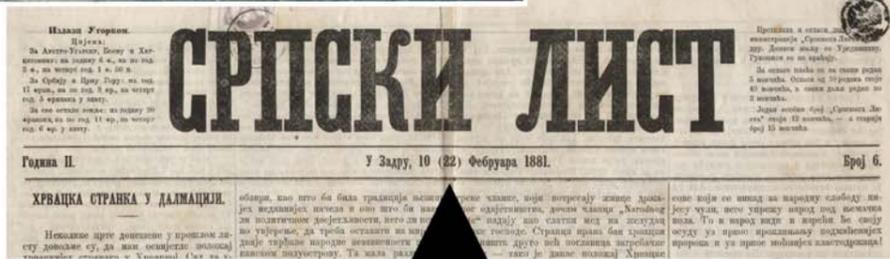


From the article "Alternative calendars":
Figs 6 (top), 7 (middle) and 8 (bottom).

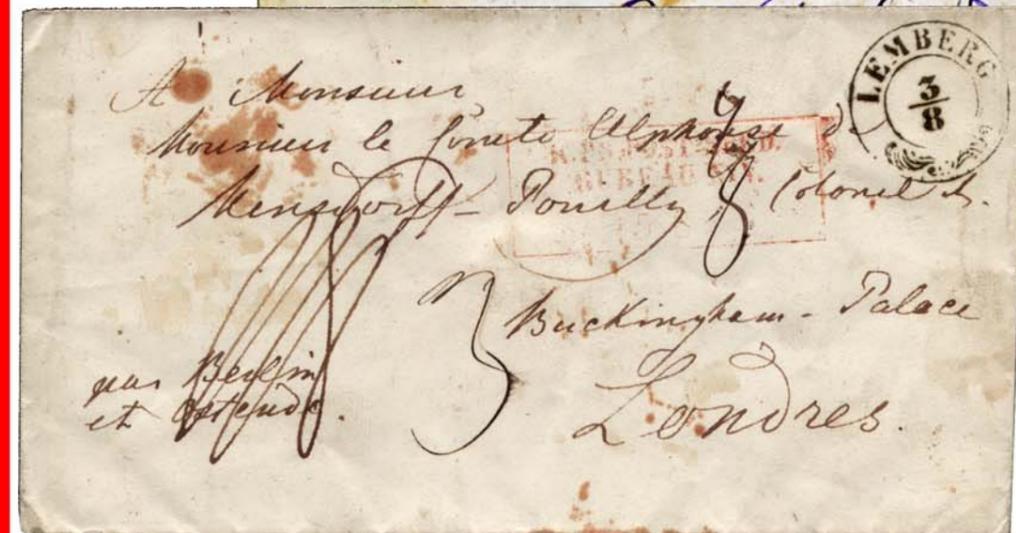


У Задру, 10 (22) Фебруара 1881.

Austrian
Philatelic
Society

AUSTRIA

See article
"A cover to
Hungary"



Keith's
favourite
cover



Journal of The Austrian Philatelic Society

Number 178

A selection of the items
discussed in this issue.

Summer 2012

From left:
 1896 card, Ferchenbauer Nr 12, 10Kr;
 1900 card, F.Nr 13, 20h;
 1909 card, F.Nr 17, 20h



"Alternative calendars" figs 3 (above), 4 (left) and 5 (below)

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EDITORIAL 178

One of the articles in the last issue was “Ghosts from the Past”. Their hauntings extended to the Euro stamps featured on the front cover, which were intended to illustrate an article for the anniversary of that currency. Indeed, the article was completed; but for some inexplicable reason (Anno Domini?) wasn’t included. I’ll try again, hoping to publish the article before the Euro joins the Gulden.

“Infamy, infamy, they’ve all got it in for me”, as Kenneth Williams was possibly the first to say. The last issue produced considerably more negative feedback than the usual. The cover on page 2 wasn’t remotely Keith’s favourite, just a little something he picked up in Vienna. The article on the WWI Charity issues was correctly translated but several of the original captions are questionable and the aspect ratio of some of the illustrations is wrong. And Eeyore was chided for worrying about less pages instead of fewer pages.

We learnt with regret of the death of Brian Presland; a tribute appears on a later page.

More Mozart! The stamp issued on 5 December 2011 for the 220th anniversary of Mozart’s death was also produced in a miniature sheet of 10, with the words and tune of Papageno’s opening song from the Magic Flute “*Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja...*” in the top and bottom margins. The Austrian Post gilded this lily by producing a “Kleinbogen Edition” of the sheet, a card folder containing a mint sheet and two imperf prints of it, one in a desaturated orange and the other in rose-pink. Your Editor was extremely pleased to receive a copy of this, in an envelope franked with a second complete sheet! Danke, DuH. A montage of the three is on the front cover.

The British Post Office, like the Austrian, alters the way mail is charged, adds VAT to some services, sells off parts and ‘improves’ others. You will have your own views on how good a thing this is, on who will benefit, and on whether they ought to. It seems inescapable that the APS’s communications will be affected, and your Committee will be giving much thought to these matters. Raise the subs, raid the kitty, privatise our heritage? T’would be odd if philatelic societies couldn’t afford to use the mail!

A note to those planning future visits to Philatex: the Lawrence Hall has apparently been purchased by Westminster School who plan to convert it to a sports facility; and future Philates cancelled.

As an experiment, this issue uses both sides of the cover for colour illustrations, which means that the contents list, Officers, and so on have to go elsewhere. Do you like it?

It has reached the editorial earhole that this Journal is deficient in articles about stamps, as opposed to postal and political history. So, a series of articles is in preparation dealing with the First Republic. Luckily several members collect that period in mint so illustrations will be relatively simple. It could be argued that everything should be covered in strict chronological order and the article in this issue on newspaper postage is misconceived. However, this year is the 90th anniversary of the ending of separate newspaper stamps so I claim that as justification. Besides, in a totally comprehensive survey one will include postage stamps: but what about dues, post-war locals, hotel posts, revenues, stationery, and... "Perfection is the enemy of the adequate".

Andy Taylor, Editor

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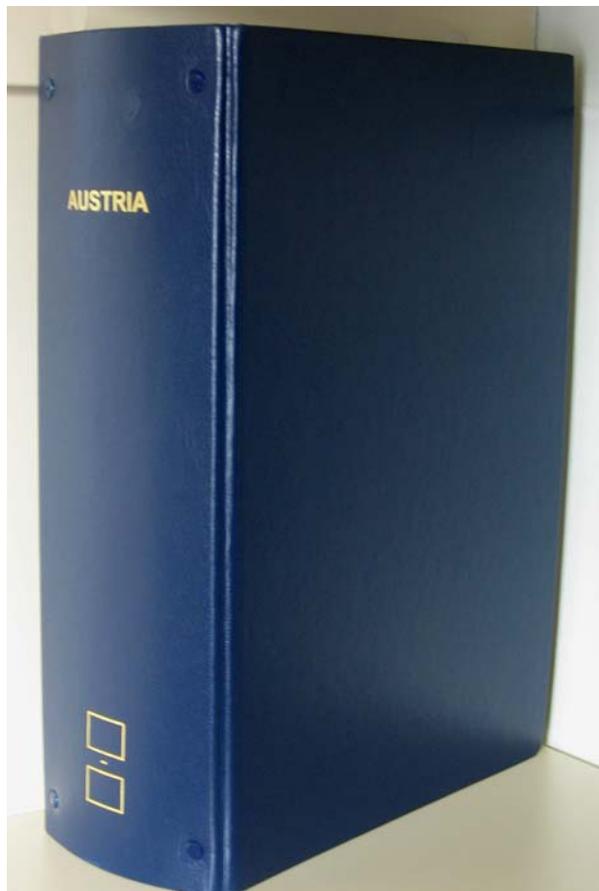
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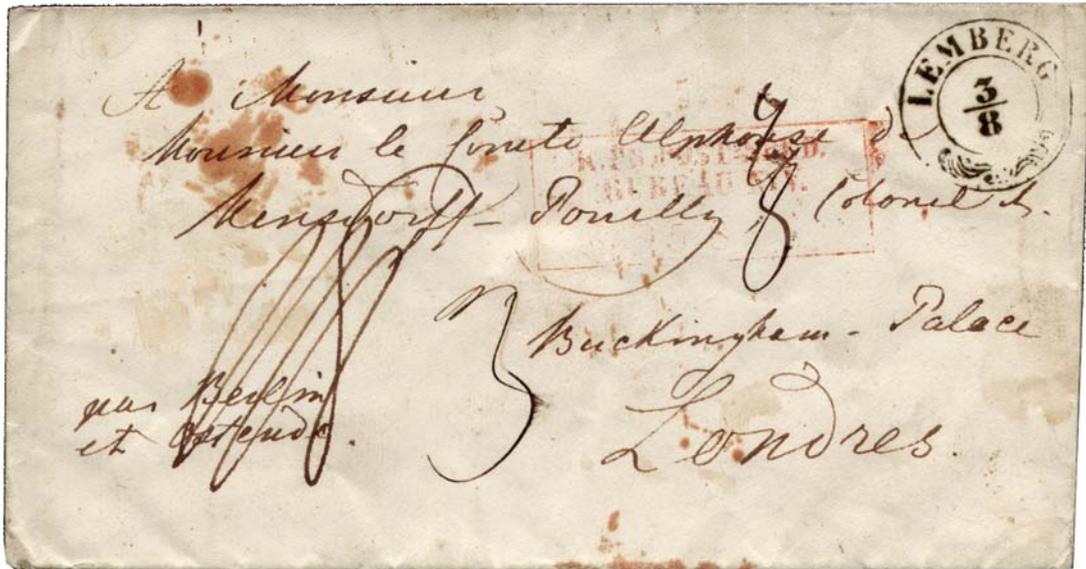
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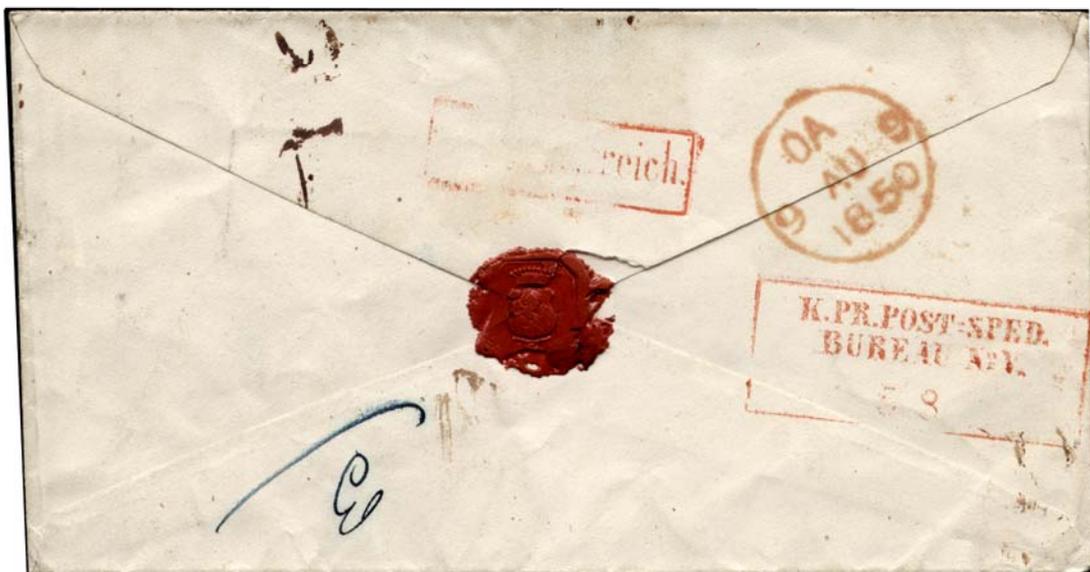
MY FAVOURITE COVER

by Keith Brandon

A year or so ago, the Editor asked readers to contribute to an occasional series: "My Favourite Cover". It's a deceptive task, and I've been puzzling over it ever since. Is my favourite cover the one I was so pleased to buy this week? Or will it be supplanted by the one I acquire next week? Or is it my most valuable cover? Or the rarest? Or the most attractive? No, my favourite cover was bought cheaply on Ebay, it is an envelope with no contents, the markings are not very clear, and it is stained and grubby. But like all good covers it has a story to tell. My enjoyment came from unravelling the story which I shall now share with you. Moreover, it's a story with a twist in the tail!

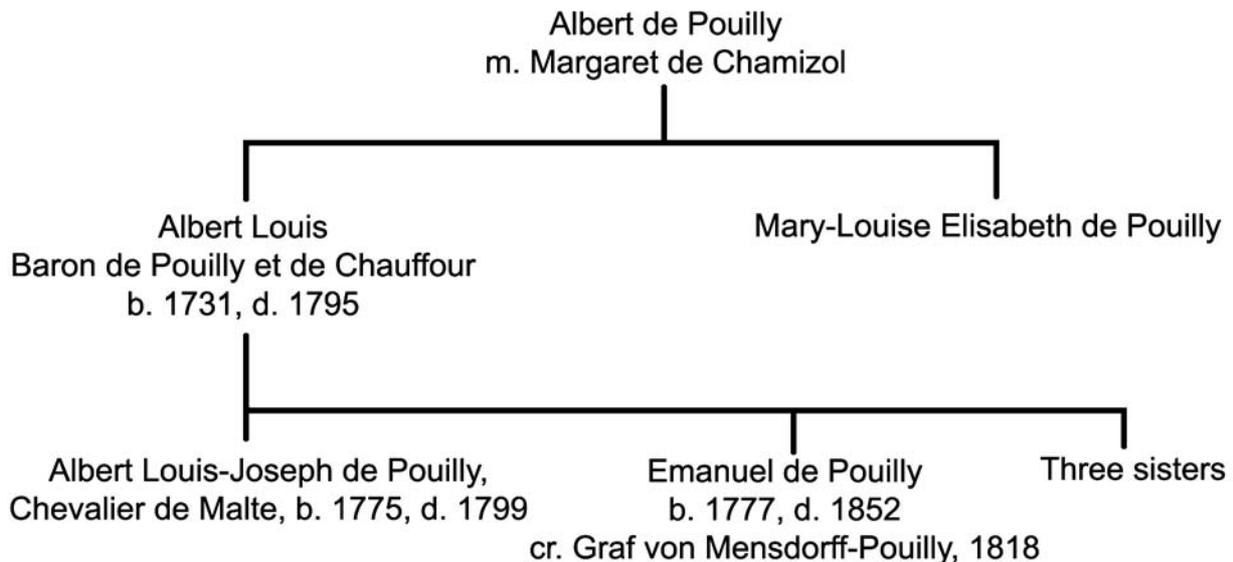


The illustrated cover was posted on 3 August 1850 in Lemberg (now L'viv in Western Ukraine). It was addressed to London via Berlin and Ostend. There is a red, boxed Prussian transit stamp **K. PR. POST. SPED. / BUREAU N.V. / S.8** on both front and back, along with a partial, red, boxed **Aus Oesterreich**, also of Prussia, on the back. Intermediate rate markings of 3 and 8 culminate in a charge to the addressee of *Is8d*, marked on the front. The contents have not survived, but we know the year date from the red London receiver **OA / 9 AU 9 / 1850** on the reverse.



None of that is remarkable. What drew my eye was the addressee: *Count Alphonse de Mensdorff-Pouilly at Buckingham Palace*. Who was this exotic-sounding gentleman and why was he having his mail delivered to the residence of Britain's royal family?

Twenty years ago, it might have been difficult to find out. Today we can be fairly certain that an aristocrat important enough to stay at Buckingham Palace will have come to the attention of my old friends Professor Google and Doctor Wikipedia. Sure enough, a Google search revealed a family tree of the Mensdorff-Pouilly family, commencing at the end of the seventeenth century and finishing with the 75 descendants of the male line who were still alive in 2010 when I did my research. This is how it starts:



The family originated from the Baronie Pouilly, a French noble family based in Lorraine, close to the borders with Luxembourg and Belgium. Albert-Louis emigrated with his wife and sons to Austria in 1790 during the French Revolution. His sons Albert and Emmanuel changed their name to Mensdorff-Pouilly after a place in Roussy, Luxembourg where the family owned land. The brothers entered military service against revolutionary and Napoleonic France, and Albert was killed in battle. Our story therefore continues with Emmanuel and his descendants.

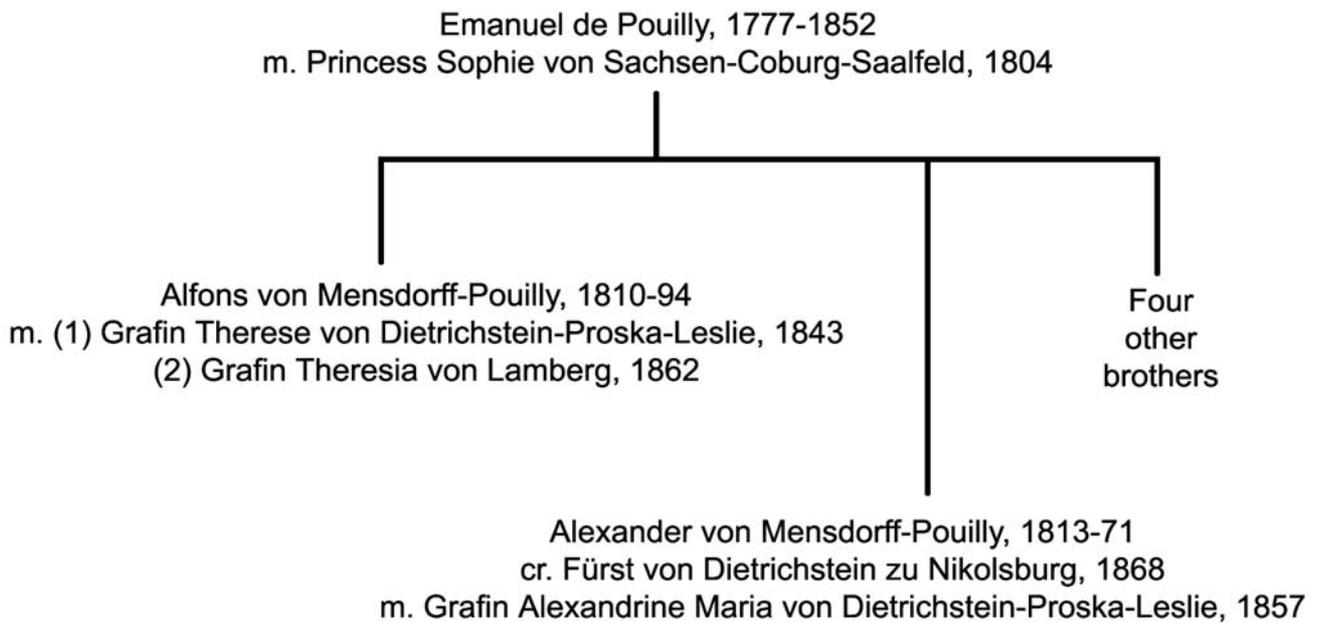


In 1818, the Austrian branch of the family received a courtesy title from the Austrian Empire, and they were recognised as nobles in Bohemia in 1839. Emmanuel (pictured on left) fought as an army officer in the Imperial and Royal army of the Austrian Empire, and was vice-governor of Mainz. In 1838 he purchased Schloss Preitenstein, in the Pilsen region of Bohemia, which remained the property of the Mensdorff-Pouilly family until 1945.

Emmanuel had six sons. Four died young or childless, and need detain us no longer, but the remaining two Alfons and Alexander are of interest to our story. Alfons is indeed the subject of our letter, but before we consider him, let us have a quick look at his younger, and more famous, brother Alexander.

Alexander joined the Austrian army in 1829, and became a major in 1844. In 1848-49 he fought in the First Italian War of Independence and against the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. The following year he was promoted to colonel and in 1850 to major-general. In 1851 he was appointed the Austrian Commissioner to Schleswig Holstein, and in 1852 became ambassador to Russia. In 1858 he was promoted to Field-marshal-lieutenant. During the Polish Uprising of 1863, Alexander served as the Governor of Austrian Galicia. Meanwhile, in 1857 he had married a countess and was created Fürst von Dietrichstein zu Nikolsburg. One of

his sons was born in Lemberg, but the timing is too late for one of this branch of the family to have been the writer of the letter to Buckingham Palace.



Alexander went on to become Austrian Foreign Minister in October 1864, and was briefly Austria's Minister-President. After Austria's defeat in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, he resigned his governmental positions in November that year. After his resignation, he was appointed commanding general in Zagreb and in Prague. After two more generations, the male line of Alexander's branch of the family died out. Hence all the 75 surviving members of the Mensdorff-Pouilly clan are direct descendants of Alfons, to whose story we must now return.

Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly, achieved none of the high offices of his brother Alexander, and it is difficult to find out much about him. He married twice, in 1843 and 1862, both times to countesses. In fact the Mensdorff-Pouilly made a habit of marrying well. One of Alfons' sons married into the Paar family, a name many readers will recognise as pioneers of postal development in Europe, and they in turn had a son who married a princess in the Thurn and Taxis family, an even bigger name in the history of the European post! But I am getting ahead of myself; we still haven't established what Alfons was doing at Buckingham Palace.

The answer lies in the most advantageous of all the well-connected marriages of the family; Emmanuel, father of Alfons and Alexander, and his marriage in 1804 to Princess Sophie of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld (1778-1835). The Saxe-Coburgs were in the top-drawer of European aristocracy. Sophie was the brother of King Leopold I of Belgium and, importantly for our story, the aunt of the British Queen Victoria. She was also the aunt of Victoria's consort (and cousin) Prince Albert, through a neighbouring branch of the family. The plot thins! Count Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were all cousins and all of a very similar age. Why wouldn't Alfons stay with his cousins when in London?

An internet search reveals another nugget. The Department of Rare Books at the University of Rochester in upstate New York holds three boxes of letters written to the Count by members of the English royal family and by the Belgian King Leopold. They include 68 letters from Queen Victoria, spanning 1843 to 1871, 88 from Mary Louise, Duchess of Kent (1847 to 1858) and 18 letters from Prince Albert (1851 to 1865). This seems a greater number of letters than would be demanded by etiquette and protocol. Perhaps there was a genuine and sustained friendship between Count Alfons and his cousins in London.

So our puzzle is solved. We know who Count Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly was and why he would have been staying at Buckingham Palace in 1850. But at the beginning I promised you that there was a twist in the tail of this story. I bought the cover on e-bay and it arrived in the post on 5 February 2010. Imagine my surprise when the very next day I saw the following story in my newspaper.

BAE Systems pays \$400m to settle bribery charges

► Shares rise after BAE says settlement 'draws a solid line' under past legal issues

By James Thompson

BAE SYSTEMS is to pay up to \$450m (£288m) in fines after it pleaded guilty to false statements and accounting practices, notably over deals with Saudi Arabia and Tanzania, in a landmark settlement between the defence giant and the US and UK authorities.

The Serious Fraud Office also dropped proceedings last night against Count Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly, who was charged with making illegal payments to government officials to win jet deals for BAE just last week.

BAE's settlement with the SFO will see it pay £30m – a record criminal fine for a company – specifically relating to "failing to keep reasonably accurate accounting records relating to its activities in Tanzania". The defence giant sold a radar system to the African country in 1999, and its chairman Dick Olver yesterday admitted it made "commission payments to a marketing adviser and failed to accurately record such payments in its accounting records".

He added that the company "failed to scrutinise these records adequately to ensure that they were reasonably accurate and permitted them to remain uncorrected".

The \$400m settlement with the DoJ saw BAE admit to a charge of conspiring to make false statements to US authorities in relation to the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia in the 1980s and 1990s. This is understood to be connected to payments that were made to an unnamed Saudi official as part of the £40bn al-Yamamah arms deal between the UK and Saudi Arabia. The US DoJ said BAE had admitted "intentionally failing to put appropriate, anti-bribery preventative measures in place, despite telling the US government that these steps had been taken".

A separate investigation by the SFO into bribery allegations involving BAE and al-Yamamah was controversially dropped in 2006 after the Government insisted the inquiry could upset UK relations with the Arab kingdom and posed a threat to national security.

Shares in BAE firmed 5.4p, or 1.6 per cent, to 345.9p last night as the company said the settlement drew a line under any further action by the DoJ and SFO against the defence company. Mr Olver also stressed that all the activities BAE was investigated for related to activities that happened before 2002 and that none of the activity related to its actual US business.

The SFO confirmed that no further prosecutions would be brought against BAE, given the measures it has taken to implement ethical and compliance reforms and as a result of its agreement with the DoJ.

Richard Alderman, the SFO's director, said: "This is a first and it brings a pragmatic end to a long-running and wide-ranging investigation." He added: "I'd also like to acknowledge the efforts made by BAE to conclude this matter and I welcome its declared commitment to high ethical standards."

Yesterday Mr Olver said: "The company very much regrets and accepts full responsibility for these past shortcomings. These settlements enable the company to deal finally with significant legacy issues."

"While it's a substantial figure, it's less than the worse case scenario," said Tina Cook, an analyst at Charles Stanley. "It also removes an overhang on the share price caused by uncertainty about the investigations."

Commentators also said the settlement was significant as it sets a precedent for co-ordinated, cross-jurisdiction action in other corporate corruption cases. Gavin Cunningham, the head of corruption investigations at accountancy firm BDO Stoy Hayward, said the SFO penalty "sends out a powerful message to UK business that corruption is going to be investigated and prosecuted".



RAF Typhoons, or Eurofighters: The plane is made by a consortium including BAE Systems GEOFFREY LEE/MOD/BLOOMBERG

Balli Aviation breached Iran embargo

By Stephen Foley
IN NEW YORK

A BRITISH company where former Chancellor Lord Lamont is non-executive director pleaded guilty to exporting Boeing 747 jumbo jets to Iran, in contravention of a US trade embargo.

Balli Aviation, part of London-based commodities trading and finance company Balli Group, agreed to pay \$15m in fines. At issue were six Boeing 747 passenger jets that the company's subsidiaries and affiliates owned, three of which were leased to an Armenian airline that subsequently made them available to an Iranian private airline, Mahan Air, for flights in and out of Tehran.

Thomas Madigan of the US commerce department said: "The case agents worked through a complex corporate maze to obtain the facts and bring the violators to justice."

Balli Aviation said: "The US authorities viewed Mahan's involvement and the manner of its access to the capacity of the aircraft to have breached US export rules."

The story itself was fairly well-known. The British aerospace company BAE Systems had done a deal with the US and UK authorities after pleading guilty to corruption charges in connection with selling its products to other governments. The surprise was in the second paragraph: "The Serious Fraud Office also dropped proceedings last night against Count Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly, who was charged with making illegal payments to government officials to win jet deals for BAE just last week". I found him on the family tree. This Count Alfons, born in 1953, is the great-great-grandson of the Count Alfons who was visiting his cousins in Buckingham Palace in 1850. What an extraordinary coincidence that they should both cross my path on consecutive days. Such is the magic of postal history!

TEN YEARS OF THE €URO

by Andy Taylor

€ may love it or hate it but € can't ignore it! The Euro currency was introduced to Austria on 1st January 2002 at the nominal conversion rate of 13.7603 Schilling = 1 Euro = 100 cents. The actual equivalences were defined in a table, in 1-groschen steps, and postal rates were frozen before during and after the change. This is why one finds strange postal rates such as 51 cents for an inland letter and 2€03 for the registration fee! A range of new definitives was introduced, covering some of the new rates; and until the end of June 2002 all Groschen and Schilling stamps issued since 10 December 1947 could also be used – philatelists spent many happy hours devising Mixed Frankings.



[I'll only show the frankings, not the addressees] 285 gram letter from Vienna to UK; postage 4€80. Franked 20+20=40 Sch defined as 2€1; balance of 1€89 paid in cash as shown in cents on the OPAL label.



Priority standard letter from Vienna to UK; postage 51 cents; franked 4S50 = 33 cents; balance of 18 cents paid in cash; postal clerk has cut off the OPAL barcode to fit the envelope! Cancel dated 30 June 2002, the official Last Day Of Validity for the Schilling stamps.



Priority heavy letter from Vienna to UK; postage 101 cents; franked 1S50+1S50+4S = 51 cents plus 51 cents making 102 cents, the correct rate.



Part of a light but long priority envelope: outside the size limits for a standard franking so requires next step of 102 cents. Franked $4+1+1=6$ Sch = 44 cents plus 58 cents making up the 102 cents.

To cater for customers (philatelic or not!) presenting inadequately franked letters for postage, a Supplementary Stamp had to be issued; initially this was a blank yellow stamp on which the counter clerk wrote the amount of additional franking required and the customer paid it in cash. The novelty of this soon wore off, and as the OPAL system was introduced (ie label-printing machines at each counter) a yellow OPAL label appeared.



Priority postcard (same rate as a letter!) from Tirol to UK; postage 51 cents; franked 3 Sch = 23 cents; balance of 28 cents paid in cash; small post office so Ergänzugsmarke used on which “0,28” is written.



A similar item, using the later bar-coded version of the Ergänzugsmarke.

The ANK (Netto) catalogue has a useful arrangement of the first series of Euro-definitives; see page 320 of their 2011/2012 issue. The next two illustrations show this. There were 13 ‘normal’ definitives; the 25 cent was overprinted as a charity issue for flood relief. When the rates were raised on 1 June 2003, make-up values were issued, for example 4 cents to make the old 51 cent letter rate stamp up to the new 55 cent rate. The final stamps shown are the “overprinted 55 cents”; large stocks of 2002-rates stamps were left when the rates changed in 2003, and a competition was held for suitable overprints to convert them into 55 cent stamps. It has been alleged that the 7 cent stamp (the makeup value with the two trees) had run out, so had to be reprinted so that it could then be overprinted!

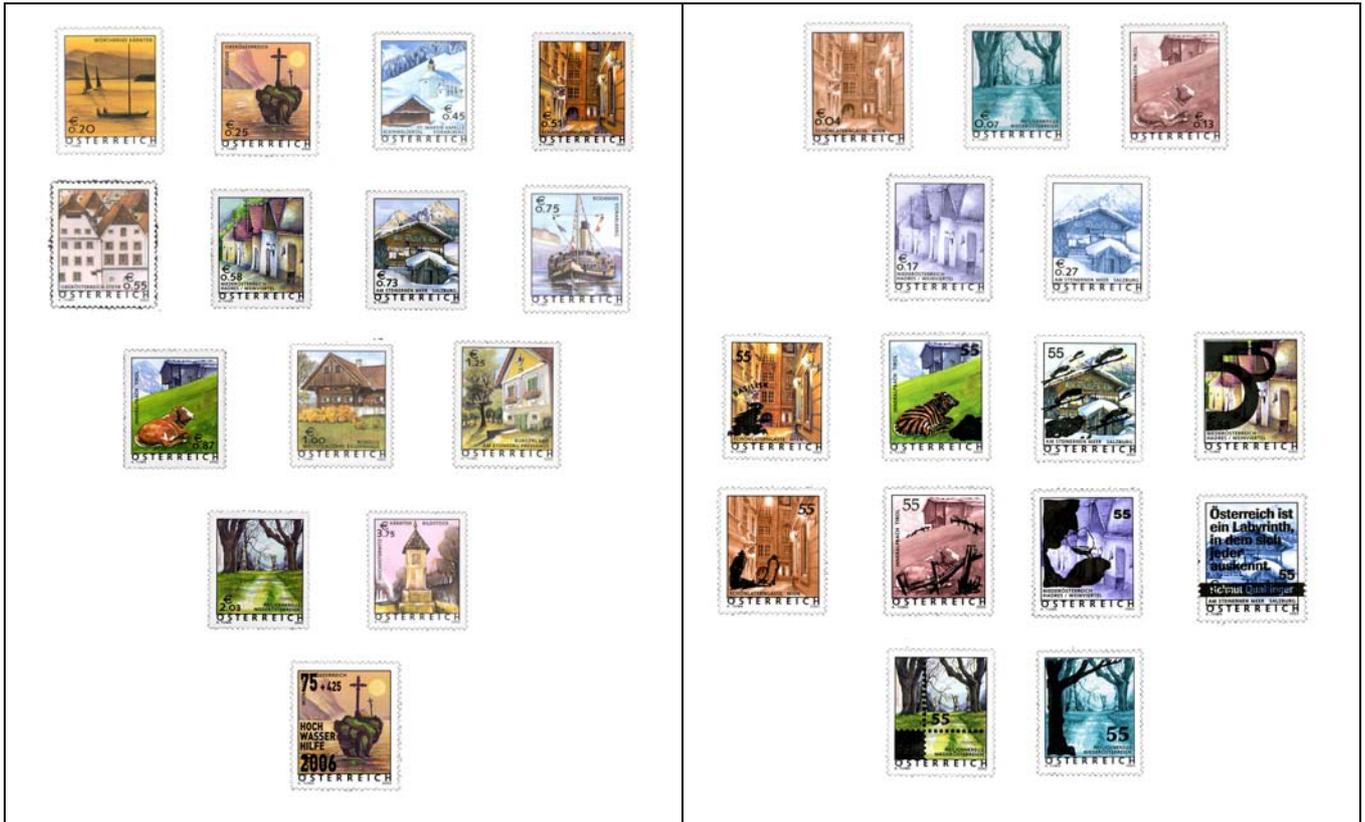
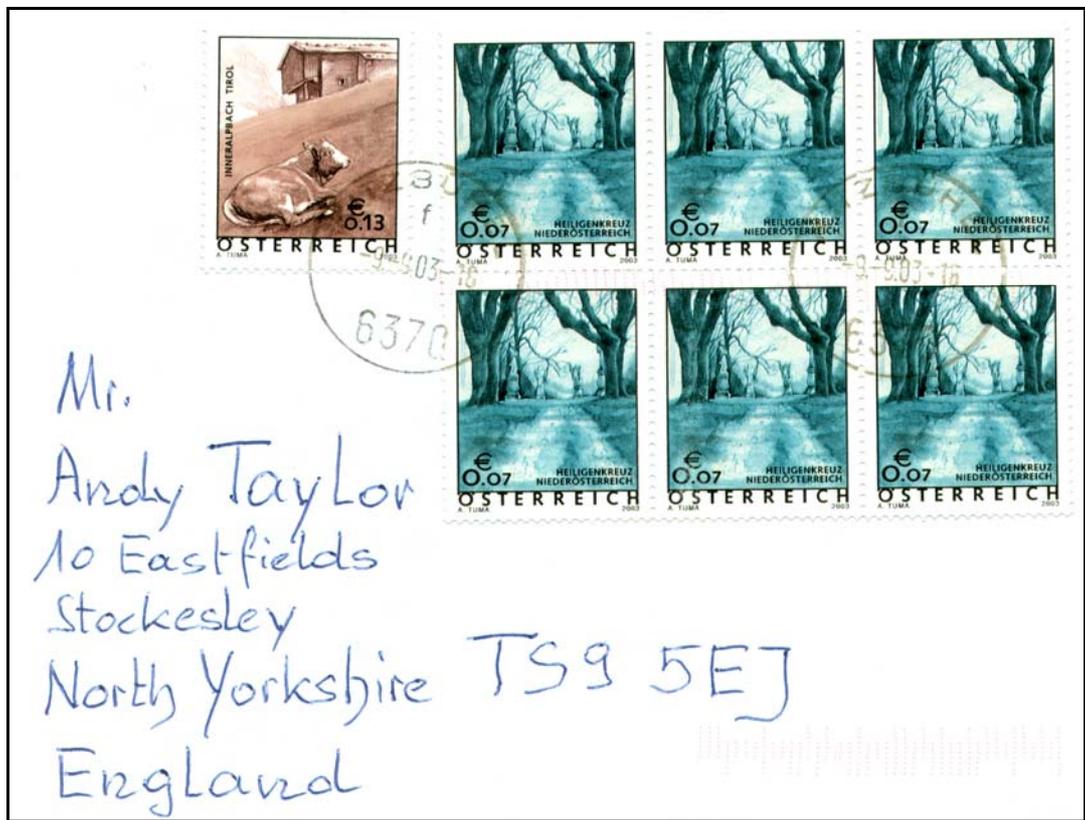


Illustration 1: the normal definitives and the 2006 Flood Relief overprint

Illustration 2: at top the make-up definitives; below are the “55 cent overprints”



A cover from and to a philatelist, using only the makeup values!

A BEGINNING AND AN END

Or, the story of Austrian Newspaper Post from the accession of Charles I (21 Nov 1916) to the withdrawal of newspaper post stamps (1 Mar 1922).

By Andy Taylor

Setting the scene

When Charles became Emperor, newspapers were being sent by post from their publishers to subscribers using systems established some 65 years previously. For ‘inland’ subscribers, special adhesives were used - the first being the Mercury - and a special discounted postal rate was applied. ‘Foreign’ subscribers were sent their copies as Printed Matter, often at discounted rates.



This article will concentrate on the inland newspaper mail of Austria during the post-WWI period, where unusual material has recently been obtained [I] *{square-bracketed numbers refer to the notes at the end}* and the details of the many changes to the rates and the regulations unravelled. [II] For assistance with the latter I give grateful thanks to Frau Sinnmayer of the Austrian Post Office, and to the staff of the Technical Museum Library; and to whoever it is that subsidises the “Austrian laws on line” web site. The different systems used in Hungary and Bosnia-Herzgowina will not be discussed; I have little knowledge and less background in these areas, and the archives are inaccessible to me. We begin with Charles’ accession: what was happening then?

Postal matters and everything else were governed by Laws; I’ll call them all ‘laws’ although they vary in status from fullscale decisions of The Emperor, through Verordnungs of whichever Ministry had responsibility for postal matters, to civil service memoranda explaining how to give effect to the regulations. Conveniently for this article, the newspaper postal service was redefined from scratch in sections 5 & 6 of “1906 RGB251” [III]. Normally the complete text of postal Laws in the RGB is repeated verbatim in a PVOB [IV]. The details of the 1906 postal rates are typically complex.

- Is the item a registered newspaper ordered from an accredited publisher by an inland subscriber? If not, it is treated as whatever class of post it qualifies for (typically Printed Matter) and charged accordingly.
- Is the newspaper published more than once per week (subsequently clarified to include “more than 52 times per year”)? If so, the rate is 2 heller per copy irrespective of its weight.
- If not, is the newspaper published once or less per week but at least twice per month AND does each copy weigh not more than 250 grams? If so, the rate is 2 heller per copy.
- For newspapers that do not fall into any of the above weight and frequency categories, the rate is 2 heller per 100 grams or part thereof.
- Subscribed-for evening issues and supplements, and also calendars brochures price-lists and such issued as part of the subscription package, and subscription-renewal forms, travel post-free provided that they are enclosed in the same wrapper as the newspaper and do not make it too large for letter mail.
- Items forming part of the subscription package which for whatever reason didn’t qualify for free-with-the-paper postage, and which weighed no more than 30 grams, were handled as printed matter at a special highly reduced rate of 1/3 heller for one copy weighing up to 10 grams, 2/3 heller for 10+ to 20 grams, and 1h for 20+ to 30 grams. The postage was paid in cash, fractions of hellers in the total (not the individual!) amount being rounded up. [‘Normal’ printed matter was 3h for 50 grams.]

Adhesive stamps of face values 2h, 6h, 10h and 20h had been issued at the end of 1899 (replacing the 1867 Mercury and coping with the currency change) and were available to registered publishers only. They bought the stamps in whole sheets of 100 from their allocated Post Office, and paid in cash. If a subscriber ordered a single copy, it would be enclosed in a wrapper called a Schleife, the address details added by a label, and the postage paid by a 2h adhesive. If the subscriber was a Verschleisser (retailer) and ordered 10 copies, these would all be put in the same wrapper, and franked with a 20h stamp (or two 10h).

In 1908, RGB032 announced the issue of a new design of newspaper post stamps, again with face values of 2h, 6h, 10h and 20h. They were to be made available as the previous issue ran out. In addition, the 2h could be imprinted on privately-supplied wrappers, envelopes and address labels, in green instead of the dark blue of the adhesive. Müller notes that during its validity 2 thousand million of the 2h stamp were printed, issued and almost completely used up! The other three were less popular; about 20 million of each being used.

The 1916 issue



The postage stamp issue of 1 October 1916 was produced to cater for a rates rise introduced mainly to raise funds for the war. At the same time, although the newspaper rates were unchanged the opportunity was taken to introduce a ‘modern’ Jugendstil design using a new drawing by Dr Rudolf Junk. The newspaper stamps are all in uniform design featuring a long inscription “KAISERLICH KÖNIGLICHE ÖSTERREICHISCHE POST” (Imperial Royal Austrian Post) around the Mercury head.

The authority for issue is 1916 RGB 319 “Verordnung des Handelsministers vom 22 Sep 1916 betreffend die Ausgabe neuer Postwertzeichen”; it also includes stamps for letters etc. The newspaper stamps had face values of 2h, 4h, 6h, 10h and 30h. The 2h and 6h were also available as imprints, coloured cinnamon-red and violet instead of brown and blue. The previous issues were valid until 31 Dec 1916; they could be exchanged for new ones until 28 Feb 1917. The Law is coy about the actual date of availability of the newspaper stamps, but it was probably “as the previous issue ran out”; they were issued from a central depot in Vienna to local depots from which individual Post Offices requisitioned them.

There is an interesting additional piece of information in Müller's “Die Postmarken von Oesterreich”, page 327. Up to October 1 1916, price lists, catalogues, etc. as long as they were issued at least 4 times a year, were sent with the reduced newspaper tariff and used newspaper stamps. This ended on Oct 1, 1916, after which only proper newspapers and journals could be sent using the reduced newspaper rates, and the other stuff had to be sent using the printed matter rates. Only in the transition period until October 31, notes Müller, was the use of the old newspaper rates for these other items “tolerated”.

Illustration: part of a very large wrapper from Strefleurs Militärblatt in Vienna to Herr Hašek, Feldjägerbaon 6 at Kolosvar in Hungary (and onwards to FPA297). Franked with 2h imprint and a 6h and 2h adhesive. Despatch cancel unclear, but arrival noted by him in pencil as 19/10/1917.

The new stamps were coloured: 2h brown, 4h green, 6h blue, 10h orange, and 30h maroon. They were issued in the usual 100-stamp imperf sheets; gutter pairs are known from uncut printing sheets. Cliché-protecting edge bars produce pieces with marginal bars (eg the 6h above!). The 2h and 10h have a wide range of colour tones. Paper faults are known, some being genuinely used. Numerous private perforations are found. The perforations are sometimes very sloppy, and double perforating frequently occurs. Stamps perforated on all four sides but also cut on two sides arise when a strip of privately-perforated stamps is stuck on an address label sheet which is then cut up.

Emperor Charles I: 21/11/1916 – 11/11/1918

On 21 Nov 1916, Franz Josef I died and Charles became Emperor. Little had changed as regards newspaper post since 1906 – indeed little had changed since 1851. True, the country had gone to war, but that had had curiously little effect on newspaper stamps! In contrast to the events at the end of the Second World War, the end of the 1914-18 war and the dissolution of the Empire brought no great interruptions in the postal system. The organisation remained intact, the instructions remained unchanged initially, and the available stamps went on sale again and were cancelled just as before.

This is a good place to point out that inflation hit the newspaper post just as for everything else. However, the changes made to cope with it were at different dates from the ‘ordinary post’ changes, and often were notified in different decrees. Karasek, Kroiss and others refer to Inflation Period 1 etc BUT these are quite different from the letter mail inflation periods and there are only 5 of them:

1st: 12 Nov 1918 to 30 June 1920

2nd: 1 July 1920 to 31 Mar 1921

3rd: 1 April 1921 to 30 Sept 1921

4th: 1 Oct 1921 to 31 Dec 1921

5th: 1 Jan 1922 to 28 Feb 1922

Proclamation of Deutsch-Österreich: 30 October 1918.

Charles “renounced participation in the affairs of government” on 11 Nov 1918 (he did not abdicate!). Meanwhile, the newly formed National Assembly proclaimed in Law 1918 SGB001 the State of Deutsch-Österreich (German-Austria) with effect from 30 October 1918.

The First Inflation Rates Period

For newspaper postage, this is defined as beginning on 12/11/1918; the rates were still 2h etc as in 1906. On 29 Jan 1919, Law 1919 SGB057 was passed (doubtless for some political reason), merging Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones into one Generaldirektion from 1 Feb 1919.

Deutschösterreich overprints



In 1918, PTVOB067 Nr 67 of 2nd December 1918 announced that “until new stamps are issued” the existing ones, including the 1916 newspaper stamps, would be issued with the imprint “Deutschösterreich”. The unoverprinted stamps already distributed would be used up. [The orientation of the imprint is not specified; presumably diagonal looked better!]

Proclamation of Republik Österreich: 21 October 1919

The Allied Powers acting under the Treaty of St Germain [^{vi}] prohibited any form of union between Germany and Austria, so the Austrian National Assembly had to pass Law 1919 SGB484, which begins rather grumpily “Deutschösterreich as constrained by the Treaty of St Germain is a democratic republic called Republik Österreich” and continues with various consequential changes. The creation of a Generaldirektion was one of the first things to be reversed; 1919 SGB496 of 21 Oct revoked SGB057 and created as from 1 Jan 1920 two separate ‘sections’, one for Posts and another for Telegraphs, Telephones and Rohrpost.

The “Renner” issue of 1920



The letter postage rates were increased on 15 Jan 1920, and new values were required. This gave the opportunity to get away from the newspaper stamps of the monarchy, even though the rates remained the same, and to adjust the newspaper stamps to the style of the other stamps. The “Renner-issue” showed Mercury full-face surmounted with the inscription “Deutschösterreich”. [They are named after the designer J F Renner, not the politician Karl!]

1920 PVOB001 nr 2 dated 31/12/1919 includes the beginning of the issue of the “Renner” newspaper stamps, values 2h, 4h, 8h, 12h, 20h, & 60h. They probably became available on 15 Jan 1920. Imprints were permitted with face values 2h, 4h & 8h in the same colours as the corresponding adhesives.

Law 1920 SGB130 dated 22 March (and repeated verbatim in 1920 PVOB 15 of 31/3/1920) announced changes to the 1906 Postordnung RGB251 effective from 1 July. Henceforth, complex weight-related formula for postage cost of ‘daily’ papers would apply, with a minimum cost per copy of 6h. ‘Monthly’ papers were to pay

10h/50gram, 6h for 25gram, 150% if rolled [a 20 gram roll would present a problem as 9h franking was not then possible!]. Dailies would pay the postage costs in cash; monthlies would be franked with adhesives.

The Newspaper Post Ordinance of 8 May 1920

However before this 22 March law could come into effect, it was superseded by the new **Newspaper Post Ordinance of 8 May 1920**, RGB 204 which came into effect on 1st July 1920. The title of this is Vollzugsanweisungen des Staatsamtes für Verkehrswesen vom 8. Mai 1920 womit eine Zeitungspostordnung erlassen wird; it is 16 pages long and printed in Frakturschrift. I have tried to give a simplified version below, although it may not look simple!

As usual, the law was repeated in 1920 PVOB023 nr 16. This bears the even longer title Gesetz und Vollzugsanweisungen des Staatsamtes für Verkehrswesen vom 8. Mai 1920 womit eine Zeitungspostordnung erlassen wird. It also includes “**Ausführungsbestimmungen**”; these are explanations, cross-references and so on, placed in long footnotes, which expand the document into 68 pages! [*Consult the author if you want to borrow a copy...*]

Valiant attempts were made to keep this PVOB and its Ausführungsbestimmungen up to date – it was the primary “how to do it” manual. Regular amendment instructions were issued; most included several deletions of paragraphs and renumbering of subsequent ones. They also featured “Deckblatt”, which are new or amended sections to be cut out and physically stuck into the copy of the book held by each Post Office. These procedures means that all subsequent amendments [^{vi}] are to the changed text, ie changes are cumulative; missing one leads to anything from mild confusion to serious error. [The same system was applied to the letter post regulations.]

Article IV of the law says that it replaced all previous laws etc that dealt with newspaper post, which it does not list. So we can discard the 1906 law and its amendments, and wipe the slate clean, which is much easier to understand than having to take account of previous documents that you haven’t found. “It’s the unknown unknowns that cause the greatest trouble.”

What does the 1920 Newspaper Post Ordinance say?

Summary: For registered publishers only, the rates for newspapers and magazines depended on how often they were printed (daily, weekly etc) and on the total weight (including all supplements) for the year. The “basis weight rate” was 2 Kronen per kilogram per year. There were also minimum rates per copy: printing on tissue paper would have been fruitless! Dailies paid their postage monthly in cash. Monthlies were to be franked at 10h/50gram, + 50% if rolled, 6h for 35 gram (rolling an up-to-35-gram item was forbidden). In anticipation, Renner-issue values of 5h 6h & 10h were issued in June 1920 (PVOB030 Nr 87).

Sections 5 & 6 of the Zeitungspostordnung lists in great detail what does and does not qualify as a newspaper: for example (yes:) samples and specimens illustrating technical articles as long as they’re not too thick; price-lists delivery-possibilities and subscription-forms; adverts; (no:) handwritten supplements; prospectuses; almanacs; items published less than once a quarter; anything over 500 grams weight. [See also sections 22-23 below]

Section 10 defines a ‘daily’ paper as one published at least once each day, or failing that at least once a week, or if irregularly published then with a yearly total averaging at least once a week. Section 17 defines a ‘monthly’ as a paper published less than once a week. [One can predict bureaucratic boundary disputes!]

Section 11 gives the typically-complex method of charging for the postage of ‘daily’ papers. [It would have been much easier if they’d used a flowchart!]

- For daily newspapers published not more than once a day: assemble one copy of each issue for the period 1st October to the following 30th September; weigh it in kilograms; calculate a fee as 2 Kronen per kg; divide by 52 to get a weekly fee; divide that by the number of days in each week when the paper is issued; if result less than 6 then call it 6; this is the rate per copy in heller. [Payment is in cash, against a monthly invoice, so it doesn’t matter if there is no adhesive corresponding to the rate.]
- For daily newspapers which on one or more days per week publish more than one issue (eg a morning & an evening issue) and post them all at the same time: work out the rate-per-copy as above, including every issue.

- For daily newspapers which on one or more days per week publish more than one issue (eg a morning & an evening issue) and post them at different times: work out the rate-per-copy as above, including every issue. Each sending pays the rate-per-copy and in addition a supplementary fee of 1/20th of the weekly fee.
- All these weighty sums are to be done to the milliheller, and the results submitted by 10 Nov each year for the following year.

Section 14: the Post Office keeps records of what's posted and calculates the postage costs for each month, invoicing the publisher by 10th of the following month; he must pay by the 20th in cash. If your designated office is Wien 1 you can opt to pay by Postsparkasse transfer. If you don't pay your newspapers will be barred from the newspaper service.

If you don't publish often enough your paper is transferred to the monthly system. Since this means your payment for postage changes from monthly-in-arrears to adhesives bought for cash in advance, it would cause a severe cash flow crisis to the publisher.

Sections 18 to 20 deal with the postage rates for monthly papers. Each copy with its supplements, permitted inclusions etc is to be weighed. The rate is then 10 heller per 50 grams; if rolled up it costs 50% more; if not over 35 grams it costs 6h and may not be rolled. If several copies are posted in the same wrapper, the cost for each is calculated and the total cost levied.

The postage on monthlies is to be paid with newspaper stamps, which are not valid for anything else. The franking must be correct [presumably overpaying was tolerated!]; un- or partly-franked items noticed at the handing-in office would be rejected. The placing of the adhesives was prescribed in detail: on the wrapper, on the envelope, on or next the address label; and they must all be visible. If in a bundle or to a local address, they were to be cancelled at the office of posting; otherwise at the delivery office; if the delivering person noticed uncanceled stamps he was to cancel them by crossing out or some similar method.

Sections 22 & 23 deal with Beilage; I thank Henry Pollak for patiently trying to reduce my misunderstandings thereof. There are two different kinds of Beilagen (ie supplements or inserts): those added by the newspaper publisher, and those which another person or corporation are paying to have distributed with the newspaper.

Section 22(1) says that printed matter which in form, paper, printing and other characteristics doesn't look like components of the newspaper itself may be included for mailing with the newspaper. In particular, those additions which the publisher of the newspaper includes on regularly recurring occasions (be they art prints, books, transport schedules, calendars, or other such printed matter) may be sent as a special category called Beilagen.

Section 22(2) says: (a) The enclosures may not contain any handwriting;
 (b) They must be of such a nature as to cause no alteration in the usual way in which the newspaper is wrapped;
 (c)(1) An insert which originates from other persons or businesses who are paying the publisher to include it with the newspaper is permitted; such a Beilage may not weigh more than 30 grams;
 (c)(2) In all other cases, the total weight of the particular issue of the newspaper including the inserts may not exceed 500 grams;
 (d) An other newspaper can be treated as a regular periodic Beilage to the main newspaper but only if this fact is announced in the original newspaper (it doesn't matter if it is connected to the main newspaper or not).

Section 23(1) says that those Beilagen which come from the newspaper publisher himself AND are included with the entire edition of the newspaper (as opposed to the copies destined for only a part of its readership) are included with the weighing and postage-computations of the newspaper.

Section 23(2)(a) states that all other supplements are paid for in a different way, as follows: weigh one copy of each Beilage to the nearest gram; compute the total weight of all these Beilagen; pay 2 Kronen for each kilogram.

Section 23(2)(b) requires the publisher to notify in writing the weight of one of each such Beilage and the total weight of all of them to his post office. The post office tests the weight, and does sample inspections of the count.

Section 23(2)(c) lays down that when the publisher delivers an edition which contains the Beilagen to the post office, he has to pay the Beilagen fee in cash. If the total sum is not divisible by 10, it gets rounded up [*presumably this is heller, although it doesn't say*]. The publisher gets a receipt.

Section 37 describes the (previously introduced) Railway Station Newspaper. A publisher could arrange that a parcel of newspapers was collected from the station by the addressee instead of delivered by the postman; this would make the paper available for sale sooner. They were to be bundled separately, with a red wrapper. Here three 1908 stamps send 3 copies of Die Zeit to Kufstein at an illegible pre-1917 date.



We will see later that a cycle was established: a law raised the rates and maybe altered the calculation basis; adhesives of suitable face values were printed and issued, the rate change took effect; meanwhile inflation accelerated and yet another rates rise and accompanying stamps was needed. Eventually, in March 1922, the authorities gave up this particular struggle. But I'm getting ahead of strict chronology.

Worked examples (mine not theirs)

Illustration I: I publish 500 copies of a monthly journal "Austrian Philately"; a copy weighs 120 grams; each quarter it routinely includes a separate Auction List weighing 50 grams. It's posted flat, so the rate is 10 heller per 50 grams or part. The normal copy falls in the third weight band (101-150g) so costs 30h. With the auction list it falls in the fourth band so costs 40h. As this is a monthly paper, I apply adhesives to each copy's wrapper. The total cost per month is $500 \times 30h = 15Kr$ without the list, $500 \times 40h = 20Kr$ with.

Illustration II: The Miss Plaste Trust want me to include their 30 gram holiday brochure with the next issue. This is a Beilage, so I tell the post office to expect 500 30-gram brochures. This will cost $500 \times 30gm = 15Kg$ at 2 Kronen per Kg = 30 Kronen, which I have to hand over in cash when I post the journal-with-inclusion.

Illustration III: I decide to save money by not sending auction lists to the 10 members with red hair. That means that the list no longer qualifies for inclusion with the newspaper for postage calculations, as not all subscribers are to receive it; instead it's a Beilage. So, all the copies of the journal cost 30h as calculated in Illustration I; copies accompanied by the list also pay the Beilage charges. These are: 490 lists of 50 grams = $24.5Kg$ at 2Kr per Kg = 49Kr. Hence, it costs me an extra 44Kr to not send copies to the red-haired members!

Obsoleting

As often happens, reality was even more complex than the above descriptions, because of a practice I have named "obsoleting". When a particular value of a stamp issue is officially "obsoleted", this means that no more are to be printed, but any residue in the hands of publishers (the only authorised users) can either be used for postage, or exchanged (for a fee) at their designated Post Office for current values. Items can be found 'overfranked', eg a 20h stamp to pay an 18h rate; since the publisher had already bought and paid for the stamp, the cheapest thing to do with it would be to use it.

Issuing the Renner issue

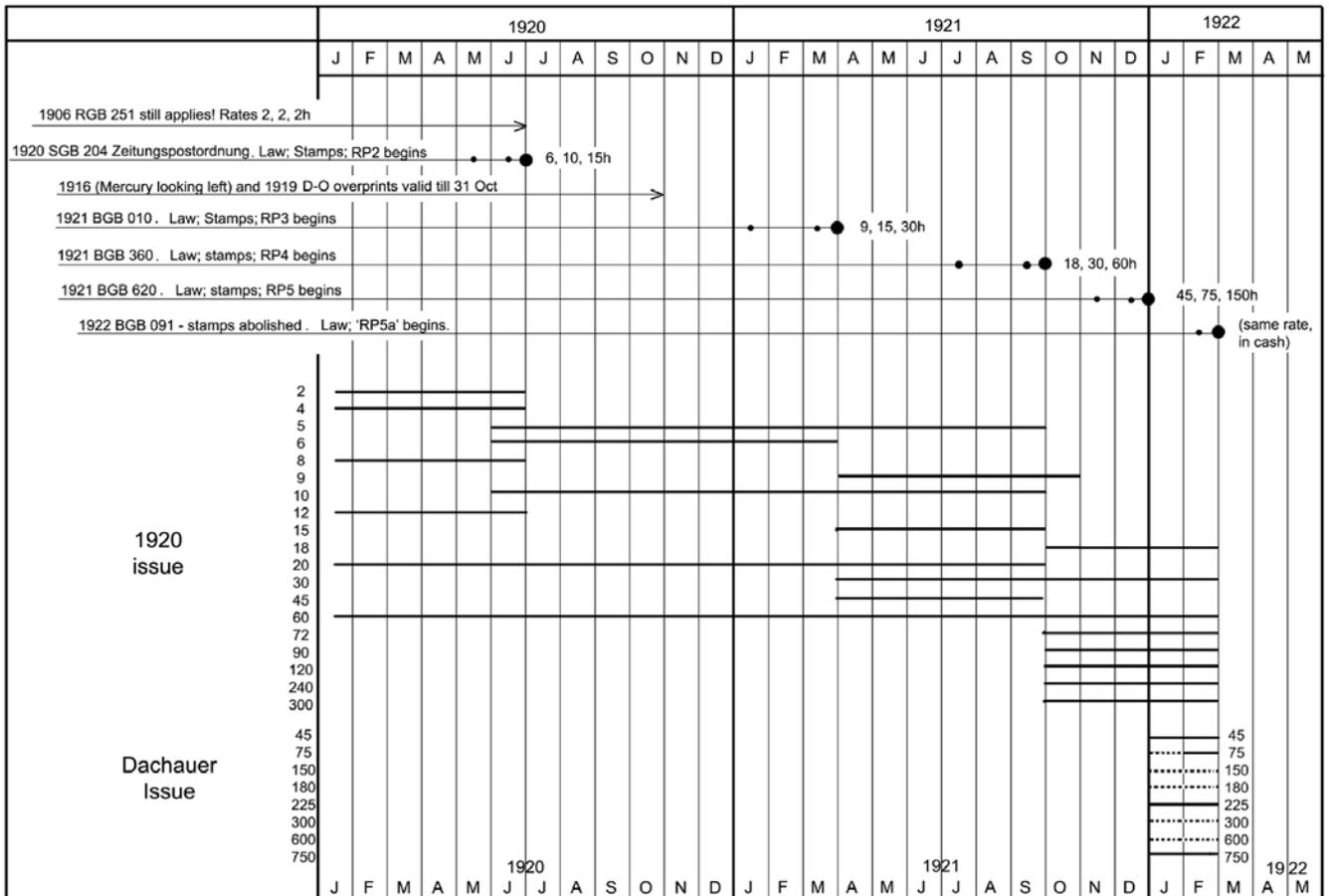
A given value was only released from the warehouse to the post offices when the previous version (mainly the D-Öst overprinted 1919) had run out or been invalidated and when there was a need for them. Kroiss (see refs at end) tabulates the earliest known usage dates of each value, and for example the 2h, notionally issued in mid-Jan 1920, isn't found before March since the 2h from 1919 was available. The 5h however was issued in June 1920 and recorded in use from July; no combination of the 1919 values 2, 4, 6 & 10 makes 15h, the rate for a rolled newspaper from 1 July.

This may be clearer in a table of the entire 1920 issue (below), or in a bar chart (next page). In the table's second column, the first date is that of issue, from the PVOBs. The second date (after the //) is from Kroiss and is probably the date of first recorded usage. There was never a time when all 19 values of the Renner issue were simultaneously available at the post office counters, since the low values were withdrawn or exhausted.

The "Renner issue" of 1920-21		
Face	Issued [source]	Ended [source]
2	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 3.1920	Obsoleted 1 July 1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87]
4	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 3.1920	Obsoleted 1 July 1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87]
5	1.7.1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87] // 7.1920	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
6	1.7.1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87] // 7.1920	Obsoleted 1 Apr 1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52]
8	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 3.1920	Obsoleted 1 July 1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87]
9	1.4.1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52] // early April 1921	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
10	1.7.1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87] // 7.1920	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
12	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 4.1920	Obsoleted 1 July 1920 [1920 PVOB030 Nr 87]
15	1.4.1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52] // 4.1921	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
18	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // end 10.1921	
20	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 4.1920	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
30	1.4.1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52] // 4.1921	
45	1.4.1921 [1921 PVOB017 Nr 52] // 4.1921	Obsoleted 1 Oct 1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144]
60	15.1.1920 [1920 PVOB001 Nr 2] // 4.1920	
72	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 19.10.1921	
90	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 10.1921	
120	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 10.1921	
240	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 19.10.1921	
300	1.10.1921 [1921 PVOB047 Nr 144] // 19.0.1921	

The values not officially obsoleted seem never to have been formally withdrawn, but to have become useless when franking-by-adhesives was abolished on 1 March 1922. (For a limited period they could be exchanged for letter-post stamps.)





This chart tries to show at the top the dates when each newspaper inflation period began, and the dates for the passing of the corresponding law and the introduction of the requisite new stamps. Underneath are the dates of issue and withdrawal for each value of the 1920 & 1922 series.

1/7/1920 - Second inflation rates period begins: 6/10/15h

[The meaning of “6/10/15h” is that the rate for a light-weight posted-flat monthly newspaper is 6h; for heavier papers 10h per 50 grams if posted flat and 15h per 50 grams if rolled.]



◀ Cancel unreadable, although probably the same as on the next 4 items.

The newspaper reused as the wrapper was published on 10/3/1921.

Most likely explanation is two standard flat newspapers at 10h each; note the two vertical lines at the bottom – a feature also seen on several other wrappers from this source.



◀ Mixed franking of 1919 and 1920 issues. Cancel date 3/7/1920. Rate correct for one lightweight flat newspaper in period 2.

The reuse of an old newspaper for the wrapper is common; it can provide a useful clue if the cancel is unclear, as it won't have been reused before the date of issue. Occasionally the date is not present but the paper can be placed in a narrow date window by the news it contains.

Cancel date 7/7/1920. ▶
Again a lightweight flat newspaper.



◀ Cancel date 11/10/1920. Franked 18h, but the pencilled /// may mean "3 copies at 6h each" which is the only rate that makes sense. The wrapper is a reused German-Czech maternity ward report!



Cancel unreadable. ▶
Most likely explanation is two standard flat newspapers at 10h each in inflation period 2



Preparing for inflation period 3

1920 PVOB037 Nr 104 issued on 19th July withdrew some D-Ö-overprints from 31.10.1920. It is unclear from the wording if the newspaper ones were included, although it is likely that they were as no other instruction has been located.

1921 BGB060 dated 17/1/1921 and repeated as 1921 PVOB003 Nr 3 on 20/1/21. Rates up as from 1 April 1921. Dailies “basis weight rate” 3Kr/Kg, 9h min per copy; monthlies to be franked at 15h per 50gram, doubled if rolled, 9h for 35gram. Rolled 35g not mentioned so previous ban would stay

1921 PVOB017 Nr 52 of 17/3/1921 announced the issue of new values of 9h, 15h, 30h, 45h; the 6h was obsoleted; the 5h, 10h, 20h, & 60h remain current. Also, only monthlies are to be franked; dailies are to be paid in cash. Imprints are available of the 9h, 15h, 30h, 45h & 60h values, in the same colours as the corresponding adhesives.

1/4/1921 - Third inflation rates period begins: 9/15/30h



◀ Cancel 21/6/1921. Franking 15h. Period 3, standard 50-gram flat. [There is no period when one copy needed 7½h franking, so this is not a 2-copy posting despite the pair of 11 pencil lines.] The ‘223’, also on a period-2 piece, must be his subscription number.

Cancel must be after 10/3/1921, ► the date of the wrapping newspaper. The 10h stamp was obsoleted on 1 Oct 1921. Franked 30h. Most likely usage is 2x15h for two standard flats posted in period 3. It could be one roll at 30h but the wrapper doesn't look like a roll and none of the other “Die Postmarke to Herr Hašek” were rolls.



◀ Cancel date 9/9/1921 Period 3. Medium-size wrapper. Franked 45h. Must be three standard flats at 15h

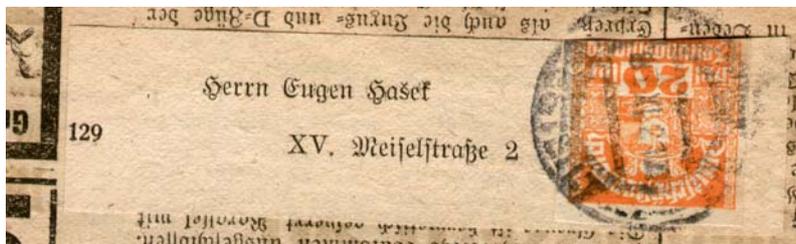
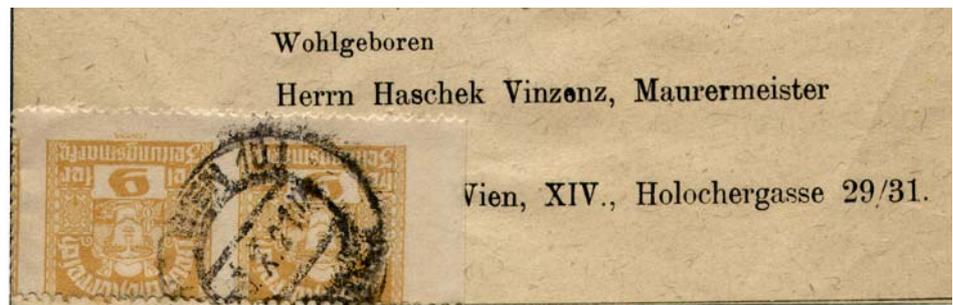
Preparing for inflation period 4

1921 BGB360 of 12 July repeated in 1921 PVOB037 Nr 23 of the same date raised the rates from 1 Oct 1921. Dailies “basis weight rate” 6K/Kg, 18h min per copy; monthlies to be franked at 30h/50gram, doubled if rolled, the reduced rate for 35gram items was 18h.

1921 PVOB047 Nr 144 of 26/9/1921 notes the issue of more new values, of 18h, 72h, 90h, 120h, 240h, & 300h; the 5h, 9h, 10h, 15h, 20h & 45h were obsoleted; 30h & 60h remained current

1/10/1921 - Fourth inflation rates period begins: 18/30/60h

Cancel date ?/10/1921, ►
 Franked 18h. Period 4, single
 light-weight flat item.
 Original wrapper, not a
 reused newspaper!



◀ Newspaper wrapper made from a strip of an old newspaper; franked twenty (20) heller; cancel dated 15-or-25 November 1921.

This is in the middle of Period 4, but there was no 20h rate at that date. Also, the adhesive had been withdrawn on

1/10/1921 although it could be used up. What might be happening?

Possibilities include (a) franking error un-noticed by Post Office (b) date error on canceller, Nov 1920 being a valid usage (c) something else. The old newspaper is a mixture of adverts and news, so I wondered if I could get a fix on the date from the news. I managed to read on the inside without damaging it: “Ob exkaiser Karl - der unterdessen in Odenburg eine neue ungarische Regierung ernannt hat...” and on the inside a big-print headline “Angeblicher Vormarsch gegen Budapest. / Die Massnahmen der oesterr. Regierung. / Eine Kundgebung des Wiener Burgermeisters.”

If all else fails RTFM ... here the book “The Last Habsburg” by Brook- Shepherd. “Odenburg” (= Sopron) is the key. The article has to be about (ex)Kaiser Karl’s second attempt to regain Hungary. That was in late October 1921; he arrived in Odenburg on the 20th and in Budapest on 23rd. So this scrap of newspaper must be from the 20-somethingth of October 1921 - and hence a cancel of Nov 1921 is eminently believable while 1920 is impossible.

And the excess franking? HP has pointed out that the simplest explanation is that the 20h stamp although obsoleted is being used to pay the rate-since-1st-October of 18h. After all, you've bought the stamp already, and what can you get in 1921 for 2 heller?

Preparing for inflation period 5

1921 BGB620 of 11 Nov repeated in 1921 PVOB056 Nr 28 of the same date raised the rates from 1 Jan 1922. Dailies “basis weight rate” 15K/Kg, min 45h per copy; monthlies to be franked at 75h/50gram, doubled if rolled, the reduced rate for 35gram items was 45h.

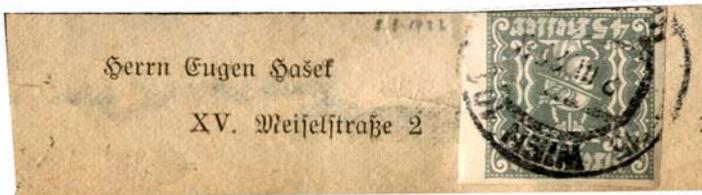
1921 BGB704 of 16 Dec repeated in 1921 PVOB061 Nr 31 of 16/11/1921 contains lengthy Madrid-UPU inspired amendments for the Newspaper Postal Ordinance; most concern the arrangements for posting abroad.

1921 PVOB064 Nr 196 of 20/12/1921 is the then-current list of about 150 newspapers that qualify as “daily”.

Uncancelled, but clearly one of ► the ongoing mailings of Die Postmarke to Hašek. Obtained at the same time from the same box!

Probable arrival date written in pencil at top: 13/2/1922.

Franking of 150h correct for two standard flats in period 5.



◀ Cancel 2/3/1922. The same date pencilled at the top, as for many of the items addressed to Hašek. Could this be a “last day of newspaper postage stamps” item? The franking of 45h (= single lightweight flat) could have been valid when the item was posted!

1/3/1922 - Newspaper stamps now invalid; all payments in cash.

The Dachauer issue is the last newspaper postage issue of Austria. I have no examples of newspapers posted from 1 March 1922 without adhesive stamps – perhaps philatelists deemed them not worth keeping.

1922 BGB200 of 10 April again raised the rates; daily & monthly stated separately but are the same and based on weight: 30Kr/yearly-Kg. Minimum now 90h/copy; rolls still double rate and banned under 30gram. Beilage 30Kr/kg

On 5 July 1922, BGB406 was issued promulgating a new Postordnung (effective 15 July) and repealing the old one (22 Sep 1916) & its amendments (which are listed: a useful source of the laws quoted above!). There is no mention of newspapers.

1922 BGB431 of 8 July contains changes to the 1920 Newspaper Postal Ordinance effective 1 August; no explicit mention of rates

1922 BGB572 of 2 August gives new rates for Wertbrief, Postanweisung, etc Some (all?) newspaper rates doubled.

1922 BGB707 of 24 September promulgates the **new Newspaper Postal Ordinance** effective 1 Oct, and repeals various listed preceding laws and amendments (strictly speaking, any others are thus still valid). The rates were: daily 60K/kg, per-copy 180h minimum; monthly the same; rolls over 30gram OK & double rate.

This ‘closes the books’ on our chosen period.

Further reading

In English:

- Müller's Handbook of cancellations: the introduction passim
- "Austria" 66/20, 67/15, 68/41, 70/8 & 72/20, which are translations from the 1970 Wiener Briefmarken Spiegel articles, themselves translating "A Magyar Belyegek Monografija" from Hungarian into German. [See 71/10 and 72/9 for a comment on a misprint in the W.B.S.] These articles cover details of papers and watermarks; the definitions of the subtypes may not be those used here.
- Klein: "The regular postmarks..." Vol 1: introduction; Vol 2: section 14
- "Austria" 135 pp 33ff "Official Reprints".

In German:

- Die Briefmarke 4/1997 pp 33-40
- Wurth's Postal History vol XIV (1991) especially pp 64-97
- Rieger: 2nd issue of Klein Vol 1 (with Klein's original introduction translated into German!).
- "Inflation in Österreich 1918-1925" by H Karasek, 1990
- **"Belege der Österreichischen Inflationszeit 1918-1925" by DiplIng Peter Kroiss, 2008**
- "Österreich Netto Spezialkatalog"; always use the latest issue
- "Österreich 1850-1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog" vols I & II, by Prof Dr U Ferchenbauer, 2008
- "Der Zeitungsversand während der Inflationszeit" by DiplIng Dr J Gatterer, in "110 Jahre Österreichische Phil. Club Vindobona Wien", 1990.
- "Reichs-, Staats- & Bundesgesetzblatt" on-line
- Postverordnungsblatt; most years are available by prior reservation at the Vienna Technical Museum Library

Notes to the text

ⁱ Nearly all the material is from the accumulation of Eugen Hašek, indisputably a philatelist, whose descendants evidently cleared out the family attics in 2011 to a dealer who brought them to Numiphil!

ⁱⁱ Electronic scans of all the regulations referred to are available from the author as PDF files; note that these are images not text, and some of the files are surprisingly large.

ⁱⁱⁱ "1906 RGB256" means Law 256 of the year 1906 as promulgated in the Reichsgesetzblatt. This is available on line at <http://alex.onb.ac.at/> [the equivalent for Britain is <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>]. The Austrian database (and its contents lists) contains images of pages, not text, so is not searchable. After 1918 it became the SGB, Staatsgesetzblatt. Each year is numbered from 1, except 1934 where Dolfuss restarted from 1 on 1st May on the creation of the 'Bundesstaat'.

^{iv} PVOB = Postverordnungsblatt; these are regulations, instructions and personalia issued by the Ministry responsible for the Posts. To consult them you must go to the Vienna Technical Museum. At times the Post and the Telegraph services were merged; the documents then become PTVOB = Post- u. Telegraphenverordnungsblatt.

^v See for example Ferchenbauer2008 part III page 85

^{vi} I had believed that the Treaty of St Germain did not exist in a German version. While the Official Text states that it was "done in English, French and Italian" and that if they diverge the French has supremacy, I have discovered a parallel-text French and German version in the Gesetzblatt: 1920 SGB303 (pages 995 to 1245)

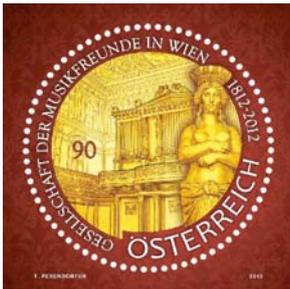
^{vii} Amendments 1-19 are in 1920 PVOB027 Nr 77 of 30 May 1920; 20-21 in 1920 PVOB030 Nr 88 of 19 June 1920; 22-27 in 1920 PVOB031 Nr 91 of 22 June 1920; 28-60 in 1921 PVOB017 Nr 53 of 18 Mar 1921; 61-68 in 1921 PVOB047 Nr 142 of 21 Sep 1921; 69-90 in 1921 PVOB065 Nr 201 of 24 Dec 1921; and 91-103 in PVOB009 Verf36 of 18 Feb 1922

2012 NEW ISSUES (first instalment)

by Andy Taylor

Author's Notes

The information given here is title; 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. The illustrations are around life size, although blocks & strips are smaller. The issue dates and the list's order are taken from "Die Briefmarke". More extensive descriptions can sometimes be found on the English version of the Post.at website; but this seems to be concentrating on sales of (commemorative) stamps as "miniature works of art", not really intended for postal use, and the constantly-changing layout makes location of details irritatingly tedious even if they are there.



200 years of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien: 90c; 1/1/2012; 200,000 singles; Offset; Design: Thomas Pesendorfer. 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 38mm dia stamp with circular perforations showing the elegant Golden Hall, in a 45x45mm block.

Motorcycles - Lohner L 125 1959: 1€45; 2/1/2012; 700,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design David Gruber. The stamp shows the legendary scooter with which its proud owner could hit the road both casually and elegantly in the 1960s. The "Lohner" was particularly appreciated not only because it was easy to ride, but also for its comfort, which included two luggage compartments. Today, the L 125 enjoys a cult status, attracting huge interest at exhibitions and trade fairs.



210th anniversary of the birth of Karl Ritter von Ghega: 70c; 10/1/2012; 700,000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Design Ernst Sladek; Printed by Joh. Enschedé. Issued on the 210th anniversary of the birth of Karl Ritter von Ghega, the stamp celebrates the great Austrian engineer and builder of the Semmering railway. The stamp shows a portrait of Ghega and the "Kalte Rinne" viaduct, built 160 years ago. Ghega died of tuberculosis in Vienna on 14 March 1860. The stamp is also being issued in a sheet of 10, with old and new railway engines on the marginal tabs.

150 years of the Alpine Association: 62c; 12/1/2012; 300,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design Robert Fattor. The purpose of the Association (*founded as the Deutsch-Österreich Alpenverein, famed for its precancelled. Ed*) was to spread knowledge about the Alps, promote the love of the Alps and to make access to them easier – this by lectures and publications. However the members wanted practical activities like paths and shelters, trained mountain guides, maps and guidebooks. After what Opost delicately describe as "the turbulent years of the



first half of the 20th century", the Alpine Association assumed its old name, "Österreichischer Alpenverein" in 1951 and life returned to normal.



50 years of the Vienna Rapid Transit Railway: 62c; 17/1/2012; 300,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design David Gruber. The Schnellbahn was opened on 17 January 1962, and from the very start was a great success. The trains soon became crowded, a problem only solved by doubling the capacity. Following the gradual expansion of the network over the last decade, only minor extensions are currently planned. However, as part of converting the former Sudbahnhof into the Vienna Main

Railway Station, improved links to Vienna's airport at Schwechat are under investigation.

Definitives series, second version of design ie with architect names: 1€45 Frauenmuseum Hittsau; 1€70 MAK Center at the Schindler House Los Angeles. Both issued 18/1/2012; printed by Joh. Enschedé. For illustrations see most issues of "Austria" for 2011, especially 'Summer'.

Definitives series, second version of design: 62c Kunsthaus Graz Universalmuseum Joanneum; 62c Kunsthaus Bregenz; 70c Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz. All issued 3/2/2012; printed by Joh. Enschedé.

Definitives series, postal stationery: 62c Stiftung Ludwig on C6 envelope; 62c Kunsthaus Bregenz on inland postcard; 62c Kunsthaus Bregenz on C5 no-window envelope; 62c Kunsthaus Graz on C5 window envelope. All issued 13/2/2012; each sold in packs of 10. Printed by AV+Astoria by offset.



Bouquet – the “subscriber’s bonus stamp for 2011”. 62c; 15/2/2012; 420,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld.

Vienna Opera Ball 2012: 70c; 16/2/2012; 400,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design Zoe Byland. The description is only in German, and says that this ball is the pinnacle of the



social whirl of the Carnival season; everyone who is anyone (or thinks they are) wants to be there, to see and be seen.

Elfie Semotan: A small mystery. Opost’s press releases say “*New Stamp Issue 24 February. Elfie Semotan is Austria's most famous photographer with world-wide renown. Her picture entitled 'Stöckl' is a portrait of the TV host Claudia Stöckl and has been selected as the second stamp in our 'Austrian Photographic Art' series*”. A small pixellated image is attached. Die Briefmarke 2/12 gives details: 70c; 24/2/2012; 400,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld – and the same image. However, the stamps-for-sale part of the Opost web site doesn’t list it!



Cars - Steyr Taxi – Landaulet: 70c; 26/03/2012; 400,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design David Gruber. The Steyr XII is described as “without doubt one of the classics of historic Austrian car design”.

Musical Instruments – Viennese Oboe: 90c; 26/03/2012; 250,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design Maria Schulz. The Viennese oboe is ~~an ill wind that no one blows any good~~ a very special type that is

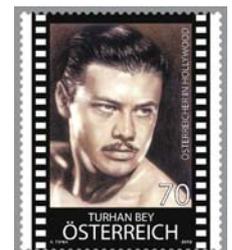


played almost exclusively in Vienna, for instance by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. It has a different fingering, is mellower in the lower notes and has a narrower, sharper sound rich in harmonics in the upper regions. In terms of design, sound and playing technique it is more similar to the baroque instruments and the classical oboe than is the French oboe.



I am Me: 62c; 27/3/2012; 400,000 in sheets of 50; Offset; Design Peter Sachartschenko. In 1972 the Jungbrunnen publishing company released a children’s classic: “I-Am-Me” by Mira Lobe (text) and Susi Weigel (illustrations). Within the year Mira Lobe received the Austrian State Prize for Children's and Young People's Literature for this work. The present commemorative is a philatelic celebration of this best-seller which has been popular for at least two generations.

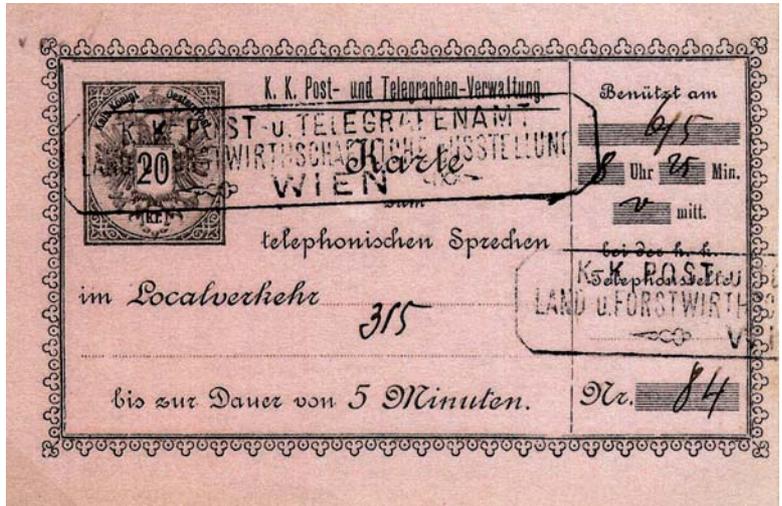
Austrians in Hollywood: Turhan Bey: 70c; 30/3/2012; 811,500 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Design Adolf Tuma. The stamp continues the popular "Austrians in Hollywood" series with Turhan Bey, born 30 March 1922 in Vienna. The family emigrated to America in 1940 where he played the leading roles in a number of Hollywood productions, later reviving his career on TV. This stamp also comes as a “Kleinbogen Edition”, featuring the stamp in the issued colours and also in blue and green; these later are not valid for postage.



TELEPHONE CARDS

Dr.Phil. Guenter Weis wrote from Innsbruck that he has been a member of the “Philatelistischer Verein Merkur Innsbruck” for many years; a club very well known to our society. He read with great interest the article in ‘Austria’ 177 concerning telephone cards, because these cards are also one of his favourite chapters of Austrian postal history. He enclosed copies of some sheets from his “One Frame” exhibition collection on this subject, and hoped that this additional information about this chapter of Austrian telephone cards would be of interest to the members of our Society.

Austria 177 page 24 showed the rare cancellation of the “Land and Forestry Exhibition in Vienna” on card Nr.4; the event ran from 1st April to 29th November 1890. On this page are illustrations of two more



examples from Dr Weis’ collection, dated 6th May and 21st June. This suggests that these cancellations are not as rare as Dr. Wurth’s “Sonderpostämter in Österreich” suggests with his 4000 points valuation.



The previous article on page 31 shows a card issued for use only at the “Wiener Effektenbörse” (the Stock Exchange). Two more cards were produced for the same purpose: Ferchenbauer numbers 12, 13, 17. All were printed in strips of 10, horizontally perforated. All three types are also known used – although for number 12 only one example! See illustration on following page.

The last example is about as far from the Stock Exchange as one can get – it was used at the Baumgartnerhaus in the Schneeberg. This is better known as a Postablage, opening as such on 1 April 1905. The card, Ferchenbauer Nr 5 with face value 20Kr, was issued in September 1888 to pay for “interurban” calls. It remained valid till 30 June 1891.



From left:
 1896 card, Ferchenbauer Nr 12, 10Kr;
 1900 card, F.Nr 13, 20h;
 1909 card, F.Nr 17, 20h



VIENNA TO LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND

By Steve Schweighofer

This postcard began its journey in Vienna on 30 June 1930, addressed to Max Rob, Ecole hôtelière (hotel school) de Lausanne¹ in Caux-Lausanne, Switzerland, a straight-line distance of about 470 miles from Vienna. Caux is a separate community about 15 miles east of Lausanne; both are on Lake Geneva.



The back-and forth trip began:

30 June 1930, accepted at Vienna 4 WIEN 50

2 July 1930 LAUSANNE – GARE EXP. LETTRES, a very clear arrival or transit marking (near the top center).

In red pencil, the original address was crossed out and the name “Caux” was added, visible below the right end of the pasted-on label.

A CAUX 10 July 1930 10th hour marking was applied (partially over the Vienna marking), and a label was

applied over this marking, covering the “Caux – Lausanne” part of the original address, and adding space to insert a new address: “Revoir Ecole Hôtelière Caux - Lausanne”, (check Ecole?).

A Caux Sur Montreux 10 July 1930, 12th hour marking was applied over the label on the left end.

12 July 1930 LAUSANNE – GARE EXP. LETTRES seems to have the card back at the starting point 10 days later.

Further forwarding is seen with other hotels: Below the left end of the label, “inconnu Caux Palace”² was handwritten diagonally. All the writing on the label and below it has been lined through, and a new two-lined marking was applied lightly and unclear diagonally at the center bottom: CAUX – LAUSANNE / (illegible). Across the postage stamp is an “inconnu Hotel Regina” and a diagonal red ink “St. Moritz Kurhaus” (halfway back to Vienna) at upper left, where it seems the addressee was finally located.



About the research: The mostly challenging thing about researching this card was reading the text beneath the label covering the original address, along with the fact I do not read French. A strong light from the back did not help, so it was decided the label must be lifted. Wetting the label with a hobby paintbrush caused the

surrounding area to become damp enough to permit the red pencil markings to run. That's when I stopped. The label was not budging anyway.

Notes:

1. According to Wikipedia, "The Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne was the first hotel school in the world. It was founded nearly a hundred and twenty years ago, in 1893, during the Belle Epoque when Switzerland was experiencing an unprecedented boom in tourism and there was an urgent need for skilled and professional personnel, at every level from management down."
2. Caux Palace hotel is "the largest, most impressive and exclusive establishment of the day"

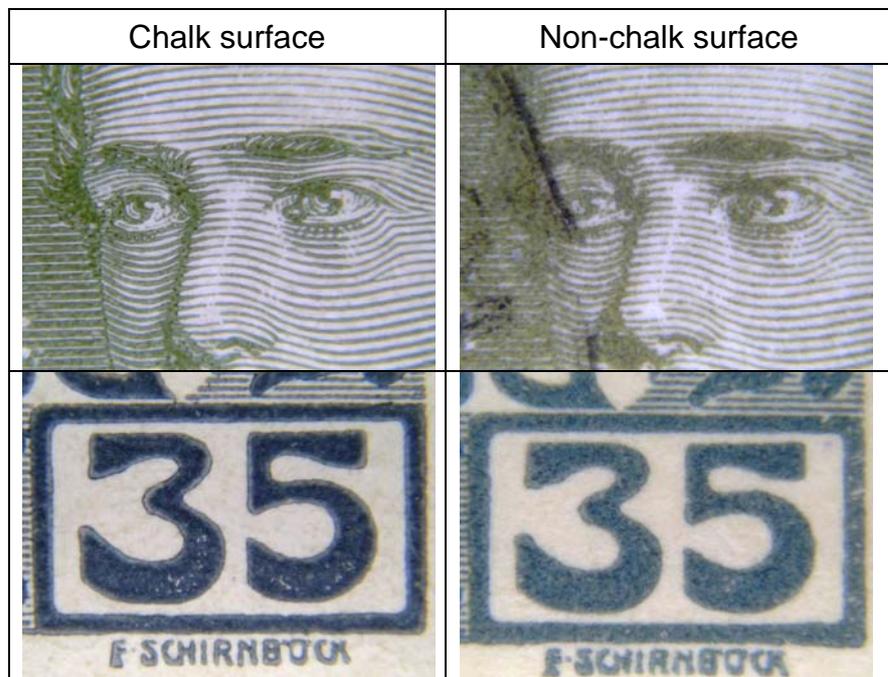
CHALK OR NOT?

By Andy Taylor

How, asked a colleague, do I distinguish between early-1900s chalky and ordinary paper? I believe that trying to mark it with a piece of silver does work - but you don't really want to mark a stamp. Time to email-a-friend.

F1: If you hold the definitives of the 1908 Jubilee and the 1913 issues up to the light looking across the stamps the difference can be seen very easily, the chalky has a definite glossy surface whereas the non-chalky has a flat semi matt finish.

F2: Look at the stamp under high magnification, eg x20. The surfaced paper will exhibit a "tide mark" of colour around the edges of inked areas. The unsurfaced paper will show a more fuzzy margin, with ink visibly soaked into the paper fibres. For fresh mint copies, you'll get a very good idea by just holding them up to the light. (surfaced = more shiny). But even for soaked off stamps, the x20 method will be as near foolproof as you will get. Get some practice with the 1908/1913 Jubilee stamps.



I don't have a x20 magnifier, but I do have a digital microscope. Setting it to about x30 and looking at the eyes of the 30h and the value tablet of the 35h 1908 issues, I see it clearly!

A COVER TO HUNGARY

By Andy Taylor

To the APS web site there came a plea: could the Society provide D.T. with information on the reduced postal rates from Austria to Hungary and especially those for printed matter, so that he might understand the postage due charges. Many emails and several experts later, the story-so-far is set out below. Completion hoped for!



The cover was sent unsealed from Vienna to Szombathely in Hungary on 26 March 1923. It is marked Drucksache (rather indistinctly) at bottom left. Clearly visible is a red meter-franked 80 Kronen, paid in cash at 1 WIEN 1. Lurking beneath the dues at top left is another 80Kroner meter frank.

A postage due charge of 30 Korona was levied in Hungary. This was unpaid and the dues crossed out. The cover was then returned to Austria where a charge of 900 Kronen was applied.

Other markings include: a rectangular box containing Porto with 30K written beside it in pale blue crayon and 900 under it by a different writer in bright blue; 900 in pencil; 20 carefully inscribed in pen-and-ink; 20 in pencil; and a bright blue VI in crayon which might be the district of Vienna to return it to (there's nothing on the back).

Finally, the 800Kroner and 100Kroner of Austrian dues at top left conceal the meter mark mentioned above and also "one of Douglas Muir's green labels" [see ¹] which says "Nem / fogadta el. / refuse" in three lines. Note the purple crayon "Nem fogadta el" at top right!

¹ See "Hungarian 'Retour' or 'Return to Sender' labels", by Douglas N. Muir FRPSL in Stamps of Hungary Nr 188, March 2012.

Using the Michel tables:

No reduced printed matter rate is shown for Hungary at this or indeed any time. Inland rate from 1.11.1922 was 80Kr for 50 grams; foreign rate 300Kr. The 'Hungary is inland' concession for letters had ended on 30.4.1922.

If Hungary decided it was an ordinary letter, they'd expect the Austrian franking to be at the from-1.11.1922 reduced foreign rate of 1200Kr for first 20 grams and 750Kr for every added 20g.

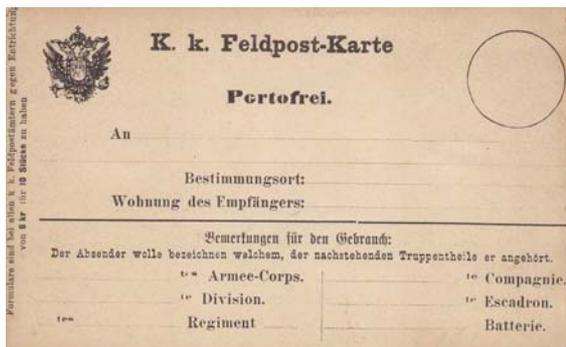
How about: item is under 50 grams but since the envelope is long it received two impressions from the machine; sender wanted to apply correct inland rate for 50g printed matter ie 80Kr; however Hungary had become foreign so rate should have been 300Kr per 50g; 300Kr minus double franking of 80Kr = 140Kr underpaid. Using exchange rates found by MB in contemporary newspapers, 140Kr becomes around 2000 Korona!

Date	Value in CHF of 10,000 ÖK	Value in CHF of 10,000 HuK	Aus/Hung	30 Korona in Kronen
21 February 1923	0.753579503	0.039871931	18.90	1.59Kr
29 March 1923	0.766577233	0.056159504	13.65	2.20Kr
27 April 1923	0.78125	0.078914141	9.90	3.03Kr
25 May 1923	0.788022065	0.073646922	10.70	2.80Kr
21 June 1923	0.790826414	0.123566627	6.40	4.69Kr

"It does not compute..."

The Austrian 900Kr I think I can explain! For whatever reason the Austrians decided to treat the returning letter as part-paid. The Hungarians did not put any UPU T-mark on it. So the Austrians said "we're not sure what is paid and what isn't, but there's something paid in Vienna, and the minimum we levy for an outgoing foreign part-paid letter is 900Kr, so we'll charge that!". Oddly, if the Austrians took the Hungarian postage due of 30K as the UPU-fee, the system at that date was to multiply it by 30, so you'd get 900 anyway! (B&Pf page 301)

A FIELDPOST CARD QUESTION



Hello

I have a question to be raised in the Austria and I would be grateful if you could arrange for being printed in the magazine pages the soonest possible. It concerns the herewith attached image - a Field post card of somewhat unusual type, possibly for official use. I would like to find out if anybody can tell anything about it, i.e. when it was issued, maybe some related circumstances, and if there are known examples of postally used copies (as it should).

Reproductions of such cases most welcome. The more relevant information would show up if it referred to any connection with WW I circumstances (which is actually hoped for).

The provided information will be used with regard to a specialised catalogue I have in preparation and any contribution will be acknowledged. Please kindly produce my e-mail address (octavian500198@yahoo.co.uk) to anybody who would like to contact me or be contacted directly over the matter.

Thank you very much.

Octavian Tabacaru

NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS

ARGE Österreich e.V.

2012/1 Nr 97: Forged cancels on Levant stamps (4); the third Vienna Provisional (1945); registered mail (4); rare postal stationery; etc

Czechout

Mar 2012: news, book and magazine reviews; new web site www.cpslib.org with nearly all Cz stamps; Václav Havel; Society Auction produces unusual finds; a 1918 bun-fight; etc.

Die Briefmarke

Issue 2/2012: Many interesting 1-page articles; 2 sizes of the new 62-cent adhesive; Liechtenstein first issue; Magritte; the goat-bote; displaying to the sight-impaired; introduction of 'Phila-Punkt' sales points; imprinted stationery in the new definitive designs; the Packet-Stamp**; Kinderdorf balloon covers; etc etc.

** the Packet-Stamp is a stamp for an inland packet, sold in 3 versions. The PM45 costs 3€ and is valid for a packet irrespective of the weight (however there's a limit of 31.5Kg) but when the length of the longest side plus that of the shortest doesn't exceed 45cm. There's also a PM70 at 5€ and a PM120 at 7€. There's also a Foreign Packet equivalent; same regulations, PM45 costs 9€ to Germany and 12€ to much of Europe including UK. You can have them personalised at extra cost!

Issue 3/2012: Postcards of old-time mail coaches; Liechtenstein first issue & mixed-franking with Austria; privately printed postal; stationery 1945-51 (1); thematic:fingerprints; etc etc.

Jugopošta

Vol 101 Mar 2012: Bilingual German/Croatian & Hungarian/Croatian postal forms; report from their auctioneer on problems and changes; etc

BRIAN JAMES PRESLAND: 24/2/1936 – 30/3/2012



GF writes: Brian was born and brought up in the Southampton area and joined the R.A.F at an early age serving in the RAF regiment for 25 years. He met Nancy, who was nursing in North London, married and they were together for 55 years having two children.

He was a philatelist during the time of his service and despite many postings kept up the hobby, helping to set up the Malta Joint Services Philatelic Society. After leaving the Services he made a career in the security industry, finishing up as Security and Fire Manager for B.A.S.F.



Brian's main philatelic interests were GB, Airmails and the KuK Field Post, all of which won him a number of awards. During the last 20 years of his life he suffered ill health having a number of operations but despite this he carried on his Philatelic interests becoming a fellow of the Royal and President of the Hampshire Federation. Nancy said at the funeral that "Brian's Philately was not just a hobby but more of an obsession".

The pictures show Brian and Nancy enjoying a meal in Smutny's Restaurant in Vienna during the APS visit to Numiphil in 2005; according to our archives he joined us in 1996.

ALTERNATIVE CALENDARS

by Keith Brandon

Most Austrian Empire mail that we encounter is dated using the same Gregorian calendar that we use today. However, mail to and from the Levant, Serbia and Russia was often dated in the earlier Julian calendar. During the Napoleonic War, the French Republican calendar was used (among other places) in occupied Lombardy & Venetia. The article provides an introduction to these calendars.

The French Republican Calendar

One of the aims of the French Revolution was to sweep away all the trappings associated with the aristocratic and religious rule of the *ancien régime*. Among other reforms, the new Republican government brought in a new system of weights and measures (which became the metric system), and a new calendar.

The “French Revolutionary Calendar” owes its name to the fact that the calendar was created during the Revolution, but is somewhat of a misnomer, and is more correctly known as the “French Republican Calendar”. After some false starts in 1789 to 1792, a decree of 2 January 1793 stipulated that the year II of the Republic began on 1 January 1793. The establishment of the Republic was used for the final version of the calendar; therefore, the calendar commemorates the Republic, not the Revolution.



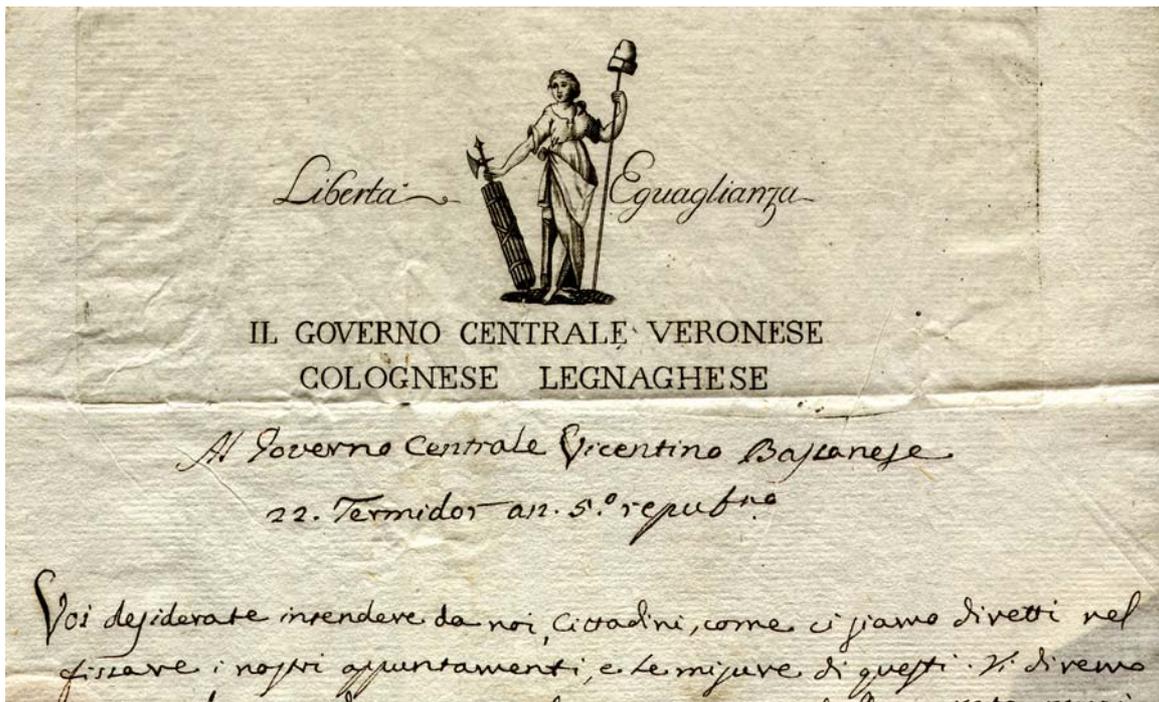
Years usually appeared in writing as Roman numerals, with 22 September 1792, the beginning of the 'Republican Era' (the day the French First Republic was proclaimed, one day after the Convention abolished the monarchy). As a result, Roman numeral I indicates the first year of the republic, that is, the year before the calendar actually came into use. The first day of each year was that of the autumnal equinox.

There were twelve months, each divided into three ten-day weeks called *décades*. The new months were given new names, based on agricultural and weather-related themes. Each *décade* or 'week' was of ten days, named simply: primidi (first day), duodi, tridi, quartidi, quintidi, sextidi, septidi, octidi, nonidi, *décadi* (tenth day). To weaken the power of the Catholic church, the tenth day, *décadi*, replaced Sunday as the day of rest and festivity. The five or six extra days needed to approximate the solar year were placed after the months at the end of each year.

The Concordat of 1801 re-established the Roman Catholic Church in France with effect from Easter Sunday, 18 April 1802. The new names of the days of the week were replaced by the restoration of the old names from the Gregorian Calendar, while keeping the rest of the Republican Calendar. Sunday was re-established as the official day for rest and religious celebration.

Twelve years after its introduction, Napoléon abolished the calendar with effect from 1 January 1806 (the day after 10 Nivôse An XIV). It briefly re-emerged during the Paris Commune, 6–23 May 1871 (16 Floréal–3 Prairial An LXXIX). Readers with the internet can go to the Wikipedia page for the French Revolutionary Calendar and find the date for that day. This article was written on Tridi, 3 Ventôse An CCXX. (Tuesday, 21 February 2012).

The implication for our philately is that the Revolutionary Calendar was used not only in France, but also in the territory occupied by the French during the Napoleonic Wars. In particular, the calendar was used in Lombardy & Venetia while under Napoleonic control. It may have been used in French Illyria too, but I have not yet seen an example. Even in Lombardy and Venetia, usage seems to have been spasmodic, with most mail, including official mail from government agencies, stubbornly using the Gregorian calendar. Perhaps there was resistance among the Italians to a “silly French idea”.



The first illustration (fig.1, above) shows the contents of an official letter from the local government of Verona to their opposite numbers in Vicenza, dated 22 Termidor, 5th year of the Republic (= 30 July 1797 by the Gregorian calendar). This fell during the six-month French occupation of the former Republic of Venice before the Treaty of Campoformio.



Fig 2 (above) shows an official letter from a judicial court in French Verona to a criminal tribunal in Mantova. The letter was written in 1801 when the main part of Verona, on the west bank of the river Adige was in the French Cisalpine Republic. (The rest of the city, on the east bank, was in Austria-controlled Venetia). The letter is dated Verona, 15 Fruttidor, 9th year of the Republic (= 22 August 1801 by the Gregorian calendar).

The Julian and Gregorian Calendars.

Changes to calendars were driven by advances in the measurement of time and by the need to celebrate religious rituals, notably Easter, at the correct time. The Julian calendar, the basis of the calendar we use today, was introduced by Julius Caesar in 45 BC as a more accurate replacement of the earlier Roman calendar. The year was set at a regular 365 days with an extra day added to February in every fourth year, giving an average year of 365.25 days. However advances in measurement of time over the centuries showed that the Julian calendar was not quite accurate, and was a few minutes short compared with the real passage of time in the solar year. On average the astronomical solstices and equinoxes were diverging from the calendar by about 11 minutes a year. This discrepancy amounted to a gain of three days every four centuries. As a result, the calculated date of Easter gradually moved out of alignment with the March equinox.



Julius Caesar



Pope Gregory XIII

Thus, the more accurate Gregorian calendar was promoted by Pope Gregory XIII and was introduced in 1582. This calendar modified the Julian calendar by fine-tuning the use of leap years. Every year that is exactly divisible by four is a leap year, except for years that are exactly divisible by 100; the centurial years that are exactly divisible by 400 are still leap years. For example, the year 1900 was not a leap year; the year 2000 was a leap year.

INTRODUCTION OF GREGORIAN CALENDAR	
Country	Year
Most of Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, part Netherlands.	1582
Austria, part Netherlands, catholic Switzerland and Germany	1583
Bohemia and Moravia.	1584
Hungary	1587
Rest of Germany and Switzerland	1610-1700
Great Britain and possessions	1752
Egypt	1875
Albania	1912
Bulgaria	1916
Russia	1918
Romania, Yugoslavia	1919
Greece	1923
Turkey	1926

In order to make up for lost time, ten days were skipped. The last day of the Julian calendar was Thursday, 4 October, and this was followed by the first day of the Gregorian calendar, Friday, 15 October. The Gregorian calendar was quickly adopted by most Catholic countries. Protestant countries were not subject to the Papal decree, but had mainly come into line by the mid-eighteenth century. Countries in which the Orthodox church

dominated, however, retained the Julian calendar for civil use into the early twentieth century, and still use it today for some religious rituals. Russia's October Revolution in 1917 took place in November in the Gregorian world! The dates of adoption of some relevant countries is shown in the table.

Throughout the long transition period, the Julian calendar continued to diverge from the Gregorian and still continues so to do. This happened in whole-day steps, as dropped leap-years on certain centennial years in the Gregorian calendar continued to be leap years in the Julian calendar. Thus, in the year 1700 the difference increased to 11 days; in 1800, to 12; and in 1900, to 13. Since 2000 was a leap year according to the Gregorian calendar, the Julian calendar remained in step with it: 29 February 2000 (Julian) fell on 13 March (Gregorian). This difference will persist until the last day of February, 2100 (Julian), which is *not* a Gregorian leap year, but *is* a Julian leap year. Then the difference between the two calendars will increase to 14 days.

What is the relevance of this for our philatelic material? Generally, readers will not be looking at material before the late-eighteenth century, by which time most of western Europe, Catholic and Protestant, had taken up the Gregorian calendar, but the Orthodox countries of eastern and south-eastern Europe still used the Julian. Therefore, the difference in calendars for mail between Austria and these countries was 11 days in the eighteenth, 12 days in the nineteenth and 13 days in the twentieth century. Mail between these countries could be dated and postmarked in either or both calendars.

Thus we can find mail between Austria and, say, Greece or Russia dated or postmarked with one calendar on despatch and the other on arrival. Fig.3 ('IBC' = inside back cover) shows a mourning letter from Syra (in the Cyclades) to Trieste dated inside 19/31 January (i.e dated in both the Julian and Gregorian calendars). Syra was Greek and still used the Julian calendar for its postmark **ΣΥΡΑ (67) / 19 JAN 75**. The arrival backstamp **TRIEST / 5.2.75** was in the Gregorian. In the mid-nineteenth century, the Julian calendar was twelve days behind the Gregorian. The journey therefore took 6 days, not 18 as the postmarks at first suggest.

Eastbound mail could apparently arrive before it had departed! The cover in fig.4 (IBC) is dated inside 13/25 November 1845, using both calendars. It was posted same day and postmarked **TRIEST / Franco / 25 NOV 1845** by the Gregorian calendar. It went by sea, as indicated by the manuscript *Col Vapore*, to Syra and gained the arrival postmark **ΣΥΡΑ / 18 NOEMB 1845** (Julian). Thus the letter arrived 5 days after posting (not 7 days before).

The commercial correspondence in fig.5 (IBC) was dated inside 14/26 January 1860, and sent from Jassy (Moldavia) to Vienna. The postmark **JASSY / 26.1** and arrival mark **WIEN / 31.1.** are both in the Gregorian calendar. Moldavia still used the Julian calendar, but the Austrian consular post offices in the Levant used the Gregorian, even in Julian countries.

The transit mail from Corfu to Tuscany via Austria in fig.6 ('OBC' = outside back cover) is postmarked **CORFU / 2 MAG** and bears the **AUSTRIA / No.1** transit mark on the front; and the Florence arrival mark **FIRENZE / 10 MAG 1850** on reverse. Why didn't Corfu use a Julian date? Because it was in British hands at the time, and the British used the Gregorian calendar.

Fig.7 (OBC) shows an item of pre-stamp commercial mail from Odessa in Russia, dated 26 July 1850. Postmarked with boxed **ОДЕССА / 26 ИЮЛЯ 1850** (26 July in the Julian calendar, i.e. 7 August in the Gregorian) and Russian *Porto* handstamp. **Triest / 17 AUG 1850** arrival postmark. Marked **20** (kreuzer) for the addressee to pay. The journey therefore took ten days.

Finally, a newspaper published in Zadar / Zara in February 1881 (fig.8, OBC). Although Zara was in Austrian Dalmatia, and would therefore have officially used the Gregorian calendar and the western alphabet, this newspaper, written for the Serbian community, was written in Cyrillic and dated 10 February. Serbia still used the Julian calendar, and the newspaper is dated thus, with the Gregorian date (22) also shown in brackets.

Acknowledgements

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