



A selection of the items discussed in this issue.



EDITORIAL 179

This issue of "Austria" went to press before the mid-year committee meeting, so its decisions on cost-saving measures will be reported later. However it is very likely that one decision will be to continue with a physically separate newsletter, but to post it along with Austria, the auction list, and whatever else needs to be sent out. Members would then receive four or five communications per year instead of eight.

The first in a series of articles dealing with The Stamps of the First Republic appears in this issue. It is based on the ANK/Netto Spezial catalogue order, which is "the cast in order of appearance" except that Postage Dues are at the end. This order is sometimes different from other catalogues; and while a cross-reference table could be prepared without great difficulty, publishing thereof is fraught with copyright difficulties. Members considering purchasing a copy of ANK/Netto should consult the Chairman. The articles will deal chronologically with the letter- and newspaper-post stamps issued during the twenty years existence of the First Austrian Republic. It will attempt to provide the basic philatelic information and historical context for these issues. Sources of extended biographical information are cited. Those seeking lists of plate faults should consult a catalogue – or for an exhaustive list ALL the catalogues since their contents overlap but don't coincide. Most of the earlier dates-of-issue are taken from Kroiss' work "Belege der Österreichischen Inflationszeit 1918-1925", APS Library Nr 434. Some are later than those in the Post Office Instructions reproduced by Karasek and others - I think Kroiss may be giving "date first seen used". My thanks go to those committee members who have provided the illustrations.

Sundry corrections... (a) I know that aristocrats are different, but Princess Sophie of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld was the **sister** of King Leopold I of Belgium, not his brother as alleged in Austria 178 p8; (b) it is at best extremely unlikely that the British Military Authorities were censoring mail in Budapest in April 1916, as Austria 177 page 39 suggests.

Andy Taylor, Editor

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- ❖ Back numbers of “Austria” are £1 each to members (£5 to non-members), subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Postage extra at cost.
- ❖ Blue-covered binders for A4 issues of ‘Austria’ are available at £4.99 each and will comfortably hold 8 issues (or 10-12 with a squash). Postage at cost (it’s a “Packet”), or delivery by arrangement.
- ❖ **Ties and Cravats** are available in blue from the Librarian: ties £6.75; cravats £7.50.
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“**The Postal History of the Anschluss, The German Annexation of Austria**” by Tony Hickey, Ian Nutley, David Taylor and Colin Tobitt. Copies are still available; contact the editor of AUSTRIA.

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PRESS RELEASE

Philatelic Research now much easier

The launch of the Global Philatelic Library website (www.globalphilateliclibrary.org), a centralised information gateway to the world's greatest philatelic research, has been announced by the founding partners, including The Royal Philatelic Society London, The National Postal Museum and Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, DC, and The American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pa.

It was 125 years ago that an idea for a Joint Index of Philatelic Literature was put forward, but on February 15, 1888 the President of the American Philatelic Association, John K. Tiffany, wrote to Edward Denny Bacon, Secretary of the (now 'Royal') Philatelic Society London, stating, '... I consider the project as utterly impossible of any practical execution ...': the project has become a reality.

This ambitious project has happened thanks to the inspiration and dedication of the founding partners. The website establishes a single destination – a responsive centralised gateway – by which philatelists around the world can search, locate and access philatelic research from partner libraries instantly, from any computer. Searchable listings of books and publications, as well as resource locations and access, are now instantly available, providing invaluable resources for those undertaking philatelic research. It provides:

- * A world-class collection of printed, electronic and other media;
- * Access and support for beginners, hobbyists, specialists, writers and postal historians;
- * International collaboration and co-operation with philatelic libraries and museums around the world;
- * An Anthology of fascinating, informative and sometimes even scandalous articles written throughout the past century about philately and some of the people involved in its history.

'A large part of the philatelic information I have acquired was discovered incidentally while searching for something else,' said Thomas Lera, Winton M. Blount Research Chair at the National Postal Museum. 'I hope other philatelists, scholars and researchers will push open the doors of the new global philatelic library to find the answers to their questions and uncover new ones in the process as well.'

Other contributing philatelic research libraries include the National Philatelic Society (UK), The Collectors Club in New York (USA), Greene Foundation (Canada), Oslo Filatelistklubb Bibliotek (Norway), Philatelistische Bibliothek Hamburg (Germany), Postal History Foundation (USA), Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (US) and Western Philatelic Library (USA).

The Chairman of the FIP Literature Commission, Tony Virvilis, added, 'The Global Philatelic Library is an excellent idea which I fully support.'

The Royal Philatelic Society London is proud to be playing such an active and vital role in this initiative, its own library being the most significant and comprehensive in the world. The full range of services available from the Society can be seen by visiting **www.rpsl.org.uk**.

1 June 2012

THE STAMPS OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC

Introduction

This series of articles is based on those by J F Giblin printed in issues of 'Austria' in the 1970s, with added material from recent Austrian sources and illustrations from the collections of the Committee. It will deal chronologically with the normal letter- and newspaper-post stamps issued during the twenty years existence of the First Austrian Republic. It will attempt to detail all the philatelic information which has been published on these issues and to place them in their historical context. Stamps are numbered according to the Austria Netto Catalogue "Austria Special 2011-2012" [with approximate SG equivalences in square brackets]. Extended biographical information can be found in J F Giblin's "The People on Austrian Stamps" (*APS library nr 15 with supplements in 'Austria' indexed on the APS web site at "Cumulative Index to Biographies of People on Austrian Stamps"*) and in the appropriate Wikipedia. "Express stamps" will be in a separate article.

Historical Introduction

Emperor Franz Joseph died on 21 November 1916 during the First World War and was succeeded by Emperor Karl. When the war was lost the Empire disintegrated, and Karl "withdrew" (he did not formally abdicate). On 30 October 1918 the German-speaking part of the former monarchy was proclaimed by the new National Assembly as the independent republic of Deutsch-Österreich (literally German-Austria); it would seek union with Germany. This lasted for just under one year, until 21 October 1919, when the Austrian national assembly reluctantly accepted that under the Treaty of Saint Germain any efforts to unite with Germany were banned. A new law was enacted, setting aside the previous declaration and adopting the name "Austria" for the country. Interestingly, the name of Deutsch-Österreich remained in use on Austrian stamps until 1922.

The First Republic, which lasted from 1918 until 1938, was a state nobody really expected to last. As a result of the war, Austria had lost much of its heavy industry in Bohemia, its food from Hungary (which was itself in turmoil), its access to the Mediterranean, the southern part of Tirol, and for a while its attraction for tourism. To this was added a disproportionately large capital city, the deadly flu epidemic of 1918-19, high unemployment, rampant inflation, a hopeless political split between the conservative countryside and the socialists in Vienna and the industrial centres, black markets, and marauding armed ex-soldiers who started forming paramilitary organisations on the political left and right.

On 15 December 1922, Dr. Alfred Rudolph Zimmerman, who had been Burgomaster of Rotterdam since 1906, was appointed Commissioner General by the League of Nations to administer their loan to Austria of 650 million gold crowns. It was due to the efforts of Dr. Zimmerman and his team that the Krone currency was stabilised until it was completely replaced in 1925 with the silver Schilling currency. This was introduced progressively. so while postage was paid in the new currency from 1 March 1925, the stamps were issued on 1 June. Kronen stamps were invalidated on 1 July 1925 but could be exchanged for new groschen issues until 30 September. Provision was made for the use of Krone stamps to officially uprate postal stationery, also until 30 September. Dr Zimmerman was decommissioned on 1 July 1926.

The First Republic, surrounded by mostly totalitarian states, finally became a pseudo-fascist state in 1934 under Engelbert Dollfuss, whose government, backed by the army and the Heimwehr (Home Defence Force), crushed a Socialist uprising. Soon he abolished all political parties except for his Fatherland Front. In July Chancellor Dollfuss was assassinated (the 10 Schilling memorial stamp is famous, and expensive) and Kurt Schuschnigg took over. His right wing and anti-democratic government was quite unpopular, but in retrospect was perhaps unavoidable, since Austria was wedged between the competing and expansionist states of Hitler and Mussolini. When in 1938 German troops occupied Austria (the "Anschluss"), there was negligible resistance. Austria's Jews later had their assets expropriated, and unless they could escape were from 1942 deported to concentration camps such as Mauthausen and Auschwitz.

From 1938 until 1945, the Austrian state ceased to exist and the stamps and postal materials of the German Reich were used. The philatelic feature of greatest interest relating to these events was the use for several months of a mixture of Austrian and German stamps, during the several stages of the transition from the Austrian to the German system; for details of this see Austria issue 139.

THE REPUBLIC OF GERMAN AUSTRIA

Stamps of the Empire overprinted "Deutschösterreich"

For the first issue of the new Deutschösterreich state, "Deutschösterreich" was overprinted diagonally in typography to the then current Imperial Definitives. This overprint was not however applied to the remainders as happened in the successor states: since the State Printing Works in Vienna still possessed the original printing plates the original stamps continued to be produced and used, initially without overprints.

Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt Nr. 67.

Nr. 67. Ausstattung der Postwertzeichen.

Bis zur Ausgabe neuer Postwertzeichen werden die gegenwärtig geltenden Brief-, Eil-, Zeitungs- und Postmarken, Postkarten und Kartenbriefe mit dem Aufdruck „Deutschösterreich“ versehen.

Die bereits im Verkehr stehenden Postwertzeichen ohne Aufdruck werden aufgebraucht.

Wien, den 2. Dezember 1918.

Post Office Decree PTVOB 67 dated 2 Dec 1918 (reproduced in its entirety above!) states that new deliveries of previously-valid letter, express, newspaper and dues stamps will have the overprint "Deutschösterreich" applied; existing stock may be used up as it is. The orientation of the imprint is not specified in the decree; horizontal was tried but presumably diagonal looked better.



Kroiss quotes "Die Postmarke, Nov 1919" where it is written that there was considerable philatelic speculation in these overprints; and that the 4Kr and 10Kr, reportedly issued in April & May respectively, had sold out. He gives no dates for their first known usage. Another journal, the D-Ö Briefmarkenzeitung, stated that the perforators in the State Printing Works were fully booked to produce the Renner series (see later) so could not produce enough of the high value overprints.

The normal perforation for all values is 12½ comb for the typographed values up to 1Kr, 12½ line for the recess-printed higher values. The 2 Kronen stamp exists in both vertical and horizontal pairs with the centre imperf. The 80h and 1Kr values are known with an inverted overprint, but the main variety (on the 35th and also on the 100th stamp in the sheet) is the broken "s" in österreich which occurs on all the heller values with the

exception of the 25 and 40 heller. Rarely, missing-, double-, and inverted-overprints are found. Trial horizontal overprints were produced on the 3h & 15h, but these were unsatisfactory.

The original 2, 3, 4 & 10 Kronen stamps were printed both in 'wide' and 'tall' formats, 25x30mm and 26x29mm respectively – it depended on which way the pre-dampened sheet was placed into the printing press.

The overprints were applied only to Kronen stamps on granite paper, all bar the 10Kr being only on the 'tall' stamps. There are three sub-varieties of the 2 Kronen value: greyish blue perf 12½; dark blue perf 12½; and greyish blue perf 11½. There are two sub-varieties of the 4 Kronen value: yellow-green perf 12½ and perf 11½. And there are two sub-varieties of the 10 Kronen value: both are violet perf 12½ but as well as the 'tall' stamp it is found on the 'wide' stamp.

ANK	Face	Colour (s)	Issued	Number
228	3h	violet	January 1919	40,012,000
229	5h	yellow-green	January 1919	35,995,000
230	6h	orange	February 1919	1,017,500
231	10h	claret	January 1919	78,030,000
232	12h	greenish-blue; dark greenish-blue	February 1919	1,217,500
233	15h	red	March 1919	1,188,400
234	20h	blue-green	Dec 1918	57,840,000
235	25h	blue	March 1919	4,045,000
236	30h	violet	February 1919	4,871,000
237	40h	olive	February 1919	5,242,000
238	50h	dark green; black-green	February 1919	1,272,000
239	60h	dark blue	March 1919	5,342,000
240	80h	red-brown	March 1919	27,520,000
241	90h	claret (also on thick paper)	February 1919	4,475,000
242	1Kr	red on yellow paper	February 1919	5,050,000
243	2Kr	blue	March 1919	3,876,800
244	3Kr	carmine	March 1919	1,124,000
245	4Kr	yellow-green	April 1919?	442,500
246	10Kr	violet	May 1919?	298,000



[These correspond to SG 299-317]

The 3, 6 & 12h stamps were valid until 15 Jan 1920 (albeit of little use by then!), the rest until 31 October 1920.

Inverted overprints are known.

The Postage Due Issue of 1918



ANK	Face	Issued	Number
64	5h	Mar 1919	2,997,000
65	10h	Mar 1919	2,496,800
66	15h	June 1919	2,543,320
67	20h	June 1919	400,000
68	25h	June 1919	70,000
69	30h	June 1919	885,500
70	40h	Mar 1919	900,000
71	50h	June 1919	300,000
72	1Kr	May 1919	78,640
73	5Kr	May 1919	92,720
74	10Kr	May 1919	103,760

11 values were issued: all have “Deutschösterreich” overprints on 1916-issue Imperial stamps. The heller values are square and red, the Kronen rectangular and blue. The heller values were printed in sheets of 100 (10x10), the Kronen in sheets of 80 (8x10); both were perf comb 12½. As usual, specimens can be found imperf-between, with inverted overprint, etc. Bisected stamps on packet cards & money orders can be genuine. [~ SG D323-333]

This issue was valid till 31 Oct 1920.

The Newspaper Issue of 1919

5 values were issued, again by overprinting Imperial issues. [~SG N318-22]



ANK	Face	Colours	Number
247	2h	Light brown; chocolate brown; reddish brown	189,500,000
248	4h	green; light green	1,172,000
249	6h	blue	1,940,000
250	10h	orange; yellow-orange	13,731,000
251	30h	dark red	2,145,100

The Definitive Issue of 1919-1921: the lower values

The designs chosen for this first issue also had obvious Republican connotations. The currency was still stable enough for heller values to have some validity and the low values, up to and including 1 Krone, were in three designs, all produced by Josef Franz Renner, a professor at the Academy of Graphic Art in Vienna. They depicted variously a post horn, the single headed eagle of republican Austria, and a worker planting a tree as a symbol of the “New Republic”. Prof. Renner also included the words “Deutsch-Österreich” in the design. The higher values (2 to 50 Kronen) are the “Parliament” stamps, described in the next section.



The stamps were printed by typography.

The heller values were issued comb perf 12½; values 5, 10, 15, 25, 30, 40 & 60 heller were also issued imperforate. Because of the economic conditions of the times, some of the heller values perforated 12½ were also printed on a thick grey paper (10, 15, 20 and 50 heller values only) as well as on normal white paper. The red 1 Krone value was printed on yellow paper as standard.

Some of the imperforate values were perforated privately, but these are relatively scarce and well worth keeping a sharp look-out for.

Untrimmed part-sheets can be found; the specimen illustrated shows the plate edge bars and a nail-head mark. Numerous plate faults can be found in the catalogues (eg there's 28 in Netto!)

The issue was valid until 31 July 1922; it could be used as official supplementary franking till 30 September 1922.

ANK	Face	Colour (s)	Issued	Number
255	3h	light grey; grey; dark grey; <i>black-grey</i> ; <i>grey-black</i>	July 1919	25,251,000
256	5h	green	July 1919	28,913,000
257	5h	light grey; <i>dark grey</i> ; <i>black-grey</i>	Jan 1920	9,933,000
258	6h	orange; reddish-orange	July 1919	2,747,000
259	10h	dark rose	July 1919	??
260	10h	red; also on grey paper	Jan 1920	22,737,000
261	12h	green-blue; <i>dark-green-blue</i>	July 1919	2,481,000
262	15h	khaki; also on grey paper	Jan 1920	23,550,000
263	20h	dark-green	July 1919	118,687,000
264	20h	green; also light-green on grey paper	Jan 1920	82,788,000

ANK	Face	Colour (s)	Issued	Number
265	25h	dark-blue; <i>light-blue</i> ; <i>deep-blue</i>	July 1919	2,344,000
266	25h	violet	Jan 1920	48,231,000
267	30h	brown; red-brown	July 1919	3,126,000
268	40h	violet	July 1919	3,721,000
269	40h	dark-rose	Jan 1920	97,008,000
270	45h	olive	July 1919	2,323,000
271	50h	dark-blue; steel-blue; also dark-blue & black-blue on grey paper	July 1919	6,900,000
272	60h	olive; dark-brown-olive	Jan 1920	17,256,000
273	1Kr	red	July 1919	15,295,000
274	1Kr	light-blue; dark-blue; <i>deep-blue</i>	Jan 1920	17,802,000

Notes: the colours in *italics* are rare (hence expensive). Issue dates from Kroiss. [~SG 336-355] The imperforate stamps [~SG 337b-353b] are tabulated next; some of the colours are different from the perf stamps. They were printed on white paper (although when that was unobtainable a variety of other papers were used!).

ANK	Face	Colour (s)	Issued	Number
275	5h	green	All imperfs issued on 20 January 1920 (to match a postage rates rise)	3,240,000
276	5h	grey		10,200,000
277	10h	carmine		6,600,000
278	10h	red		21,120,000
279	15h	khaki		7,680,000
280	25h	violet		9,200,000
281	30h	dark-brown; light-brown		14,313,000
282	40h	violet		7,320,000
283	60h	olive		7,700,000



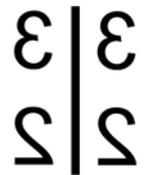
This card was sent from Lienz in East Tirol to Finland on 21 April 1920. The franking of 80h is made up by an imprinted 25h, a perforated 5h, an imperf 10h, and a still-valid D-Ö overprinted 40h!

The Definitive Issue of 1919-1921 – the higher-value ‘Parliament’ stamps.

The 2 to 50 Kronen values were also designed by Prof Renner, who chose a view of the Parliament Building with in front of it the statue of Pallas Athene which had been erected in 1902 by Karl Kundmarin. This “Parlaments-Gebäude” on the Vienna Ring was built in 1874-83 in the Greek style by Theophilus von Hansen for the Imperial Diet. Since 1919 it had been occupied by the two chambers of the Federal Congress of Austria, the “Nationalrat” and the “Bundesrat”. This design was engraved by Professor Ferdinand Schirnböck and these stamps were printed in recess; all bar the 50Kr are on granite paper. The Kronen values were expensive to manufacture, so were replaced by the next issue sooner than intended.



The 3, 4, 10 and 20 Kronen stamps, being in two colours, had to be printed in two operations. First the vignette was printed from one series of plates for each value, and then the centre was printed from a second series of plates. In order to align these printings correctly, lines were positioned at the edge of the plate with the plate numbers on each side. These markings may be found in “mirror writing” on the top of the sheets of stamps: see for example the illustration at right. Here, for the 20 Kronen stamp, this marking would indicate plate 2 (for the vignette) and plate 3 (for the centre), the 2 being printed in violet, the colour of the vignette, and the 3 in the reddish-black colour of the centre. The vertical line is actually the two colours very closely superposed. In this way it is possible to check the numbers of the plates used.



Thanks to Henry White, another oddity has been discovered. On the left is a much-enlarged image of half-way up the left-hand side of the 4Kr two-colour stamp, and on the right the corresponding part of the single-colour 5Kr. Note how the centre image of the 4Kr is “too big” and overlaps the frame; while the single-colour 5Kr was evidently printed from one plate, hence having no such problem.



The Kronen “Parliament” stamps all (except the 2½ Kr) exist line perforated 11½ as well as the normal line perf 12½, but even more rare are the compound 11½ x 12½ perfs. which are found on the 5, 7½ and 10 Kronen values. The designer’s name is missing from some printings of the 2, 4 and 20 Kronen stamps. These values also occur with the centres inverted: extremely rare and not unknown faked. Most values exist in pairs with the centre imperforate, and as imperf-all-round.

The issue was valid until 31 July 1922; in theory it could be used as official supplementary franking till 30 September 1922. [~SG 356-64]

ANK	Face	Colour (s)	Issued*	Number
284	2Kr	orange-red and black	Dec 1919	1,887,500
285	2½Kr	yellow-olive; brownish-olive	Feb 1920	1,817,500
286	3Kr	dark-blue and black	Dec 1919	2,322,500
287	4Kr	rose and black	Dec 1919	2,240,000
288	5Kr	greyish-black	Feb 1920	2,810,000
289	7½Kr	brown-lilac	Feb 1920	950,000
290	10Kr	olive-green and black	Nov 1919	2,600,000

ANK	Face	Colour (s)	Issued*	Number
291	20Kr	violet and reddish-black	May 1920	1,440,000
292	50Kr	blackish-purple	Aug 1921	2,750,000

*Issue dates from Kroiss; the authorising decree (1919 PTVOB044 Nr 123) doesn't give a date.

In 1980 the so-called **Regenbogenserie** (Rainbow series) was "discovered in the papers of a deceased senior civil servant". These are previously-unknown contemporary colour trials of the 2½, 3, 4, 5, 7½, 10 & 20Kr values of the Parliament stamps, printed on granite paper, ungummed; some have been unofficially perforated. 20 different versions are catalogued; very few copies of each exist.

And a final oddity: three examples are known of a 5Kr **imperf** stamp neatly stuck on a 1920s envelope, each addressed in different handwriting to different men in Vienna, and all cancelled 12/1 WIEN 82 / *5a* / 14.II.20.5 [Stohl A2581ah] Apart from the lack of perforations, and the gross overfranking (12½ times!) they are perfectly normal. Since the centre and frame do not overlap, they must be from a sheet of the 1-plate production run not a 2-plate colour trial. Are there 97 more out there?



Two knowledgeable Austrian dealers have suggested that the stamps are normal ones but have had the perfs cut off. Measurements suggest that this could indeed be true. However imperf stamps are not uncommon, and APS members have copies.

A possible clue is the cancel date, 14 Feb 1920. Nothing to do with St Valentine! Kroiss gives the issue date of this value as Feb 1920. Maybe these are First Day Covers.

The Postage Due Issue of 1920-21

This issue was designed by J F Renner, printed by offset, and perforated comb 12½. The lower values were also issued imperf, ascribed to either a desire to save money, or to the breakdown of the perforator. 5h – 80h square red; 1Kr-20Kr rectangular blue (2 papers: white & grey). ANK 75-92 101 [~SG D384A-392A] In 1920 the heller values were reissued imperf: ANK 93-101 [~SG D384B-392B]. Kroiss remarks that much of the issue was bought by speculators, and that cancelled loose stamps are most unlikely to have been postally used.

ANK (perf)	ANK (imp)	Face	Issued	Nr perf	Nr imperf
75	93	5h	Jan 1920	3,440,000	1,200,000
76	94	10h	Jan 1920	6,044,000	1,796,000
77	95	15h	Jan 1920	2,488,000	624,800
78	96	20h	Jan 1920	6,400,000	2,448,000
79	97	25h	Jan 1920	3,808,000	1,288,000
80	98	30h	Jan 1920	3,080,000	848,000
81	99	40h	Jan 1920	5,544,000	2,224,000
82	100	50	Jan 1920	5,808,000	1,736,000
83	101	80h	Jan 1920	4,280,000	1,840,000
84	--	1K	Jan 1920	8,120,000	--
85	--	1½K	Feb 1921	4,720,000	--
86	--	2K	Feb 1921	6,320,000	--
87	--	3K	Sep 1921	2,700,000	--
88	--	4K	Sep 1921	2,160,000	--

<i>ANK (perf)</i>	<i>ANK (imp)</i>	<i>Face</i>	<i>Issued</i>	<i>Nr perf</i>	<i>Nr imperf</i>
89	--	5K	Jan 1920	3,320,000	--
90	--	8K	Sep 1921	1,880,000	--
91	--	10K	Jan 1920	2,440,000	--
92	--	20K	Sep 1921	1,880,000	--



The “Renner” Newspaper 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 newspaper rates initially remained the same, and to adjust the newspaper stamps to the style of the other stamps. The design showed Mercury full-face surmounted with the inscription “Deutschösterreich”. [They are named after the designer J F Renner, not the politician Karl!]

The “Renner” newspaper stamps series eventually included 19 values, catalogued as ANK 293-311 [~SG N365-382]. 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.

For an extensive listing and discussion of this issue and its usage see Austria 178 pages 16 – 24

The Definitive Issue of 1920-21

Whilst the previous definitive issue was still valid a further 'Arms' set was designed by Prof Renner and printed by typography on thin white paper; all except the 7½Kr were also printed on thick grey paper. The set contained two distinct yet similar designs with the 80h, 1Kr, 1½Kr, & 3Kr values in one design and the 4Kr, 5Kr, 7½Kr & 10Kr values in the other. The stamps were comb perforated 12½. The principal reason for this issue was to reduce the cost of printing the high values. The set was invalidated on 31 July 1922, but could be used for official uprating of stationery till 30 September. [~SG 402-410]



ANK	Face	Colour(s) on white paper	Colour(s) on grey paper	Issued (Kroiss)	Number**
312	80h	Rose	Rose	Apr 1920	105,775,000
313	1Kr	Light-brown; black-brown	Brown; black-brown	May 1920	102,100,000
314	1½Kr	Green	Green	Feb 1921	27,270,000
315	2Kr	Light-blue; dark-blue	Blue; deep-blue	Apr 1920	142,280,000
316	3Kr	Light-green & black-green; <i>Light-green & blue-green</i>	Light-green & black-green; <i>Dark-green & black-green</i> <i>Light-green & blue-green</i>	Aug 1921	39,955,000
317	4Kr	Claret & red	Red & dark-lilac; <i>Dark-red & black-lilac</i>	Aug 1921	51,000,000
318	5Kr	Claret & lilac	Light-lilac & red-violet; <i>Dark-lilac & red-violet</i>	Aug 1921	65,780,000
319	7½Kr	Yellow & brown	[not issued on grey]	Dec 1921	9,450,000
320	10Kr	Violet & blue; <i>Violet-blue & greenish-blue</i>	Dark-blue-violet & blue	Aug 1921	16,825,000

** The number is for both papers together; separate figures are not available.

Political forgeries of the 80h are known, inscribed Judischösterreich instead of Deutschösterreich. Italicised colours are rare and expensive.

There are two well-known plate flaws occurring in this issue, which whilst not rarities by any means are well worth watching out for:

On the 1Kr value with both papers, a 'H' form may be seen in the feathers of the left wing  inside the sickle blade. This occurs five times in each sheet on alternate rows.



On the 7½Kr value, the top stroke of the '7' at the left is shortened .



The Unissued Airmail Stamp of 1922



Austrian catalogues list here an overprinted stamp which was to have been issued on 23 October 1922, for use on airmail. ANK designate it as (5). This was the 2Kr value in milky blue of the 1920-1921 definitive issue, overprinted by typography with the word **Flugpost**. 474,500 pieces were overprinted, but because it was then decided to issue the “Falcon and Kress” air mail set on 31 October 1922, the overprinted stamps were not issued. Two different plate errors are known, both are a malformed s in Flugpost.

The official story is that these stamps were officially destroyed and only 250 remained. This seems implausible, since not only do several APS members have copies but the Austrian Post Office is currently offering mint singles and blocks-of-four! (Maybe it was 250 sheets?)

The Carinthian Plebiscite Issue of 1920

As part of the provisions of the peace treaty, a plebiscite was held on 10 October 1920 to decide whether Carinthia, which had been invaded by Serbian Troops, should remain as a province of Austria or should be joined with the new Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Legally, during the period of the plebiscite the province was attached to neither state, but both Austria and Yugoslavia overprinted stamps for use (and propaganda).

There was no time for a new design, so 19 previous stamps were printed in new colours, some on coloured papers (probably all that was available), and with a black typographed overprint “Kärnten Abstimmung” (= Carinthia Plebiscite). The narrower low-value stamps were printed on coloured papers, and the low values were comb perforated 12½. The values from 2½ Kronen upwards (ie the Parliament Building design) were imperf on granite paper; as before, the two-colour stamps were printed in two operations. The ‘H’ variety is naturally also found on the 1 Krone value, since the 80 heller, 1 and 2 Kronen stamps were those of the previous set. In addition, these three stamps, alone of the set, also display a variety where the final “g” of “Abstimmung” is set lower than the remainder of the lettering. See table below.



An organisation called the Kärntner Heimatdienst was founded in 1920 to further the interests of Austria in general and of German-speakers in Carinthia in particular, especially in the imminent plebiscite. It sought the issue of fund-raising propaganda stamps, which was approved on 9 September 1920. The numbers printed are tabulated below; there was a total of 300,000 complete sets plus various quantities of all values except the 30h & 60h. The stamps were issued on 16 September 1920.

The “Handbuch Kärntnen 1980” (APS library nr 258, p116) adds that as well as sponsoring the issue the Kärntner Heimatdienst bought 252,000 of the sets and 28,000 of various values, either at face value or at cost-of-printing; then sold them to the public in Klagenfurt. The remaining 48,000 sets and assorted values were sold at three times face value through the post offices of the northern zone of the plebiscite region in Carinthia. The excess over the face value was used to support a propaganda fund to organise the voting in favour of staying in Austria. The stamps, however, were valid for the whole of Austria up to 10 October 1920; the day of the plebiscite. [*Similarly, the Yugoslavs produced and sold overprinted stamps in the southern zone: but they didn't start the process until the day after the Austrian stamps were placed on sale – presumably they were caught out! – so theirs didn't go on sale till 29 September.*]

During the plebiscite itself, British and Italian officers kept order and the Yugoslavian troops were ordered by the Supreme Council to place themselves under the orders of the Plebiscite Commission. Everyone with residential qualifications over the age of 20 was entitled to vote; the estimated southern-zone electorate was 22,800 ‘Germans’ and 49,600 ‘Slovenes’. The result was a majority (22,025 vs 15,278) in favour of the area being retained by Austria. In conformity with the Treaty of St. Germain, the Austrian victory in this zone rendered a plebiscite in the northern zone unnecessary and the whole region went to Austria.

ANK	Face	Colour	Number
321	5h	grey on off-white paper	324,000
322	10h	scarlet on pale rose paper	324,000
323	15h	khaki on slightly yellow paper	324,000
324	20h	dark bluish green on blue paper	396,000
325	25h	violet on off-white paper	324,000
326	30h	brown on buff paper	300,000
327	40h	red on slightly yellow paper	324,000
328	50h	dark greenish blue on blue paper	420,000
329	60h	olive on blue paper	300,000
330	80h	red	495,000
331	1Kr	light brown	410,000
332	2Kr	pale blue	430,000
The 2½Kr upwards are in the “Parliament” design			
333	2½Kr	brownish red on granite paper	302,000
334	3Kr	blue frame, green centre on granite paper	302,000
335	4Kr	red frame, violet centre on granite paper	302,000
336	5Kr	blue on granite paper	302,000
337	7½Kr	green on granite paper	302,000
338	10Kr	green frame, brownish-red centre on granite paper	302,000
339	20Kr	pale violet frame, light brown centre on granite paper	302,000

[~SG 411-429] Notes:

- There is a “low ‘g’ in ‘Abstimmung’ ” plate fault in some values.
- All the Parliament values exist in the new colours but without the overprint.
- “Bedarfsbrief” usage (ie correct franking on a contemporary item) is possible for many values; it is relatively rare and priced accordingly.

The Flood Relief Issue of 1921

The catastrophic floods of September 1920 which devastated large areas of Austria were very little noticed outside the Federal Republic. Nevertheless the damage which they inflicted was of such magnitude that federal relief had to be provided and it was decided to raise funds by issuing a special set of 20 overprinted stamps on 1 March 1921.



Again the designs of the two previous definitive sets of 1919 & 1921 were selected and printed in new colours. Unlike the Carinthian Plebiscite overprinted set, the 'Parliament Building' stamps were not issued imperforate but were line perforated 12½, whilst all the other values were comb perforated. Two sizes of overprint were employed: the smaller Type I on the low values (up to 2Kr) on ordinary wove paper, except for the 1Kr and 1½Kr values which were on a shiny-surfaced paper; and the larger Type II overprint on the high values 2½Kr to 20Kr which are printed on granite paper. Some catalogues show some of the low values as printed on coloured papers; the list below is based on visual inspection of actual stamps! The 1Kr stamp has the usual 'H' variety in the eagle's wing, the 2Kr stamp is known with the "1920" of the overprint omitted and also as a vertical pair with imperf between, whilst the 4Kr value may be found with the name of the designer "J.F. Renner" missing from the bottom margin of the stamp. Once again the bi-coloured values were printed in two operations. A total of 400,000 complete sets was printed, and these stamps were sold at three times face value, the extra sums raised being spent on the flood relief. The issue was valid until 31 March 1921 – ie, only one month.

ANK	Face	Colour	Number
340	5h	light grey	450,000
341	10h	red-brown	450,000
342	15h	light grey	450,000
343	20h	green	450,000
344	25h	light blue	450,000
345	30h	violet on blue paper	400,000
346	40h	reddish brown on light rose paper	400,000
347	50h	green on blue paper	400,000
348	60h	violet	400,000
349	80h	pale blue	480,000
350	1Kr	orange-red on slightly blue paper	530,000

ANK	Face	Colour	Number
351	1½Kr	light green on yellow paper	530,000
352	2Kr	light brown	480,000
The 2½Kr upwards are in the “Parliament” design			
353	2½Kr	darkish blue on granite paper	480,000
354	3Kr	green frame, red-brown centre on granite paper	480,000
355	4Kr	pale violet frame, light brown centre on granite paper	480,000
356	5Kr	sage green on granite paper	480,000
357	7½Kr	brownish red on granite paper	480,000
358	10Kr	dark blue frame, green centre on granite paper	480,000
359	20Kr	pale red frame, dark violet centre on granite paper	480,000

[~SG 430-449] Notes:

- There is a “high ‘r’ in ‘Wasser’ ” plate fault in some values.
- Most of the low values can be found imperf.
- “Bedarfsbrief” usage (ie correct franking on a contemporary item) is possible for many values; it is relatively rare and priced accordingly.
- Some values are found in “wrong” colours.
- Overprint errors are found, especially ‘1020’ instead of ‘1920’.

The “Nachmarke” of 1921

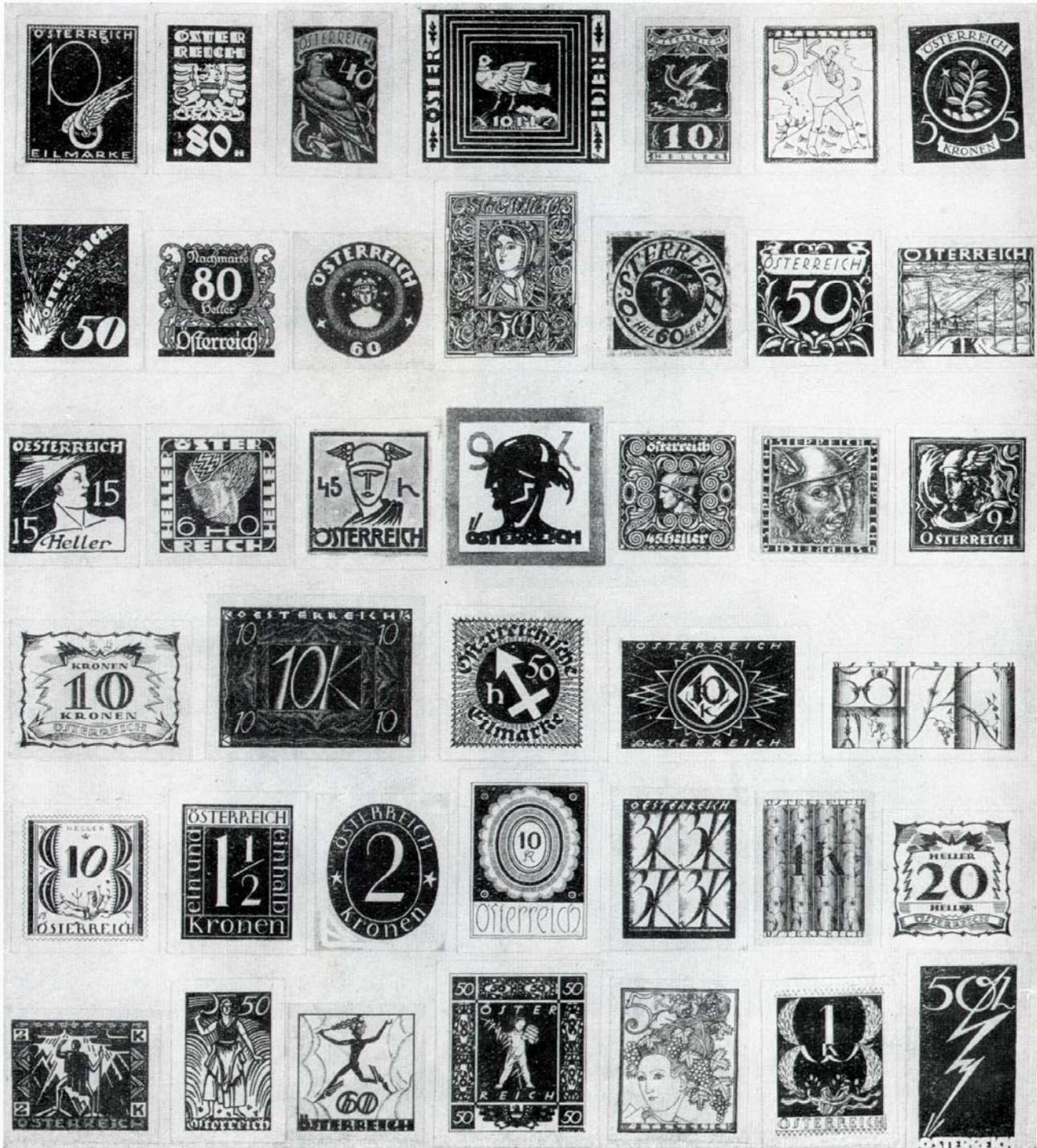


In December 1921, the 15h stamp on grey paper (ANK262) was overprinted in bluish black with “Nachmarke / 7½ K” for postage-due use. 9,120,000 were printed in sheets of 120 (10x12) and line perfed 12½. This was the first use of the term instead of Portomarke. It is catalogued as ANK102 [SG D451]. There is a large variety of damaged overprints listed, and it can be found inverted. Two main subtypes are distinguished, with a long or a short / in the ½; this has no effect on the price while genuine usage on complete covers, forms etc definitely does! The stamp was valid till 31 July 1923.

THE FIRST AUSTRIAN REPUBLIC

The 'Österreich' Inflation Issue of 1922-24.

As previously explained, the use of "Deutschösterreich" (German-Austria) on postage stamps was considered by the Allies as indicating the intention of a union with Germany, and hence infringing the Treaty of St Germain. Eventually acquiescing, on 21 October 1919 Austria adopted the name "Austria" for the country. Therefore in 1921 a competition was held for stamp designs to incorporate the word "Österreich", and the designs which were submitted typify the "Modern" or "New Art" of that period.



None of these designs were selected, however. Instead, Professor Wilhelm Dachauer designed an ‘ear of corn’ for agriculture (it looks like barley to me!); metal-working hammer-and-tongs being swallowed by a fleshy plant (industry and commerce); and an allegorical female head with an owl perched on her hair (arts and science). This allegorical head probably depicts the actress and singer Erika von Wagner, and is usually referred to by the German “Frauenkopf” (= female head). The “agriculture/industry” stamps were printed by typography but the “arts” stamps were engraved by F. Schirnböck and recess printed.



The denominations issued can best be viewed in terms of the inflation which descended upon Austria in the years of their use. The exchange rate of Kronen to the £1 sterling is tabulated here:

1914	23.1.1920	11.11.1920	25.10.1921	1.1.1922	31.4.1922	15.6.1922
24Kr	1,000Kr	2,000Kr	8,000Kr	45,000Kr	93,000Kr	84,000Kr

Also relevant is the progressive increase in the postal rates. New higher face values were steadily introduced, and old smaller or unuseable values withdrawn, sometimes with a brief period when they could be exchanged. After February 1921 all Fahrpost (parcels etc) charges had to be paid in cash, not by applying adhesives: the opportunities for genuine use of high-value stamps were greatly diminished!

Date	LL	IL	FL	IPC	FPC	IRg	FRg
1 December 1921	7½	10	25	5	15	10	25
1 May 1922	20	25	75	12½	45	40	75
21 Aug 1922	80	100	300	50	180	160	300
18 September 1922	160	200	600	100	360	320	600
1 November 1922	320	400	1500	200	900	640	1500
1 August 1922	--	600	2000	300	1200	1000	2000
1 December 1923	--	1000	3000	500	1800	2000	3000
1 December 1924	--	1500	4000	700	2400	3000	4000

LL, IL, FL = local, inland, foreign letter, at lowest weight step (ignoring any reduced-rate eg for Hungary). IPC, FPC = inland, foreign postcard (ditto) And IRg, FRg = inland, foreign registration fee

The type of paper used for the copper recess printed stamps (the Frauenkopf) also produce the usual variations of up to 1mm in the linear dimensions of the design of the stamps; and depending on how it was inserted in the printing press one finds ‘tall’ stamps (25 x 29.5mm) and ‘wide’ stamps (26 x 29mm).

All of these stamps were perforated 12½, the “agriculture/industry” stamps on a comb machine and the “arts” stamps on a line machine. For the “arts” stamps, the 20, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 1000Kr values were also issued with a line perforation 11½; the 50Kr stamp is known as a rarity with a line perforation 11½:12½; and the 50, 200, 1000 and 2000 Kronen values are found in pairs imperforate between.

The catalogues remark that many varieties of shades, paper, perforation oddities and so forth are found; indeed, the author's solitary copy of the 10,000Kr is on 'granite' paper which is mentioned in old copies of 'Austria' but not in the modern catalogues. There are several well-known plate errors in this issue; each catalogue lists several but none lists all! Stamps are also found in unissued colours, as blackprints, as minisheets, and similar productions of questionable authenticity.

The tables that follow give details for the agriculture/industry stamps and then the "Frauenkopf" stamps. The dates of issue and validity come from Kroiss; those in the Postverordnungsblatt (the Post Office bulletin sent mainly to its staff) often have issue dates a month or so earlier. Numbers are either those delivered to the central warehouse or those actually sold; the catalogues that contain them have the numbers but no explanation!

ANK	Face	Colour	Issued	Valid till	S.F.	CV	Des	Number
360	½	ochre	Jan 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923		2	12,756,000
361	1	brown	Feb 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923		1	11,750,000
362	2	greenish blue	Feb 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923	2	1	14,640,000
363	2½	chestnut	Feb 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923		2	9,329,000
364	4	purple	Feb 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923		1	4,880,000
365	5	olive-green	Jan 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923	2	1	39,455,000
366	7½	slate-violet	Jan 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923		2	17,340,000
367	10	claret	Jan 1922	31.12.1923	31.12.1923		1	63,187,000
368	12½	olive-green	Jan 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923	2	2	28,632,000
369	15	blue-green	May 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923		2	9,507,000
370	20	blue	May 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		2	66,663,000
371	25	claret	May 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		2	27,756,000
372	30	pearl-grey	May 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		1	17,115,000
373	45	red	May 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		1	12,400,000
374	50	chestnut	Aug 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923	2	1	29,520,000
375	60	sage-green	Aug 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		1	7,700,000
376	75	ultramarine	May 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		1	19,132,000
377	80	yellow	Aug 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		1	48,000,000
378	100	drab	Aug 1922	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		2	173,952,000
379	120	chocolate	Aug 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		2	9,342,000
380	150	orange	Aug 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		2	14,060,000
381	160	apple-green	Sep 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		2	30,016,000
382	180	scarlet	Aug 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		2	9,393,000
383	200	pink	Aug 1922	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		2	149,760,000
384	240	bright violet	Aug 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923	2	2	17,520,000
385	300	light blue	Aug 1922	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		2	76,128,000
386	400	bright green	Nov 1922	30.6.1925	30.9.1925	3	2	85,500,000

ANK	Face	Colour	Issued	Valid till	S.F.	CV	Des	Number
387	500	yellow	Sep 1922	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		2	161,164,000
388	600	slate	Sep 1922	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		2	69,540,000
389	700	chocolate	Dec 1924	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		2	41,361,000
390	800	violet	Dec 1924	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		2	7,089,000
391	1000	mauve	Aug 1923	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		1	160,000,000
392	1200	carmine	Aug 1923	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		1	19,739,000
393	1500	orange	Dec 1924	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		1	54,600,000
394	1600	slate	Aug 1923	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		1	5,407,000
395	2000	blue	Aug 1923	30.6.1925	30.9.1925	2	1	21,850,000
396	3000	light blue	Jan 1924	30.6.1925	30.9.1925	2	1	25,560,000
397	4000	blue on azure	Dec 1924	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		1	4,842,000

[~SG 461-498]

All face values are in Kronen. "CV" = colour variants if more than 1. "S.F." = last date for use as supplementary franking on inland postal stationery, but only valid if applied by post office at point-of-sale. Des = Design: '1' = hammer&tongs (the wider design); '2' = ear-of-corn (the narrower).

Frauenkopf

ANK	Face	Colour	Issued	Ended	S.F.	CV	AT	AW	BT	BW	Number
398	20	sepia	Feb 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923			Y		Y	4,900,000
399	25	blue	Jan 1922	31.7.1923	30.9.1923	2		Y		Y	12,337,000
400	50	lake	Feb 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	9,630,000
401	100	green	Mar 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923	3	Y	Y	Y	Y	6,360,000
402	200	purple	Mar 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		Y	Y		Y	5,700,000
403	500	orange	May 1922	30.9.1923	31.12.1923		Y	Y			6,912,000
404	1,000	deep violet on yellow paper	Aug 1922	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		Y		Y	Y	12,672,000
405	2,000	green on yellow paper	Nov 1922	30.6.1925	30.9.1925	3	Y				10,265,000
406	3,000	lake	Aug 1923	30.6.1925	30.9.1925		Y				2,512,000
407	5,000	grey-black	Aug 1923	30.6.1925	30.9.1925	2	Y				3,030,000
408	10,000	chestnut	Jan 1924	30.6.1925	30.9.1925			Y			1,892,000

[~SG 499-509] Notes

CV = number of colour variants if more than 1

AT = Perf 12½; tall stamp; AW = Perf 12½; wide stamp

BT = Perf 11½; tall stamp; BW = Perf 11½; wide stamp

The 1922-1924 postage dues (Kronen series)



[~SG D510-D518 & D526-DD615] Typo; comb perf 12½. ANK 112-117 were partly issued because the smaller size was cheaper to print compared with nos 108-111.

ANK	Face	Colour	Nr	Issued	Valid till
103	1	reddish-brown	4,500,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
104	2	reddish-brown	2,500,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
105	4	reddish-brown	2,500,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
106	5	reddish-brown	4,000,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
107	7½	reddish-brown	2,000,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
108	10	bluish-green	2,800,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
109	15	bluish-green	2,080,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
110	20	bluish-green	2,000,000	Jan 1922	30.9.1923
111	50	bluish-green	2,960,000	Jan 1922	30.9.1923
112	10	bluish-green	2,400,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
113	15	bluish-green	2,160,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
114	20	bluish-green	2,400,000	Jan 1922	30.9.1923
115	25	bluish-green	2,160,000	Jan 1922	31.7.1923
116	40	bluish-green	3,760,000	End June 1922	30.9.1923
117	50	bluish-green	2,000,000	End June 1922	30.9.1923
118	100	violet	5,760,000	End June 1922	30.6.1925
119	150	violet	4,160,000	End June 1922	30.9.1923
120	200	violet	6,400,000	End June 1922	30.9.1923
121	400	violet	4,000,000	Nov 1922	30.9.1923
122	600	violet	1,920,000	Aug 1923	30.9.1923
123	800	violet	3,200,000	Nov 1922	30.9.1923

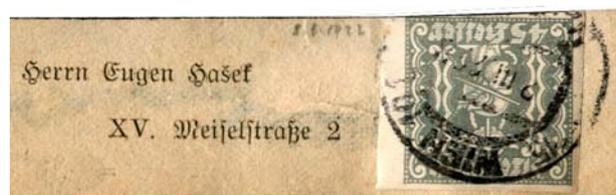
ANK	Face	Colour	Nr	Issued	Valid till
124	1000	violet	4,000,000	Nov 1923	30.9.1923
125	1200	violet	400,000	Aug 1923	30.9.1923
126	1500	violet	2,240,000	Dec 1924	30.9.1923
127	1800	violet	240,000	Jan 1924	30.9.1923
128	2000	violet	1,600,000	Nov 1923	30.9.1923
129	3000	violet	320,000	Dec 1924	30.9.1923
130	4000	violet	800,000	Jan 1924	30.6.1925
131	6000	violet	400,000	Jan 1924	30.6.1925

The 1921/22 “Dachauer” newspaper post stamps



The Dachauer series has been extensively covered in Austria 178 pp 25-26. They are catalogued as ANK 409-416 [-SG N452-N459] The series was announced on 22/12/1921. For newspaper stamps, the values were 45h, 75h, 150h, 180h, 225h, 300h, 600h & 750h. They were “to be issued from the warehouse when old issues run out; all current values remaining valid.”. Imprints of 45h & 75h were available, in grey & red, the same colours as the adhesives.

Since the Dachauer issue was distributed for use only after the previous issue had run out, and the use of newspaper stamps ceased on 1 March 1922, it had an extremely short life. It is thus unremarkable that genuinely used pieces are expensive: especially the imprinted items and the high values. Note Kroiss’ assertion that only the 45h, 75h, 2Kr25 & 7Kr50 ever reached the post offices, and hence cancelled 1Kr50, 1Kr80, 3Kr & 6Kr specimens were done by favour.



The Musicians or Composers Set of 1922

During the disheartening period after the First World War the Austrian Post Office started to issue sets of Charity stamps to raise funds for categories of needy persons. These stamps usually consisted of a beautiful portrait or view contained in an elaborately designed decorative frame; a tradition which started in 1908 and which continued into the Second Republic. The first of these sets appeared on 24 April 1922 and depicted seven famous Austrian composers (OK, Beethoven was born in Bonn and Mozart in the then independent country of Salzburg...). The illustrated letter is philatelically overfranked, but only by 40Kr.



ANK	Face	Colour	Design	Number
418	2½Kr	Brown	Josef Haydn (1732 - 1809)	480,000
419	5Kr	Indigo	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 -1791)	530,000
420	7½Kr	black	Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 - 1827)	520,000
421	10Kr	purple	Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828)	530,000
422	25Kr	green	Anton Bruckner (1825 - 1896)	520,000
423	50Kr	lake	Johann Strauss the Son (1825 - 1894)	480,000
424	100Kr	olive	Hugo Wolf (1860 - 1903)	480,000

[~SG 519-525] There is no doubt that Austria is pre-eminently renowned for her contribution to music, so that these famous Austrians, unlike some of those who appear on subsequent sets, were widely known outside of Austria. The set was designed by Dr. Rudolf Junk; the dies for the printing of these stamps were engraved by Professor Ferdinand Schirnbock; and the stamps were printed by recess process at the Austrian State Printing Works, Vienna, on normal recess printing paper. However, a hundred sets were also printed on Japan paper, and presented in a special folder, signed by the artist, to highly placed officials. The stamps were line perforated 12½ and these are the stamps normally encountered. All the values, except the 5Kr and the 50Kr, also exist with a line perforation 11½, the 7½Kr being especially rare in this perforation. (And imperf stamps are found.) The stamps were sold, only at head and selected Post Offices, at ten times their face value. They were in aid of a fund for indigent Austrian musicians. They were useable anywhere for inland and foreign mail, and valid for postal use for about a month, until 22 May 1922.

The Airmail Set of 1922-24.



ANK	Face	Colour	Issued	First use*	Design	Number**
425	300Kr	claret	31.10.1922	1.11.1922	falcon	525,000
426	400Kr	green	18.4.1924	22.4.1924	falcon	287,500
427	600Kr	olive	31.10.1922	1.11.1922	falcon	816,500
428	900Kr	brick-red	31.10.1922	1.11.1922	falcon	821,500
429	1200Kr	purple	31.10.1922	1.11.1922	Kress	810,000
430	2400Kr	slate	31.10.1922	1.11.1922	Kress	812,500
431	3000Kr	brown	17.3.1923	19.3.1923	Kress	570,000
432	4800Kr	blue	17.3.1923	19.3.1923	Kress	576,500

* 'First use' date is the earliest recorded air mail.

[~SG 546-553] Two designs were employed for this set, both produced by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer. The four lower values depicting a hawk or falcon were produced by typography and comb perforated 12½. There are two varieties known with the 600Kr value; firstly it is known with double perforations, and secondly, on the 41st stamp in the sheet, a 'cloud' may be seen in the line background at left above the falcon's wing due to a retouching of the printing plate. This only occurs in the later part of the printing. The four higher values depict the Austrian aviation pioneer, Wilhelm Kress. The design was engraved by Prof. Ferdinand Schirnböck and the stamps printed by copper recess process with line perforations 12½.

Of the complete series there exist imperforate "printing pieces" in an issue of four sheets (400 pieces), as well as perforated "printing pieces" with sheet edging (the stamps sold over the counter had had the sheet edging removed). In addition, the Post Office had ordered "proof pieces" in various colours, of the 50Kr 4 different; of the 100Kr, 3 different; of the 300Kr 2 different; and of the 1200Kr 4 different colours.

The airmail surcharge could be paid with these stamps or with definitive or charity stamps; however the surface charges could only be paid with definitive or charity stamps. Exceptionally, "first flight" covers could have all charges paid with air mail stamps. This being Austria, examples are known that do not conform to the rules.

These stamps were valid until 31 August 1925. **ANK states that only 60,000 sets were sold. Sobetsky records that the sale of this series at the Vienna collectors' counter ceased on 12th March 1926, by when only 80,500 sets out of the whole issue had been sold. The quantity sold individually is unclear. The residue, being in the old currency, was presumably recycled.

The “State Capitals” charity issue of 1923.

This Charity Set, issued on 22 May 1923 in aid of an “Artists’ Charity Fund” at six times face value shows various of the chief cities of the various provinces which together constitute the Federal Republic. The stamps were sold from head and selected Post Offices, but were useable anywhere for inland and foreign mail. The stamps were valid for the usual month, till 23rd June 1923.



ANK	Face	Design	Number
433	100Kr	Bregenz, capital of the Vorarlberg . View including the parish church.	170,483
434	120Kr	Salzburg, capital of Salzburg . Shows Hohensalzburg Castle as viewed from the Mirabell gardens.	169,904
435	160Kr	Eisenstadt, the capital of Burgenland , showing the Church of the Franciscan Monastery.	169,638
436	180Kr	Klagenfurt, the capital of Carinthia , shows a sixteenth century Landhaus.	169,020
437	200Kr	Innsbruck, the capital of Tirol , shows the “Golden Roof” house built by Frederick of Tirol about 1430.	169,227
438	240Kr	Linz, the capital of Upper Austria , showing the “Place of Twelfth November” with the Trinity Column.	168,006
439	400Kr	Graz, the capital of Styria , shows the Clock Tower (1561) on Schlossburg above the town centre.	167,442
440	600Kr	Melk, the famous Benedictine Abbey in Lower Austria , founded in 1089 and rebuilt to its present state between 1702 and 1749 (see note).	167,170
441	1000Kr	Vienna, the Federal Capital but also the capital of Vienna (see note). The view is of the Belvedere Palace with its beautiful gardens.	167,206

[~SG 554-562]

The set was designed by Dr. Rudolf Junk and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Schirnböck. The stamps are recess printed and line perforated 12½. All values occur imperf; the 600Kr is also known imperforate at the right hand side only. The unsold remainders were incinerated. In addition, 250 sets were printed on Japan paper and supplied in a special folder to favoured officials; and blackprints are catalogued (though unpriced). There are two mysteries and one design oddity with this issue:

- It was supposedly sold only in complete sets, but the numbers catalogued as sold differ between values.
- It was sold either at 5X face (according to most sources) or 6X face (according to Karasek's reproduction of an official document).
- Why Melk? Vienna became a Land in its own right on 20 Nov 1921, so was its own capital city. The Lower Austrian government remained in Vienna until 1986, so there was no Lower Austrian Capital actually within Lower Austria! Melk was chosen as a famous landmark so that each Land got its own stamp.

The 'Artists' Charity Set of 1924.

The Charity stamps of 1924 came as a complete surprise, since they broke absolutely with tradition. The designing of this set was entrusted, not as with all the previous issues to an artist who had produced stamps in imperial days, but to a younger man not yet 40 years old! This was Karl Sterrer who was born in Vienna on 4 December 1885, the son of the famous sculptor Karl Sterrer. He had attended the Vienna Academy as a pupil and had won the Rome Prize in 1908 and the Reichel Prize in 1919. In 1921 he became a teacher at the Academy and was given a Chair there in 1922. This was the "sombre artist" who produced the designs for this 1924 Charity issue.



ANK	Face	Design	Number
442	100Kr + 300Kr	"Art as Comforter" symbolised by a man dying in a strange land.	124,608
443	300Kr + 900Kr	"Agriculture and Handicraft" - depicted as a standing and a seated figure.	119,809
444	500Kr + 1500Kr	"Mother Love" is depicted with a seated mother with three semi-naked children.	119,642
445	600Kr + 1800Kr	"Charity" symbolised by a woman giving a drink to a seated old man.	118,558
446	1000Kr + 3000Kr	"Fruitful Nature" symbolised with a semi-naked female figure floating above a house.	118,681

[~SG 563-567]

The book "100 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke" notes that this was the first Austrian stamp issue to be produced by photogravure on a hand copper printing press. A total of 118,558 sets were sold for the benefit of children's charities and the tuberculosis fund, and the remainders were burned. Unlike the previous sets, this one was not sold at a multiple of face value, but had its surcharge incorporated into the design of the stamp.

The set was issued on 6 September 1924 and was invalidated on 31 December 1924. Even during its short life the designs created "animated discussion" and Sterrer was only invited to design one other set of Austrian stamps (the Airmail Set of 1 August 1925) although later he became the Rector of the Vienna Academy.

As for the previous set, imperf, Japan-paper, and plate-numbered stamps exist. These were the last Austrian stamps to appear in the currency of 100 heller to the Krone. Perhaps with an eye to inflation, a stamp with face value 50,000Kr was considered!

Further reading

Long lists exist [*ask me! Ed*] of works on the history, politics, and philately of Austria, and even if restricted to those in English they are still long. However most have been supplanted by later works, or rendered quaint by newer thinking and approaches. More than sufficient are listed here.

Some older classics:

- Bérenger Jean, "A history of the Habsburg Empire 1700-1918" [ISBN 0 582 09007 5]
 Brion M, "Daily life in the Vienna of Mozart & Schubert", London 1961
 Brook-Shepherd G, "The Austrians: a 1000-year odyssey". London 1997. [ISBN 0 00 638255X]
 Brook-Shepherd, G, "The last Habsburg". London 1968.
 Macartney C A, "The House of Austria" [ISBN 0 85224 351 0]
 Macartney C.A. "The Social Revolution in Austria". Cambridge. 1926.
 Marboe E, "The Book of Austria" Vienna 1948.
 Stadler K R, "Austria". London 1971
 Tapié V L, "The rise and fall of the Habsburg Monarchy" [ISBN 0 269 027912]
 Taylor A J P, "The Habsburg Monarchy 1809-1918" London 1948
 Giblin J F, "The People on Austrian Stamps", (*APS library nr 15 with supplements in 'Austria' indexed on the APS web site at "Cumulative Index to Biographies of People on Austrian Stamps"*).

Some more modern works:

- Beller, Steven: "A Concise History of Austria" Cambridge University Press 2006
 Clare, George: "Last Waltz in Vienna" Macmillan 1981 *growing up in Vienna in the 1930s and having to leave*
 Okey, Robin: "The Habsburg Monarchy - from Enlightenment to Eclipse" St. Martins Press 2001
 Slesin S. & Cliff S., "Mittel Europa - Living in Style in Vienna, Prague, Budapest & the Lands of the Danube", Thames & Hudson 1994.
 Wawro, Geoffrey: "The Austro-Prussian War Cambridge" University Press 1996 *brilliant readable story of a hugely important and largely forgotten war*
 R Toman (Ed); "Vienna Art & Architecture" [ISBN 3-8290-2044-9]. *It's more a dining- than a coffee-table book, but the coverage is comprehensive and the photos excellent*

Philatelic works:

- Peter Kroiss "Belege der Österreichischen Inflationszeit 1918-1925" (APS Lib 434). Biedermannsdorf 2008.
 Specialised Catalogues by ANK, Michel, and SG (APS Lib 342, 121, 170).
 Ferchenbauer 2008 (APS Lib 41) but only for the Imperial stamps that were overprinted.
 Karasek "Inflation in Osterreich 1918-1925" [aka 'red'] and "Österreich 1925-1938" [aka 'green'] (APS Lib 200 & 298).
 "Austrian Stamps and their background, 1850-1937" by Marian Carne Zinsmeister S.P.A., Vandahl Pubs, Albany, Oregon, 1949.
 APS library books 111-115 and 435 contain information about stamp designers.

2012 NEW ISSUES (second instalment)

by Andy Taylor

Author's Notes

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date; quantity printed; printing method; designer (and engraver if relevant); printer if not Österreichische Staatsdruckerei; and some details on the design. The illustrations are around life size, although blocks & strips are smaller. The issue dates and order are taken from "Die Briefmarke". More extensive descriptions can sometimes be found on the English version of the Post.at website.

Definitives: (1) 90c, "Forum Stadtpark Graz", 27/4/2012; rolls of 50 (2) 70c, "Museum der Moderne Mönchsberg Salzburg", 27/4/2012; 'stamp sets' of 4. Both are reprints, now with architect's name added. (3) 1€45 "Frauenmuseum Hittisau" now also sold in rolls of 25.



800th Anniversary of the Town of Enns: 1€45; 22/4/2012; 270,000; Engraved-recess; Design: Petra Riegler; Engraving: Etch-Art by OeSD. The stamp depicts the town's landmarks.

Bavarian – Upper Austria Provincial Exhibition 2012; 70c; 26/4/2012; 400,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The exhibition's theme is the relationship between Upper Austria and its German neighbour Bavaria, focussing on the two ruling families, the Habsburgs and the Wittelsbachs. Ranshofen castle at Braunau am Inn and the castle in Mattighofen have been lovingly restored to provide a worthy setting for part of the exhibition. Burghausen castle, the only Bavarian venue, focuses on the expansion of Bavaria into Austrian territory. The stamp shows the Seal of the Golden Bull of Emperor Karl IV.



900th Anniversary of Herzogenburg Priory: 90c; 5/5/2012; 250,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. Numerous events and a redesigned art collection will celebrate the 900th anniversary of the founding of Herzogenburg Priory by Ulrich I in St. Georgen a. d. Traisen at the confluence of the Traisen and the Danube in 1112. It moved 10 km upstream in 1244 to avoid the frequent flooding. From 1714, the Priory was refurbished in the baroque style by Jakob Prandtauer, Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and Joseph Munggenast. The stamp shows the statue of St George, the Priory's patron saint, and the anniversary logo.

100 Years since the Discovery of Cosmic Radiation -Victor F Hess: 1€45; 5/5/2012; 270,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld. The stamp honours a great Austrian scientist. In 1912 the physicist Viktor Franz Hess (1883-1964) discovered cosmic radiation while making balloon ascents into the Earth's atmosphere. For this discovery he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1936. In honour of this extraordinary scientific achievement, the new commemorative also has gold leaf embossing!



After the ascents and back in Graz, he was obliged to investigate atmospheric electricity for lack of funds. In 1931 he was appointed professor and head of the Institute of Radiology at the University of Innsbruck, but radium burns led to the amputation of a thumb and an operation on the thorax. After Austria was occupied by the German Reich, Hess was imprisoned for a short time. On 28 May 1938, he was initially retired provisionally and in September 1938 dismissed without notice and without entitlement to a pension. He was also obliged to convert into German treasury bills the Nobel Prize money which he had received and invested in Sweden. In the same year, he emigrated to the USA, where he continued his work at Fordham University. In 1944, he acquired American citizenship. The scientific measuring station on the Innsbruck Hafelekarr mountain, where cosmic radiation is observed, still recalls this great Austrian physicist.



100 Years of SV Ried: 62c; 6/5/2012; 700,002 in minisheets of 6 (hence the curious 2!); Offset; Design: Herbert Gruber. Sportvereinigung Ried, a long-standing Austrian football club, is this year celebrating the 100 year of its foundation. During the century it has repeatedly risen and fallen through the league structure, from near the bottom to the very top.



Visit Austria: 70c; 11/05/2012; 175,000; Design: Silvia Moucka; Offset. The topic of this year's Europa stamp as determined by Posteurop, the Association of European Post Companies, is "Visit". The Austrian Post has chosen a block which shows probably the most famous sight in Austria, St Stephen's Cathedral in the heart of Vienna, as a large background image. Superimposed are the impressive fortress of Hohensalzburg and the Graz clock tower, with the popular Ferris wheel in Vienna's Prater as the actual motif of the stamp.

Opost add "It is interesting that visitors to the cities usually stay for a significantly shorter time than in tourism resorts in the country, but spend considerably more per day on

average than other visitors to Austria". Your Editor has noticed this...



Tag der Briefmarke: 2€72 + 1€36; 11/5/2012; 640,002 in minisheets of 6; Design: Hannes Margreiter; Offset. This beautifully designed stamp shows a Badner-Bahn vehicle; they run between the Opera in Vienna and Josefsplatz in Baden and are very familiar to the APS visitors to WIPA2000. The background is Karlsplatz, featuring in particular Karlskirche and the old Otto Wagner-designed Staatsbahn station.

100 Years of the Steamship Schönbrunn: 90c; 12/05/2012; 265,000; Offset; Design: Marion Füllerer. The steamship Schönbrunn, once the

pride of the Erste Donau-Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft, was acquired by the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Eisenbahngeschichte in 1995 and lovingly restored during thousands of working hours. The stamp has been designed by the young graphic designer Marion Füllerer, and the motif shows an attractive painting of the Schönbrunn by the Linz-born artist Walter Ofner.



Definitive: 62c "Stiftung Ludwig", 18/5/2012; stamp-sets of 4, reprint with architect's name.



150 anniversary of the death of Johann Nestroy: 1€45; 24/05/2012; 270,000; Engraved-recess printing; Design: Kirsten Lubach Engraving; Etch-Art by OeSD. The Austrian writer, actor, singer, playwright and satirist Johann Nepomuk Eduard Ambrosius Nestroy (1801-1862) was one of the most significant representatives of the old Viennese popular comedy. This stamp, released on the 150th anniversary of his death, is from an 1857 lithograph by Melchior Fritsch showing Nestroy as the burlesque character Willibald. His spontaneous improvisations in the middle of a performance were always a thorn in the censor's flesh.

125th anniversary of Anton Faistauer: 70c; 2/6/2012; 400,000; Offset; Design: Gabriele Milewski.

Anton Faistauer was born in St. Martin bei Lofer (Salzburg) on 4 February 1887. The stamp depicts his 1929 oil painting "Self-portrait". He came from a peasant family and turned to painting while still at school in Bolzano. With others in Vienna he founded the legendary "New Art Group" in protest against the conservative academic art business. Faistauer was one of the most important Austrian fresco painters, creating large format works that combined modern forms of expression with traditional elements and religious topics. Faistauer's works were frequently exhibited during his lifetime and highly appreciated amongst collectors. Alongside



Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka and Böckl, he is regarded as one of the most important pioneers of modern Austrian painting. Unlike the avant-garde, however, he remained loyal to the great Western tradition of painting.



1000 Years of the Town of Stockerau: 62c; 3/6/2012; 400,000; Offset; Design: Ingrid Schuster. The complete English description is “Stockerau is first mentioned in documents in the year 1012, in connection with St Coloman, under the name Stoccaerouwe. Coloman was a wandering Irish monk who was killed by the people of Stockerau since they did not understand his language and took him for a spy.” They don’t say if Stockerau is twinned with Hartlepool. The stamp shows a watercolour of the main sights of Stockerau, with the 18th Cy. church tower in the middle.

Stained-glass window at Lilienfeld Monastery: 1€45; 8/6/2012; 270,000; Design: Peter Sinawehl; Engraved-recess printing; Engraver: Etch-Art by OeSD. The motif shows the stained-glass window of the “Coronation of the Virgin” dating from the early 14th century, depicting Christ together with his mother as the Queen of Heaven. Sitting on a richly decorated throne, Mary is crowned and ceremoniously receives a sceptre of lilies.



150th anniversary of the birth of Johann Puch: 1€45; 27/6/2012; 270,000; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Offset. This commemorative honours the great engineer, industrialist, founder of the Styrian bicycle industry and of the legendary Puch factory, Johann Puch, the 150th anniversary of whose birth occurs this year. The stamp shows his portrait together with the Model IV Puch touring bike which he designed. Johann Puch, in Slovenian Janez Puh, was born in Sakušak near Georgendorf in Lower Styria (at the time Austria, today Slovenia) on 27 June 1862. The company merged with Daimler in 1928 and Steyer in 1934; much has closed and the rest is now owned by Magna Holding AG in 1998, concentrating mainly on four-wheel-drive technology.



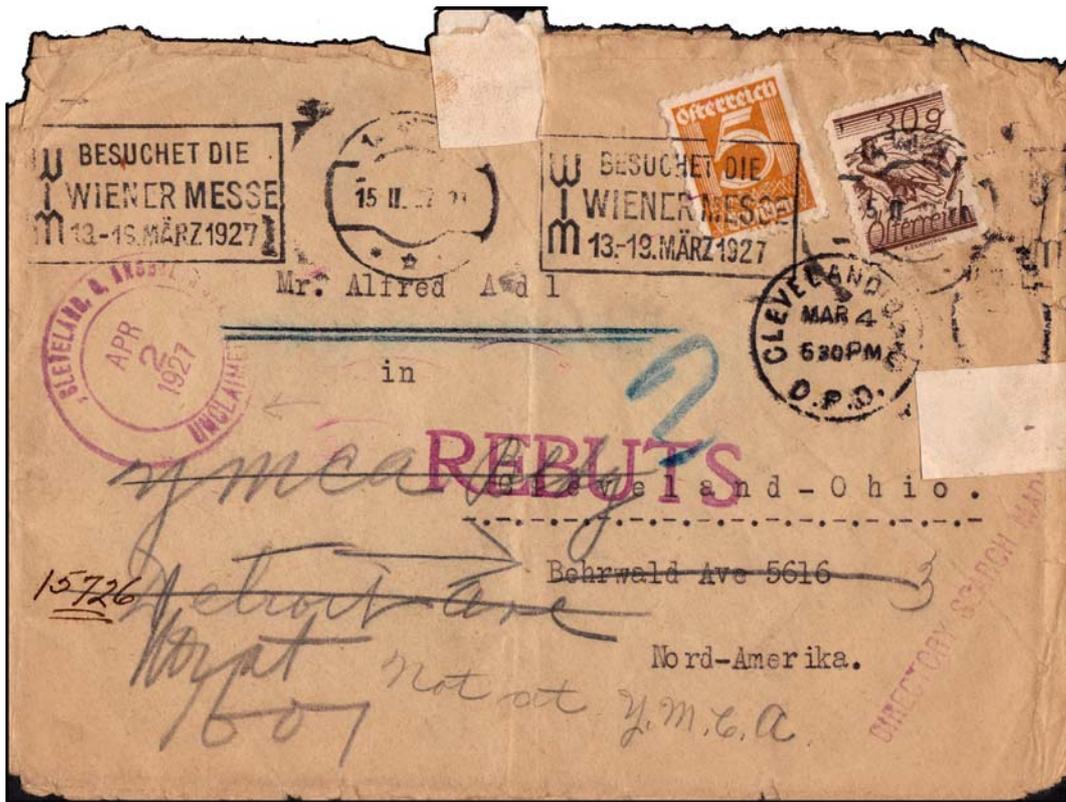
VIENNA TO CLEVELAND OHIO

by Steve Schweighofer

This cover is really beaten and ragged, but it still has a story to tell. The letter was cancelled 15 February 1927 at the 1 WIEN 1 station with a WIENER MESSE machine slogan cancel bearing the incorrect postage of 35 groschen, shortpaid by 5 groschen and not marked as such, for the foreign letter rate - or - it's also possible the letter was sent at the printed matter rate of 32 groschen for a four-gram letter, being convenience-overpaid by 3 groschen. The envelope bears evidence of having containing something heavy and mended with tape as the contents began to tear the envelope on the long trip.

The cover arrived in Cleveland on 4 March 1927 as shown by the CLEVELAND, OHIO D.P.O. (Downtown Post Office) duplex receiving mark. The right side of the duplex marking did not show well, probably due to the unevenness of the contents. The duplex part is the oval, situated vertically near the right edge of the cover, and it would have contained horizontal bars and a device number.

The addressee, Mr. Alfred Adl, was not at the original address of 5616 Behrwald Ave. That address was lined-through with a pencil and a new address at the YMCA Bldg. on Detroit Ave. was added and later corrected to 15726 Detroit Ave. Delivery was attempted at number 1607, but Mr. Adl was not there. “Not at Y.M.C.A.” is hand-written in pencil below the original address. A diagonal handstamp near the lower-right corner states a “DIRECTORY SEARCH MADE”.



A French “REBUTS” (= undeliverable, according to 20th-Century auxiliary markings collector Tom Fortunato) marking, prominent in the center of the front, was probably applied because only the sender’s name, city (Wien) and district is readable. There are also multiple traces of parts of the “pointing finger” returned to writer handstamp on both the front and back, possibly from other uses of that handstamp at the same desk while the letter was there.

On 2 April, after 30 days, the letter was determined to be unclaimed, as evidenced by the CLEVELAND, O, BROOKLYN STA. UNCLAIMED marking on the left. A double underlining of Alfred Adl’s name and question mark in blue pencil on the front is not typical of U. S. Post Office markings and may have been applied upon its return to Europe or in Austria.



[Lower part omitted; it contained only a dealer’s number. Ed.]

The sender’s street and number must have been torn away on a damaged piece of the envelope flap on the back, so someone added an arrow pointing to the added “Austria”. The letter was returned to the sender, Ms Emma Voytischek, in Vienna.

TRIESTE POSTAL MUSEUM & THE “RASTRELLO”

(First published in “Fil-Italia” the journal of the Italy & Cols Study Circle)

By Alan Becker

One of the highlights of a recent “Italy and Colonies Study Circle” trip to Trieste was a visit to the Postal Museum. Amongst the various interesting items on display was a “*Rastrello*” – an apparatus for puncturing sealed letters prior to fumigation, used during periods when there were epidemics of contagious diseases in the surrounding countries and particularly in the Levant. I had had some doubts as to it having been used in the “lazarettos” of Trieste. Prior to 1840, particularly during the period from 1815 when cholera was a major problem with traffic from the East, mail arriving, or in transit, at Trieste was opened for disinfection and following fumigation was resealed with red wax (occasionally black) impressed with the Austrian coat-of-arms with various inscriptions. There are at least 17 different types of seal impressions recorded in use from 1820 to 1840.

There were two hospitals also functioning as lazarettos in Trieste at this time, the “*Lazzeretto Vecchio*” and the “*Lazaretto Nuovo*”. Karl Meyer in his invaluable book “*Disinfected Mail*” states: “*San Carlo, built between 1720 and 1730, on the south side of the Port dealt with only clean certificates after 1768, later it was used as a naval depot then as a prison for women, finally being demolished to make way for the railway. Santa Theresa on the north side of the Port was built about 1760 and opened in 1769*”.

It is not clear which of the wax reseals with the inscriptions “*Tergesti Sanitatis*”, “*Sigillum Sanitatis*”, etc. (figs 1 & 1a) were used at which of the two lazarettos since both also have seal impressions whose inscriptions include their names (figs 2 & 2a). Denis Vandervelde is currently studying the distinctive pattern of slits found used at Trieste and may be able to shed light on the subject.

A new regulation of 1839 stated that letters arriving on ships at Trieste with a clean bill of health should be slit instead of opened for the disinfection process. The pattern of the slits, 8 to 10 mm in length, is quite distinctive and is recorded used at Trieste for the period 1840 to 1845 (fig.3) Meyer also notes a different pattern of 10mm slits on two letters of 1845 from Smyrna via Constantinople to Trieste (fig.4)

Almost all the disinfected letters I have seen which have been either opened and resealed with impressed wax or slit on arrival at Trieste have no accompanying cachet indicating disinfection. There are, however, four cachets recorded struck at Trieste between 1831 and 1842 all of which are scarce to rare. In 1867 both lazarettos were demolished to make way for improvements to the Port and the facilities were transferred to Muggia a few miles along the coast to the Hospital of San Bartolomeo (fig.5).

The “*Rastrello*” in the Postal Museum at Trieste, also illustrated on a post card (fig.6), reputedly recovered from the sea has been restored and functions well (see fig.7). On returning I found that I had two items of 1872 from Constantinople posted on board ships going to or via Trieste. One part entire to Trieste dated the 13th January 1872 (fig.8) the other dated the 19th January 1872 via Trieste to Genoa and then re-addressed to Livorno, both perforated by means of a rastel machine and fumigated at the San Bartolomeo Lazaretto prior to being forwarded to the Trieste Post Office where the Austrian Levant adhesives on both items were cancelled with the 3-line “*LETTERE ARRIVATE/COL VAPORE/DAL LEVANTE*”.

The spacing between the 3mm slits of the “*Rastrello*” in the Museum is a regular 26mm both horizontally and vertically. The slits of the 1872 item (fig.9) are 2 to 3mm long and the spacing between them is less regular. The majority are 25 to 26mm apart with a few as much as 30mm. The direction of the slits is also not consistent, however, I do think that an instrument similar to that displayed at the Trieste Postal Museum was employed in the lazaretto of San Bartolomeo. No handstruck marks are known for the San Bartolomeo Lazaretto, but a wax resealed (fig.10) is recorded in the A.I.S.P. handbook “*Bolli e Documenti Di Sanita Dell’Area Italiana*”.

As a postscript, for the years 1899 and 1900 a postmark was used at the Lazaretto (fig.11) probably as a result of an infectious outbreak from Asia arriving via Egypt. A special post card of the period (fig.12) showing the lazaretto has the sender’s message “*3 days in quarantine because of the pest*” (figs 5).

References.

- a) Karl Meyer, *Disinfected Mail*, Gossip Printery, U.S.A. 1962.
- b) *Bolli e Documenti Di Sanita Dell’ Area Italiana*, A.I.S.P., Italphil.



Fig.1: Entire, 12th June 1824, carried privately from Malta to Trieste where opened, fumigated and re-sealed with impressed red wax, put into the post at Trieste and sent on to Venice.



Fig.1a: Type I, sub-type 2 (of 5 types) seal with 18 x 16mm oval impression containing the Hapsburg Arms surrounded by the inscription "Tergesti Sanitatis", recorded between 1820 and 1826.

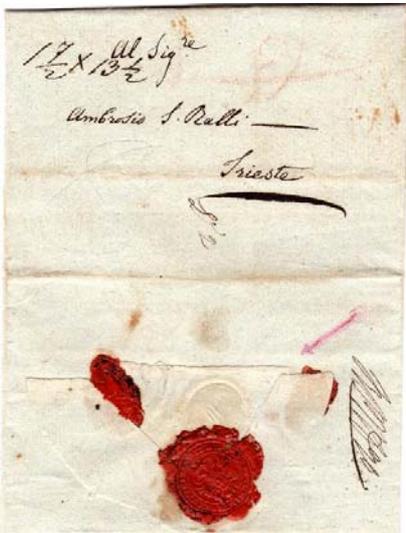


Fig.2 (left): Entire, 11th September 1835, carried privately from Sira to Trieste where opened, fumigated and re-sealed with impressed wax at the Santa Teresa Lazaretto.

Fig.2a (right): Type V, sub-type 1 (of 2 types) seal with 24mm diameter impression containing the Hapsburg Arms surrounded by the inscription "S. Del Lazaretto Di S. Ter. Di Trieste", recorded between 1832 and 1836.

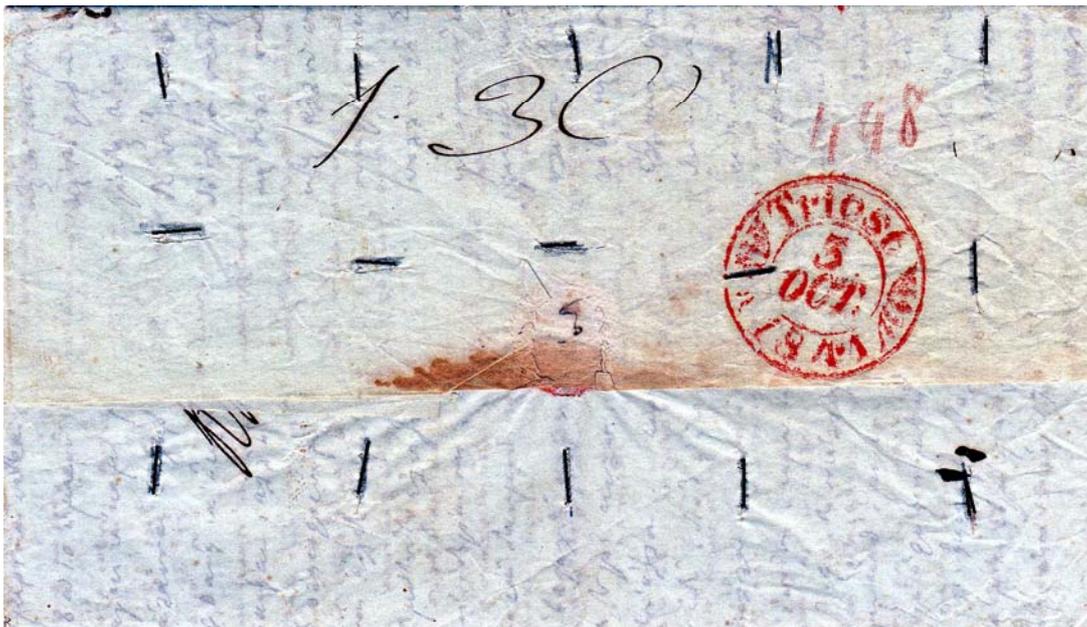


Fig.3: Entire, 14/26 September 1841, Sira to Trieste showing the pattern of slits used in the Trieste lazaretto.

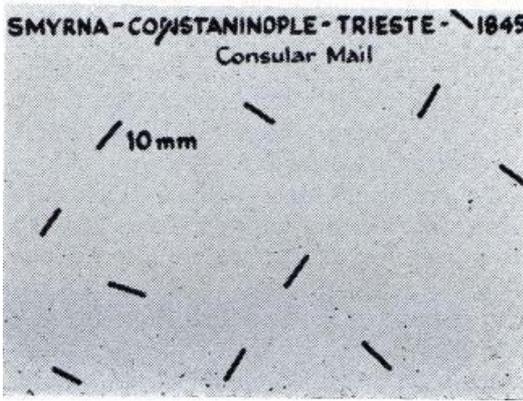


Fig.4: Pattern of slits on a letter of 1845 from Smyrna to Trieste via Constantinople illustrated by Karl Meyer but not seen by the author.



Fig.5: Special post card c.1900 showing the San Bartolomeo Lazaretto at Muggia.



Fig.6: Post card of the "Rastrello", preserved in the Trieste Postal Museum.

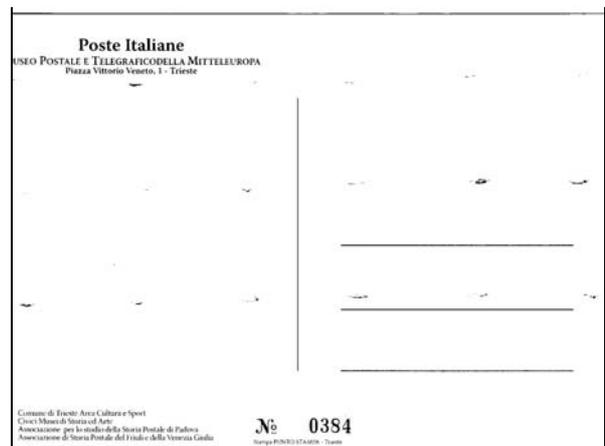


Fig.7: Pattern of slits taken from the "Rastrello" at the museum.



Fig.8: Part entire, 13th January 1872, Constantinople to Trieste, rastel punched at the San Bartolomeo Lazaretto.

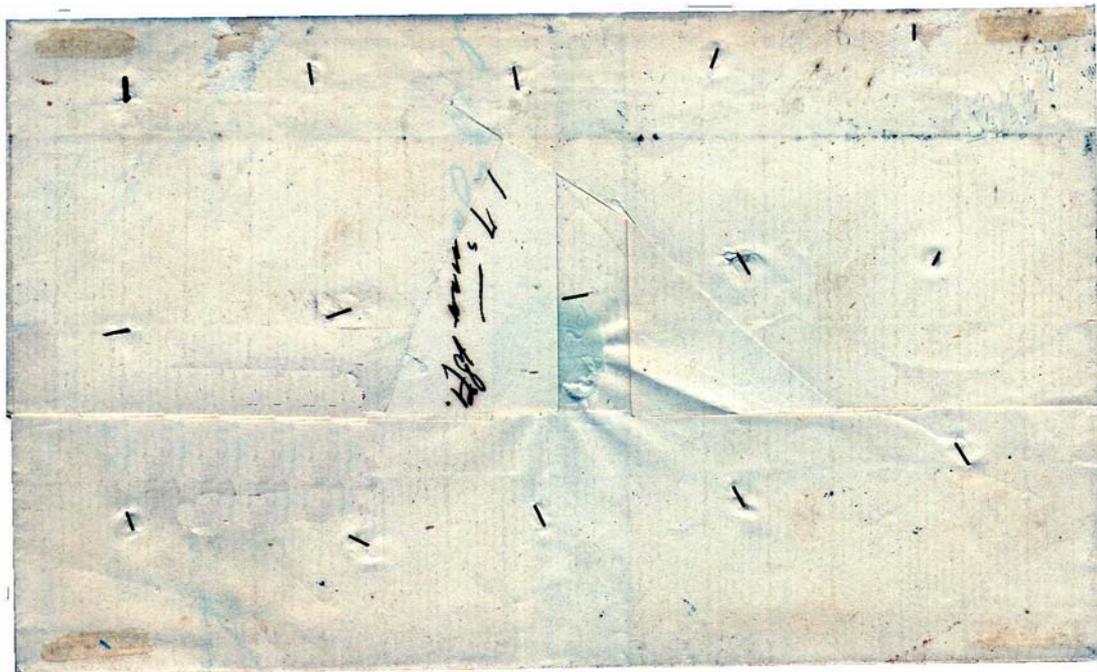


Fig.9 Pattern of slits on the 1872 part entire.



Fig.10 Re-seal in red wax recorded on a letter-in-transit of 1883 impressed with the Hapsburg Arms and the inscription "I.R.Lazzaretto Marit. In Valle S. Bartolomeo presso Muggia".



Fig.11 Postmark recorded as struck at the San Bartolomeo Lazaretto 1899 to 1900.



Fig.12 Reverse of the picture post card of the lazaretto bearing the lazaretto postmark.

Did you know that in “the good old days” one could indicate ones feelings towards another by careful positioning of the adhesive stamp on an otherwise innocuous envelope?



ROMANS BEFORE LUNCH, ARABS AFTERWARDS

By Andy Taylor

*Everybody knows*TM that if a cancel shows the time of despatch or delivery then it does so in Roman numerals until noon, Arabic afterwards; and that this began when ring cancellers were introduced around 1900. Before then, abbreviations were used, eg ‘Abds’ for Abends = in the evening. Rarely other ways were used, notably the Vienna time-zone cancels.

If everybody knows something, then it should be easy to find the authoritative source. So I began to search. On the basis that it’s who you know that matters, I sent an email to the usual suspects: “*Can anybody point me to where this is laid down, or authoritatively stated?*”. Replies with leads came from HP, GM, JB & BC.

BC noted that there is a reference to this in Votoček Pt XIII, “somewhere between illustrations 44 and 45” according to the unpaginated separately-published translation by Howard into English of the German translation, which is on page 578. I have the book; the original Czech words are on pages 67-68. Despatch information first appeared on Prague letter-collection cancels in the 1850s; by 1870 some larger post offices had introduced it and by the 1890s nearly all offices had. There is no archival evidence of this being a central directive; rather it was a locally evolved solution to a local problem. The information was either the collection number, shown as I.E, II.E. (E = Expedition), or the time, eg 9F (9Fruh = 9am), 3N (3Nachmittag = 3pm), 6-7A (6-7Abends = 6-7pm). These abbreviations used the German words for the times, which with the rise of bilingualism (the “Sprachverordnung” of 1871) became increasingly unacceptable. So, in Prague in 1892 and elsewhere soon after, Arabic and Roman numbers were used instead. Votoček concludes “Arabské číslice znamenaly dopolední, římské číslice odpolední a večerní hodiny” which with the aid of the internet can be translated as “**Arabic numerals meant morning, roman numerals afternoon and evening hours**”.

This is a statement from a respected author; however as will be discussed next “Arabic in the morning” is the reverse of other authorities. An interesting experiment would be to tabulate the hour-marks found on actual cancels, which are most unlikely to have been applied in the four hours after midnight – but I do not have enough specimens to do this meaningfully.

HP directed me towards Stohl part A, volume 1 ‘Typenschlüssel’; this has illustrations of the types and on the bottom of page 18A states “*Hinweis: Bei den ersten Radgangstempeln (Brücken- und Ringstempel) ist die Uhrzeit noch von 0-12 (Uhr) angegeben. Zwecks Unterscheidung würden die Vormittagsstunden in römischen Zahlen (erste Zahlenrolle) und die Nachmittagsstunden in arabischen Zahlen (zweite Zahlenrolle) angegeben.*”

That is, Note: with the first Radgangstempeln (bridge and ring cancels) the time was still given by the 12-hour clock. For the purpose of distinction the **morning** would be indicated in **Roman numbers** (first number-roller) and the **afternoon in Arabic numbers** (second number roller)

Bridge and Ring cancels were, Stohl states on page 17A, both introduced in 1904. The 24-hour clock was only officially introduced at the beginning of June 1921 (Law BGB 184), which sensing a possible ambiguity the law clarified as taking effect “*um Mitternacht vom 31. Mai zum 1.Juni*” (ie midnight between 31 May and 1 June) and applying to all postal, telegraph, telephone, rail, and state-run ship & air services.

Reading this reminded me of the articles by Dr C Kainz in Wurth’s handbooks and elsewhere. Her article in Jan 1987’s Die Briefmarke at the subheading “Stempel mit Zeit- und Expeditionsangaben” notes that as early as 1847 indications of cancel time were needed. This was done in various ways, including the use of abbreviations such as V (Vormittag = morning), N (Nachmittag = afternoon), Abds (Abends = evening). She adds tantalisingly that the actual time might be added in arabic or roman numbers – but not which was used when!

Her article in Wurth’s yearbook volume 6 “*Zur Entwicklungsgeschichte des Poststempels in Österreich part 3*” covers the dates from 1900 onwards; however this topic does not seem to be discussed there. HP meanwhile had located part 2 in Wurth volume 5, and referred me to the top of page 149 and to page 150. The subject of interest is brought up in connection with a series of lectures given at the postal HQ in Prague in 1886/7 and published by the k.k. PuT-Direktion für Böhmen at Prague in 1887/1889.

Under the heading “Stempel mit Zeit- oder Expeditionsangabe”, at the top of page 150 Kainz says: *Wie die “Prager Vorträge” zu berichten wissen ... Als die Post- und Telegraphendirektion Prag aus nicht nähererläuterten Gründen im Jahr 1886 beantragte, den aus römischen (Angabe der Vormittagsstunden) und arabischen (Angabe der Nachmittagsstunden) Zahlzeichen bestehenden Stundeneinsatz ...* This is explained below. There are a few references to note 22 which is on page 161 and explains what “die Prager Vorträge” means. It’s an abbreviation for an inordinately long title, namely

“Die Sammlung der bei der k.k. Post- und Telegraphen-Direktion in Prag im Winter 1886-1887 gehaltenen Vorträge über den administrativen Dienst bei der k.k. Post- und Telegraphenanstalt.” 3 Teile; Verlag der k.k. PuT-Direktion für Böhmen, Prag 1887/1889.

That is, a collection of lectures held in Winter 1886-1887 organised by the admin department of the Bohemian Postal Directorate. The “Prager Vorträge” is a compendium of many articles by different authors. There is no information as to why the lectures were held; probably they were education for civil servants appointed as new members of the postal administration.

Frau Sinnmayer kindly found the pages in the *Prager Vorträge* to which Dr Kainz referred and sent me scans. She also checked the two Postverordnungsblatt (29/1/1839, 22/7/1867) which are mentioned in the text, but neither of them says a single word about romans or arabs. She feels that the text of the Prager Vorträge is the “most official” announcement we have.

Page 689 of the Prager Vorträge discusses the provision of a town-date canceller for the Post Office at Prag-Staatsbahnhof, and says that an instruction to the Post & Telegraph Direction in Prague dated 2/3/1886 (ref.7342) from the Ministry of Trade – which had at that time the responsibility for postal matters –stated that the canceller should be laid out like this example:

24	Tageeseinsatz
1	Monatseinsatz
XII	Stundeneinsatz, für die Vormittagsstunden römisch, für die Nachmittagsstunden arabisch
86	Jahreseinsatz

And here, based on Votoček XIV p64, is the result of the exercise. On the left is a pre-time cancel; in the middle is the version with the time in German (5. F = 5 Fruh = 5am) and on the right is the Ministry-approved version, V.1869/8, with a large X for 10am and catalogued as known used from 5 June 1886.



“Prager Vorträge” page 689

umgesetzt werden können, ohne daß eine mechanische Umänderung der Stampiglie beim Jahreswechsel erforderlich wird.

Dermal ist nur noch eine verschwindend kleine Anzahl von Orts- und Datumstempeln ohne Jahreseinsatz in Verwendung. Beim Gebrauche solcher Stempel im Postsparkassa-Verkehre empfiehlt es sich die, Jahreszahl in den Abdrücken handschriftlich einzufügen.

Bei einzelnen Postämtern von bedeutendem Geschäftsumfange, bei denen eine größere Anzahl von Posten, namentlich im Anschlusse an zum Posttransporte benötigte Eisenbahnzüge abgeht und einlangt, sind die Orts- und Datumstempel außer den Tages-, Monats- und Jahreseinsätzen noch mit Stundeneinsätzen versehen, die früher gewöhnlich unterhalb des Jahreseinsatzes angebracht wurden.

Anlässlich der Bestellung eines solchen Orts- und Datumstempels für das Postamt Prag, Staatsbahnhof wurde mit H. M. Erl. vom 2. März 1886, Z. 7342 (an die Post- und Telegrafendirektion Prag) die beantragte Gruppierung der Einsätze in folgender Reihenfolge genehmigt:

z. B. 24 (Tageseinsatz),

1 (Monateinsatz),

XII (Stundeneinsatz, für die Vormittagsstunden römisch, für die Nachmittagsstunden arabisch),

86 (Jahreseinsatz)

und die genannte Direktion ermächtigt, „in sich ergebenden analogen Fällen bei der Beschaffung von neuen Stempeln in gleicher Weise vorzugehen.“

Der Orts- und Datumstempel dient vornehmlich zur Unbrauchbarmachung der auf den Briefpostsendungen angebrachten Briefmarken, zur Nachweisung über die erfolgte Auslieferung einer Postsendung an einem bestimmten Tage und zur Kontrolle über die pünktliche Beförderung und Abgabe derselben.

Zur Verwahrung der Orts- und Datumstempel und der zugehörigen Einsätze dienen eigens hiezu angefertigte Kästchen.*

An die Orts- und Datumstempel reihen sich der Form und Ausstattung nach die Geldanweisungstempel an.

Dieselben wurden auf Grund des H. M. Erl. vom 26. Febr. 1867, Z. 3614—440 (B. Bl. 1867, S. 69—70), eingeführt und gelangen bei jenen Postkassen, bez. Postämtern in Verwendung, welche Postanweisungen im Betrage von über 300 fl. anzunehmen ermächtigt sind.

Die Geldanweisungstempel ist ein runder Stempel mit der Umschrift: „Geld-Anwsg.“ in lateinischen Lettern; darunter (in der Mitte) enthält sie das Datum nach Tag, Monat und Jahr und unter diesem den Ortsnamen.

* Die (versuchsweise) Verwendung von Maschinen und Selbstfarbestempeln für Orts- und Datumstempel und Rekommandationstempel hat sich als unpraktisch herausgestellt.

Für die Zukunft hat sich die Beschaffung, bezw. Nachschaffung von Stempeln der erwähnten Kategorie zu unterbleiben und sind im Falle des Bedarfes für Orts- und Datumstempel, dann für Rekommandationstempel die üblichen Handstempel beizuschaffen.“ (H. M. 22. Jänner 1874, Z. 32363 ex 1873).

“Stundeneinsatz, für die Vormittagsstunden römisch, für die Nachmittagsstunden arabisch”



That is, “Indication of time: Romans in the morning, Arabic in the afternoons.”

SELF-DESTRUCTING STAMPS?

by HK & AT



“A question about the recent Austria-Israel joint issue, picturing Simon Wiesenthal. I try to remove stamps for my used collection from postcards, letters, etc. So, I get a postcard with this stamp and give it a bath to get the stamp ready for the album. Totally unexpectedly, the stamp does not let itself be removed without separating itself into numerous bits, along the lines forming the Star of David. The Austrian ANK catalogue contains no warning about this problem. Do you or any other members of



APS have any information on this? Should there not be a warning in catalogues? Do I have an unusual example of this item?”

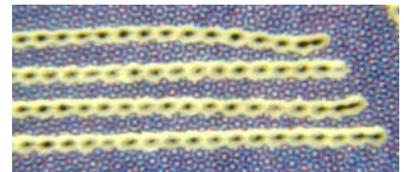
The writeup in Austria 173 (based as always on Opost) says “Simon Wiesenthal - joint issue with Israel. 14/6/2010; 494,000; Offset; Design: Michael Rosenfeld; Printed: British Thai Security Printing, Laser: Outer Aspect Ltd. The stamp shows a portrait of Simon Wiesenthal (1908 to 2005) in a frame in the form of the Star of David, applied using a special laser printing technology...”. It’s ANK2904.

The Opost web site says “Der Stern der Marke wurde mit einem innovativen Laserverfahren perforiert.” and on a different page “... dessen Form in einem speziellen Laserdruckverfahren aufgebracht wurde.”. So it’s using some “special laser perforating technology” done by “British Thai Security Printing”.

Google has no signs of British Thai, but many results for “Thai British Security Printing”; they sound like the Thailand equivalent of OeSD. Formed when a consortium of Thai banks took over the Thailand subsidiary of a British printing company; they decided that instead of Thailand importing its requirements for passports, stamps etc they would do their own, and have now developed a thriving export business.



Holding a mint block up to the light reveals the problem. Scanning it with a digital microscope shows incidentally that the main perfs are not well done and have lots of hanging chad!



The image on the left is an enlargement of the bottom of the star. The appearance of lines of white is a scanner artefact – the light has ‘flared’ around the laser-perforated holes. However it does show how the body of the paper is dissected by the star’s interlocking lines. Above on the right is a very high magnification image; what resembles frog spawn is the lines of laser-cut holes showing as black. Interestingly, they are not straight – the “bent at the ends” pattern occurs in several places so it’s probably deliberate or systematic, not paper shrinkage.

So, it’s not surprising that when soaked it falls apart. Possibly this feature is useful in security printing, for example on passports! The black image on the right shows the single piece of paper that results from removing the star. The inner triangles and hexagon are connected to the outside by thin strips – keeping that intact would indeed be nigh on impossible!



LETTER

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the obituary for Brian Presland but feel that we should also record that Brian served the APS membership by organising three Fests. I attended the two excellent weekends in Honiley; I had to miss the 2008 weekend at Winchester but was told that I had missed a good weekend. He was also Press Officer for a time.

One memory of Brian is the critique we had at Antverpia 2010 in Antwerp, Belgium. There were only three British entries in the Airmail section Brian, Garth Taylor and myself. Together with Nancy and Tony we were all loitering by the frames by 10.40 waiting for the 11.00 meeting when the judge arrived also in good time. Saying "I'm here, you are here so we might as well start" he proceeded with a longer than usual, very helpful critique of the entries. However Brian was not happy because the overseas judges did not like how he had presented some of his covers - he had shown the material at the Royal Philatelic Society and the members had made no adverse comments. This confirmed to me that no matter what one does you can never please everyone - a lesson we all have to learn especially if we want to exhibit our collections in competition.

Joyce Boyer.

NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS

APS^{US}

Vol 12 Nr 2 April 2012: Official Fieldpost cancels of WWI (*a useful summary; translated from Die Briefmarke*); Austrian Mail service in the Turkish Empire (*ex Ferchenbauer2008 IV 480-9*); Kinderdorf balloon mail (*ex Die Briefmarke*).

ARGE Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn.

Nr 108, Mar/2012: details of meetings, Q&A, etc; "first class marriage"; the Gulden-Kronen changeover in 1900 Bosnia; Oblt. Wurst's fieldpost items; the k.u.k. Genietruppe (think Royal Engineers); Andreas Gomiunik, the most decorated telegraphist of the Imperial Navy; The Austrian Postal Museum, past present and (*fingers crossed?*) future; book reviews; etc.

ARGE Österreich e.V.

2012/2 Nr 98: Forged cancels on Levant stamps (4b, 5); use of 'wrong country' imprinted postcards in Levant; inland postcard rates & upratings in 1918; registered mail (5); etc

Die Briefmarke

Issue 4/2012: Easter hares; more printing inconsistencies in the new definitives; info on items Öpost sell eg new and first-republic stamps, collections, model cars etc; last Austrian issue for Liechtenstein; privately printed postal stationery 1945-51 (2); postcards: Marburg; bookmark: 90 years of VÖPh; news of societies (incl. PKMI), exhibitions; letters etc. [*24 of the issue's 80 sides are an advertisement from "Primus"*]

Issue 5/2012: new-stamps news; 'Factbook on the 50s/60s/70s/80s' with contemporary stamps; new-issue info; 'routes and routing marks' (Jungwirth); thematic: stained glass; the 70gro postcard; 'recycling?' (imprinted cards adaptations); bookplates; etc etc [*24 ditto*]

Issue 6/2012: 150th birthday of Klimt; new-stamps news; 'Franco' letters; Modern Nachnahme-scam; and many short interesting articles [*24 ditto*]

Germania

Vol 48 Nr 2: committee member nomination criteria; new Auctioneer's new rules; German airships in WWI; BAOR tales; German censorship during WWII (1) [*applying of course in Austria*]; book reviews, meeting reports etc.

Jugopošta

Vol 102 June 2012: postal history of Bavanište/Homokbálványos; postal history of the Island of Pag; postal use of "Retour".

Südost-Philatelie

Nr 118: WWII Croatian tobacco etc revenue stamps; History of Serbia & its stamps; the Mirditisch Republic; and many similar articles mostly in German.

Bookmark

"Die jugoslawische Postzensur von 1918 bis 1921" by Hermann Dietz and Helmut Kobelbauer. Published by the authors; cost 36 Euro plus p&p; order details from APS editor. 287 pages A4 in full colour. A copy has been donated to the APS library. A review will appear here.

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A LETTER TO LEMBERG

The letter shown on the inside back cover went from Vienna to Lemberg in 1830; and to the USA considerably later. Its owner has some information on it & sought more, which Keith Brandon has provided. Amalgamating:

The internal closing inscription (*lower piece of illustration*) states Per Imperatorem (In the Name of the Emperor) and gives the date of 5 Feb 1830. The letter is from the Supreme Imperial Tribunal in Vienna and was sent to the K.K. Appellations Gericht in Lemberg.

At the bottom of the letter underneath “Lemberg” is a red inscription, 14 Something; this may be the arrival date. The writing on the outside of the cover (*top right of illustration*) will be the gist of Lemberg's reply to Vienna, and the date of 23 Feb 1830 is almost certainly the date they replied. Therefore an arrival date of 14 February in red at the foot of the letter is entirely plausible from the chronology, but however hard one looks it doesn't seem to be “Februar”. Could it be “Hornung”, an archaic word for February, little-used by the 1830s?

The large red ‘24’ in the middle looks like a rate not a weight, but we can't find a 24 rate for that distance on the 1817 tariff. 24 loth would be very heavy. 2 L(oth) would be more likely, but it looks like 24 and not 2L.

To the right of ‘Lemberg’ is ‘432’ in red – the best guess of its meaning is that it's a file or case number.

Finally, we have no idea on the meaning of the ‘20’ in black (*bottom right corner of letter*)!

Comments welcome, as always.