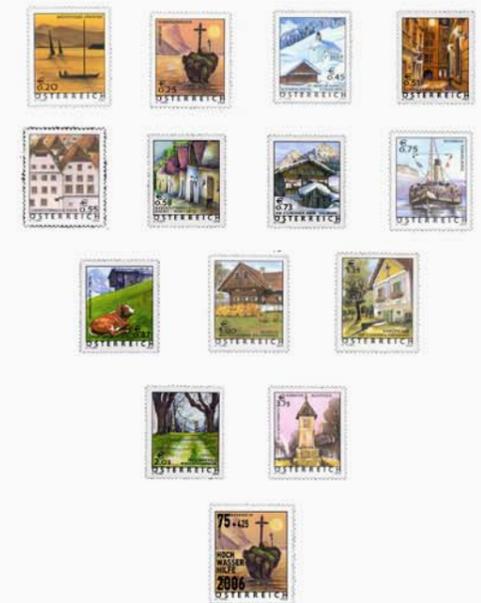


A selection of the items discussed in this issue.



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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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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 82 65 42 51 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
TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	John Anthony 6 The Eyrie, Winshill, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE15 0DT	Tel: 01283 541725 jeressos@csmascent.com
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 177

By Andreas Daumenschmertz

Congratulations to Klaus Schöpfer and to Colin Tobitt, elected to FRPS(L).

A **European Stamp Exhibition** is announced, to be held at BDC Islington on **13-15 May 2015**. The usual FEPA and FIP accreditation is confidently expected. Those interested should watch out for dates of qualifying events. Information will start to appear on <http://www.london2015.net/> Your editor hopes that the British government's DIY approach to Europe will not mar the event.

Which reminds me: one idea we developed during the recent Numiphil expedition is a joint Austrian-British stamp. In Austria it would be for posting a letter to Britain, while the British issue would be used as a tea-bag.

When is an “indication of the payment of postage” not a stamp?

When it's a Postal Services Imprint on the envelope they provide for customers to send in order forms. It is pre-addressed to the philatelic sales office, but with a sticky label it can be diverted to other uses ☺

The cancellation is WIEN 1000, and it was posted in the letter box outside the main office in Fleischmarkt.

I am told that they no longer issue these envelopes...



New stamp quirks

A former member of our Society once remarked that Austrian Philately was dead, everything of note having already been discovered and written up. Life as always fails to meet our expectations, and the continuing saga of the selfadhesives as it stood when this journal went to press appears on later pages.

The Auctioneer advises

that you should have found the catalogue for Auction 106 in the envelope with this issue of AUSTRIA. There is a printing error in the bidding steps on the bid form. It should read: 50p up to £5, £1 up to £20, £2 up to **£50** and £5 thereafter.

From the RTFM Department:

Your Editor's trip to Vienna in December was not entirely disastrous, partly due to his having an EHC card with him. He obtained rare material at Numiphil to further his studies on Newspaper Postage; apparently the descendants of Herr Hašek thought that the rubbish in the attic might be of value to some eccentric philatelist...

The staff in the Technical Museum Library unearthed much useful information for his perusal. Two especially welcome items are:

- **Dienstvorschrift für die österreichische Post- und Telegraphenanstalt, Gruppe A. Band 3: Postordnung und Postgebührenordnung (1. Ausgabe), Wien 1947**

This is the instruction manual for the Post Office staff, expounding the details of the postal regulations covering “normal post” (eg letters) and how to apply them; it's the first edition after the war

➤ **Dienstvorschrift für die österreichische Post- und Telegraphenanstalt, Gruppe A, Band 6: Postvollzugsordnung II (Postanweisungsdienst), Wien 1949.**

This is another instruction manual for the Post Office staff, expounding the details of the postal regulations for the Money Transfer service and how to apply them. It also may well be the first post-war edition. Amongst other matters it covers the application of Postage Dues to the forms on which delivery fees are recorded.

Since these regulations are 120 and 86 sides of A4 respectively, your Editor has no plans to reprint them here even if he were to have no other material....

And from Eeyore:

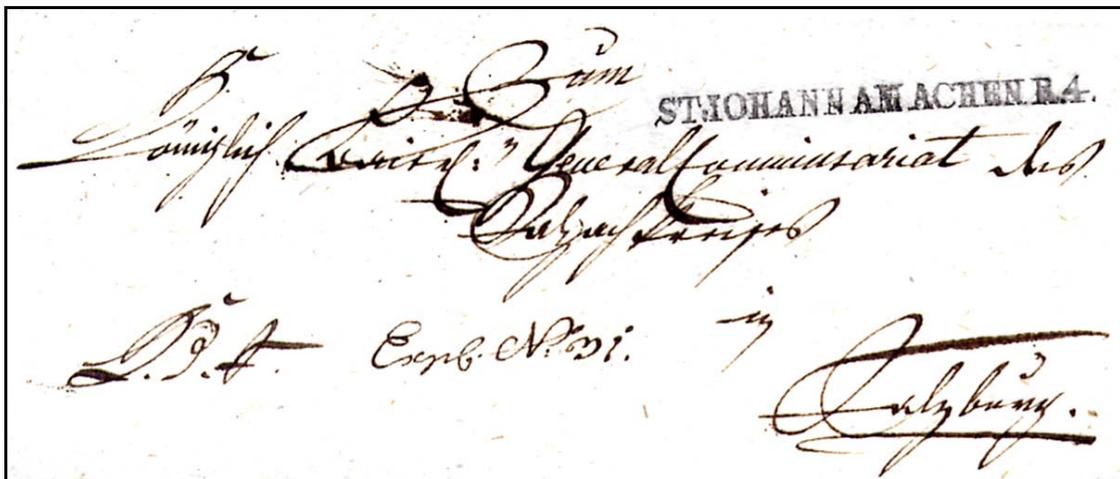
~~You will have noticed that this issue has less pages than usual.~~ Article-stocks swing between feast and famine, or maybe between irrational exuberance and deep recession. As 2012 begins, we are in recession. Pick up your quills! ••••• Hark: a distant trumpet announces the arrival of the 7th Cavalry! Thanks, Erich, John and John. But your Editor still needs material for the next issues. It doesn't have to be complicated: lend me a display and I'll do the rest.

From the Librarian and the Editor

A considerable amount of rationalisation of the Library stocks has taken place in the last six months. If you have a printed copy of the Library List, please note that the highest-numbered item is 450 (plus the UPU treaties at 500), and that 27 items have been withdrawn: The version on the APS web site is up-to-date; if you require a printed version consult the Librarian. You can of course simply print it from the web site: expect it to take almost 40 pages of A4.

My Favourite Cover

Keith Brandon was pleased to acquire from one of the Numiphil dealers several covers with pre-stamp postmarks that were missing from his collection. The letter illustrated was written in 1813 to Salzburg by the district court in Kitzbichl (Kitzbühel today) in Tirol. Kitzbichl did not have its own post office until 1840, and so the letter was taken 8km north for posting at the nearest office, St Johann. There it received a perfect strike of the postmark **ST. JOHANN AM ACHEN R.4.** Austria was in its "postmarkless period" from 1890 to 1918, but St Johann was in Bavarian-occupied territory at the time, and the postmark was introduced by them. Müller only gives the postmark 80 points, but Keith reckons that it is more elusive than that, especially in such fine condition.



Keith also tells us that he brought back a few hundred items for the APS Auction, some of which will be found in the catalogue delivered with this copy of AUSTRIA.

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 NOW SOLD OUT**~~
- ❖ **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:

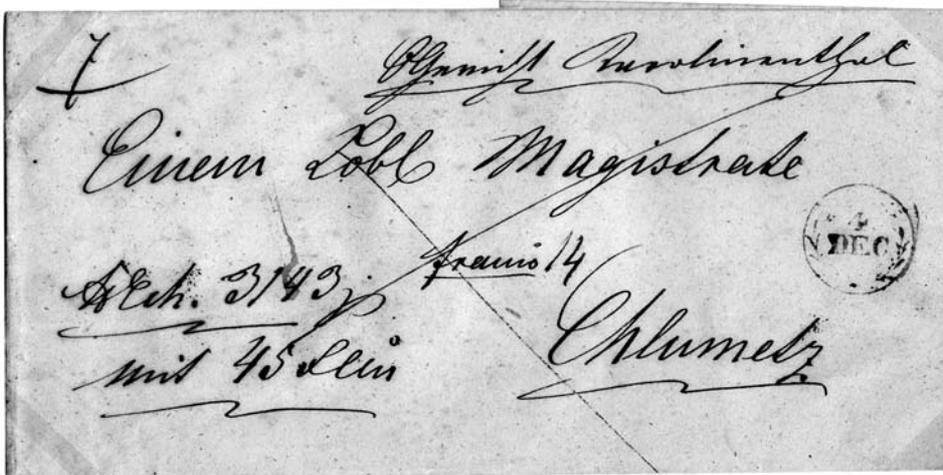
“**The Postal History of the Anschluss, The German Annexation of Austria**” by Tony Hickey, Ian Nutley, David Taylor and Colin Tobitt. Copies are still available; contact the editor of AUSTRIA.

“AN EINE” – AN OLD MODE OF ADDRESSING

by Andy Taylor



This 1860s cover from Kitzbuhel is addressed to: “An eine löbliche Berg- und Hüttenverwaltung / Mitterberg / Post Bischofshofen”. Why ‘eine’ and not ‘den’? There were several foundries in Mitterberg: was the postman to choose one at random?



Letter enclosing 45 krCM, sent on 4 Dec 1848 from Karolinenthal, prepaid with 14 Kr and addressed to Einem Lobl. Magistrate, Chlumetz.

There can't be more than one civil administration in a town!

I have seen similar letters addressed “Einem Loblichen Oberamt Eisenberg” and “An ein lobliches Ortsgericht zu Grosskal”, both from the 1840-50 era.

The explanation turns out to be simple – this indefinite-article mode of addressing a letter is an antiquated usage, sometimes found on old covers. It does not mean there were several possible recipients! My thanks to HP & FHL.

Austrian Revenue Stamps: the Handbook

By Emily.

Over the last years the collecting of Austrian Revenue Stamps has become more and more popular and acceptable. Any traditional collection will be enriched by revenue stamps used as postal stamps and vice versa. But who amongst us knows the beginning and the foundation of the taxation and duties used in Austria? What different areas were used by the Austrian governance and officials during the 17th and 18th century to increase the public revenue? Everybody knows the newspaper tax stamps and the common documentary adhesive tax stamps, but just a few of us know the signets used more than 150 years before the first adhesive stamps, much less the usage and the taxation systems of these. Very attractive and almost unknown are the taxation systems for other printed items such as almanacs & advertisements. And the oldest taxation was used in Austria for playing cards – introduced in 1638.

Our APS member Dipl.Ing. Carsten Mintert has now finished a new handbook about Austrian Revenue stamps and signets, after 5 years of detailed research and consultations with other collectors and archives, and with the support of the President of the Kärntner Philatelistenclub Dr. Hadmar Fresacher. It is entitled:

Das Gebühren- und Stempelwesen

Handbuch über die Stempelung von Urkunden, Karten, Kalendern und Zeitungen in Kärnten des Zeitraums 1686 bis 2002

The handbook design and layout is indeed new in its manner of description enhanced by the many illustrations. Although the book is written in German, the tables and the descriptions will be easily understood by non-native speakers. This handbook includes descriptions of Documentary, Playing Cards, Calendar, Newspapers, Hair-powder, Rouge and Advertisement tax stamps. Much of the material excellently described and illustrated is extremely rare and in some cases does not seem to have been previously listed at all.

And the illustrations, all in colour, are superb!

The reader will discover the historic and political background of the Austrian Taxation system as well as the handling and the importance. This book is thus the first comprehensive guide to the whole subject of fiscal philately for one of the Austrian States. The details are those applicable to Carinthia between 1686 and 2002, but very similar systems were in force in most (though not all) parts of the Austrian Empire and the book can serve as a very useful overview of how fiscal taxation developed in Austrian as a whole.

The first chapter starts with the first documentary tax stamps (called Leopolder) used from 1686. From a philatelic standpoint, the period 1742-1762 is very challenging since during it the taxation system was leased (outsourced) to tax farmers and the documents were stamped with their special (private) signets. Carinthia had its own tax office in Klagenfurt between 1762 & 1813; after 1813 all documents, newspapers etc had to be shipped to Graz and later to Laibach for the taxation. The impact caused by the French occupation in 1809 is described in detail, when the French tried (with little success) to introduce their own signets. In fact the war with the French had a impact on the province of Illyria too (to which an area of Villach belonged) and these signets are described as well. The common documentary adhesive tax stamps are not described in detail; this was not the primary intention and would go beyond the scope of this book. The focus during the time 1854-2002 is the illustration of the diversity of revenues. The last chapter describes the municipal tax stamps of the different districts of Carinthia.

Overall the book can be seen as a must for every Austrian collector and not just for a specialist in Carinthia. The book is A4 hardback printed on art-paper; 242 sides more than 250 coloured illustrations. It was published by the Kärntner Philatelistenclub Klagenfurt at 40Eu (plus P&P) in a very limited edition. Therefore, D-I. Mintert has reserved a sufficient number of books for all APS orders that arrive before end of March 2012. Please order via Martin Brumby.

[Advert: “**The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps**” by Dr. Stephan Koczynski published by the APS on CD describes in immense detail the production of national revenue adhesives, although not what they were for or how they were used.

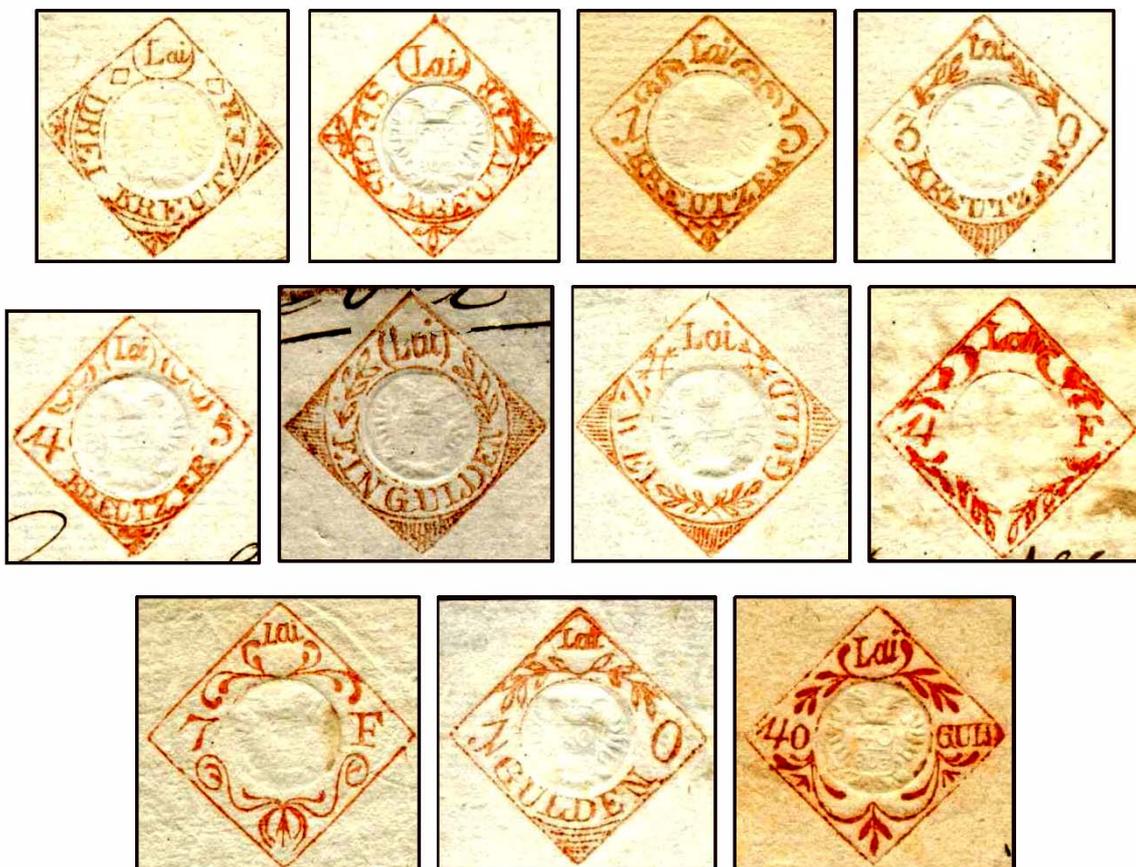


MS 256

Oesterreichischer
Schreib-Kalender
auf das Jahr nach der Geburt
1790
so ein gemeines Jahr von 365 Tagen ist.

Nebst einem Anhange der merkwürdigsten und neuesten
Begebenheiten, besonders die k.k. Staaten betreffend, auch nützlichen
Tabellen über die Gold- und Silbermünzen nach der neuesten aller-
höchsten Verordnung, und andern Interessen- und Wirthschafts-
tabellen, nebst an- und abgehenden Posten.

Klagenfurth, bey Ignaz Edlen von Kleinmayer, k. k. J. Des. Ober- und
Buchdrucker.



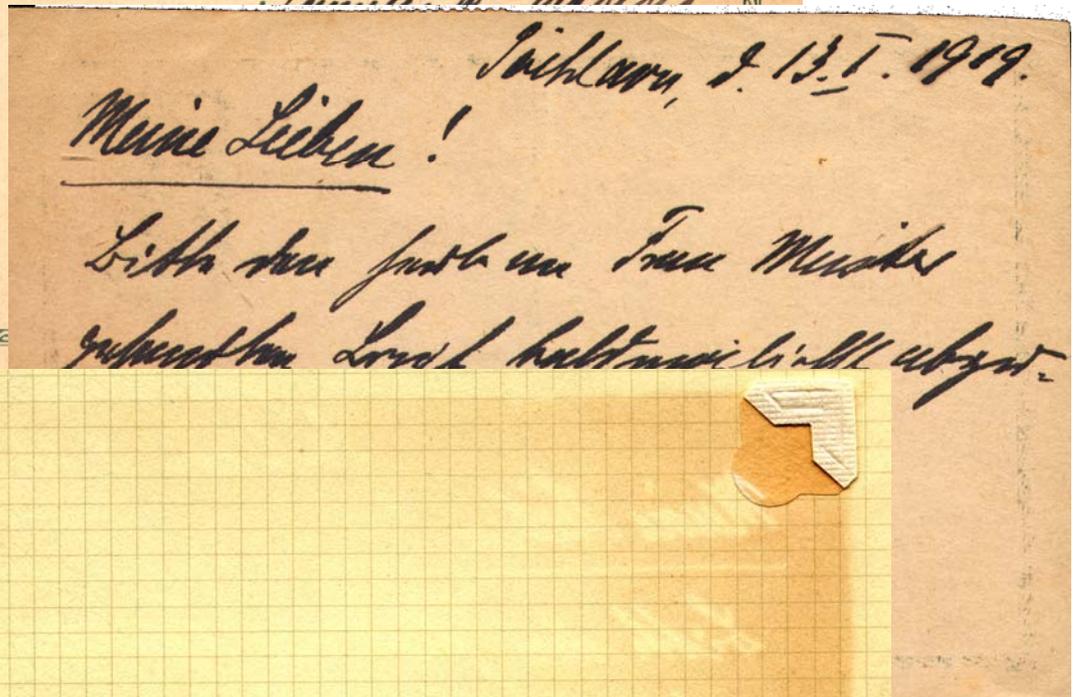
GHOSTS FROM THE PAST

By Andy Taylor

The tale I shall tell lies in the past practices of many collectors, and I'll recount it to you as a warning. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin. Last year – on Halloween, to be specific – while I was remounting some Newspaper Post items, a couple of ghosts emerged to disturb my work.



The first ghost was hiding behind a postal stationery card, posted on 13 Jan 1919. It's a Kaiser Karl 8h card, uprated with a 2h newspaper express adhesive, and sent



from Pöchlarn to Freilassing in Bavaria.

The address and message are in heavy black ink.

The item had been mounted with photo

corners on a Rapkin sheet, which is now buff-coloured. When I removed it, the ghost revealed itself! The acid present in the paper has attacked the back of the card, transferring some of the colour to the paper, and darkening the card – but leaving a shadow of the ink.



The second ghost is more elusive – it is quite difficult to take a photograph of transparent plastic! This card, with a sepia picture of children posed in the Lower Belvedere gardens in Vienna, was sent to Villach on 8 Nov 1919. It's franked with a 5h Deutschösterreich-overprint and a 5h newspaper express adhesive: the validity is questionable but the Post Office didn't object. The mounting sheet has not attacked the card, probably because the picture is glossy. However, the card was mounted in a PVC sleeve, and the plasticisers have attacked the stamps, transferring a ghostly outline to the PVC.



THE TIROL.

Adapted by A Taylor from a section of a larger display given by John Anthony.

Introduction.

The Tirol is one of Austria's Länder (or States), located in the west and separated by Vorarlberg from Switzerland. Historically the Tirol region was a self-standing County, and "Count of Tirol" was one of the many (and initially independent) titles held by the Habsburg Emperor. On September 10th, 1919, the County was split into two countries and three parts by the Treaty of St Germain: North Tirol; East Tirol; and the southern part which became the Italian provinces of South Tirol and Trentino.

Today's North Tirol is divided into 9 Bezirke (districts). Innsbruck city is one, and the area surrounding it is called "Bezirk Innsbruck Land" (which includes among others Hall, the Wipptal up to Brenner, Telfs and Seefeld). The other 7 Bezirke are named after their chief towns of Imst, Kitzbühel, Kufstein, Landek, Reutte, Schwaz, and Lienz in East Tirol. East and North Tirol don't meet – there's a gap!



Geographically the Tirol is an area of high mountains and fertile picturesque valleys, providing some of the world's most beautiful scenery. The postcards show scenery typical of the area; the landscape one shows the village of Nauders in the district of Landek, some 30km south of that city and conveniently close to the Swiss and Italian borders for those wishing to escape arrest in 1945. The portrait card is the Mint Tower in Hall.



Imst



The city of Imst lies on the Inn, some 55km west of Innsbruck and at an altitude of 828m above sea level. With a population of about 12,000 it is the administrative centre of Imst District. It was licensed in 1282 to hold a regular market, and received full town rights in 1898. In 1949 Hermann Gmeiner founded the first SOS Children's Village in the Sonnenberg district of Imst.



PS card from Imst to Dornbirn, 28 Nov 1889

Kitzbühel

Kitzbühel is a small medieval town situated on the Kitzbüheler Ache river. The population is about 8,200 and it is the administrative centre of the Kitzbühel District; it lies in the Kitzbühel Alps 100km east of Innsbruck and is a ski centre of international renown.



PS card from Kitzbühel to Mezzolombardo, 4 July 1874. The town's name was written Kitzbichl at that time.

Kufstein



Kufstein is situated on the river Inn near the border with Bavaria. It was the site of a post-WWII French Sector UNRRA (United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration) camp for Displaced Persons. The second largest city in the Tirol and the capital of the Kufstein District, its most interesting landmark is the Fortress, first mentioned in the 13th century.

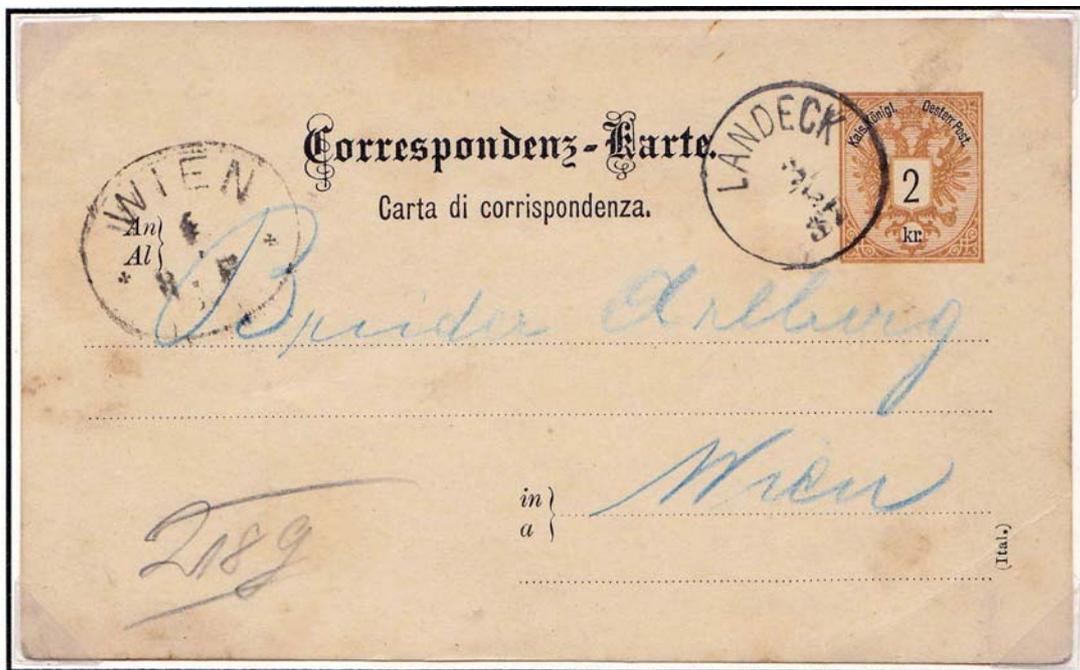


PS card from Kufstein to Leipzig, 2 Nov 1890

Landek



Landek is a city with about 7,700 inhabitants located in the west of Tirol 820m above sea level at the junction of the rivers Sanna and Inn. The site of another post-WWII UNRRA DP camp, it received market town rights in 1904 and city status in 1923.



PS card from Landek to Vienna, 3 May 1887.

Lienz

Lienz is located at the confluence of the Isel and Drava rivers and between the Hohe Tauern and Gailtal Alps mountain ranges. It is the economic, cultural and social centre of East Tirol and the administrative headquarters of the Lienz District. Some 12,000 inhabitants live in its 16 square kilometres.



PS card, Lienz to Bozen, 30 Oct 1875

Reutte



Reutte is a market town and the administrative centre of the Reutte district; it is located on the Lech river with a population of about 6,000. The town's coat-of-arms shows three firs in three hills, symbolising the useable timber of the area – the word 'reutte' has its origin in 'roden' or 'reuten' meaning 'glade'.



PS card from Reutte to Dornbirn, 23 Jan 1888

Schwaz



Schwaz is located in the lower Inn valley, with a population of about 13,000, and is the administrative centre of the Schwaz district. In the Middle Ages it was an important silver mining centre, providing wealth for the Fugger banking family and through them for the Austrian Emperors. Its population at that time of over 20,000 made it the second largest city in the Empire after Vienna. Emperor Franz Josef I granted city rights to Schwaz in 1898.



PS card from Schwaz to Meran, 16 Jan 1877

2011 NEW ISSUES (final 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 issue dates and the list's order are those on the Post.at website.

There is much more information omitted than in past years; readers wanting more detail on a specific stamp design, concept or artist should contact the editor, preferably by email.



150 Years of the Künstlerhaus: 62c; 7/9/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Künstlerhaus. The anniversary is not of the Künstlerhaus building, but rather the "Genossenschaft der bildenden Künstler Wiens" ("Vienna Artists' Co-operative"), a professional association of painters, sculptors and architects that took up residence in 1868 in the new Künstlerhaus, located on Karlsplatz next to the Vienna Musikverein concert hall. The building was designed by August Weber & constructed between 1865 and 1868; the keystone was laid by Emperor Franz Joseph.

25 years of the "6 out of 45" lottery: 1€45; 7/9/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Lotterie. The Austrian Lotteries is, we are assured, an internationally recognized gambling enterprise governed by the notions of responsibility, innovation and partnership. The most popular game is the "6 out of 45" lottery, which has existed since September 1986 and is thus celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. There is a small number of top prizes, a respectable number of moderate prizes and numerous small prizes. The top marginal tab is a voucher for a free "6 out of 45" line and hence the chance to win EUR 1 million! [It's unclear if the franking value as opposed to the cost is 1€45. Ed]



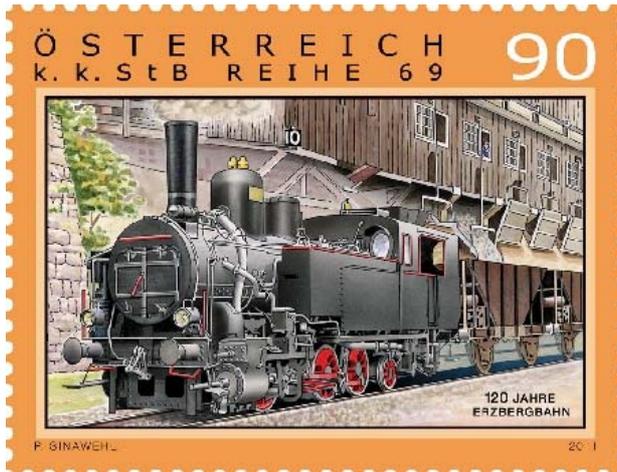
EUROPA 2011 - the year of the forest: 1€70; 8/9/2011; 180,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

The topic chosen by Posteurop, the association of European public postal operators, for this year's Europa stamp is the International Year of the Forest. Around 48% of the Austrian national territory is forest! The stamp block is far more than just a stamp - it contains a specially selected mixture of seeds from Austrian spruce trees from four Länder.

[The DEFRA web site suggests that import of such Austrian seeds to the UK is permitted. Ed]

90 years of the Federation of Austrian Philatelist Societies: 62c + 20c; 10/9/2011; 230,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter. It was on 9 March 1921 that representatives of 16 stamp collectors' clubs came together in the Dreierl restaurant in inner Vienna to found the Federation of Austrian Philatelist Societies, the VÖPh. Despite all the ravages of the 20th century, the Federation with its currently 300 member societies continues to flourish unabated. The design by Hannes Margreiter is a graphic interpretation of the global message of stamps.





Trains - 120 years of the Erzberg railway: 90c; 10/9/2011; 250,000; Engraved-recess printing; Design: Peter Sinawehl. The Erzberg railway, which this year is celebrating its 120th anniversary, is a railway line in Styria that links the Southern Railway with the Prince Rudolf Railway and crosses the 1200m high Präbichl pass. Until 1978, its central section was operated as a rack and pinion railway. Today, the only regular transport is that of freight between Leoben and Trofaiach and between Eisenerz-Krumpental and Hieflau, while the mountain section serves as an attractive historic railway.

year, around 6 billion items of mail are delivered, and every day Austrian Post staff cover over 200,000 km on foot, by bicycle and moped, or by car and lorry. Each year, the company’s vehicles use around 15 million litres of fuel and its buildings consume roughly 180 million kWh of energy. Austrian Post has now adopted measures to make the delivery of all kinds of mail in Austria entirely climate-neutral. The stamp shows the logo developed for this programme, and refers to the corresponding page on the Internet (post.at/co2neutral) where further information can be found.

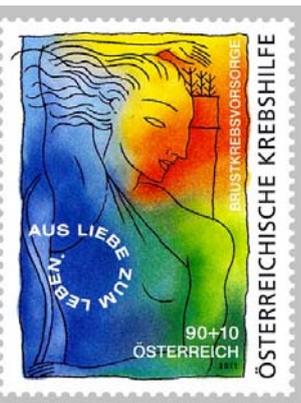
CO2-neutral delivery: 62c; 10/9/2011; 400,000; Offset; Design: Dirnberger de Felice Grüber. Every



10 years of the Leopold Museum: 62c; 23/9/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Gabriele Milewski. The Leopold Collection of over 5000 exhibits is one of the most significant collections of modern Austrian art. In 1994, the collection became part of the charitable Leopold Museum Private Foundation and exactly 10 years ago, in 2001, the Leopold Museum was opened in the Vienna Museum Quarter. It houses the largest and most important Egon Schiele collection in the world; other highlights are masterworks by Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and other famous painters; and major Austrian objects by Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos, Josef Hoffmann and Koloman . One of the most famous paintings by Schiele, the 1912 “Portrait of Walburga

Neuzil”, often simply known as “Wally”, is the motif of the present commemorative.

Elisabeth Görgl: 62c; 24/9/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: David Gruber. Elisabeth Görgl was born on 20 Feb 1981 in Bruck an der Mur, grew up in Parschlug, and attended the famous ski grammar school at Stams “Elisabeth Görgl’s Courage Brings Gold!” was the headline in “Der Standard” after her victory in the Super-G at the Ski World Championships in Garmisch-Partenkirchen last winter. A few days later this congenial sportswoman went one further and won a second gold medal in the downhill race. The whole of Austria celebrated with this new double world champion. The new commemorative is the Austrian Post Offices special way of congratulating her.



Pink Ribbon: 90c+10c; 28/9/2011; 250,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. It was in 1996 that the international breast cancer expert Dr Ernie Bodai launched the first breast-cancer “Pink Ribbon” stamp intended to raise a maximum of donations for breast cancer research. The Austrian Post Office have now made this stamp available in Austria. The surcharge of 10c directly benefits the Austrian Cancer Aid society.



Modern Art in Austria - Arnulf Rainer: 62c; 1/10/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Arnulf Rainer. Born on 8 December 1929, Arnulf Rainer attended many eminent Art schools but left after a day or two when his works were described as degenerate. He co-founded the Hundgruppe of artists in 1950, later exhibiting his avant-garde work in various Vienna locations. He is now one of the most famous artists in Austria, whose works have been presented in all renowned museums and galleries around the world. The work shown on the stamp is “Angst”, and dates from 1969/73 (oil on photo on wood, original size 1195 x 875 mm).

Photo Art Austria - Eva Schlegel: 70c; 1/10/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Michael

Rosenfeld. This commemorative is the start of a new series under the title “Photographic art in Austria”;. The series begins with the artist Eva Schlegel, born on 8 March 1960 in Hall in Tyrol, whose works have often attracted considerable international attention. The artist lives in Vienna, and for many years has investigated the lack of focus of images as an experimental study of perception.



Trademark - Austria: 62c; 4/10/2011; 550,000; Offset; Design: Nik Thoenen. “Trademark Austria” is an ideas-competition to which 20 high-profile visual designers from or living in Austria were invited. The winning design in the competition is

by Nik Thoenen, a Swiss graphic designer living in Vienna. The basis for the competition was the belief that what is presented under the heading “Austria” seems to so many people to be strangely antiquated, or lacking in design inspiration and of little informative effect. The symbols and signs of official

Austria often originate from a sphere that has little to do with the present self interpretation of its citizens. However in Austria the topic of identity and its contemporary representation has not really been the subject of a broader discussion. Where Austrian identity is visualised, it is most likely to be in order to serve tourist marketing. In addition, set pieces from imperial history are frequently used to form a kind of archive to which recourse is frequently made.



Modern Architecture in Austria - Loisium: 62c; 7/10/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Silvia Moucka. The stamp shows an outstandingly prominent example of modern architectural creativity in Austria, the “Loisium” in Lower Austria’s largest wine-producing community, Langenlois, at the beginning of the delightful landscape of the Kamp Valley. The extraordinary cube of the Loisium is itself an invitation visible from afar to investigate this unique world of wine. The interested visitor learns here everything about the

most important topics of wine cultivation in Lower Austria.

Arik Brauer - The songs of songs: 170c; 14/10/2011; 200,000; Engraved-recess printing; Design: Arik Brauer. “In my painting, there is no break with so-called reality. I introduce my world of fantasy by devious means, but paintings of the imagination retain a genuine claim to reality. They exist or they may one day exist.” Thus Arik Brauer, an Austrian painter with a worldwide reputation, explains his style of painting. Born on 4 January 1929 in the district of Ottakring in Vienna, the son of a Jewish shoemaker from Lithuania, Arik Brauer is beyond doubt one of the most important exponents of Austrian contemporary art and an internationally renowned representative of the Viennese School of Fantastic Realism.





90 Years of Burgenland: 90c; 21/10/2011; 250,000 Offset; Design: Gabriele Milewski. The stamp shows a sight typical of this region, a pair of nesting storks, and celebrates 90 years of Burgenland's designation on 25 January 1921 as "an Independent and Equal State within the Federal Republic of Austria". This followed the post-WWI treaties, various partisan campaigns, violent protests by Hungary, a plebiscite in the region around Ödenburg (now Sopron), and a small number of districts switching from Austria to Hungary and vice versa.

Advent 2011 – St. Quirin / Sellrain: FACEVALUE; 11/11/2011; 2,500,000;

Offset; Design: Altbischof Dr. Reinhold Stecher. On the northern side of the Sellrain valley, on a steep slope at an altitude of 1243 m, stands the romantic mountain chapel of St Quirin (popularly known as St Krein), which can be seen from Innsbruck on clear autumn days. A painting of the small church by former Bishop Dr Reinhold Stecher forms the motif of this year's Advent stamp.



Christmas 2011 - Maria Plain:- Box with 50 Self Adhesive Stamps each 62c;

18/11/2011; 3,624,000; Offset; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. On the Plainberg, which forms the northern end of the valley basin of the city of Salzburg, there has since 1673 been a two-tower Baroque church. This church contains the painting that since the feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1652 has for believers continued to be a "comforter of the afflicted". The painting of the Madonna of Plain is in oils, roughly 40x50cm, created by an unknown German Baroque painter before 1633 in the Regensburg region. The composition is based on a mirror-image of the "Madonna di Loreto" painted in 1511 by the famous painter Raffaello.



Reopening of the Vienna West BahnhofCity: 70c; 23/11/2011; 300,000; Offset; Design: Silvia Moucka. Since the middle of September 2008, Vienna's Western Railway Station has been undergoing conversion work to create the Vienna West BahnhofCity, the first "railway station city" in Austria, a process that was carried out without operations being interrupted and with special account being taken of monument preservation. The new Western Station is a major milestone of the Austrian Railways "station campaign" in the course of which the most highly frequented stations have been upgraded to the latest technical and architectural standard with a strong focus on customer service.



Christmas 2011 - Vienna Cathedral Museum: 62c; 25/11/2011; 4,000,000; Offset; Design: Prof. Adolf Tuma. The Vienna Cathedral and Diocesan Museum was founded in 1933 and is regarded as one of the treasures within the varied Vienna museum scene. Located at Stefansplatz in the 1st District of the city, its permanent collection displays art from over 1000 years, above all works from the cathedral and many other churches in Vienna and Lower Austria. The work shown on the Christmas Stamp, the "Birth of Christ", is a 14th century painting consisting of seven panel paintings by an unknown artist.

220th anniversary of the death of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: 70c; 5/12/2011; 730,000; Offset; Design: Silvia Moucka; Printed by: Joh. Enschedé Stamps B. V. *Illustrated overleaf.*



Following the brilliant Mozart Year 2006 (250th anniversary of his birth), the next anniversary of this great composer is to be celebrated this year: the day of Mozart's death recurs for the 220th time on 5 December 2012. [The stamp design is the top left of a portrait, inviting both irreverent completion and speculation on when the rest of the jigsaw might appear... Ed]

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUSTRIAN TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Adapted by A Taylor from a display given by John Pitts at Leedsfest in 2007.

Introduction.

On 2 June 1881 the American Bell Telephone Company granted concessions to the Wiener Private Telegraph Company to establish a telephone system, but it was a British company which actually opened the first telephone network in Austria on 1 August 1882. The consequential reduction in the volume of postal traffic, regrettable from the postal historian's perspective, was compensated for to some extent by the introduction of dedicated stationery in the form of telephone cards. There were only 7 issues between 1885 and 1908, and because of the low numbers printed, they were not common. Nevertheless, their importance with respect to Austria's socio-economic development cannot be underestimated.



Telephone card issued in 1888 and used at 11.44 a.m. on 16 June 1890 at the K.K. Post and Telegraph Office at the Land and Forestry Exhibition in Vienna held from 1 April to 29 November. The special cancel is one of Austria's rarest; one other example is known, also used on the same issue telephone card and dated 3 May.

The Display.

The display presented examples of the different issues of telephone card, showing the ways in which they were used e.g. local or long distance, and the different ways in which they might be cancelled. The dedicated stationery is positioned alongside the technical development of the telephone system. Special telephone cancellations of two remote letter collecting agencies are also shown that demonstrate how the system benefited climbers and mountaineers isolated by bad weather.

First Issue, 1885.

The first stationery telephone card was issued in 1885 on white carton paper. A payment of 1fl permitted a 5 minute call to be made between the State Telegraph Offices of Wien and Brünn. The date and time had to be entered at the top right of the card: 20 August at 1 hr 15 min. on the card opposite. The third line should have either 'v, (vor) or 'n, (nach) entered to indicate whether use was before or after midday; in this case the clerk has entered '5', the imposed time limit. The card was numbered at the bottom. It was used at WIEN Effectenbörse (the Stock Exchange) and cancelled with a punched hole.





The second printing of the first telephone card of 1885 was printed on yellowish-brown card. This example was used at PRATERSTRASSE 1 WIEN on 4 May 1890 and cancelled with the circular date-stamp.

This ordinary postal stationery card, dated 20.5.1888, is from the Telephon-Anstalt, Prag (telephone exchange) to the Representative of the Consolidated Telephone Construction and Maintenance Company Ltd., of London, Vienna Office. The message on the back of the card requests technical specifications of parts required urgently. 1888 issue; 3 values, 20 kr local rate, 30 and 50 kr long distance rates.



1888 issue

This came in 3 values: 20 kr local rate, 30 and 50 kr long distance rates



Left: 20kr local rate call from WIEN PRATERSTRASSE. Note that the circular date-stamp has had the time element obliterated, and the time is written on the card.

Right: 20kr local rate call from BADEN k.k.Post-u.Tel.-Amt. Again, the time is written on the card.



1888 issue.



Blue cards were used for the 30kr-charged 'interurbanen line' ie long distance calls. The cards are cancelled by (1) circular date-stamp 'PERCHTOLDSDORF', 19.6.1889, used at the K.k. Telephonstelle; (2) punched hole at WIEN Effectenbörse, 28.3.1889 and (3) 'BADEN k.k.Post-u.Tel.-Amt.', 21.6.1889.

1888 issue.



Yellow cards paid for long distance calls charged at 50kr. The card on the left is cancelled REICHENAU 1 k.k.Post-u.Tel.-Amt.

The destination and/or telephone number is often found in manuscript immediately above the 5 minute time limit indication.



The card on the right is cancelled by a punched hole applied at WIEN Telegraphengebäude (the telegraph service central office). **The destination and/or telephone number is often found in manuscript immediately above the 5 minute time limit indication.**

1889 issue.



Cards with imprinted values in gulden (1 and 3) reappeared in 1889 for long distance calls only. This reflected the growth in the telephone service between Wien, Prag and Brünn.

The top card was partially punched with a hole at Wien Centrale. To make sure, the clerk has added an extra manuscript cross cancel.

The middle card has a hole punched at WIEN Fruchtbörse and is dated 27/5, numbered 1149, and timed 11.12 am.

The bottom card also has a WIEN Fruchtbörse hole. It is also dated 27/5, numbered 1181, and timed 4:30pm.

Evidently, between 11:12 am and 4:30 pm 32 cards were issued.

1889 issue.

The 3 fl. telephone card was produced with a greenish underprint and with the additional word 'dringenden, indicating urgent or priority handling. These cards received the strike of a large letter 'D', usually on the back but occasionally on the front. Also on the back was written the telephone number to be called.

The top card is cancelled by a punched hole at (Wien) Effectenbörse. On the back is a large printed 'D'.

The second card is cancelled in the same manner at the same station, carries the D on the reverse and the printed date 30AUG.90.

The lower card carries the 'D, on the front with hand written 'Wien Prag, and is cancelled in the same manner.



1889 issue. Cards for use in Prag.



The cards are dated 14.11 (90) and 14.10.90. Both were used at the Prag telephone station and cancelled by punched holes.

As with the stationery produced for the pneumatic post, a small number of telephone cards were specially printed in two languages for use in Prag. These are particularly scarce, the 3fl. value being the rarest Austrian telephone card. As before, the 1fl. was for normal long distance calls and the 3fl. received priority or urgent attention.





In addition to the cards with imprinted values, cards were printed without, and in all the languages of the Monarchy. These required payment in the form of an adhesive stamp, a space being reserved on the left portion of the card. In 1894 (the issue year) 10 kreuzer purchased a long distance call of 3 minutes duration.

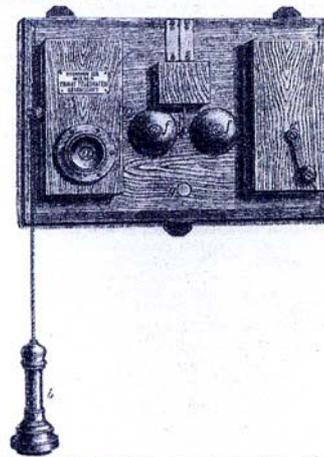
The concessions granted to private companies were bought up by the Government following a trade ministry decree in 1887, and on 1 June 1895 the telephone service became a Government monopoly. Increased telephone usage (and income) persuaded the Post and Telegraph authorities in 1893 to introduce a set of "Instructions for using the Telephone Apparatus".

Instructions for use of the Telephone Apparatus by the P.T. Subscriber.

The operation of the telephone apparatus is based on speech guidance (microphone), an earpiece, the induction coil with cranking handle, and a push button control.

Anweisung zur Benutzung des Telephon-Apparates bei den P. T. Abonnenten.

Die Einrichtung des Telephon-Apparates besteht aus einer Sprechrichtung (Mikrophon) a, aus einem Hörapparate b, dem Inductionswecker mit der Kurbel c und der Taste g.



Bei ruhender Correspondenz muss der Hörapparat frei herabhängend, weil nur durch die ganz frei herabhängende Lage desselben der Wecker eingeschaltet ist und in Thätigkeit treten kann.

ERZH. OTTO HAUS K.K. TELEPHONSTELLE.



A small group of special telephone circular date-stamps was introduced for use in official kiosks in letter collecting agencies on the Raxalpe Plateau, about 80 km south west of Vienna. The postcard opposite received the cancel at Erzherzog Otto Haus on 23.10.1898 and travelled via Reichenau (postmark 24.10) and (probably) the railway station of Payerbach (1 km from Reichenau) to Vienna.



The telephone kiosk is shown (inset). The leaseholder is stated to be C. Kronich. This is Camillo Kronich, the famous mountain lover who opened several hiking and climbing routes to the “Rax” and ran the “Otto Haus”, one of the first mountain refuges, until well into the 1930s. Kronich built the famous hotel “Knappenhof” in 1907 in this area, which became the cradle of psychoanalysis as Sigmund Freud treated Camillo’s sister Olga (see signature on card) during his frequent visits and published his findings as a report which was to become the famous “Case K”. Viktor Frankl, a key figure in existentialism and psychotherapy, also visited the region regularly.

By 1928 the telephone cancel had been replaced by a cachet advertising the shelter or refuge: “Otto-Schutzhaus / Telefon -u. Poststation”.

The sender of the card opposite (to the Vice President of the Patent Office in Prag) had clearly been a busy climber, having visited the Dambockhaus (red), the Baumgartnerhaus (violet) and the Otto-Schutzhaus (green), where he posted his card which was forwarded from Payerbach 2, the station.



This postcard is dated 9.VI.1935 with the Otto-Schutzhaus cachet (acknowledging the German and Austrian Alpine Union) applied in red and green, the latter in gothic script. The card was received by the letter collection agency “Raxalpe Otto Haus / Hirschwang”.

ERHZ. CARL LUDWIG HAUS (RAX)



This postcard was sent from Erzherzog Carl Ludwig Haus also in the Raxalpe region, carrying the special telephone circular datestamp applied at the K.K. Post u. Telephon Station. It is dated 22.5.1899. The card travelled via the post office at Prein on the same day and was received for delivery to an address in Vienna one day later. As with the Otto Haus cards, this card probably joined the railway to Vienna at Payerbach.

The message on the front reads: "Lightning, thunder, rain, mist, cold, snow - on 21.5.1899!" At 1803 m, inclement weather probably isolated this shelter on a regular basis: a good reason for having a telephone service available.



1908 issue

Two special telephone cards were issued in 1908, one for use at the Wiener Effectenbörse — the stock exchange — the other for general Viennese local use. Both had imprinted values of 20 h and were valid for local calls not exceeding three minutes. Used examples of the Effectenbörse card (right) are not known.



Nummer:  Unterschrift des Postbeamten:	KARTE für ein telephonisches Gespräch im Wiener Lokalverkehr bis zur Dauer von drei Minuten Verlangte Telephonnummer:	Benützt am:	Benützt am:
		Uhr Min.	Uhr Min. m.
		mittag	Telephon-Nr.:
		Stempel der Sprechstelle	Stempel der Sprechstelle
		Nummer:	



After WWI the telephone service began to expand rapidly and official directories of telephone subscribers began to proliferate and compete for business.

Large parts of the Austrian telephone network were destroyed during WWII. Plans for a new system were drawn up and publicity was generated via a travelling telephone and telegraph office which attended the Vienna International Fair from 6 to 13 October, 1946. A special cancel was used on all mail posted at the Fair.



100 Jahre Telephonie in Österreich



Austria celebrated 100 years of the telephone service on 29 May, 1981.

Editor's Postscript: the original article also discussed the plastic telephone card and international satellite communications – for which there is no room today!

THE INS AND OUTS OF CATALOGUING

By A Taylor

I have compared the contents of the 2007/8 and the 2011/12 editions of the ANK Spezialkatalog (but not the UNO lists, nor any of the prices). The major differences seem to be:

1. Lombardy & Venetia are no longer separate, but merged into the Kaiserreich issue by issue. [This looks odd!]
2. Several oddities have been moved around for whatever reason, eg Automatenmarke, rolls, set-summaries.
3. The erroneous description of the 1916 Dues perfs is still wrong :)
4. The booklet and Automatenmarken sections have been expanded
5. Private Gedenkblätter, and Marginal Tabs, have been drastically chopped and in effect say only that such things exist
6. Buntdrucke (= colour blocks in unissued colours, typically found in Öpost glossy books) & blackprints are now listed under each issue
7. Wurth's Annuals and Yearbooks are listed (possible because Netto now sell them...)
8. Rocket, FirstFlight, OfficialAirmail etc are absent - they may well be in the new Ganzsachen catalogue
9. The various arty covers by Margreiter & Schulz are now only mentioned not listed
10. Meine Marke (Personal Stamps) have been shrunk, nay shrivelled, to one page (I gathered there are over 35,000 known varieties now!)
11. A few ephemera, eg the Phillies labels, have been given think-of-a-number prices.

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The 1914 and 1915 Austrian Charity issues

The original article was written by Dkfm. Reinhard Schmidt and published in ArGe Öst's Rundbrief Nr 91 pp 23-30; their Editor is Erich Skarupke. The translation is by Hans Smith. Your editor is most grateful to all of them for making it possible to reprint it here.

Two stamps were issued in 1914 (Mi 178 and 179) and a further five in 1915 (Mi 180 to 184) with small surcharges in favour of the War Widows and Orphans Funds. In Austria, they were briefly known as Krieg I "War I" and Krieg II "War II". The 1914 issue consisted of two values, 5 Heller green and 10 Heller rose, each with a 2-heller mark-up. Both war issues were valid only for inland postage and for Hungary, Bosnia and Germany. Nonetheless, now and again covers can be found to other countries. I have never yet seen a foreign cover that was not accepted.



Fig. 1 shows a commercial postcard of 26.11.1914 from Vienna to Amsterdam, censored.

Fig. 2 shows a picture postcard sent from Pola to a POW in Corsica. It is written in Serbo-Croat and is similarly censored.



The 1915 issue consists of five values and offers multiple **franking opportunities** accordingly.



Fig. 3 like the other Monarchy war issues could also be used for field post. A card of 21.7.1916 from the Fortress hospital in Krakau, franked with two 1 heller field post stamps and a 3 heller stamp. The card is used in the normal way (see reverse!).



Fig. 4 shows a postcard, sent by pneumatic mail in Vienna. Card 5 heller, pneumatic post 20 heller.



Fig. 5 The 5 heller express card from Trieste to Pola of 6.3.1916 is franked for 30 heller express postage.

Fig. 6 Rather rarer is the 20 heller single franking of 14.10.1916, letter post 2nd weight step.

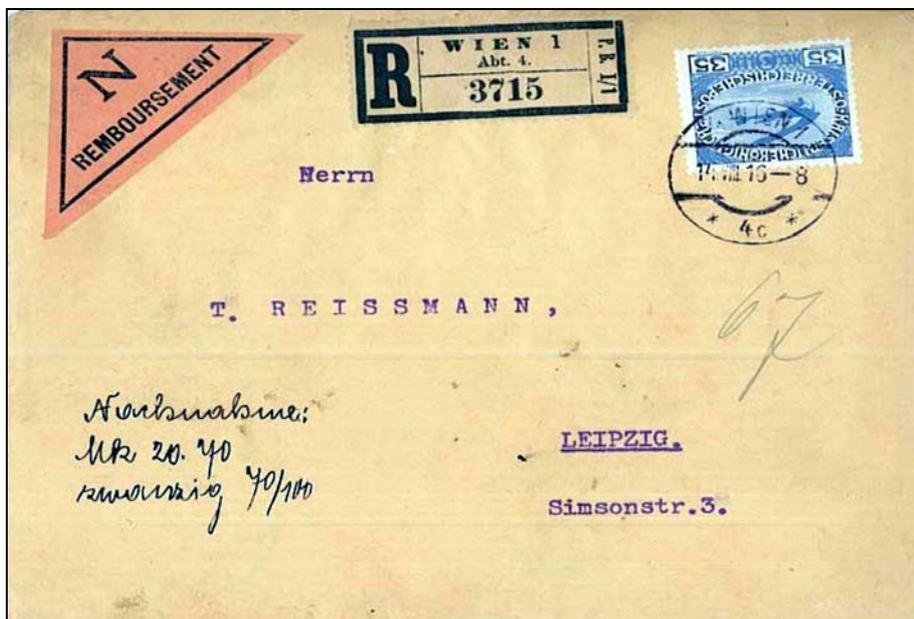


Fig. 7 shows a registered COD letter of 14.8.1916 from Vienna to Leipzig. Letter charge 10 heller, registration 25 heller. The 10 heller COD charge (“presentation fee”) was introduced only from 1.10.1916.

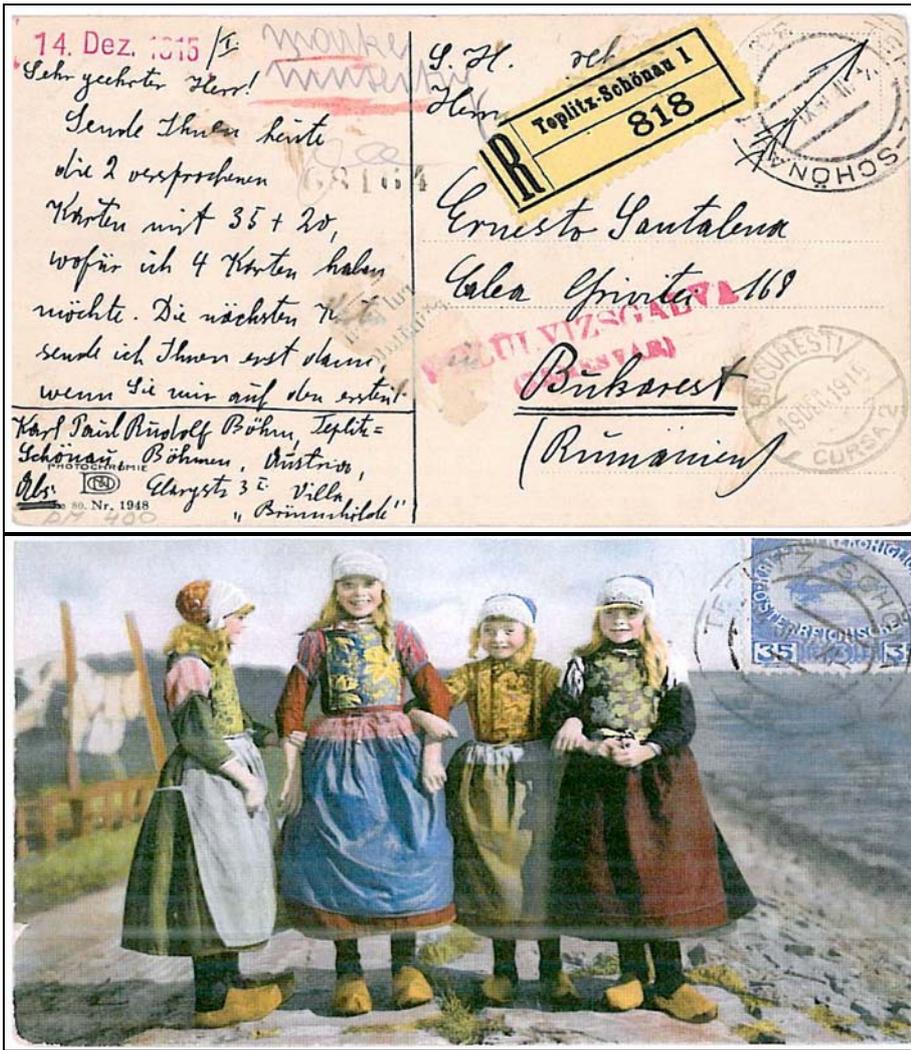


Fig. 8 As with the 1914 issue, War II can also be found on foreign covers. Registered postcard from Teplitz-Schönanau to Rumania of 14.12.1916, postcard 10 heller, registration 25 heller, censored.

Fig. 9 The most frequent foreign destination (amongst the supposedly non-permitted countries) is Switzerland. Letter of 20.8.1916 to Biel. The stamps have a perfin "P.W.". Foreign letter rate 25 heller.





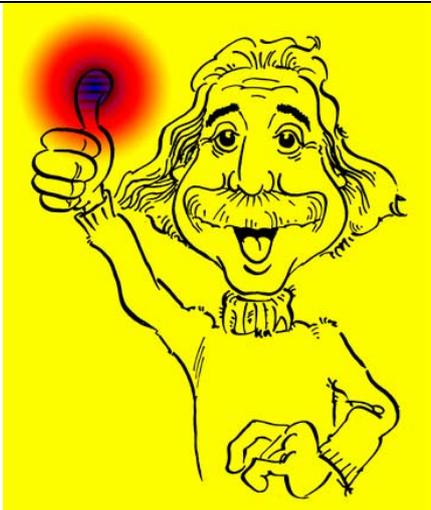
Fig. 10 is a newspaper wrapper of 30.11.1915, despatched at the printed matter rate of 3 heller.



Fig. 11 A rare destination is Greece, to which this foreign postcard was sent on 13.7.1915. On the reverse, a patriotic vignette and slogan "I must ride with the Emperor to shameless Italy".



Fig. 12 The last illustration is a registered letter to New York from Komarestie Slobodia of 24.4.1916. The letter was censored in Budapest by the “British Military Authorities” and held back in Britain. It arrived in New York only 3 years later, on 22.8.1919. Foreign letter rate 25 heller, registration 25 heller.



Have you booked for the North Downs Fest yet? It's on October 12-14 this year. Will you be there?

NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS

ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn

Issue 107 (Dec 2011): news, views, many Q & some A, wants etc; the 2012 week-trip will be to Carpathia-Ukraine; WWI machine-gunners Feldpostcards; WWI German 'declaration-cachets' on Austrian Begleit-forms (de Bellis; 9½ sides); a First Class Marriage Permit; etc.

APS^{US}

Jan 2012: Society Matters; Court Delivery Stamps (2); Letters conveyed privately; Leather postbags; pricing pre-philately letters [*the last three are by H Jungwirth, translated by J Toghill.*]

ARGE Österreich e. V.

2011/4 Nr 96: Forged cancels on Levant stamps (3); old cancels from far-away places; the 1947 Air Mail stamps; prephilatelic mail to Luxembourg; registered mail (3); book reviews; etc etc.

Czechout

Dec 2011: news, book and magazine reviews; gongs for Rex Dixon; new issues; etc.

Die Briefmarke:

Issue 11/2011: this year's Xmas stamps; transit post quirks; thematic: Heinrich von Kleist; the Christkindl post office; the customary lists of special cancels, new issues, special forwardings, society news and philatelic happenings; etc.

Issue 12/2011: winter; on postmasters, post orders, and cancel colours; Mozart: his music, his stamps, his multicoloured minisheets, and his Kügels; list of the **2012 New Issue Programme** of adhesives, personal stamps in A5 hardbacks, model cars etc; Verrechnungsmarken (!! *says your Editor*) and late usage thereof; POW camp post from 1920 to after WWII; Kleinwalsertal & Jungholz; personal Xmas stamps from many societies; many other short articles; the customary lists; and rather a lot of advertising pages.

Issue 1/2012: Postbüchl; Liechtenstein forerunners; the Flemish Leather Bag; winter blooms; 1953 Bodensee Ship Mail; expanded info on some new commem issues; pictures of 5 of the changed-design selfadhesive definitives (*see Editorial*); old stamp albums; much society, VOePh etc news

Germania

Nov 2011 vol 47 no 4: Rintel-Stadthagen railway; Trains to Saar; Karl Friedrich Schinkel; 1934 rocket mail; operation Hannibal; notes, queries etc.

Jugopošta

Vol 100 Dec 2011: "100 not out!"; welcome to Nick Coverdale their new Editor; their area has had 29+ postal administrations in its various parts; Fahrpost (coach mail service) in Hungary, 1750-1888 (12 pages! To readers stuck on the M25: the average speed in 1750 was 3 miles in 5 hours); occupation of Bosnia up to 1.7.1879 (9pp); farewell from Geoff Barling; etc

Militär u Philatelie

Issue 238 of Oct 2011: funeral of Hans Riedel in Zentralfriedhof; 100 years of military flying; etc

Stamps of Hungary

Issue 187: Dec 2011: News'n'views; A few remarks on Bavanište/Homokbálványos; More on 'Libellus' and other 'stamps'; Censorship of civilian mail in WWI, Part 2; Ferenc Bokros; Ferenc Erkel; Q&A; etc

Südost-Philatelie

Nr 117 Winter 2011: many articles of post-WWI relevance.

Ukrainian-Philatelist

Vol 59 nr 2: positive report on a Corinthia auction of Ukrainian material (403 lots, sensibly broken down) most realising many times the estimates; 1915-19 currency stamps (cf Austrian Notgeld. Ed.); the world's first post-code; etc. Also a Classified Index to the 1997-2011 issues.

Wiener Ganzsachen usw

Issue 3/2011 Oct: a telegram with the first news about Crown Prince Rudolph "His Highness has had a stroke" (the later version said 'a hunting accident'); the 30 groschen reply-paid card – was it ever validly used or not?; faults in rectangular 'Bar Freigemacht' cancels.

BOOK REVIEW

"Austria, Second Republic. The Postal Rates of the Letter Post, With a Major Focus on Airmail Surcharges", Herbert Kotal. German: Österreich - 2. Republik. Die Gebühren der Briefpost, Schwerpunkt Flugpostzuschläge.

Reviewed by Henry Pollak.

This is a terrific book for any collector of covers since 1945. It permits you to find, in one place, all the information you need to understand Austrian covers from the last 65 years. While it is about 400 large pages, of which almost 90% is devoted to air surcharges, it is paperbound. It will be very useful to you at home, but I for one plan to take it along to stamp shows.

There are two major problems for the collector of covers from the second republic. One is the great variety of services, both inland and foreign. They may have names, rules, and rates which change frequently. There are over 60 separate entries for the index of different services in the non-airmail pages.

I thought I knew most of that, but I was wrong. Example: Ever heard of a combination of letter and printed matter (Briefdrucksache)? This was in the form of printed matter, but certain additional entries were allowed: You could add up to ten words (presumably in writing). You could add an unlimited number of numbers, and you could underline or cross out places in the text. Such items had to be mailed open like printed matter, and the service existed from 1.12.1953 to 1.05.1957. It was very cheap: up to 20 grams, 60g, but 1 kilo would cost you only 1S80. How would you imagine such a service could be used? An example, illustrated in the book, is a report card. Yes, most of a report card is printed matter, and you need to make only a few, but highly significant, manual entries.

There is complete information on mailing of samples (Warenproben); and business letters (Geschäftsbriefe; the official name changed from Geschäftspapiere on 1.07.1957) which existed until 1981. What are they? They are like printed matter, but are allowed to have handwritten additions. Whoops, I interrupted my listing. There are mixed mailings (Mischsendungen), which existed in the first republic, but would have deserved further explanation here. Letters to, and then via, rail stations (Bahnhofbriefe), delivery to a specific individual, COD, money letters, and all you wanted to know about the various percent reductions for various forms of printed matter. I don't emphasize the treatment of the more common varieties such as express, registry, samples, but

it's nice to have them all in one place. There are also some services, new for fossils like me, like sending recordings, tapes, and the like.

What's not there? No postage dues and their practices, no rules for letters from officialdom.

Hey, I never voiced it to myself until I studied this book: In Austria, there's been no internal airmail service as such since WW2! Do letters ever get sent by air, from Wien to Innsbruck, say, and how would you tell? If Kotal ever says anything about this, I missed it.

This is my segue to international airmail, which is, as we said, close to 90% of this book. The rates and services changed frequently, the information from 1946-1949 was apparently lost, and one had to try to reconstruct what happened empirically. In recent years, copies of the relevant decrees were found by Paul Kainbacher, who published them in a form that is difficult to use. What was needed was a publication which gave you the complete history of rates and rules for airmail from Austria to country X, organized into two or three pages of tables for each country, and with a system that permits you to develop an overall understanding of what was going on. What I admire most about this book is Kotal's development of a system of numbering which allows for the fact that regular letter rates and airmail surcharges changed at different times, with the surcharges also changing at different times for different countries. Furthermore, for each country of destination, ALL the information, airmail surcharges, letter rates, and fees for registry, express, postcards, and the varieties of printed matter is collected in one place. Never again will I look at an airmail cover from Austria to Sweden at a show, and have to scratch my head as to whether the franking could be correct; or a cover to Switzerland, where I wonder if the service actually existed at that time!

What's the key innovation? The dates on which the major surface postal rates changed are interleaved with the four major dates of global change of airmail rates, and they form periods numbered 00 (before any airmail) and then 01 through 20. Subdivisions within each period, which affected some countries but not others, are labelled like 07A, 07B, 07C, as relevant to that particular country. The idea for this system is simple, brilliant, and new. It had escaped others for decades.

In closing, I want to use this opportunity to ask for help with an open question. According to Kotal, there is a one-week period, from June 17 to June 23, 1946, in which the airmail surcharge to the USA was already reduced from 3S25 to 2S95 per 5 grams, but the surface rate had not yet been raised from 50gr to 60gr for 20 grams. This is period 01B to the USA. There was a similar air-surcharge reduction by 30 groschen to Central America, and the Caribbean area (typically labelled period 01C or 01D). I know of no cover to the USA that shows this newly reduced rate during those seven days. There is a gebühr bezahlt cover known from Vienna itself from June 17 still with the 3S25 air surcharge, and there are several known items of private correspondence, with the 3S25 surcharge but franked with stamps, from later in the week. **What airmail covers from Austria to the USA from that week have you seen?** I don't consider the existence of 2S95 covers a certainty. Why not? In Kainbacher's book, the announcement of the 17 June rate change is dated 24 June in Graz. Did anybody receive the announcement before June 24, 1946?

PS: I got my copy from Reiter Karl <Karl.Reiter@bbgraz.at>

Library book 371A "Die Flugpost Österreich 1946-1970" by Manfred Kockritz (156pp, issued 2002) has been updated and expanded in 2010, it now is 214 pages. Since the copy in the library has never been borrowed, the committee have decided not to purchase the update.

[AVE ATQUE] VALE!

Rodolphe de Maleingreau, Werner Gattiker and John Gareze have resigned to concentrate their interests in other fields. Roger Green has retired.

Questions

Q1: Roman Cancels



3 December 1917 cancelled (???)NGRUN

11 June 1919, cancelled (BAD?)AUSSEE

Q1: "I have two of these pieces of parcel card, 4 cut-squares, and 2 soaked-off loose stamps. All are 1916 issue 5h or 10h dues, cancelled with a large black Roman number XX or XXV. The other side of the pieces have adhesive stamps applied to the right-hand part, one is dated 3 Dec 1917 with 90h and the other 11 June 1919 with 250h including a 10h with D-Ö overprint. What is this Roman cancel?"

Best answer so far: the pieces are not parcel cards but money-transfer forms; the XXV is applied in the Postsparkasse Head Office in Vienna, and is the "Beamte Nr", ie either the number of the job ('Clerk 25') or the personal number of the man (or, given the date, possibly woman) who was doing it.

Q2: Mail from Russia

Q2, from Ross Marshall in New Zealand: *Hi, I am seeking information/articles/covers on mail from Russian pre-UPU to/via Austria with Russie type markings applied at the Austrian Border offices - I have van der Linden's excellent reference but that is about all. I am an exhibitor of Russian stampless mail to the West pre-UPU [Prussia/Austria] and have 5 frames of the Austrian material but need more information if available.*

Best answer so far: ask Alan B.

Does anyone else have knowledge in this area?

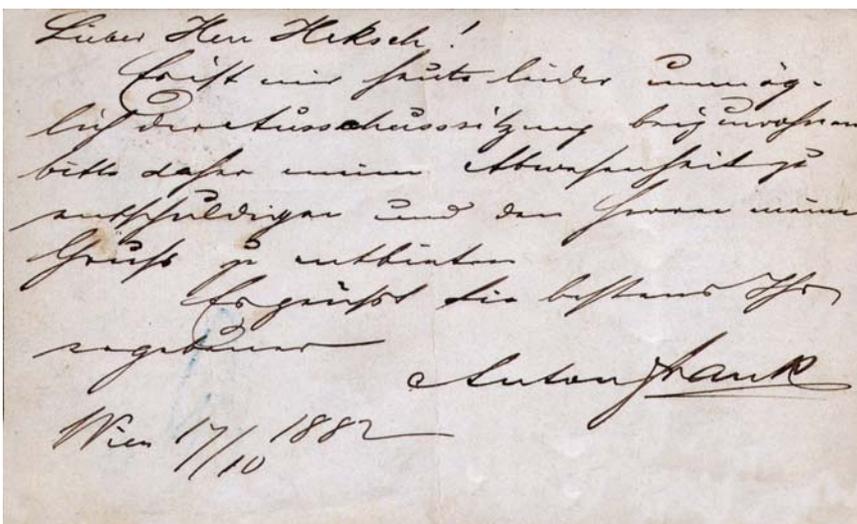
THE ROYAL HOTEL and THE MUSIKVEREIN

By A Taylor (with considerable input from R Zimmerl, H Pollak & R Avery)



The association of Vienna's Royal Hotel with Philately goes back much further than the 1998 visit of the APS! This card was sent in October 1882 via the Vienna Pneumatic Post to Herr Ludwig Heksch, Wolgeboren Obmann der Philatelisten Club, Singerstrasse, "Hotel Royal". The message is:

Lieber Herr Heksch! Es ist mir heute leider unmöglich, der Ausschußsitzung beizuwohnen. Bitte daher meine Abwesenheit zu entschuldigen und den Herren meinen Gruß zu entbinden. Es grüßt Sie bestens Ihr ergebener Anton Frank. Wien 17/10/1882.



That is, Herr Frank apologises that he cannot attend the committee meeting that day, and asks that his greetings be passed on to those present.

In the run-up to the 1881 AGM of what is now the Vindobona Club, there was a furious row over the eligibility or not of stamp dealers to hold office[‡]. Several people agreed to stand as Obmann then withdrew. Eventually Sigmund Friedl was elected, by one vote over Heksch.

Members deduced from the 8:7 vote that Friedl had probably voted for himself, which some considered ungentlemanly. In April 1881 Heksch founded another club, the Briefmarkensammler-Centralverein, and withdrew from the Philatelisten-Club. So by the time of our postcard (17 Oct 1882) he may well have been Obmann, but of his own club.

For some years, elegantly written insults, recriminations and abuse were exchanged; some copies have survived. The two societies merged in 1885. Such happenings could never occur now-a-days...

The Hotel Royal is listed in the Baedeker of 1891 as "Bauer's Hotel Royal at Singerstrasse 3"; from 1931 it has belonged to the Kremslehner family. The building was burnt down in 1945 at the same time as St Stephens; rebuilding began in 1955 and it reopened on 20 May 1960. It has been renovated and extended several times since, as the Numiphillies well know. The Hotel Royal can be seen on ANK2111, the 1S50 value of the Monasteries & Abbeys landscape series – it's the building at the left end of the far side of the street. A sheet of this stamp hangs in the hotel lobby



[‡] See "125 Jahre Österreichischer Philatelistenclub Vindobona 1880-2005" pages 3 to 28.



The Hotel Royal also has musical associations, which extend to the upright piano in the lobby that Richard Wagner had used to compose the overture to the Mastersingers of Nuremberg while staying in Vienna; and the photos of all the great opera singers from 1960 onwards who celebrated their success in the hotel's fine Italian restaurant.

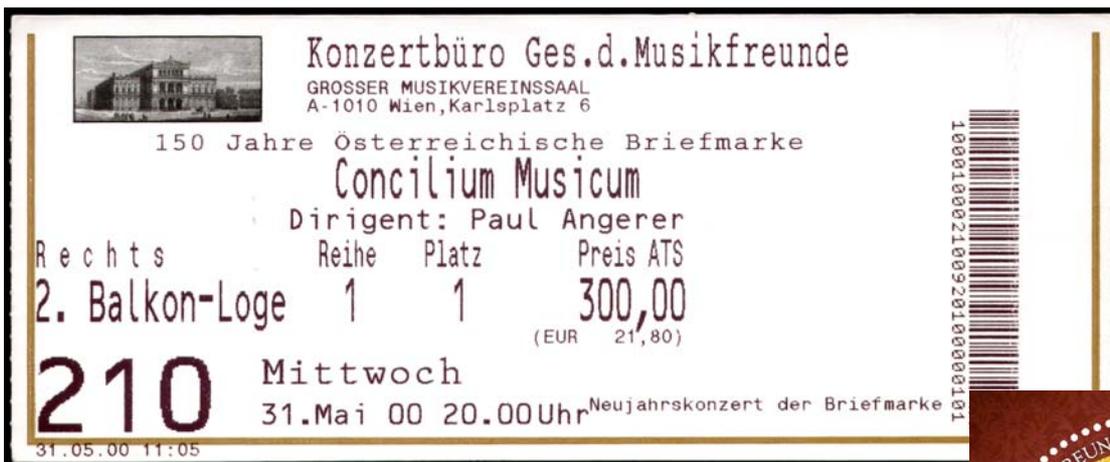
However there is another connection with philately. The Gasthof zum Roten Apfel occupied the site from 1566. At some date between 1812 and 1818, Antonio Salieri the Master of the Court Orchestra opened in the building the "Singschule der Gesellschaft für Musikfreunde", and also a music publishing business used by Beethoven (whose favourite pub was only five minutes walk away at Ballgasse 6). The original Royal Hotel building was constructed in 1882 to replace the Gasthof.

The Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien was launched by Joseph Sonnleitner who arranged two performances of Handel's oratorio Alexander's Feast (probably as rescored by Mozart) in the Winter Riding School of the Vienna Hofburg on 29 Nov & 3 Dec 1812; the profits gave the new Foundation a good start. According to its statutes, which were drawn up in 1814, the most important purpose of the society was to "hold aloft music in all its branches". This was (and is) achieved in three ways: firstly by the association organising its own concerts, secondly by the foundation and operation of a conservatory, and thirdly through the systematic collection of documents relating to the history of music, in other words the operation of an archive. The private commitment of individual members still characterises the workings of this major association.

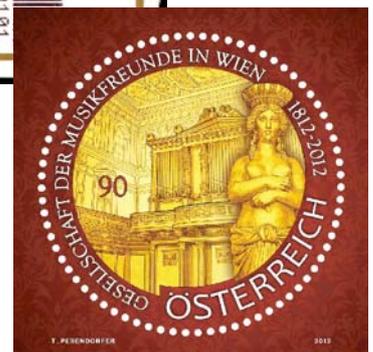


From 1831 on, the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde organised concerts in a hall in Tuchlauben, which with a capacity of only 700 soon proved to be too small. On land donated by Kaiser Franz Josef they built the Musikverein Concert Hall in Karlsplatz. Designed by Theophil Hansen and opened on 6 Jan 1870, it is famed world-wide for the New Year Concerts.

As part of the WIPA2000 festivities, a New Year Concert-style event was arranged – described as the New Year's Concert of the Stamp! After an epic battle with Austrian Bureaucracy, those APS members who had wanted to be present obtained the tickets which granted admission.



In 1909, the Singschule of the Gesellschaft was taken up by the state as the "k.k. Akademie für Musik und darstellende Kunst", making it the predecessor of today's Vienna University for Music and Performing Arts. The 200th anniversary of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien has been marked by a gold-and-red stamp, issued as a 1-stamp block with circular perforations showing the elegant Golden Hall. Because of its colour, it's repeated on the front cover.



NEW STAMP QUIRKS

By Andy Taylor

A former member of our Society once remarked that “*Austrian Philately is dead, everything of note having already been discovered and written up*”. Life as always fails to meet our expectations...

Prompted by a query from PT, and drawing heavily on the discoveries made by Alfred Graf (Obmann of BSV Favoriten) and his colleagues, I have been investigating the rumours and realities concerning the self-adhesive definitives introduced alongside the New Rates System last year.

PT emailed me saying that he had noticed that some of the new stamps have what appears to be a Phosphor Post Horn and the word POST, so far only on the 7c & 70c values - was this a change from what was first issued and if so why? Enquiries in Vienna resulted in the statement “This is a recent change, introduced for safety and security; expect to see it on more of the series”. Other imminent, proposed or suggested changes your Editor is aware of include:

a) the name of each architect will be added to the design of each stamp; the ‘Prohaska’ currently at the bottom is of course the name of the designer of the stamp not of the buildings and one does not wish to mislead the public.

145c 1 st issue: no architect	145c 2 nd issue: with architect	170c 1 st issue: no architect	170c 2 nd issue: with architect

The new 145c stamp does not have the same design as the first issue – it is the Frauenmuseum in Hittisau, Vorarlberg instead of the Kunsthalle in Vienna, about as far away as one could get without leaving the country! According to the Austrian newspapers, there are management and budgeting problems at the Kunsthalle, so maybe the necessary permissions could not be obtained in time.

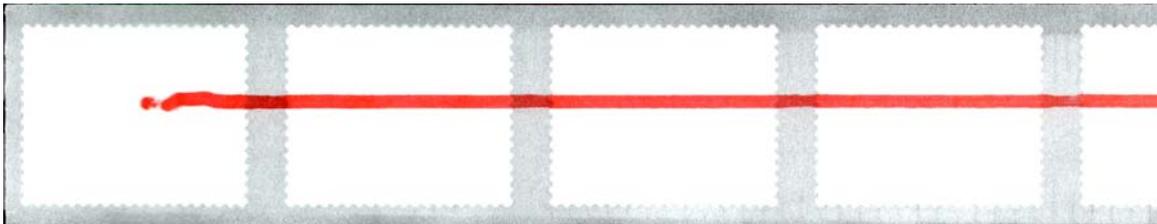
b) the stamps will be 2mm larger, and the perfs are changing from more rounded to more pointed especially at the corners. This has been seen on the Ars-Electronica 7c and Kunsthau-Graz 62c stamps. It was unclear if the new perfs were 'as well as' or 'instead of' the old, ie they were definitely using a new perfing machine, but had they thrown out the old one or was it still in use? One possibility is that the larger stamps with the pointed perfs occur only as the rolls-of-100; the printing of the 7c is lighter in colour than on the smaller stamps.



This shows the smaller stamp on the left and the larger in the middle. On the right is a composite image, made by overlaying the image of the smaller stamp over the larger, moving the upper image to align the text (which is the same size as on the lower image), then multiplying the images to highlight the differences. Especially noticeable are the greater height and the different perforations. The next picture shows the same process applied to the 62 cent stamps. These came to me as a scan so the colours are not true, but the relative sizes are.



c) on the roll (strip) stamps, the silicone backing paper has a red stripe as you reach the end of the roll - just like tram tickets in the 1950s!!



d) all values have hidden in the design a dash-dot-dash which is the morse code for K; the reason has not yet been revealed. Their positions are revealed here by the added arrows...



e) some, maybe all, copies of the larger 7c and 62c stamps are not uniformly perforated. The 7c shown on the front cover is 13.8 on the top and the right, but 13.4 on the bottom and at the left. The perfs at the top of the smaller and larger Kunsthäus-Graz 62c stamps are different, as shown here; I have aligned them at the right and evidently they do not agree at the left:



<< The smaller K-G 62c stamp
<< The larger K-G 62c stamp

All these themes and variations have been printed by Joh. Enschedé B.V. in Holland. It is possible that a new series of definitives will appear in 2-3 years; I wonder who will get the contract?

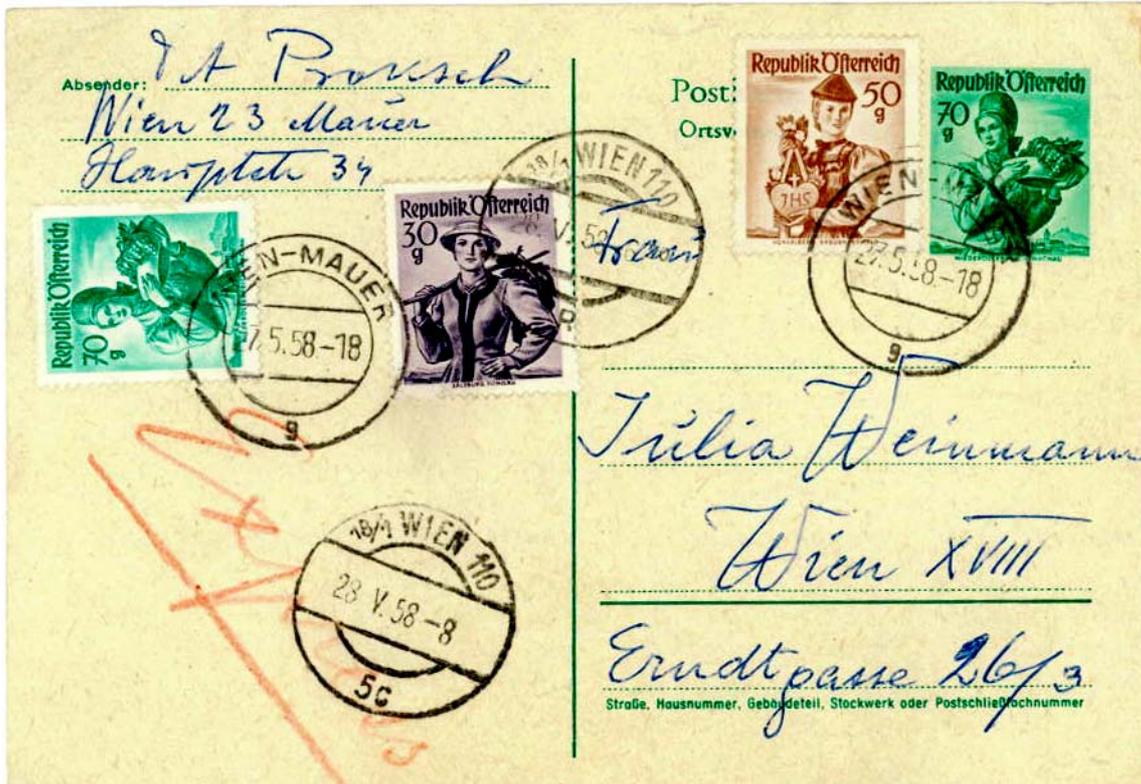


The question has been asked, are these new issues, reprints, or what? Will new-issue-subscribers receive (and be charged for) examples of everything? The answer depends on whom you ask, but it seems likely that every visibly-different stamp will be listed in the catalogues; subscribers will not be sent varieties that weren't meant to exist; but subscribers will receive 'something' at no extra cost. These illustrations came from the Opost web site on 25 Jan, show the architect's name at the top, and are carefully designated as reprints.

THE LAST (ROHR)POST HAS GONE

Dear Andy, a new member of ArGe Österreich has sent me a postcard from 1958, which he thinks was transported by Vienna Rohrpost. On the other hand, he says, the Rohrpost service ended, according to Schneiderbauer, on April 2nd 1956. Is it possible that Schneiderbauer is wrong? What do you think or know?

[clarified later] The 18/1 WIEN 110 cancel on the 30g stamp has an hour-minute cancel, namely 6.⁵⁰, and a Schalterbuchstabe R.



Andy said: The postcard is marked Express in red crayon (Rotel), so yes in the “good old days” it would have travelled by Rohrpost. However I am confident that it didn't! I assert that the Rohrpost service DID end on 2 April 1956 – as documented in many different non-philatelic books (and in our own book on it!). Also, there would have been a blue Instradringschiffre at top left and there isn't; and the sending station, Wien-Mauer, was never a Rohrpost station; it became Wien 1238 and is a long way from the Rohrpost locations.

[There is an extremely unusual exception to the above: a few covers exist with a full set of normal pneumatic cancels but dated after 2-4-56 These come from two sources: trials to see if the replacement on-the-surface service was quicker (answer: no, it was about an hour slower), and on one day when a demonstration system was in operation in the former Postal Museum.]

The card has an imprinted 70g, the inland postcard rate (there was no reduction at that date for local) plus added franking of 150g which is the inland express surcharge.

Merged opinions from Vienna and London: This is an ordinary postcard sent Express. It was cancelled at Wien-Mauer and came through the normal post to Wien 110 (Währing; now Wien 1180). There it received an arrival cancel, and they used the old pneumatic hours-and-minutes canceller just as they used to do two years previously when the system still ran – old habits die hard especially in Vienna. The cancel at the bottom is a normal delivery cancel. The card was delivered with the ordinary post; this was normal in Vienna if a special messenger would have yielded no real time savings.

And from here and New York: cancellers with 'R' were also used with some type of mass-mailing (possibly the adverts that don't have your name on, but something like 'The Occupier') so would have been available in the Post Office. Indeed examples of such R-cancellers are known first introduced in 1965 and thus having no pneumatic connection.