at 0800hrs and landed at Southampton at 1540hrs. Crew were Gruetering and Zimmermann. From Southampton the mail would be taken to Croydon by train and flown on the daily flight from Croydon to Berlin via Cologne and Hanover.

Cover number two (inside): The German NA Catapult service started in 1929. On the maiden voyage of the Bremen a float plane (Heinkel He12 later named "New York") was catapulted from amidships at 1305hrs 22.7.29. The cover illustrated was therefore carried on a regular flight of the German service. The cachet is misleading with its mention of Cherbourg and Bremen. While it may well have been intended to fly from Cherbourg to Bremen, the flight actually took place on the 18th September at 0710hrs off the Isle of Borkum (the ship was almost home!). The flight was to Cologne via Amsterdam (drop mail) with a landing at 1110hrs. Distance flown 450 km Crew Studnitz and Kirchoff. The cover would have been flown from Cologne to Munich (confirmation cachet of airmail arrival at Munich) and probably by train thereafter.

Dropping of mailbags at Schipol was carried out on several of the flights; they might have used a small parachute as did the Zeppelins when dropping mail without landing. When the float plane had touched down at Southampton and after refuelling and offloading of British mail, it carried on via Amsterdam to Bremerhaven. Bremerhaven was the ultimate destination of the ship; the float plane got there about a day before the ship. There is however a reference (RSS again) to landing at a naval base in Holland on one (unknown) flight.

Geoff Reynolds

Colour trials

Prof Zimmerl has a set of colour trials for the 1954 Esperanto and the 1955 United Nations issues. See the outside cover!

NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS

ABPS Exhibitions Newsletter: if any member does not see this but wishes to, please contact the Editor.

ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn

Issue 106: news, views, many Q & some A, wants etc; Dr Zelisko's improved cannon; the Klapka Legion in 1866; Radio Sebenico's mast collapse in Jan 1917; the Money Letter Dept of the kuk Zensurstelle in Wien in 1917; 'Narodni Politika' (Prague) newspaper stamps; 1914-18 War Bonds; the numbered Aus-Hung Fieldpost cancels (D-I Rainer's book) supplement 1: Feldpostamt 6 (10 sides, many maps & illustrations); packets from Austria to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1918 part 2 (de Bellis; 9 sides); mail forwarding by cable-car.

APS^{US}

Oct 2011: Austrian mail service in the Turkish Empire (from Ferchenbauer2008) part 2; Back door delivery of interrupted field post from Bosnia to Austria in 1888; Court Delivery Stamps; Official letters & messengers.

ARGE Österreich e.V.

2011/3 Nr 95: Forged cancels on Levant stamps (2); the Mahler stamp again; Austrian offices in Salonika; registered mail (2); etc etc.

Czechout

Sep 2011: news, book and magazine reviews; Horní Bříza; Czechoslovakian Grand Prix handstamps; new issues; etc.

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 9/2011: 90 years of VÖPh; 100 years of GB airmail; 2011: a year of anniversaries (Vindobona exhibition); 3rd (barred) Vienna issue of 1945; thematic:Hans Makart; details of some new issues and of questionably-philatelic items; yoof and club news; micro-faults of perforations on the new stamp issues; etc

Issue 10/2011: Slovakia; early letters and weight-step quirks; to err (in stamp design) is human; newspaper postage stamps; an almost forgotten innovation [*not by me! Ed*]; 4 stamp designers; new offerings from Opost; 90 years of VÖPh (2); club news etc.

Germania

Aug 2011 vol 47 no 3: A variety of shorter articles on interesting topics (including forgeries of Zeppelin covers).

Jugopošta

Vol 99 June Sep: The Sea Post Surcharge 1875-1892 (17pp); Para overprints on Slovenia 1920 newspaper stamps; etc.

London Philatelist

Vol 120 Oct 2011: "Return to Sender!": the instructional labels of Austria, Hungary and successor states.

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 186: Sept 2011: Censorship of civilian mail in WWI, Part 1: Introduction and the Budapest Office; obits of John Whiteside; QandA; the 1907-1918 postage due problem; etc

Südost-Philatelie

Nr 116 Oct 2011: many articles of post-WWII relevance.

ADDITIONS and CHANGES TO THE LIBRARY

Ref	Title	Comment	Pp	Author	Pub	Tx
450	Einschreibevermerke der "besonderen" Postämter Österreichs	Registration labels of Austrian "special" post offices	168	W Schubert	2007	G

The book has a 35-page introduction which also describes in detail the differing types of Special Post Office one can encounter.

FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Your committee regularly add new books, thought to be of interest to present and future members. We have now reached Number 450 but since many modern books come in two or more parts the actual number of volumes is much higher. The library is housed in a brick building of limited size and I recently had to advise the committee that there was no more room - in fact if all books were returned to the library some would need to be kept on the floor.

Reviewing the list of books I saw that over half have never been borrowed and a number more only the once when someone was asked to write a review.

With a view to finding a little more space I proposed, and the committee agreed, that the following books should be removed. These were taken to the Harrogate Fest where some were sold, those desired by two or more people were passed to Colin for inclusion in the auction, and those nobody wanted as being 'long out of date and superceded' have been recycled. **Please up-date your library lists by deleting all these items.**

Catalogues - stamps

121	Michel Austria Specialised 1991 - we have more recent Netto catalogues
170	Gibbons 'Austria & Hungary' editions 4 and 5 – we have edition 7 (2009).
190	Michel Western Europe postal stationery 1990 - replaced by 2000 edition library no. 355
191A & B	Michel handbook of German cancels
243	Gibbons Germany 1992

Catalogues - literature and other

99	WIPA 1965
206	WIPA 1981
209 & 210	Catalogues of two exhibitions in which 'Austria' was exhibited
236	An 'Austria' special bulletin of Philatelic literature - there is a copy with the Library issues of Austria.
252	List of Philatelic literature to 1925 - out-of-date, never borrowed

Other books

109	Greetings postcards of Austria
118	Fallen Bastions
166	Greetings from Old Budapest
182	The Radetzky March
268	Vom Ortler bis sur Adria
271	Austro-Hungary Army Seven Years War
276	Stamp collectors Who's Who - published 1960
281	The European World 1870 - 1961
297	Guerra sulle Alpi 1915 - 1918

It was agreed that the original, loose-leaf, edition of Kuhnel on Postablagen should also be disposed of but this is still in the library and can be purchased on a 'first come' basis with the purchaser paying for postage and packing - each book is between 1.5 and 2 kilo.

May I please ask all members to consider using the library. We have an excellent selection of books on most aspects of Austrian philately. As Librarian I am pleased to help and advise BUT I do need to know what you are looking for. To take a recent example - a request for a book on Lombardy/Venezia place names and cancellations. The first is easy but the second requires more information since the reference books cover specific periods - pre 1850, post 1850, only on fiscal stamps for a period. Fortunately after a couple of e-mails I was able to find out what was wanted and provide a book.

The full library list is on the APS website at <http://www.austrianphilately.com> A paper copy can be obtained from the librarian free of charge but it will normally be sent with the next available APS mailing.

Joyce Boyer

AVE ATQUE VALE!

We welcome Garth A Taylor and Anthony Morfett

Carl Barna of Emmaus, Penn. has resigned, and we note the internet obituary of Joseph Cerveny of Elburn, Illinois.

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-Hercegovina 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:

- ❖ “**A Celebration of Austrian Philately**”: the APS 60th anniversary ‘Festschrift’. viii+162 pp A4 in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-05-0 Price **£15**
- ❖ “**The Pneumatic Post in Vienna**” now reprinted in one A4 volume, ISBN 978-0-900118-06-7 and now only **£32**
- ❖ “**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**
- ❖ “**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**.
- ❖ *To all these add P&P: Pneumatic Post £4.50 to GB, £5 to Europe; all other books £2.50 to GB, £3.50 to Europe, at-cost to other destinations.*

Other items

- ❖ Back numbers of “Austria” are £1 each to members (£5 to non-members), subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Postage extra at cost.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **The remaining binders for A5 issues of ‘Austria’ now only £2 each plus P&P. First come first served!**

Advert:

“**The Postal History of the Anschluss, The German Annexation of Austria**” by Tony Hickey, Ian Nutley, David Taylor and Colin Tobitt. Copies are still available; contact the editor of AUSTRIA.

My Favourite Covers (1)

by John May

With 40 albums devoted to Austrian covers, to claim an overall favourite would be a nonsense but there are a few which are readily brought to mind. One resides in my Lundy collection because it provides an amusing link. It is an airmail envelope, with a vertical crease and the right hand side missing, cut down either to open or to fit an album page!

It was posted in Vienna on 22.10.62 addressed to The Postmaster - Lundy, Isle of Lundy, Channel Islands, England. Channel Islands is neatly crossed through, probably because Lundy is in the Bristol Channel. Postage was paid by a 1S and 3S 100-Year-of-Kunsterhaus issue. Arrival on Lundy on 27 OCT 1962 is confirmed by the cancellation on the Lundy Europa 1 puffin stamp, a carriage fee being charged on mail to



and from the island at this time. The attraction for me is that it links my 25 year interest in Austria with my

collecting interests 60 years ago and contrasts the activity associated with visits to Austria with the restful weekends spent on Lundy.

To a confirmed transport nut, the registered cover with the large hand cancellations by the Vereinigung der Philatelisten der Osterr. Eisenbahner to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Ernstbrunn to Hohenau Railway was a must, particularly as it was addressed to England although the destination was Wales. It clearly illustrates the fact that when multiples of these commemorative



handstamps are produced each is given a distinguishing number. This cover was specially prepared for the recipient as three different handstamps were used, numbered 1, 2 and 3.

MFC(2): Insensitive bureaucracy?



This item, shown by your Editor at Harrogate, tickled Bill Hedley's fancy...

This missive was sent to Frau Risch on 15 Nov 1902 from the management of the Rudolf-Stiftung hospital in Vienna.

It informs her that her husband, admitted on 10 October, had died at 11:45 that morning.

In best bureaucratic language, it continues:

Please note that any provisions regarding burial of the remains must reach the hospital

by return. If no provision is made regarding burial within a period of 48 hours following death, account can no longer be taken, on grounds of public health, of any desires in this connection.

Signed on behalf of the Hospital Management.

For the pleasure of receiving this, Frau Risch was required to pay 6 Heller!

F. T.

Der am 10. X. i. J. in das Krankenhaus
aufgenommene Rosa Herrsch
ist heute um 3/12 Uhr Vm gestorben.

Es wird anheingestellt, etwaige Bestimmungen wegen Beer-
digung der Leiche umgehend an die Verwaltung des Krankenhauses
gelangen zu lassen. Da, wenn innerhalb des Zeitraumes von 48 Stun-
den nach dem Ableben keine Bestimmungen rücksichtlich der Beer-
digung getroffen werden sollten, aus öffentlichen Sanitätsrücksichten,
den bezüglichen Wünschen nicht mehr Rechnung getragen werden
könnte.

Wien, am 15. XI. 1902

Im Auftrage der
k. k. Krankenhaus-Direction

[Handwritten Signature]

PHILATELIC RESEARCH – A BASIC GUIDE

Reprinted by kind permission of the author, David R Beech FRPSL ¹

For those at the beginning of a philatelic research project it will be of much value to them and to the results of that research to have a systematic approach. This article attempts to set out some basic concepts that will help the researcher. This set of guidelines should not restrict the author in his vision or concept of his work, but should help him attain a satisfactory result of value to others and posterity.

1. Define your subject.

1.1 Decide the subject matter of your research. Examples of this include: country, territory, dates, reign; is it postage stamps, postal stationery, meter stamps, revenue stamps or postal history, philatelic history: of what, or where, during which period; including postage rates, postal routes, postmarks, theme, etc?

1.2 Write this down; it will be a useful discipline, but it should be flexible as the availability of research materials may change the course of, or extend, the research.

1.3 Decide on the level and extent of the published work; serious, serious detailed, introductory, light hearted, etc, if necessary tailored to where it may be published.

1.4 Check that it or something close has not been done before (see 2 below), or that somebody else is not currently working on it too.

2. Check the literature

2.1 Find all, or as much as possible, of the literature and documents on your subject. This will take the form of books or monographs, articles in periodicals or serials, auction catalogues, catalogues, bibliographies, grey literature (semi published), CDs, internet web pages and archival files, etc.

2.2 Books are best found in a philatelic bibliography if one exists covering the subject area. Library catalogues if subject-indexed serve much the same purpose. Those which are available on the internet and are keyword searchable are of particular value. See 2.3. General philatelic reference works may have important information, for example [de Worms] *Perkins, Bacon Records...*, and Williams, *Fundamentals of Philately*. Grey literature is semi-published text. This will be conference papers, meeting notes, unpublished limited circulation material, etc.

2.3 Articles in periodicals are probably the most difficult to find. Research of periodicals should also be guided by tools in 2.2. These might be of a general nature for example *Stamp Lover* or specialised like *Irish Philately*; many may have less than helpful titles if you do not know the subject matter, e.g. *Upland Goose* (Falkland Islands) or *Maple Leaves* (Canada). Those with annual or cumulative indexes, if well constructed, offer the most help. The Catalogue of the American Philatelic Research Library which is available on the internet at www.stamps.org/InmagicGenie/opac.aspx includes books and periodicals and is key word searchable. *The London Philatelist*, the journal of The Royal Philatelic Society London, has a key word searchable *Archival Edition* on CD covering its 115 volumes from 1892.

2.4 Auction catalogues, including specialised sales, may be difficult to discover if not listed in some way in a bibliography, etc.

2.5 Bibliographies or references in books or articles will be useful source of subject literature data. The more bibliographic data you find the easier it becomes to complete the process.

2.6 Archival files will contain original and probably definitive information. Such files probably are based on a correspondence of some kind, so other files may exist to reflect the other side of that correspondence (post office, printer, papermaker, designer, etc). Most actions have a financial consequence, so a financial file from perhaps a treasury department may be useful. Associated documents/files may contain the information that you are seeking and so should be inspected. Archival files will be kept in a country's national/local archives/library,

¹ David Beech is Head of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library. He is a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society London and was its President from 2003 to 2005.

a post office, the Union Postale Universelle (UPU), a printer, paper maker, taxing authority, etc. Think widely. Make sure to record file names, reference numbers or references, etc

2.7 Non-philatelic materials will give background and other useful information, and these include: directories, Government or official publications, maps, newspapers, patents, timetables, biographies, Army and Navy lists, etc.

2.8 Make a list of the books, and the periodical titles with volume, page and date, etc, as well as web site details, and details of files, etc. See 4.4.

2.9 Read or at least examine those sections of books relevant and the same for periodicals. It will be helpful to do this in the order published; that is by date order. This will give an idea of the development of the subject and its history. Periodicals should be listed as in 4.4 below, with a note indicating usefulness. This may serve as a bibliography in the finished written work, and will be invaluable in recording texts to be revisited.

2.10 When conducting searches on the internet, keep references/web addresses and try to verify the information with primary sources. Remember that web pages are unlikely to be available for as long as a printed item. It might be wise to print them, or parts of them.

2.11 Do not believe everything that you find, perhaps especially on the internet; many researchers have not been accurate or lack a good interpretation or perspective. An indication may be if the text does not include references and or a bibliography. Check information.

3. Examine philatelic material and discuss the research project with knowledgeable people.

3.1 Examine as much material as may be available in private and public collections (museums, libraries and archives). Think widely as to where material may be held. It is to be expected that a nation's postal museum (it may be called a museum of communication) will specialise in the material of that country, but it may hold collections of other countries; for example the Museum of Communication, Berne, Switzerland holds an important collection of United States, the Charles A Hirzel Collection. The Museum of Communication in The Hague, the Netherlands, holds some archival material printed by the printing firm Enschede for the Transvaal Second Republic (1881 to 1899) being proof copies. One of the world's philatelic repositories contain many collections or archives covering a number of territories or disciplines; this is the British Library, Philatelic Collections, in London, UK. In all research projects this institution should be consulted as to available material and literature. They will not undertake your research work for you. Most institutions have web sites; but few give adequate or any information as to collections or research materials held.

Items etc should be noted as to where these have been seen. In public collections material should be referred to by the name of the institution, the name of the collection or archive concerned and any volume description and page number etc. For example: The British Library, Philatelic Collections, the Tapling Collection, Japan section page 12. This will enable others to see what has been examined or to check on your findings at a later date. These details should be noted down at the time of examination, and will be an invaluable listing of what was seen and where. A list of postal museums and philatelic libraries, etc with web sites is to be found at: www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic/links

3.2 A few tips when looking at material: used stamps may be water damaged or their appearance may be affected by postmark ink & oil. When looking at an item, always do so on white or near-white paper. A black paper background will almost certainly give a different appearance to a stamp. Always suspect that an item is not what it seems; always the first action of a good philatelist. Make clear and concise notes in a systematic way as you may not look at them again until sometime later.

3.3 If looking at essays, proof or archival material, record all the notations and reference numbers, etc, that may be associated with the items, even if they do not appear to be important. They may be or become significant later.

3.4 Museum, Library and Archive Collections will be available subject to conditions of access; these should be carefully checked well in advance before any approach is made.

3.5 You should have a clear understanding of the "archival" background of a file, collection or item. This may be that information in an official file is definitive, or in a collection such as the Tapling Collection (the British Library, Philatelic Collections) which was completed in 1899, cannot contain a later forgery, etc.

4. Write a plan of your article or book and start writing

4.1 Work out the order in which information or facts will be presented in sections/chapters/paragraphs of your book or article. In a book these will form the basis of the contents page. Facts or information is usually best presented in chronological order or by subject and then chronologically arranged.

4.2 References are vital. They should always be given to prove a fact or to give further, perhaps definitive, information. In any work the question that the reader will ask is how does the author know that? References will give that evidence.

4.3 Include, where appropriate, references by a numbered system. These should be listed at the end of an article. In a book they may be at the end of each chapter or better still at the end after the last chapter and before the index.

4.4 References should be given as follows:

Books: Author, title, place of publication, publisher, date of publication, ISBN. For example: Morgan, Helen, *Blue Mauritius*, London, Atlantic Books, 2006, ISBN 1 84354 435 0. Remember that the title is to be found on the title page and not on the cover or spine.

Article in a periodical: Author, title of article, title of periodical, volume number (or whole number if the volume system is not used) page numbers, date of periodical. For example: Beech, David R, "How to look after your Collection – A Basic Guide", *The London Philatelist*, volume 115, pp 68-70, March, 2006.

4.5 Always include an index in a book. Remember that users may wish to refer to information in ways other than the way that the author has presented it. For example in a book about postage stamps which is arranged in a chronological order of the dates of issue, a user may be interested in a printer, this information may be found almost anywhere in the text. A good index will list the printer and so the desired information will be found.

4.6 An index is a list arranged alphabetically at the end of the book. A contents page or pages appear at the beginning of the work and is set out in the order in which the chapters or sections, etc appear in the book. It is surprising just how often the two are confused!

4.7 Especially in the case of an article, it is important to set the scene by describing locations, and giving political, social and economic information, etc. The use of maps is to be encouraged.

4.8 All good research work should be published. In a periodical, an article may take the form of work in hand, sometimes put forward for comment, suggestion or criticism, usually in the form of a further article, letter to the editor, etc. The product of such a research process is likely to be definitive or accepted text, as an article, monograph or book. See 5.6.

4.9 As in most subjects, accuracy is everything.

4.10 Let the facts tell the story, not any prejudgement. However if facts are not all known, but there is a theory or theories about events, etc, make it clear that these are theories. Try to think of all of the possibilities.

4.11 Write to tell the story, with its interpretation as may be appropriate, for the record and the reader.

4.12 Resist the temptation to start writing until you are sure that your research is as complete as it can be.

4.13 Start writing your work. Be concise, make your meaning clear, avoid complicated sentence construction and words with obscure meanings, and use the spell checker. Avoid foreign phrases.

5. Tips

5.1 Always acknowledge those who have helped.

5.2 Always give references to published work or other data, including unpublished manuscripts.

5.3 In articles when referring to people who are dead always give their dates; you would be surprised about the number of people alive at the same time with the same or similar names. For example: Sir Edward Denny Bacon (1860-1938). In books this information may be collected into one section, perhaps with further biographic data.

5.4 While it does have a limited place, take great care not to judge past events by the standards of today. Make efforts to understand the history of philately as it affects your subject and the resulting issues of philatelic fashion. For example the limited number of collectors of Revenue material after the 1914-18 World War resulting in the rarest material likely to be after that event.

5.5 Always chose a title for your article or book that reflects its contents. For example: *Malta. The Stamps and Postal History 1576-1960*. One that does not is: *Of Kauri and Gold*, which is a postal, economic and social history of the Coromandel peninsular of New Zealand. Authors should bear in mind that databases that list their works will be key word searchable. The subject key words are not included in the title *Of Kauri and Gold* and so it will be much harder to find. Perhaps a fitting title would have been *New Zealand: The Postal History of the Coromandel Peninsular with its associated social and economic development 750–1993*

5.6 The research process in periodicals is one of the presentation of facts/ideas/concepts, etc being put forward to be followed by another author or authors putting forward complementary or different views, which may extend the subject matter. Over time a consensus or proven view will be accepted. See 4.8.

5.7 Accept with an open mind the views of others and give references to others even if they take a different line.

5.8 Tabulate results if appropriate.

5.9 All illustrations in your work should be of good quality. The days of the use of photocopies have gone, unless these are all that is available. Images are liable to be copyright and the permission of the copyright owner must be obtained and acknowledged, as well as permission to reproduce. The ownership of an item is not necessarily synonymous with the ownership of copyright.

5.10 Grants may be available to meet some or all of the research expenses. These in the United Kingdom are from BPA Expertising Educational Charity; the British Philatelic Trust; the Chand A and Z Research Fund for Classic Philately (managed by the British Library, Philatelic Collections); the Julian Chapman Scholarship (managed by The Royal Philatelic Society London); the Revenue Philately Trust; the Stuart Rossiter Trust.

5.11 Accuracy is everything in research and its publication.

5.12 Get a third party (preferably a philatelist who has published research work) to look at your text and ask him or her to offer criticism and suggestions for improvement. The author is often too close to the work to see its short comings. Check the text for inconsistencies of such things as how dates are expressed, names, etc.

5.13 The golden rule in research and its publication is that it takes as long as it takes, not just the time that you have available. Especially with a book, you are only going to write it once, so make time to get it as right as you can. Set aside plenty of time and then add some more!

References

Below I give some references to works on philatelic research. I would strongly recommend James Negus's *Philatelic Literature. Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources*, which is the text most like a bible of the subject.

Kaiser, John Boynton, *Bibliography: The Basis of Philatelic Research*, Nineteenth American Philatelic Congress, Original Papers of Philatelic Themes Presented by Invitation, October 29, 30, 31 November 1, 1953, New Jersey [Alexandria] American Philatelic Congress, Inc., 1953, pp37-54

Negus, James, *Philatelic Literature. Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources*, Limassol, James Bendon, 1991. ISBN 9963-7624-3-3

Pearson, Patrick, *Advanced Philatelic Research*, London, Arthur Barker, 1971. ISBN 0 213 00326 0

Acknowledgments

Allan P Berry; Alan Drysdall; Geoff Eibl-Kaye; Gavin Fryer; Cheryl R. Ganz, Curator of Philately at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington DC; Jean-Claude Lavanchy, Curator Philately, Museum of Communication; Bern; Douglas Muir, Curator, Philately, British Postal Museum and Archive, London; Paul Skinner, Curator, the British Library, Philatelic Collections, London; David Tett and Frank Walton for information and or comments on the drafts of the text.

Two interesting Austrian Lloyd covers

by John Darnell, with comments from Hans Smith.

[“T&S” refers to the many parts of Tchilinghirian & Stephen’s work, APS Library nr 3]

S.S. Goricia



Built in 1903, and of 3104 tons; served Egypt and the Levant; sunk (by the Allies, while it was acting as a war transport) off Albania in 1915. The cover raises some interesting questions. Fig 168 (from T&S) shows the name as **GORICIA**. The T&S type LD32 cancel on the stamp (dated 12th of something 1912) apparently shows the name as **GORITHIA** while the type LL oval handstamp (not illustrated in T&S) has **GORITIA**. The envelope is addressed to Elda Müller, Trieste.



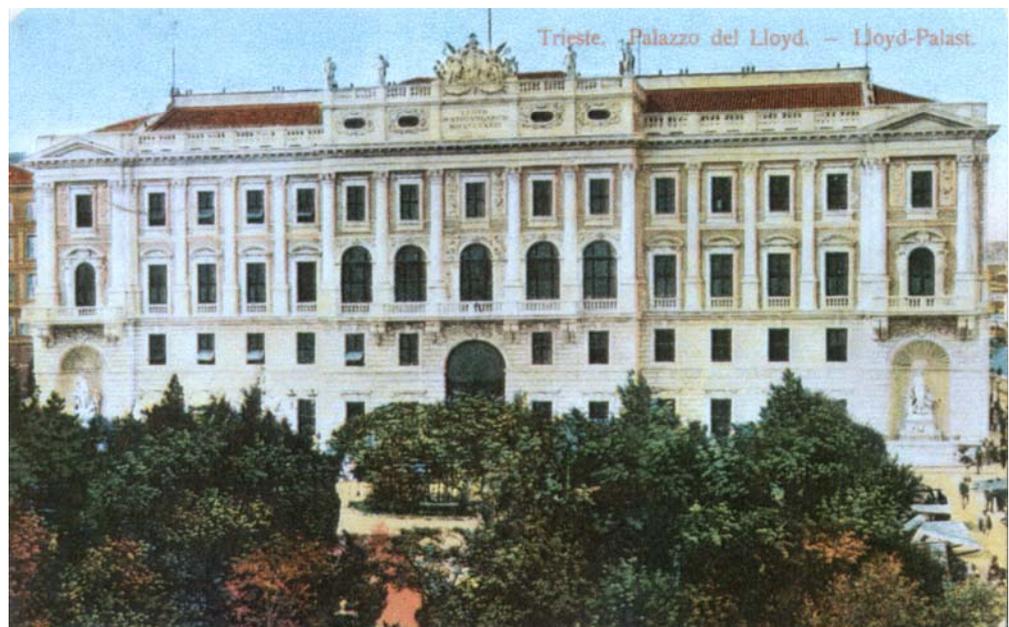
Hans Smith comments: The cancel on the card as far as I can see is a badly smudged 'GORICIA' (as one might expect). The handstamp or cachet on the left hand side of the photostat is a purser's mark. The cancellers were issued by the Austrian post office for use by the postal clerk on board; the pursers' handstamps were issued by the Lloyd for use on official documents as from 1910 but

were often used as 'grace and favour' marks (i.e. philatelic) on mail posted in the ship's mailbox. The spelling GORITIA was evidently an error by the blockmaker commissioned by the Lloyd.

S.S. Stambul



The Stambul (3817 tons) was built in 1910 and sunk (Allies again, same reason) in Durazzo harbour on 2nd October 1918. This delightful card shows the Lloyd's building in Trieste; the Levant stamp is cancelled with the T&S type LF22 canceller.



More importantly, it shows the type LJ cancel, used with green ink as a cachet – T&S say that this LJ-type of cancel from this ship was 'probably issued' but they had never seen a specimen. Also, green cancels are generally rare.



Hans Smith comments: A blue-green ink was often used on board the Lloyd ships for ship's cachets after 1910, when the colour became more common. Again, the blue-green ink would have been issued by the Lloyd while cancelling ink remained black. It is a fact that T&S describe a number of these cachets as 'probably issued' while they are relatively common. I have not, however, seen this cachet of the Stambul before.



Type LJ cancels from other ships

JOINT SOCIETIES MEETING, BRADFORD, 20/8/2011

By Roger Morrell

This annual event at the Latvian Relief Fund venue, hosted by Bradford Philatelic Society and organised by Yvonne Wheatley, currently Chairman of the Czechoslovak PS of GB, was bigger than ever, with several new faces, but also with the absence of John Whiteside who will be remembered for his excellent and enthralling contributions in the past. Representatives were present from the Austrian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Yugoslav Societies, most of whom contributed to six rounds of one, two and three-frame displays. Certainly a strong characteristic of the event is the interrelatedness of the displays and of the interests of members of the different Societies, often thought-provoking and providing a forum for asking questions. In the middle of the day there was a break for an excellent buffet lunch organised by Yvonne and husband Richard, and tea and cakes to finish with. Many thanks to them for organising this always popular and varied event.



Brian Madeley describes his Austro-Hungarian field post issues

In order of presentation the displays were:

Roger Morrell	WWI Austro-Hungarian Danube and Weichsel Flotillas – shore stations, boat cachets
Pat Rothnie	Danzig – the Polish Post Offices after WWI set up to ensure continuity of mail into Poland
Rex Dixon	WWII mail from ‘Sudostpreussen’ (SE Prussia) - centered on Zichenau/Ciechanów as the German advance pushed eastwards
Keith Brandon	Prestamp postmarks of Prag – from the 1760s to 1792, then a break to 1818
Joyce Boyer	Airmail into Austria, 1946-58 – noting the absence of a domestic airline until 1958

- Mark Lendon Romanian Occupation of Hungary, 1918 – Transylvania and Arad overprint issues on Hungarian stamps
- Edward Klempka Romanian occupation of part of the Austrian province of Bukovina, 1918 – stamps and scarce covers from Sniatyn
- Andy Taylor Telegrams in Vienna in the 1800s – use of the pneumatic system for delivery
- Richard Wheatley Czech airmail covers from 1946-50 – Czech heroes issue, but puzzles over the rates used, all information gratefully received
- Yvonne Wheatley Early covers from Northern Hungary, now Slovakia
- Edmund Jagielski WWII Woldenberg Camp mail – impressive display of complete issues from this prisoner of war camp in Poland
- John Anthony WIPA 1933 – stamps, postal stationery and labels from possibly the world's most successful philatelic exhibition
- Derek Baron WWI hospital mail from the Olomouc region in Moravia – a major convalescence area for soldiers from the Eastern Front
- Garth Taylor 19th century revenues on documents from Brünn/Brno district – receipts and similar documents
- Brian Madeley Austro-Hungarian Military Post, WWI – stamps, postmarks and covers
- Alan Berrisford Poland 1944-5 – postal history from the period of Russian Liberation
- Nick Coverdale First issues of Serbia – locally printed newspaper stamps and first postage issues printed in Vienna
- Mervyn Benford Uses of postage due stamps in Hungary – postage due markings before and after the issue of postage due stamps in 1903, including some puzzling charges
- Derek Walker WWI German censored mail – cachet numbers for various censor locations (e.g. 'Ag' for Vienna)
- Martin Brumby Government issued Hungarian bills of exchange – from the 1920s and 1930s, varieties and explanations for their use
- Barry Clarke Austro-Hungarian Field Marshalls from WWI – postcards, signatures on fieldpost cards and biographies
- Rex Dixon Mail from children's camps in Germany in WWII – children, usually in whole classes, evacuated from cities to countryside hotels for safety
- Peter Cybaniak Carpatho-Ukraine 1939: Postcards and the short-lived stamp issue for independent Carpatho-Ukraine
- Barry Clarke Donau Dampfschiffahrts Gesellschaft (DDSG) issues – a fine display of stamps and covers from mail carried by the Danube steamer company in the 1860s and 1870s
- Edward Klempka Poland postal stationery from 1859 - rarely seen early postal stationery under Russian administration
- Andy Taylor Oddities in the Austrian postal system – curious charging practices as evidenced by postal documentation
- Roger Morrell WWI civilian mail censor marks from Budapest – varieties of marking on foreign destination mail

Kraftgüterpost - an unusual cancellation

by Joyce Boyer

In a collection of covers I received from Henry White towards the end of last year there were a number with notes indicating the problem he had with them. This is one of those problem covers:



The postage of 60g is correct for a 'Printed paper letter' (briefdrucksachen) up to 20 grams.

Henry's note reads 'Kraftgüterpost, Steinhaus am Semmering - Bruck/Mur'. So my guess was something like motor or railway parcel post on the Semmering - Bruck line. Tony should know all about such transport there. Tony's response was "No idea, not seen mention of it in my books."

Next try for information was the APS library where the only reference I could find was in Stohl where he lists nine Kraftgüterpost cancellations at the end of the Bahnpost section of his catalogue. (Page 1438; illustrations on page 116A)

Research on the internet produced two references: an item for sale on eBay with the reverse cancellation (see illustration below) which I bought; and a website where I found reference to the German Post Office system for the transport of parcels by lorry. As my items were both letters this did not seem to quite fit.

The next research was to look at the Wikipedia entry for Steinhaus am Semmering to see if this might help. The village is south of the Semmering tunnel on the run down to Mürzzuschlag and Bruck an der Mur and is now a request stop on the train service. Iron ore was mined here until 1882 and in the 20th century forestry was the main industry with its own forest railway from Steinhaus to Rettenegg. As this closed in 1958 it could not have any connection with the cancellation.

About this time I heard from Andy that Prof. Richard Zimmerl was to join us one evening during the planned trip to Vienna in December 2010 so I decided to ask him about the cancellation in the hope that he might give me some information when we met. Better than this Richard replied promptly with the information I needed and Jean Toghill kindly translated the reply to ensure I did not make any mistakes.

Kraftgüterpost is the lowest rank of postal service transportation after Bahnpost - either as a TPO or carried with a conductor and the general service. Kraftgüterpost is the characteristic on-the-street service using motor vehicles on a set route usually between post offices and the nearest railway station. Hans Moser of Innsbruck

tells me that there was a lorry service between Innsbruck and Brenner, whilst I remember post busses carrying mail and parcels in the Oetz valley. Today the whole of the internal postal service is operated using motor vehicles rather than the railways so could be regarded as Kraftgüterpost although it is not called by this name.

Only five of the Kraftgüterpost services had a canceller; four had different cancellers for each direction whilst the fifth was a round trip canceller. See annexe.

[Kraftgüterpost literally means “power goods postal service”. The German Philatelic Dictionary translates it as “goods parcel for motor vehicle delivery”. The important point here is that the service carried letters as well as parcels. Ed]

The Kraftgüterpost service on my covers went from Steinhaus to Bruck an der Mur via Spital, Müzzuschlag, Hönigsberg, Langenwang, Krieglach, Mitterdorf, Wartberg, Kindberg, Aumühl, Müzzhofen, Allerheiligen, St. Lorenzen, St. Marie, Kapfenberg, and Hafendorf. If the sender had put his name and address on the back of the



envelope it would be possible to find out from where it was sent.

The second cover is philatelic and was being advertised/sold for the First Flight cancellation on the Klagenfurt - Salzburg - Frankfurt am Main flight on 1st July 1960. The postage paid of 3 Sch appears to be correct for a printed paper letter with express postage and airmail within Austria.

Annexe: the Kraftgüterpost services

Stohl	Route	Nr	
B5001	BRUCK/MUR - STEINHAUS AM SEMMERING	451	Stohl's B5001 and B5007 are the same route in opposite directions; likewise B5002 and B5006; and B5003 & B5005; and B5004 and B5005. However B5009 goes both ways.
B5002	GRAZ - FRIEDBERG/STMK - PINGGAU	471	
B5003	GRAZ - PÖLLAU BEI HARTBERG - HARTBERG	472	
B5004	GRAZ - UNTER ROHR BEI HARTBERG	473	
B5005	HARTBERG - PÖLLAU BEI HARTBERG - GRAZ	472	
B5006	PINGGAU - FRIEDBERG/STMK - GRAZ	471	
B5007	STEINHAUS AM SEMMERING - BRUCK/MUR	451	
B5008	UNTER ROHR BEI HARTBERG - GRAZ	473	
B5009	URFAHR - ULRICHSBERG - URFAHR	---	

“Nr” is as shown on the cancel; eg on the above cover it's 451.

2011 NEW ISSUES (2nd instalment)

by Andy Taylor

Author's Notes

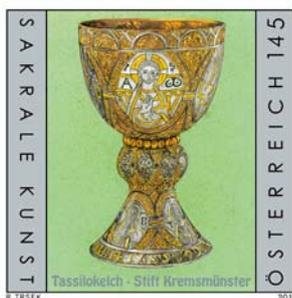
The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date; quantity printed; printing method; designer (and engraver if relevant); printer if not Österreichische Staatsdruckerei; and some details on the design. More extensive descriptions and effusive essays can be read on the English version of the Post.at website. The illustrations are around life size, although blocks & strips are smaller. The dates are those on the Post.at website (and are mostly different from the list issued in 2010!). I have kept their order where more than one stamp has appeared on the same day; catalogues may well list them differently.

Issue 175 remarked "The new self-adhesive definitives were issued on 1 May 2011; since the only make-up value is 7c, it's not clear how pre-May 65cent commemoratives can be used without overfranking." Others had the same thought, and a 5-cent make-up value was issued on 20th June.



Liaunig Museum: 5 cents; 20/6/2011; 2,500,000; Offset; Design: Rainer Prohaska. The stamp shows "Avant-garde architecture containing a valuable collection of Austrian post-war art" – this would be the shortest possible description of the "Museum Liaunig Neuhaus Suha", an art gallery opened three years ago in the southeast of Carinthia. It presents the roughly 2500 works of the private collection of the industrialist Herbert Liaunig. It also displays over 600 decorative and cult gold objects from African royal clans. After a long period of planning and political disputes, the audacious building was designed by the famous Viennese team of architects "querkraft".

100 years of Austrian military aviation: 62 cents; 1/6/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: David Gruber. On 23 October 1909 Emperor Franz Joseph, together with around 300,000 Viennese citizens, high military officers and members of the Imperial family watched the presentations by Louis Bleriot in his Type XI. The military authorities had already shown interest in a powered aircraft, and neither the chronic lack of funds nor the mistrust of a new type of weapon on the part of many soldiers could prevent progress. The most important supporter of powered flight was ultimately the head of the general staff, Conrad von Hötzendorf. The Aircraft Instruction Department was established at the Wiener Neustadt airfield and the first pilot course began in May 1911, with 27 officers taking part. The new commemorative shows the Etrich Taube and the most modern military helicopter in Austria, the Black Hawk.



Religious art in Austria: Tassilo Chalice: Kremsmünster Monastery: 1€45; 1/7/2011; 250,000; Engraved-recess printing; Design & engraving: Mag. Robert Trsek. The Chalice was donated around 780 by the Bavarian Duke Tassilo and his wife Luitpirga, supposedly on the foundation of Kremsmünster. It was created after 768, probably in Salzburg although Bavaria, Northern Italy and even England cannot be completely excluded. Made of copper, it is about 25cm high and weighs 3kg. The bowl and the pommel were made as individual pieces. Silver medallions are soldered on the partly gilded chalice; which is richly decorated with ornamentation in various styles and techniques, plant decorations and geometrical

motifs.

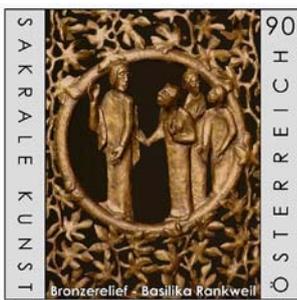
625 years of the St Christopher Brotherhood: 62c; 9/7/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Prof. Adolf Tuma. The present commemorative, designed by Prof Adolf Tuma, is dedicated to the 625th anniversary of the foundation of the St Christopher Brotherhood, an "association of Christian charity" with over 18,000 members. The Brotherhood's headquarters is the famous Arlberg Hospice Hotel and Chapel at Saint Christoph am Arlberg. Founded in 1386 by Henry of Kempten as a Hospice on the Arlberg Pass as a refuge for travellers in need, the Brotherhood was revived in the middle of the 20th century by Arnold Ganahl, initially to help the orphans of the workers who died during the construction of the Arlberg Road Tunnel. Now it mainly helps children and others who have hit hard times through no fault of their own.





50 years of the OECD: 70c; 11/7/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Silvia Moucka. Exactly 50 years ago, in 1961, the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) replaced its predecessor organisation the OEEC, which had been founded in 1947 with the assistance of the United States and Canada to co-ordinate the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after the Second World War. The OECD was intended to help its member countries to achieve optimum economic development and employment and a higher standard of living, thereby contributing to the development of the global economy. At the same time, the OECD was to assist the countries to maintain financial stability. The Founding Act of the organisation, the OECD Convention, sets out as further objectives a contribution to healthy economic growth in other countries and the expansion of world trade on a multilateral non-discriminatory basis.

Trains - 100 years of the Stammersdorf local railway: 90c; 15/7/2011; 250,000; Engraved-recess printing; Design: Peter Sinawebl. The Stammersdorf local railway, today also known as the Weinviertel Regional Railway, is a single-track, non-electrified branch line operated by the Austrian Federal Railways in the Weinviertel of Lower Austria. Originally, it ran from Stammersdorf to Dobermannsdorf via Auersthal, but today only the section from Obersdorf to Bad Pirawarth is in operation. The Stephaniebrücke-Stammersdorf steam tramway line was opened on 7 June 1884. Two years later, on 15 June 1886, Dampftramway Krauss & Co commenced freight operations over the entire route. The usual pattern of expansion, amalgamation, nationalisation, contraction and closure followed. The stamp shows a historic steam locomotive of the BBÖ 378 series, and in the background can be seen the old railway station building of the popular Vienna wine village of Stammersdorf.



Religious art in Austria: Bronze relief, Rankweil Basilica: 90c; 2/9/2011; 250,000; Offset; Peter Sinawebl. The stamp shows a detail of this treasure created by Ulrich Henn, a German sculptor. The fortified church was a special form of early Christian buildings in Rhaetia. They were built on almost inaccessible heights, surrounded by a ring wall and mostly also by a cemetery. The church on the 50m high Liebfrauenberg in Rankweil is one such, serving now as the parish church of "Zu Unserer Lieben Frau Mariä Heimsuchung" in Rankweil. This famous church houses a number of Byzantine-Romanesque religious treasures. However, the relief portrayed on the stamp, the "Curing of a woman", is part of a bronze altar created in

1986 by Ulrich Henn. The artist, born in 1925 in Schwäbisch Hall, created his first works as an American POW using razor blades and ammunition box wood. In 1948, he founded his own studio in Stuttgart and set himself up as a sculptor.

175th anniversary of the death of Ferdinand Raimund: 62c; 4/9/2011; 320,000; Offset; Design: Gabriele Milewski. 5 September is the 175th anniversary of the death of Ferdinand Raimund, one of the most important representatives of the old Viennese popular theatre. Born on 1 June 1790 in Vienna, Raimund toured with various troupes for many years, then returned to Vienna, where his artistic breakthrough was in 1815 with the play "Die Musikanten am Hohen Markt". From 1817, Raimund was part of the ensemble of the Theater in der Leopoldstadt. An unhappy marriage, numerous affairs and his notion of ideal love were the determining features of his work as an author, as were his hypochondria, his huge ambition and his conviction that he was



actually born to be a tragic writer despite his greatest successes being in the field of comedy. He died at 46 and is buried at Gutenstein. His works combine the traditions of baroque theatre, improvisation and the Viennese magic play, as well as the local burlesque, parody and middle-class theatre.

100 Years of the football championship in Austria: 62c; 6/9/2011; 730,000; Offset; Design: David Gruber; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. Football is the focal point of the present commemorative, in which the Post Office congratulates the all-Austria championship on its 100th anniversary.

Portofreie Rohrpost

By Chuck Colomb

Official correspondence such as notification of waiting goods at the railway depot, internal correspondence with Rohrpost employees and with Rohrpost stations, notifications from government agencies to the police regarding planned works, etc. and “ex-Officio” letters were afforded free-franking privilege.

In 1906 there were 1,435,539,250 pieces carried by the Austrian post, of which 87,563,600, or 6.1%, were postage-free. In 1907 these figures were 1,517,815,970 and 94,340,300, or 6.2%. (Dr Ferdinand Bachmann’s “Post, Telegraphen und Telephondienst (1920)”¹)

Dr. Hans Hajek lists, for 1906, total Rohrpost “sendungen” (excluding telegrams) as 4,611,604 pieces, of which 375,629, or 8.1%, were Amtlich (official) items. In 1907 these figures were 3,656,894 and 289,603, or 7.9%. It is uncertain what these “Amtlich” items included, but presumably the daily reporting forms from each station would be included, as well as official items which were afforded the “Portofreiheit”.

Very little Portofreie Rohrpost material appears to have survived. Only six items are known to the writer (three notices from the railway that goods are available for pick-up at the station and the different three examples below).

Official correspondence



from: “K.k. Sektion I / der technischen abteilung / der Post- und Telegraphen-Direktion“

to: “die Stadtbahnabteilung IV a / Wien I / Rathaus”

Warning of telephone cable burial that may disturb operations of the Stadtbahn (City rail service). The card appears to have been prepared by hand in advance, or perhaps printed by a Gestetner-type process, and the underlined words filled in before sending.

Original text	Translation
<p>Wegen Telephonkabelverlegung im <u>XII Bezirk bei der Philadelphiabrücke</u> findet <u>am 28 April 10</u> durch die Gefertigte eine Straßenaufgrabung statt. Wien, um 27 IV 1910 K.K. Sektion I Der technischen Abteilung Der Post- u. Telegraphen Direktion VI, Dreihuteisengasse 7</p>	<p>Because of telephone cable laying in the <u>XIIth district at the Philadelphia bridge</u> a road excavation by the manufacturer will take place <u>on 28 April 1910</u>. Vienna, on 27 IV 1910 K.K. Section I The Technical Department Der Post- u. Telegraphen Direktion VI, Dreihuteisengasse 7</p>

¹ DER ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST, TELEGRAPHEN- UND TELEPHONEDIENST von Dr. Ferdinand Bachmann, K.K. Oberpostkommissär und Lehrkursleiter, in Wein. pub: Alfred Hölder, K.u.K.Hof- und Universitäts- Buchändler, Buchändler der Kaiserlichen Akademir der Wissenschaften, Wien und Leipzig 1910 (copy in Österreichische National Bibliothek, Wien).

Wegen Telephonkabelverlegung
 im XII. Bezirk bei der Philadelphia-Brücke
 findet am 28. April 10... Einseitig
 Gefertigte eine Straßenaufgrabung
 statt.

Wien, am 29./IV. 1910

K. k. Sektion I
 der technischen Abteilung
 der Post- u. Telegraphen-Direktion
 VI., Dreihuteisengasse 7

Official Correspondence

from: K.k. Baubureau

to: Das Magistr. Bezirks-Amt / Bauamts-Abteilung

Stempel der aufgebenden Behörde.

~~K. k. Baubureau~~
~~Bauabteilung 13~~

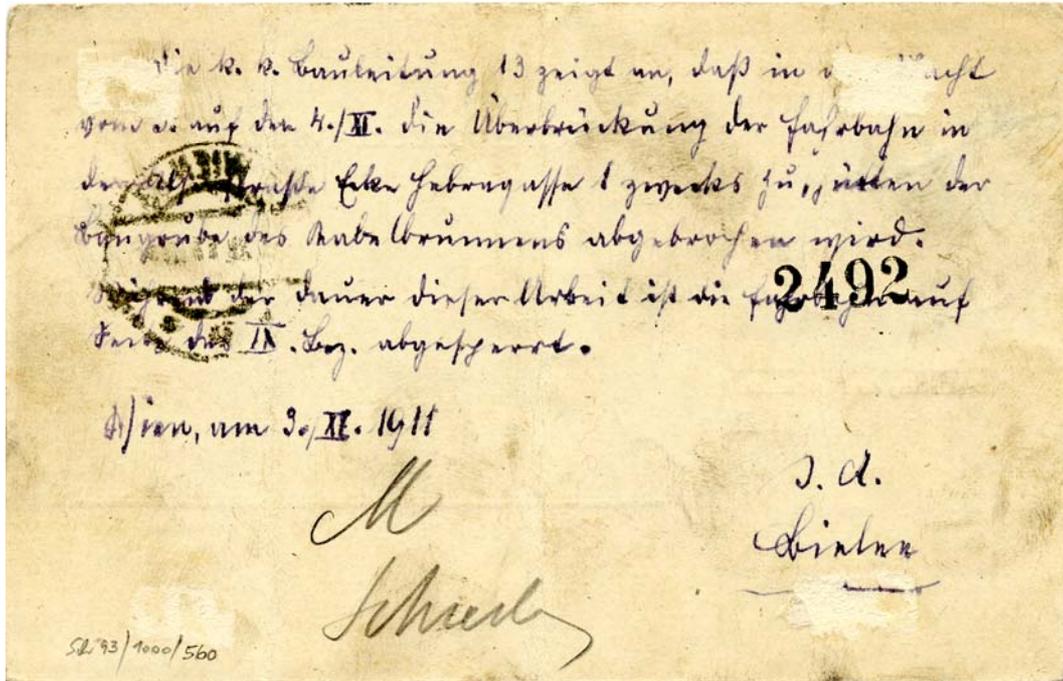
PER ROHRPOSTEN 63
 Korrespondenz-Karte.

in Sub Magistr. Bezirks - Amt
 1. Bauamts - Abteilung in
 Wien IX.

Begründung der Portofreiheit.
 K. k. Baubureau
 Bauabteilung 13

0,9

Warning of the closure of a roadway during work. Translation is uncertain because the handwriting is very difficult. (Worse even than mine! Ed.)



Original text	Translation
<p>Die K.K. Bauabteilung 13 zeigt an, dass in der Nacht vom 3. auf den 4./XI. die Überbrückung der Fahrbahn in Alserstrasse Ecke Hebragasse 1 zwecks Zuschütten der Baugrube des Kabelbrunnens abgebrochen wird. Während der Dauer dieser Arbeit ist die Fahrbahn auf Seite des IX. Bez. abgesperrt. Wien, am 3./XI.1911</p>	<p>The K.K. Building Department 13 gives notice that during the night of 3-4 Nov the overbridging of the highway in Alserstrasse will be broken at the corner of Hebragasse 1 for the purpose of filling in the excavation of the cable manhole. For the duration of this work the highway up to the boundary of the IX District will be closed. Vienna, 3rd Nov 1911</p>

[The IX Bezirk boundary runs down the middle of Alserstrasse. The best engineering interpretation of “overbridging a highway” is that some temporary construction had been installed to carry the traffic, especially the electric trams, over an excavation probably to work on a manhole giving access to telephone cables. This was now to be filled in, and the temporary construction removed. The 3rd of November 1911 was a Friday. Ed.]

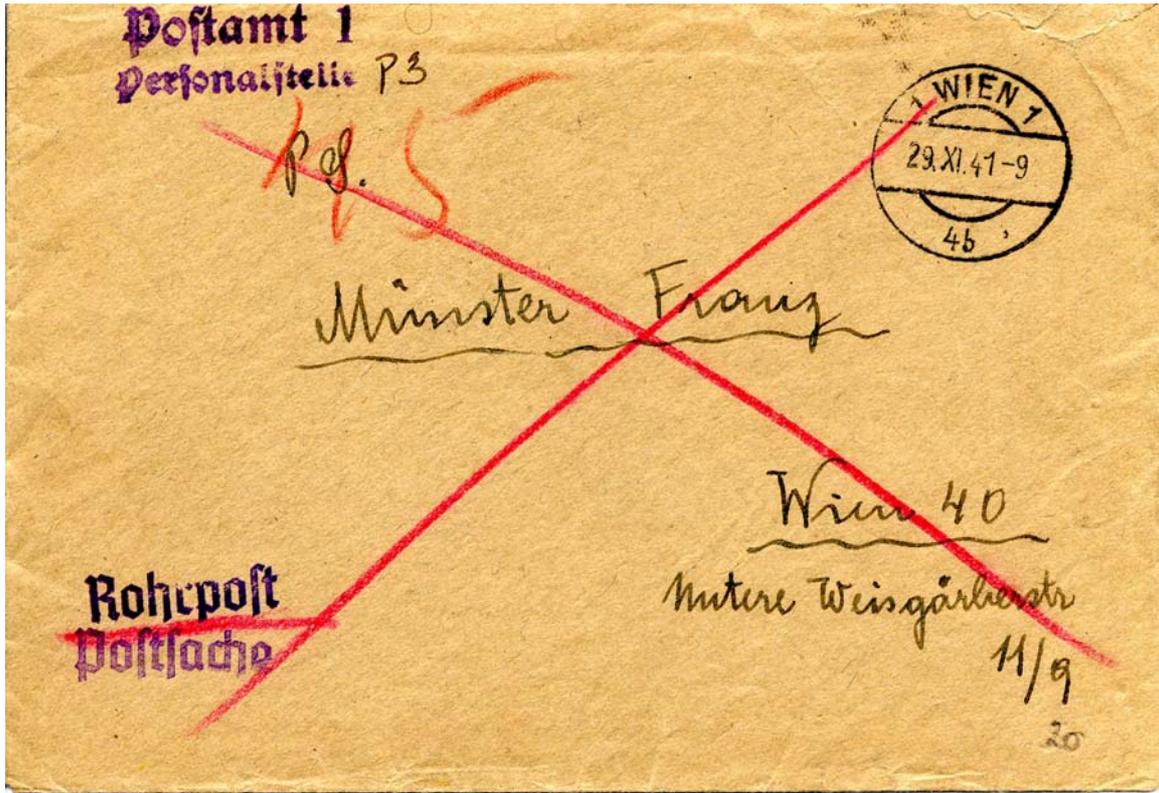
Internal Administrative Personnel Matters

This cover survived because it was used to store the two letters illustrated below. Based on the content and dates of these letters, there must have been a related earlier, now lost letter that was delivered in this cover. Note it is from the Personnel Dept P3. Would that this earlier letter and the other two covers had also survived!

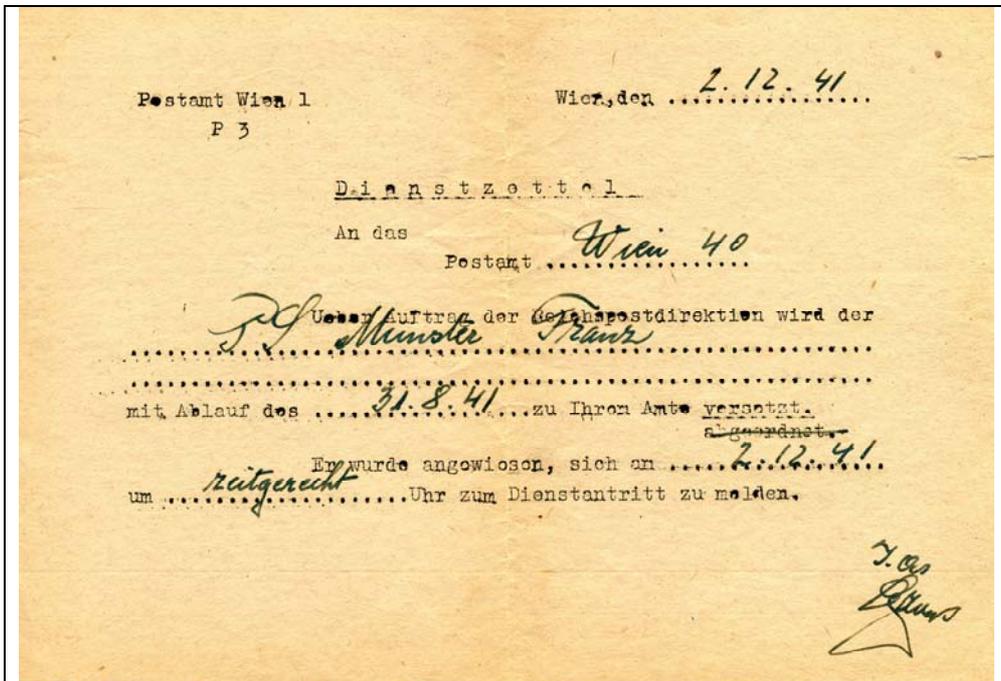


Above is part of the back of the envelope, and below all of the front. It was sent from 1 Wien 1 4b (the main post office outgoing counter), it passed through Wien 1 Rc (the main post office pneumatic counter), and was received at 3 Wien 45.

[Note: to avoid ‘the 9/11 ambiguity’ the months have been expressed in words in the translations. Ed.]



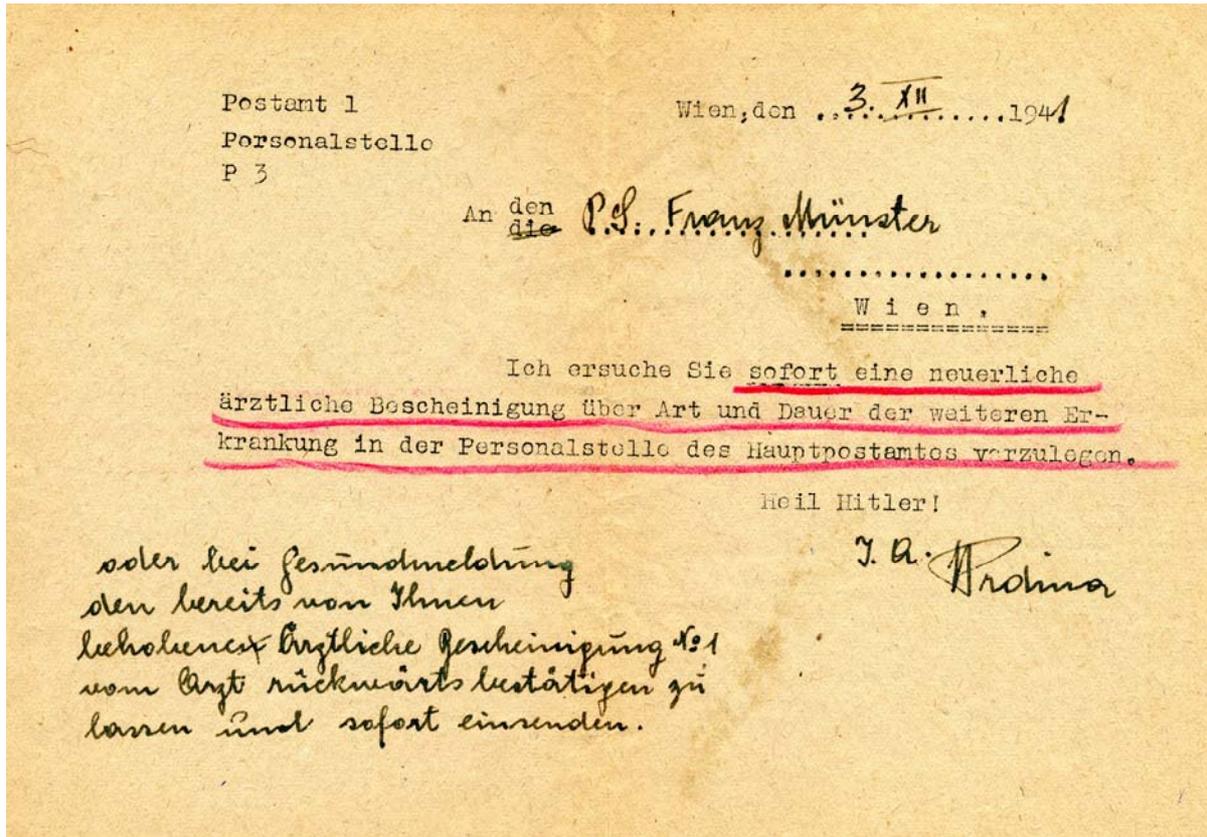
The first surviving letter appears to be a retroactive transfer, perhaps starting the date Franz Münster took medical leave.



Translation:

Postoffice Wien 1 / P3
 Wien, 2 Dec (19)41
 Employment letter
 To Post Office Wien 40
 By order of the Reichspost management PS Franz Münster will be transferred to your office at the end of 31 Aug 41.
 He was instructed to report for duty on 2 Dec 41 'on time'.
 (Signed)

It appears from the second letter that Franz did not show up for work on 2 Dec 41. Perhaps he didn't like the transfer..

**Translation:**

Postoffice 1
Personnel Department
P 3

Wien, 3 Dec 1941

To PS Franz Münster
Wien.

I request you to immediately deposit a recent medical certificate concerning the nature and duration of further illness in the personnel department of the main post office.

Heil Hitler!

or in case of health notification let the doctor's certificate no 1 already removed by you be certified on the back by the doctor and send it in right away.

A STAR IS (re)BORN

In AUSTRIA 167 a 2-part article appeared in which Steve Schweighofer discussed the star-shaped marks sometimes found on Austrian airmails, and Andy Taylor explored the rates. As Confucius said, "If all else fails Read The Fine Manual"; and both Joyce Boyer and Henry Pollak have been doing so...



Joyce has discovered in Stohl a mention of the stars found on post-WWII airmails: part 2, picture volume pages 450A and 610A. He says that the stars "are a confirmation mark that the franking has been checked and is correct for the weight and destination. A 6-point star" (actually it's 6 blobs, points inward, fat bit outward) "is known in red and violet from 1955; violet ceased in 1962; a larger 8-point star in black is also known from 1983."

Henry informs us that in Kainbacher, "Flugpost Österreich 1946-2007", volume IV, part 2, on page 721, one can find reference to decrees from 1957 and 1958 for the use of the stars, an explanation, and some pictures. It says that some mailing and switching post offices (Aufgabe- und Umleitungs-postämter) have been supplied with

these markings, but it doesn't name them. But a picture on the next page 722 seems to be from 1953. The second cancel looks a little like 58 rather than 53, and remarkably, there was no change in postal rates to the USA between 1953 and 1960.

Steve remarks that "As usual with all my very esoteric Austria collecting interests, there were few, if any, comments." He is correct ☺. He also has examples of 7-pointed stars.



AUSTRIAN CINDERELLAS.

Someone's bound to ask! The girl with the Two Ugly Sisters is Aschenbrödel or Aschenputtel.

By Andy Taylor

What ARE “Cinderella Stamps”? [The term “poster stamps” refers more or less to the same thing.] Various definitions have been used; the simplest is probably “things stuck on an item of mail which aren’t official postage stamps”. You won’t find them in a normal catalogue – even the ANK Special has only a few. The list can include local postage stamps; railway post stamps; telegraph stamps; phantom & bogus issues; wax or paper seals; registration labels; charity labels; and political & wartime propaganda. There are probably tens of thousands of such items! Note that the Personal Stamps issued by Austria are not Cinderellas, nor are revenues normally so classed. A lengthy (404 pages) treatise on the WWI issues is “For God, Kaiser and Fatherland, 1914-1918” [ISBN 0-473-02251-6] by Alan Jackson published in 1993 [APS Library 277]. In this area, what you choose to collect is very much up to you.

This article will show a few Cinderellas, concentrating on those that have an impact on the postal history or handling of an item of mail, rather than merely decorating the cover.



This is a piece of a modern cover, sent from Vienna to GB. The left-hand label is gold-coloured (earlier versions are in other colours); it instructs the postal service to send the item to the Christkindl Post Office for the special Christmas cancel and it costs 5 cents. Here, the label has been correctly cancelled by the office of posting and the postage stamp was cancelled at Christkindl; sometimes they get it wrong.

The PRIORITY label refers to the speed with which the postal service handle the item; PRIORITY usually costs more and is supposedly faster.

From an earlier time: political labels were printed in great quantities by German-speakers in areas they wanted to rule – especially in today’s Czech Republic & Slovakia.

Opposite is a Deutscher Schulverein label used at Freiwaldau in Silesia; the ‘2’ is the donation made to promote the cause of German culture and language tuition in schools.

Below are two pieces of postcards, showing German labels used in Silesia next to the postage stamps on postcards.



In theory that made the item into a letter, which would then be underfranked and so charged postage due; in practice the rule was ignored if the label was in German.

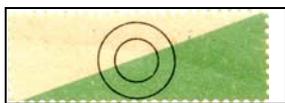


Here are some more examples of “things you might find on an envelope or postcard”.



The mark on the left shows that the item is part of a bulk mailing paid for in cash. In the centre are two typical imprints from official Postal Stationery; quite often the designs are not available as adhesive stamps. On the right is what looks like a cancelled stamp; however it is a picture of a hotel alongside a different paid-in-cash mark used for posting their winter brochure.

Almost always, markings in **blue crayon** are instructional, applied by the office of posting. Blue lines round a stamp mean it is invalid. Capital **T** often followed by a fraction mean that postage due has been levied. A blue number (eg **101**) at the top left of a letter posted to a Vienna address probably means it went by pneumatic post.



This split-triangle mark was often applied by philatelists in the pious hope that the Post Office would then cancel the stamps nicely.



On the left are two bogus stamps produced by the Vienna dealer Friedl to mark the discovery of Franz Josef Land in 1873. The centre shows some of the stamps produced in Leitmeritz in 1860 to pay for local delivery. On the right are Red Cross charity stamps from 1914.



On the left is a definitive stamp with on the right a “marginal tab”; these tabs have no franking value, and occur with a variety of decorative, advertising, or political slogans. Rarely (and wrongly) they are used for franking mail. The other three items are genuine Austrian postage stamps just to show that life can be difficult: the round one is printed on plastic and the ‘375’ is the face value in cents; the long-nosed figure is a character from a childrens TV show; and the APS stamp is a Personal Stamp, discussed in several previous articles.

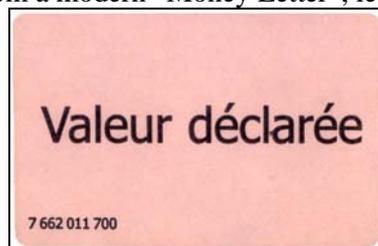


I showed a PRIORITY label above. Another you may encounter is the Registration label; these began in the traditional format of a small adhesive yellow label with the letter R, the name of the despatch office, and a serial number. More recently they take the form of a computer-produced label with a serial number such as “RO 75452432 8 AT” and a bar code; similar labels beginning RR or CC are used for other postal purposes.

So why, you may ask, do you also find an added small yellow label containing only R and a row of vertical lines? Allegedly, because the Post Office sorting machinery cannot recognise the Post Office computer-produced labels!



These two labels are unusual, as they are from a modern “Money Letter”, ie a letter containing contents with a value that has been declared for insurance purposes. This example was sent from Vienna to Britain in 2005; the contents were newly-printed Personal Stamps and the value was set at 500 Euro. The “416 SDR” is the same value but expressed as “special drawing rights”, a notional currency like the Gold Franc. This might have been required since the destination country did (and does) not use the Euro and if loss occurred questions of exchange rate could complicate matters.



Presumably to meet UPU regulations, a label stating Value Declared in French was also applied; it is in a pale salmon pink!



The leftmost label above is propaganda in favour of the Austrian People’s Party candidate in the 1960 Presidential Election. Next is a pair of “cut-outs”, ie pieces cut from postal stationery so as to include the imprint and then used to frank an item – this was sometimes permitted, sometimes tolerated, and sometimes forbidden. To their right are a pro-German-language (and culture) item and a WWI patriotic label. At the far right is a Blackprint. Since 1946 the Austrian Post has produced a so-called blackprint version of most issues (it’s actually printed in ‘shades of grey’). Originally intended for the editors of philatelic journals, they were soon in demand by collectors – and naturally were placed on sale. Since 2000, “Buntdruck” have also been produced, stamps of the identical design to a normal issue but in different colours. Neither have any franking value, but they can sometimes be found illicitly but successfully used by enterprising philatelists.



These are not Cinderellas, but postage stamps from automatic slot machines! Left is the Schilling-currency version; it wasn’t popular. Right is the Euro version; the background design is location- or event-specific and they are much sought after at exhibitions. They are valid for franking, alone or with other stamps.





Seals showing who sent the item: the Vienna military command, and the Finance ministry.



Advert for the Graz dog show, 1913



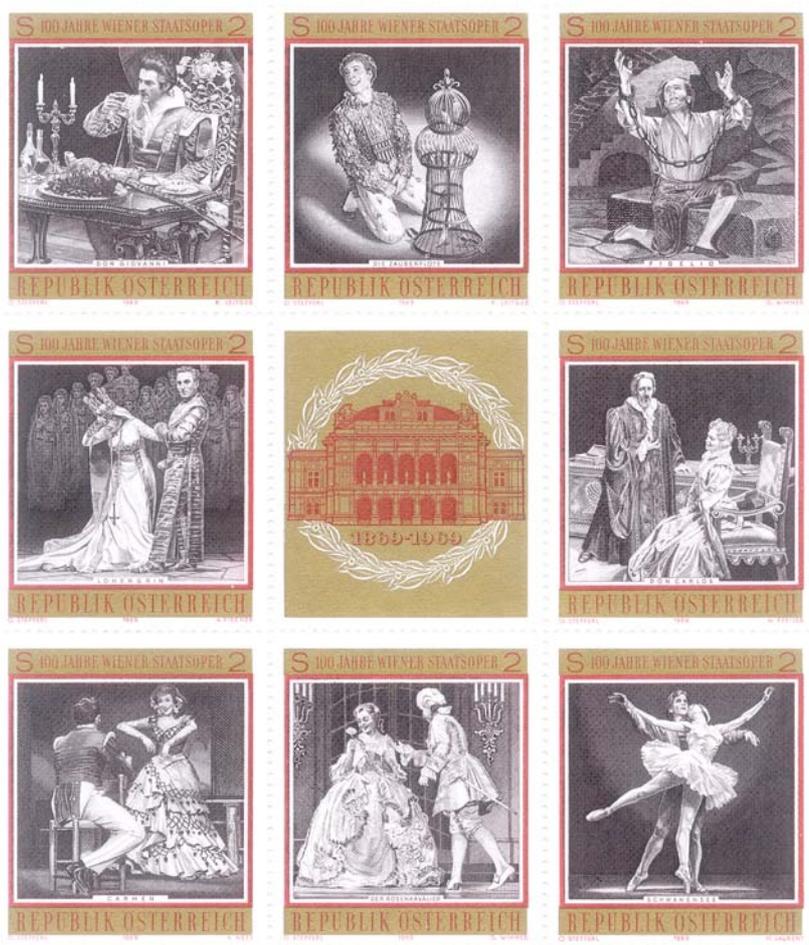
WWI War Ministry charity seal

In the 1920-38 period, several hotels and guest houses in remote regions organised their own postal service, an employee taking guests' mail to the nearest post office. This they charged for, and some printed and sold "adhesive labels indicating the payment for this service". This produced conflict with the postal authorities, who while refusing to collect mail from the hotels even if paid, also refused to allow anyone else to! One of the better-known examples is Katschberghöhe, on top of a mountain in Carinthia, and another is Moserboden near Zell-am-See.



Originally there was a post office at the Moserboden hotel, but it was closed, probably during World War I. When tourist traffic increased after the war the mail had to go to or from the Austrian post office at Zell-am-See (passing the Kaprun Post Office en route). The hotel proprietors organised a carrying service; and in the mid-twenties issued two stamps to cover the 5 groschen fee. The stamps had a black centre; one had a blue frame and the other had a green frame.

Each stamp showed a view of the hotel whose name, in black, appeared at the top of the design, one being Kesselfall-Alpenhaus and the other Moserboden. In use the local stamps were interchangeable, and were cancelled in purple or black with a large, three-lined mark inscribed "Moserboden / Kaprunerthal 2000 m. / Bahnstation Zell a. See." Also, a normal Austrian adhesive stamp was needed for onward postage.



Austria occasionally produces block issues, having both postage stamps and non-postal labels. A good example is the 1969 block “100 years of the Vienna Opera House” which has a central label surrounded by 8 stamps; the catalogues list 16 possible arrangements that include the label as well as 12 that don’t – and that by no means exhausts the possible variations!

Indeed, the block reached the sales points in a counter-sheet of either 4 blocks arranged 2x2, or 9 arranged 3x3 (the catalogue is unclear) so given a large enough envelope even more exotic combinations are possible. But that’s getting silly...

As before, the label is not postally valid, but it can be found used.

Enough! As the final example, this card bears a “Tarp Label”, produced for a free postal service for Austrian refugees in the Danish Red Cross camp at Tarp in the spring of 1946.



2011 FEST @ HARROGATE

Andy Taylor, 2010-11 Festmeister

The weekend was held at The Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th September, and followed “the same procedure as every year”, with slight variations – not all of which were improvements! Proceedings kicked off with an Auction, where 18 lots of Literature and 90 of stamps/covers were offered to the 15 members present. The list had been sent to all members and also placed on the APS web site where some lots were illustrated – resulting in another 15 members sending postal bids. Many items sold at unexpectedly high prices, although several were spurned as of poor quality and high reserve. The sale was conducted by the Auctioneer Elect, who remarked that it had been an interesting introduction to his future role.

Displays on Saturday began at 9:15, using Alan Berrisford’s frames (thanks!) in a U-shaped layout. With breaks for coffee and lunch, the ambitious programme ran on till 4:30. The single-frame-competition followed; the first prize went to Keith Brandon (bottle of Grüner Veltliner) and the second to Hans Smith (Black Sheep Ale).

The usual Bourse preceded the evening dinner, in a private room, which was most enjoyable. The menu had been upgraded compared to the previous year and many appreciative comments were noted. The discerning few chose the specially-provided Genuine Wallace-and-Gromit Wensleydale Cheese.

Sunday again began at 9:15, and with much cracking of the Festmeister’s whip squeezed three rounds of Second Republic into 1½ hours. A “timed timetable” had been prepared, and while nearly all participants managed to fit into their slot (the rest know who they are...) the general feeling was that it was too rushed and that time for general discussion was lacking. The Festmeister thanks all who brought displays, many of which were requested by him to fit his notions of “balance & contrast” The AGM and the Review followed, and the contractual deadline of “Everybody Out before 1pm” was met.

Saturday’s displays

Session 1 round 1: A Taylor: Sods&Odds; K Brandon: Pre-stamp Postal History of Rovereto; Y Wheatley: Thimbles; J Boyer: Woven stamps; C Tobitt: Schussnig.

Session 1 round 2: E Oberthaler: Kufstein poslablagen; J Boyer: Balloon mail; B Clark: Telegram receipts; A Taylor: Telegram delivery; J Hooper: unissued stamps; A Taylor: unissued essays; J Boyer: air exhibitions; H Smith: Croatia: the City of Agram; J Boyer: Glider mail.

Session 2 round 1: A Berrisford: Postconductors & TPOs; J May: Innsbruck TPOs; D Baron: Olomouc TPOs; H Smith: Adriatic Shipmail.

Session 2 round 2: K Brandon: Special Post Offices (to 1918); B Clark: Pneumatics.

Session 3 round 1: A Taylor: Postage dues; Y Wheatley: 1919 overprints; R Dixon: Anschluss rates.

Session 4 round 1: A Taylor: Silesian Postablagen; B Clark: More Silesian Postablagen; E Oberthaler: Tirol postmarks; Y Wheatley: Austria used in Czechoslovakia; B Hedley: A Royal Display.

Session 4 round 2: M Brumby: Second Republic Revenues.

Sunday’s displays

Round 1: A Taylor: Definitives 1945-2011; J Hooper: Fresh off the press; J Boyer: Costumes; C Tobitt: early Euro franking; J Boyer: Buildings FDCs; H Smith: Vienna July-Nov 1946

Round 2: A Taylor: Mozart; J May: Rail-related Personal stamps; J Boyer: Winter Olympics; A Taylor: Exotica; C Tobitt: 1945 overprints; K Brandon: Registered Euromail; A Taylor: Tag der Briefmarke.

Round 3: J Boyer: Air to 1958; J May: United Nations; C Tobitt: Dues; M Brumby: Parcel cards.

Auction realisations (Lot number - £)

1	£32	8	£10	17	£55	59	£9	68	£22	78	£20	96	£6	117	£15	133	£50
3	£15	9	£12	51	£15	63	£15	69	£32	79	£20	98	£9	119	£10	134	£10
5	£28	14	£5	52	£11	64	£15	70	£22	81	£55	102	£15	124	£125	135	£10
6	£8	15	£7	53	£28	65	£24	73	£15	83	£10	103	£15	127	£10		
7	£7	16	£9	55	£11	67	£24	77	£255	84	£15	111	£15	130	£20		

Splendour and Power: Imperial Treasures from Vienna

(Alias “Bling for the King”)

By A Mangai

To Cambridge, to visit an exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum of over 60 treasures from the Kunstkammer of the Kunsthistorische Museum in Vienna. The Kunstkammer is at present closed for major building works, and plans to reopen in 2013; meanwhile some of the items are “on tour” in Cambridge. If such items interest you, I urge you to lose no time in visiting the exhibition yourself – it closes on 8th January 2012..

The Kunst- und Wunderkammer (rooms of arts and natural wonders) of the Renaissance and Baroque periods were encyclopaedic, universal collections that attempted to reflect the entire knowledge of the day. Particularly desirable were rare, curious and unusual objects. Princes and kings collected exotic and uncommon materials, to which they often ascribed magical powers, such as precious stones, ostrich eggs, coral and shark’s teeth, which were considered to be dragon’s tongues. From these natural products, artists created virtuoso works of art. Among the highlights in the collections are outstanding works of the goldsmith’s art, such as the famous Saliera by Benvenuto Cellini, first-rate specimens of sculpture, such as the Krumau Madonna, masterly bronze statuettes, filigree and bizarre ivory objects and virtuoso stone vessels as well as precious clocks, complicated automatons, remarkable scientific instruments, precious games and much more.



The “Saliera” by Benvenuto Cellini: offset printing with embossed gold foil!

The items in the Kunstkammer began as the private treasures of the Habsburgs, later becoming a dynastic property. There is gold by the meter, cameos ivory and precious stones by the litre, rock crystal both transparent and coloured by the kilogram, and exquisite craftsmanship by the man-year. Exotic materials such as lapis lazuli and rhinoceros horn are crafted into incomparable works of art. Few are functional – that wasn’t the point. They were selected or commissioned to display the Emperor’s wealth and magnificence. The basic intent was not just to impress, but to shock and overawe, visiting ambassadors, princes etc – who would then deem it a great honour to do whatever was demanded of them.

The collection we see today began when a large reform of the separate imperial collections was undertaken in 1875, in the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph I. All of these various holdings were brought together, finally reposing at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, which opened in 1891. They included

- The Kunst- and Wunderkammer of Ferdinand II of Tirol, first displayed at Schloss Ambras near Innsbruck; the items were brought to the Lower Belvedere Palace in Vienna to protect them from Napoleon's troops.
- The Kunstkammer of Emperor Rudolf II which he assembled in Prague – or at least that portion taken to Vienna before Prague Castle was plundered during the Thirty Years' War.
- The Kunstkammer of Archduke Leopold Wilhelm, the brother of Emperor Ferdinand III and regent of the Netherlands.
- The Vienna Treasury's collection of semiprecious stones and objects of turned ivory, carvings of rhinoceros horn and miniature wax models.

Many of the items in the Kunstkammer feature on Austrian stamps: indeed the Opost web site produces 178 hits for "Kunst"! A typical series is this, issued on 22 March 1971.



The 1S50 stamp shows a lidded bowl fashioned from a dark green precious stone of the quartz family. The bowl also contains gold, enamel, rubies, emeralds, and pearls. It was made around 1580, probably in Florence

The 2S stamp shows a statuette of a horseman carved from ivory portraying the young King Joseph I. Under the front hoofs of the horse lies a masculine figure, symbolic of the fury conquered by the royal might and virtue.

The 3S50 stamp shows a princely table decoration - the "Saliera", or salt-cellar, by Benvenuto Cellini, which is one of the most perfect masterpieces of Renaissance gold work. The stamp image is printed, while the 26 Jan 2009 version on the previous page has a printed background overlaid with embossed gold foil – in the tradition of the original!



The 3+2g stamp is from the 20.6.1947 set marking the National Art Exhibition and shows the "Corvinus Beaker", a silver-gilt Pokal given by the King of Hungary to Wiener Neustadt in 1462. The 1Eu60 stamp appeared on 21.6.2002 and shows a decorated glass Pokal made by Antonio Montano around 1580 for Archduke Ferdinand II's Schloss Ambras collection. Between them is the issue of 24.5.1991 showing the main staircase of the Kunsthistorische Museum.

AEROPHILATELY AND THE SIEGES OF PRZEMYSL (1914 – 1915): PART TWO

By Dr. Jerzy W. Kupiec-Weglinski and Janusz Bator

Introduction

This is the second part of an article about the postal effort set up by Austrian Army during the 1914-1915 sieges of Przemyśl, the first time in history that mail-laden airplanes landed and took off within a surrounded fortress. The story is told through presentation of some key items from the collection of Keith Tranmer (Ilford, UK), who devoted fifty years to studying the postal history of the Przemyśl sieges. Although Keith wrote two seminal publications (1, 2), he rarely exhibited his marvellous “Przemyśl” collection, which luckily I recently acquired. The first part of the Przemyśl “saga” has focused on mail flown by airplanes from the garrison (3). Here, we present some outstanding examples of balloon-flown correspondence as well as mail flown inward by airplanes to the fortress. These are difficult and complex areas for in-depth and definitive research. Therefore, I was thrilled that Janusz Bator, the renowned Polish postal historian of the Przemyśl siege era (and a resident of the present-day Przemyśl), has kindly agreed to share his knowledge and expertise as a co-author.

Mail Flown by Balloons from Przemyśl

Airplane flights were often disrupted, delayed, or cancelled. So, on January 9, 1915 Commander Grebenz of the Fortress Balloon Division No. 3 allowed transporting mail from Przemyśl by paper balloons. Special postcards became available for purchase three days later at the Main Przemyśl Post Office (at 50 Heller each); one card per officer or 15 soldiers. It is unlikely these cards were printed separately and solely for balloon flights. Our own research suggests that about 6,000 cards in various shades of blue were simply separated from the previously printed pile of regular field post cards that were put on sale on January 6. These “balloon” blue cards were then numbered with a 4-digit metal numerator (the lowest number recorded is #0089). However, a single hand-numbered card (#1020) and one with a 5-digit serial number (#15747) are known.

All cards received a special “Ballonpost Przemyśl 1915” 2-line cachet, and “IX/54” control seal. The “Festungsballonabteilung” flight cachet was applied on some of them. Balloons were made from varnished wrapping paper to be light, small enough to avoid detection by the Russians, and filled with about 8 cubic meters of gas to carry 5-6 lbs of mail. They had to travel at least 120km over the front and enemy-occupied territory. The mail pack was accompanied by a credit note for 10 Kronen for finding and handling over the mail to the authorities.

Five paper balloons, each with 500-600 cards wrapped in balloon material to waterproof it, were released on January 20. Two balloons were intercepted by the Russians, but the remaining three reached Hungary safely, and were found in Turja-Remety (March 19), Lemes (May 18) and Margitfalva (June 19), as confirmed by receiving postmarks on some of the surviving cards. There is some controversy regarding the “Lemes” balloon as a lone card carrying a “Lemes” postmark has been recorded (*ex. Newall collection*). The item was addressed to a person living in that village, and it remains unknown as to whether the balloon did indeed land in Lemes, or the postmark was applied upon the arrival to the addressee’s hometown.

In all, Przemyśl mail carried by balloons is much scarcer than the one transported by airplanes. For instance, the Vienna stamp dealer, Adolph von Arx, wrote in May, 1926 that he intended to attend a stamp show in New York City and bring with him 43 balloon-flown cards in a pile of 750 Przemyśl Siege items. Indeed, it is a fair assessment that ca. 5% of all existing cards that were sent from the fortress were flown by paper balloons. The authors have between them identified 48 balloon cards out of over 1,000 Przemyśl items that they have been able to inspect in their philatelic careers.

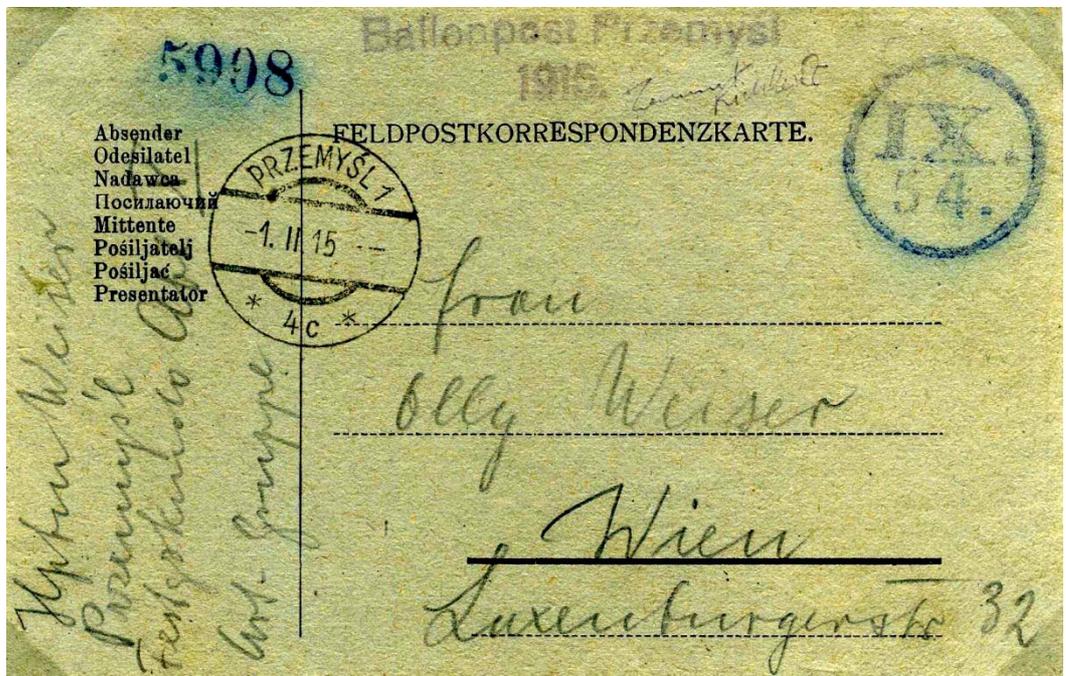
Figure 1 (over) illustrates a “typical” balloon card, with a relatively low serial number (#0392). It was written on January 13, 1915 and addressed to Vienna. It displays a “Ballonpost Przemyśl 1915” cachet, a small “IX/54” control seal (20 mm diameter) and a special cachet: “K.u.K. Festungsartillerie Regiment / Fürst Kinsky Nr. 3 / Festungsballonabteilung Nr. 1”. The latter was applied by the Fortress Balloon Division, commanded by Hptm.

Julius Nimmerrichter. The card was censored twice, first by the officer of the military unit (hand-written signature) and then by the official at the Post Office (the red ZENSURIERT). Most likely, this card among many others was flown by a paper balloon released by Hptm. Nimmerrichter on January 20, was found somewhere in Hungary, and then forwarded to the addressee.



Figure 2 (below) shows another “balloon” card, also addressed to Vienna, but with some distinctive & interesting

features. First, it carries “5908” serial number (the highest recorded in the literature is 5909) and a larger “IX/54” control seal (26mm diameter). Second, it was written on January 30 and postmarked on February 1 in the Przemysl Post Office. This was against regulations as the name of localities was prohibited within the postmark, and the use of civilian postal cancellations was forbidden in the war zone. However, this postal regulation was not so strictly enforced when light-weight cards were issued in January, 1915. Since then, the day postmark from the Main Post Office became more frequent and likely philatelically motivated as the Przemysl Siege became the front page news all over the world. Third, this card was censored by the military unit only (a faint annotation next to the “Ballonpost Przemysl 1915” cachet), and it is lacking the official censorship. This is unusual because paper balloons were felt to be uncertain and likely to land in the Russian lines.



We cannot state unequivocally, some 100 years later, whether this card was actually flown from Przemysl by a paper balloon (as implied by the cachet), known to be released by Nimmerrichter and associates on March 7, or if it was carried by an airplane instead. Records show an earlier connection from the fortress to Krakow on February 7 (Flight 9), and Hptm. Weiser may have used that occasion to communicate with the outside world.

What we know, however is that this card did survive and reached Frau Weiser in Vienna many months after Przemysl surrendered. Shortly before surrender of the Przemysl fortress, an effort was made on March 19 to send out manned balloons, named “Przemysl”, “Austria”, “Josef Ferdinand”, “Schicht”, and “Steiermark”. The

latter was carried away by a storm before the crew could board it. The others got away, but none of four piloted balloons reached the Austrian lines and all had to land in the Russian-occupied territory. On landing, each balloon and most of the official mail they carried were destroyed, as instructed, before capture. The few surviving cards were handed over to the Red Cross in St. Petersburg, who in turn passed them on to the Red Cross Bureau in Copenhagen, from where they were eventually delivered to the addressees at least six months later. Not surprisingly, these items are among the scarcest of the Przemysl post. The identification of mail from manned balloons is further complicated as it is comprised of cards carrying both “Fliegerpost” and “Ballonpost” cachets. This makes it difficult to distinguish from similar mail salvaged from the airplane flight on the very day of surrender on March 22 (Sgt. Meltsch), unless these are cards dated after March 19, all of which are very rare.

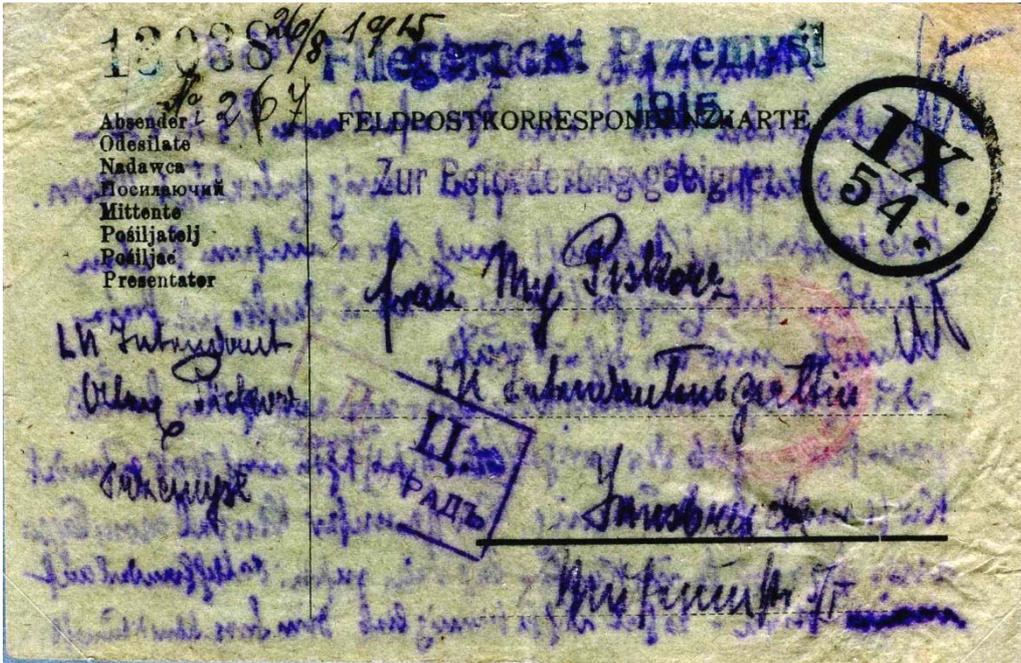
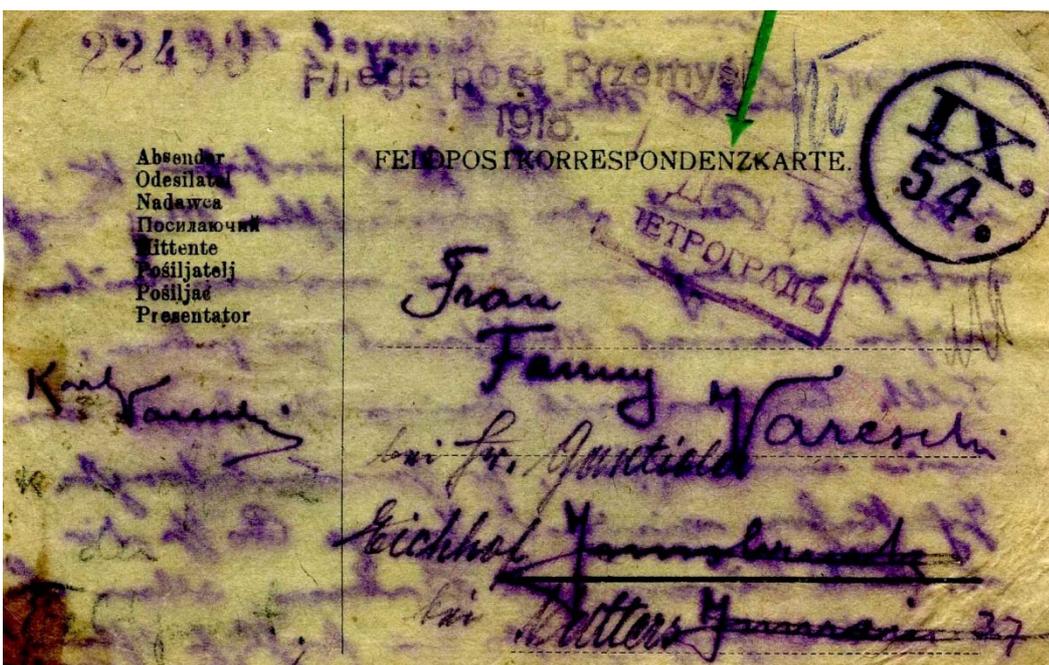


Figure 3 (left) and **Figure 4** (below) present two extremely rare cards, which were flown in the balloon “Austria”, piloted by Hptm. Nimmerrichter and Oblt. Schneider. Both cards were written on March 18, ie the day before the balloon flight. First one is from Oblt. Alex Piskorz, the Intendant of 108th Infantry Brigade in the Pikulice area of Przemysl, who was well known to Nimmerrichter. The second one is from

Karl Vareschi, an FPO 152 supervisor. Both cards show identical censor initials but only the Piskorz card appears to have a censor cachet “Zur Beförderung geeignet” (suitable to forward). Both arrived safely in Innsbruck even though one was redirected. Vareschi writes: “Although the delivery of this card is uncertain I

send it anyway to give a sign of life. Should you not hear from me for some time, do not worry. I will be back. Kisses, greetings, - Karl”. Piskorz writes a sentimental letter, almost poetic, but opens with an interesting note: “I just got your letter from 9/3/15 No.230”, which establishes that he was able not only to send privately but receive replies the same way through



his connections with Nimmerrichter, and most likely someone outside the fortress. Interestingly, Piskorz was sending quite large amounts of money to his wife throughout the siege.

After crash-landing in Lukowo in the Russian lines, some 44 km south of Brzesc Litewski, the aviators managed to destroy the balloon and burn about 40 kg of the official mail on board. However, Nimmerrichter also carried some private mail in his greatcoat pocket, including the two cards presented here, as well as one to his wife, now in another collection. The captured flyers were arrested and taken to the Russian Army H.Q. at Cholm for interrogations. When Nimmerrichter was accused of being a spy, two Russian flyers intervened to confirm he was a pilot, and in an act of friendship they offered to post his private mail. Both cards went through Petrograd (censor marks), and were partly washed out along with the red Austrian Red Cross cachets. Of note, the Russian censor mark on balloon cards (rectangular “D.C. Petrograd”) is distinct from that found on salvaged cards from the 14th airplane flight, which was also forced to land in the enemy lines (oval “Petrogradskaja Wojennaja Censura”). This may also help to distinguish the two very seldom seen Przemysl mailings.

The Piskorz card arrived in Innsbruck over five months later, on August 26, 1915, as annotated by his wife. Indeed, she meticulously numbered all the correspondence from her husband, which reached “267” as evidenced on this particular card. So much for one card per officer! However, this fascinating story does not end here. After World War One, both cards became part of the airmail material which was acquired in the 1930s by the Marquis of Bute from Georg Sobetzsky, a Vienna aerophilately dealer of the 1920s-1930s. Unfortunately, the cards suffered some water damage during the bombing of Bute House in London in 1940. Finally, Keith Tranmer purchased them, together with many other prized Przemysl items, at the Robson Lowe auction of Bute airmail holdings in March 1959.

K.u.K. Fliegerpost Przemysl Cachet

Tranmer refers to an interesting and unusual “philatelic souvenir” of the Przemysl Siege era, a framed rectangular cachet (45mm x 27mm) usually black but sometimes blue/violet, depicting the “Taube” type of airplane used by the Germans. Sometimes described as “Brzesko-” or “Sobetzsky-” type (it was first described by Georg Sobetzsky), this cachet was most likely produced with an idea to make Brzesko (FPO 101) a base for all flights from and to Przemysl. It was designed by the gun master Kinsner, attributed to the Vienna Arsenal Airfield, and applied to some correspondence flown to Przemysl after the sender made a suitable charitable donation to raise funds for the widows and orphans of fallen flyers. This cachet is very rare genuinely used on legitimate flown items. The Bute collection listed seven such items, and they were described as “dubious” in the



Robson Lowe auction catalogue of 1959. After the fall of the fortress, the original canceller fell into the hands of an unauthorized party, and one finds later cachets cancelled-by-favour on covers and postal cards, all with Austrian postage stamps.

Figure 5 (left) depicts a “Sobetzsky”-type black/violet cachet on a card from December, 1914, which does not appear to have left Vienna.

Although it has a Przemysl address, it was detained by the police, and the cachet was probably applied later. The message is completely blacked out.

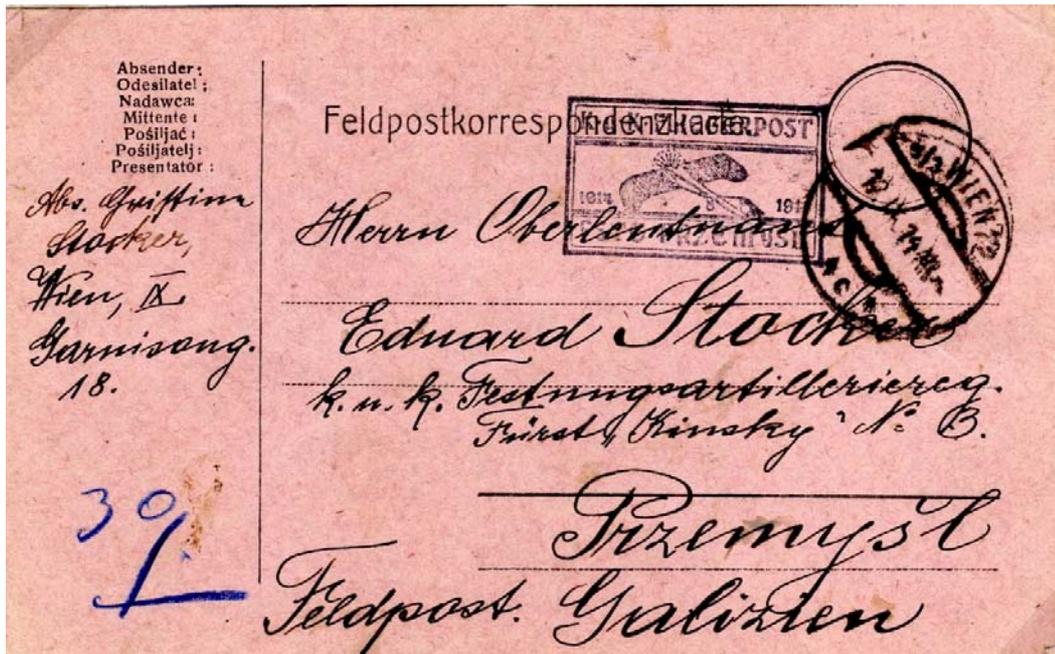


Figure 6 (left) illustrates another card from the same sender, postmarked in Vienna on September 12, 1914, and addressed to Edward Stocker of the Artillery Regiment Fürst Kinsky No. 3, a familiar name to those who collect Przemysl mail. It carries a variety of the K.u.K. Fliegerpost Przemysl cachet. Here, the frame is smaller (35mm x 21mm)

and the entire cachet was printed in blue, black, red or violet. It was originally described in 1955 by Major Alfred Clement of Graz (*Handbuch Militar Luftpost 1793-1954*). Clement-type cachet is scarcer than Sobetzky-type, and not common on forged Przemysl cards. It appeared twice in Austrian collections exhibited at international levels in London and Prague (1975); the cards were described as mail flown to Przemysl. However, despite their appearances, neither Sobetzky nor Clement cachets should be used to identify mail that has flown to the besieged fortress. Of note, there exists a card that was mailed from Przemysl to advise the addressee to use “Vienna X Arsenal IX” transit address for inbound correspondence. This confirms Kinsner’s activities were known to defenders of the besieged fortress.

Frau Maxova Correspondence

Many families tried to stay in touch with their loved ones, but there was no “official” mail service to the fortress and the majority of correspondence never reached the addressees. Only the lucky few out of over 130,000 stationed soldiers and officers could receive a letter from home by infrequent inward courier flights, which was most demoralizing. Nikolaus Knozer, an Ordnance Officer in the Motor Transport Corps, writes to his mother on December 24, 1914: “Two flights arrived today from Krakow....with 35 letters and cards”. Indeed, there was a general belief down to the ordinary soldiers (based on the content of their correspondence) that a letter could be sent through the Fliegerpost from Krakow. In addition, a private order was given on November 9, 1914 that all mail sent to Przemysl should be retained instead of being returned to the senders. It was not until February 2, 1915, that newspapers announced that mail could no longer be accepted for Przemysl. Indeed, hundreds of bags of Przemysl correspondence were found in Vienna and Krakow in early spring 1915. This situation was very disappointing as reflected, for instance, by the experience of Dr. Schlafrig, Oberarzt of the Festungsspital No. 2. His colleague, Dr. Jonas of the same hospital was somehow able to receive letters from his wife through her friend who was a pilot, but infrequently. So, Schlafrig suggested she make contact with Frau Jonas and ask if a space could be left on card for a message. It is evident from Schlafrig’s last card sent before he became a prisoner-of-war that no such message had ever reached him. This illustrates how difficult it was to receive mail in Przemysl, regardless of the addressee’s rank or position.

Needless to say, the correspondence to Przemysl is extremely scarce. First, many of the cards or letters that were delivered were destroyed during the siege and fortress surrender, not to mention years of deportation in the deepest corners of Russia. Less than 50% of prisoners survived the ordeal, and those who did returned from captivity as late as 1924. Second, the identification of genuine material is very difficult and can only be done by examining the contents or the individual markings. Not surprisingly, a cover flown to the fortress just prior to capitulation on March 21, 1915 (*ex. Newall collection/Mikulski certificate*) was exhibited at the “MonacoPhil 2002” as one of the world’s 100 greatest philatelic rarities (*Exhibit Catalogue*, p. 122). The correspondence of Frau Maxova, a lady from Prague, who used a variety of routes with unusual persistence over a five-month

period to reach her husband in Przemysl, is one of the most remarkable stories of the siege era. Keith Tranmer uncovered it in the late 1960s when he acquired from the Maxa's son his parents' mail collection (covers, with letters removed). The items expedited to Przemysl are most interesting for our current presentation. With a high degree of certainty, they have successfully reached the fortress, have gone into captivity with the recipient, and miraculously survived the Siberian war camps and his later service in the Czech Legion in Russia. The story reads as follows. A Reserve Officer working in the Przemysl main stores, Prokop Maxa from Prague, had informed his wife that he was able to supply red wine for Major General von Nickl. In return, the General had suggested that letters could be sent to Przemysl through an old friend, Oblt. von Mayer of FLIK (Fliegerkompagnie) 14 (FPO No. 30 in Kaschau), who could then arrange to have mail forwarded directly to the fortress.

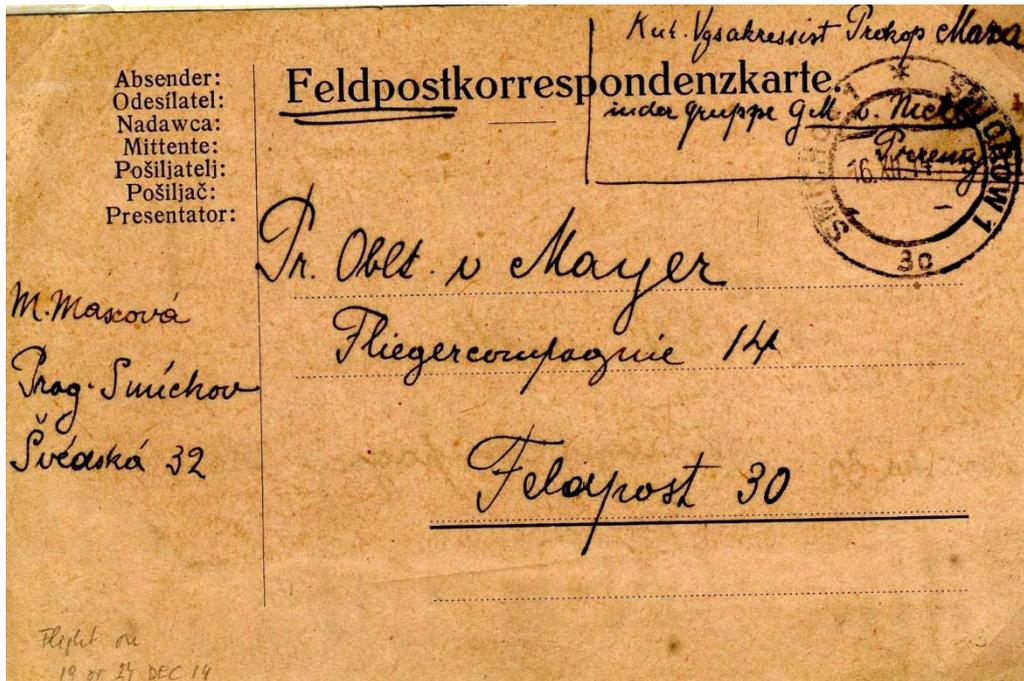


Figure 7 (left) confirms that Frau Maxova had found out about this communication hint, and wrote to her husband on a field postcard, which civilians could readily purchase in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The card was sent from Prague-Smichov on December 16, 1914, addressed to Oblt. von Mayer, with the Przemysl address of Prokop Maxa at the right. With no “return to sender” cachet, but

showing General von Nickl's name as a useful reference and connecting address, this card may have actually been delivered in Przemysl. Indeed, there were inward flights from Krakow on December 19 and December 24 (mentioned in Knozer's letter above). However, Oblt. von Mayer was most likely unaware of the whole arrangement, as many of Maxova's subsequent letters sent directly to him were simply returned to Prague.

Figure 8 (right) illustrates another attempt to reach Prokop on January 22, 1915, which apparently failed. Here, in her desperation to assure message delivery to her husband, she used an address of the already mentioned Nikolaus Knozer, a well known Przemysl Siegfried figure and a friend to Hptm. Philipp von Blaschke, the commander of FLIK 11. To be recognized by Knozer, who censored some of Maxa's outgoing mail, she stated her own name along with the Prague return address on reverse. However, she wrongly addressed the card, writing FPO 30 in Kaschau, Hungary instead of c/o FLIK 11 in Przemysl. The letter was held by authorities until after



the letter was held by authorities until after

the siege ended, and ultimately returned to sender, as evidenced by red “*Derzeit nich zustellbar / zurück*” (Impossible to deliver at this time / return it) framed cachet (used in Krakow).



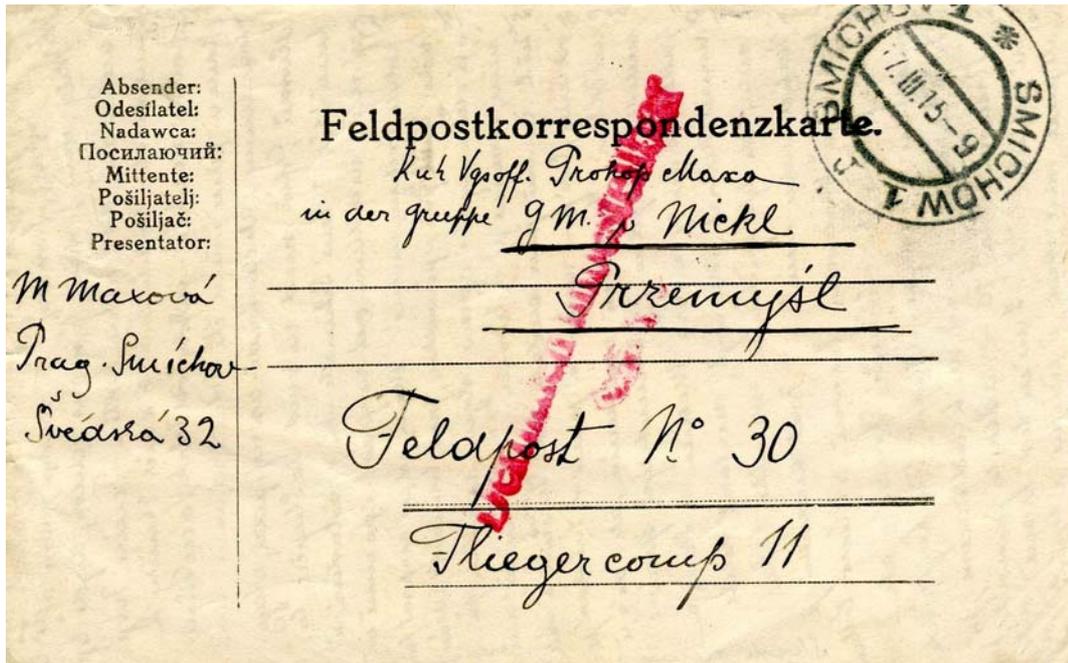
Figure 9 (left) shows one of the scarcest of Maxova’s cards, posted in Prague on January 22, 1915, ie before publication of the ban on mail to the Garrison. It is addressed c/o FLIK 11 Krakau, with Maxa’s address almost obliterated by the date stamp. The card was censored in Krakow “Zensuriert Hauptpostamt”, but instead of FLIK 11 it was then transferred to FLIK 10. Indeed, in the beginning of

January 1915, the operational unit of FLIK 10 had moved from Krakow to Brzesko to establish a more reliable connection with the Garrison. Hence, if not subjected to any delays, this card may have flown on February 1 or 9 to Przemysl. Of note, Fliegerpost No. 10 circular acceptance cachet of “K.u.K. Luftschifferabteilung” is extremely rare. There is only one other card with this cachet recorded, posted on January 5, 1915 and flown from Brzesko to Przemysl on January 12 or 13. Certainly, once the cards reached the Air Force, there were opportunities for flyers to carry private mail.

Figure 10 (right) illustrates an equally scarce example of mail. It was posted in Prague by Prokop’s sister on February 15, 1915, and carries a “Zensuriert Hauptpostamt” cachet from Krakow. Interestingly, it was addressed to Maxa via Festungs-Commando Headquarters, most likely in an attempt to get a card into besieged Przemysl by bluff. Records show courier flights from Brzesko to Przemysl on February 26 and 28.



As already mentioned in part one of this article (3), so called “experimental” cards that were flown from Przemysl are very rare indeed (just four examples recorded by auction houses in the past 50 years). They were



known to Sobetzsky and other prominent collectors in the early twenties of the last century. **Figure 11** (left) shows the only recorded use of such a card outside the fortress. It is off-white, and unlike other known examples, it is a single piece instead of being made from two pieces of red/pink or light-blue thin paper. This very card, sent

by Prokop Maxa in an envelope addressed to Prague, was unused and flown from Przemysl on November 23, 1914. The wife received it on November 28, as annotated on the salvaged envelope (part of this collection). It was several months later when she used the card and posted it on March 17, 1915 back to her husband in Przemysl via Feldpost No. 30, FLIK 11. However, it was returned and marked “Cannot now be delivered” in red. Of note, on February 2, 1915 the newspapers throughout Austria-Hungary had finally revealed to the public that no more mail would be accepted for Przemysl. However, Frau Maxova assumed that a special light-weight card might still be successfully delivered to the fortress, especially while using General von Nickl’s name as a connecting address to her husband. What Frau Maxova could not know, however, was that Przemysl was to fall five days after posting.

Epilogue

Keith Tranmer once wrote (4): “There are many interpretations of what constitutes postal history, but in my long experience the human aspect that the student can discover is the true reward of collecting, and in a subject such as the siege of Przemysl...the collector is able to relate closely to some of the personalities engaged”. During over fifty years of forming one of the most significant Przemysl siege collections, Keith made major efforts to uncover its personal aspects and to get all the relevant information first hand. For instance, it took him four years to acquire the Maxa correspondence. Although he was never able to successfully trace the fate of Nikolaus Knozer, Keith became a good friend and an eager listener to the late Franz Graf Czernin von Chudenitz, who knew many Przemysl veterans, like Oblt. Nimmerrichter. It is our hope that this 2-piece article is a testament to Keith’s postal history philosophy, as expressed in his “Austria” journal article almost two decades ago.

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3. Kupiec-Weglinski JW: Aerophilately and the Sieges of Przemysl (1914-1915): Part One. Austria 2011, 175, p. 31-39.
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“PAY-MORE LABELS

By Andy Taylor & friends



In previous issues questions were asked about a mysterious green Austrian label. An example is here, darkened for clarity, and the letter bearing it is below. Basically it is designed to save the Post Office work and the sender annoyance. If a letter is sent to a foreign country and is inadequately franked, the Post Office have to calculate the amount due, convert that to gold centimes, mark this on the letter, send it off, and hope that the destination

country collects the amount due and remits it back to Austria. This takes time, and after WWII time cost money.

Instead, if the sender had complied with the rules and put his address on the item, the amount due was written on the green label and the letter returned to the sender. He then added sufficient extra stamps and reposted it. Or for this example didn't. (We'll ignore the possibility that the label was applied after the letter had arrived!)

The stamp was issued on 12 Nov 1948 and is franked (on the St Pölten – Wien



TPO) with that date – so it's a FDC. At that date the rate for a letter to Holland was 1S for 40 grams, plus 60gr for each extra 20 grams. Presumably the envelope contained something between 40 and 60 grams. It was censored, which would take time. The small label is marked "19.11.48" in pencil.

The British Post Office have adopted a similar system, as shown by this lurid red label applied to a colleague's letter, which was returned to him for his attention.

There is a crucial difference: in Austria you could apply the stamps and repost the letter, while in Britain you have to go in person to a Post Office and pay the extra. However, that might save the customer money, since the difference in cost between weight steps (eg 32p, 30p) is unlikely to correspond to any stamp or combination of stamps that they have to hand and they'd have to overfrank it.

