



The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant



A selection of the items discussed in this issue.



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Edited by Andy Taylor

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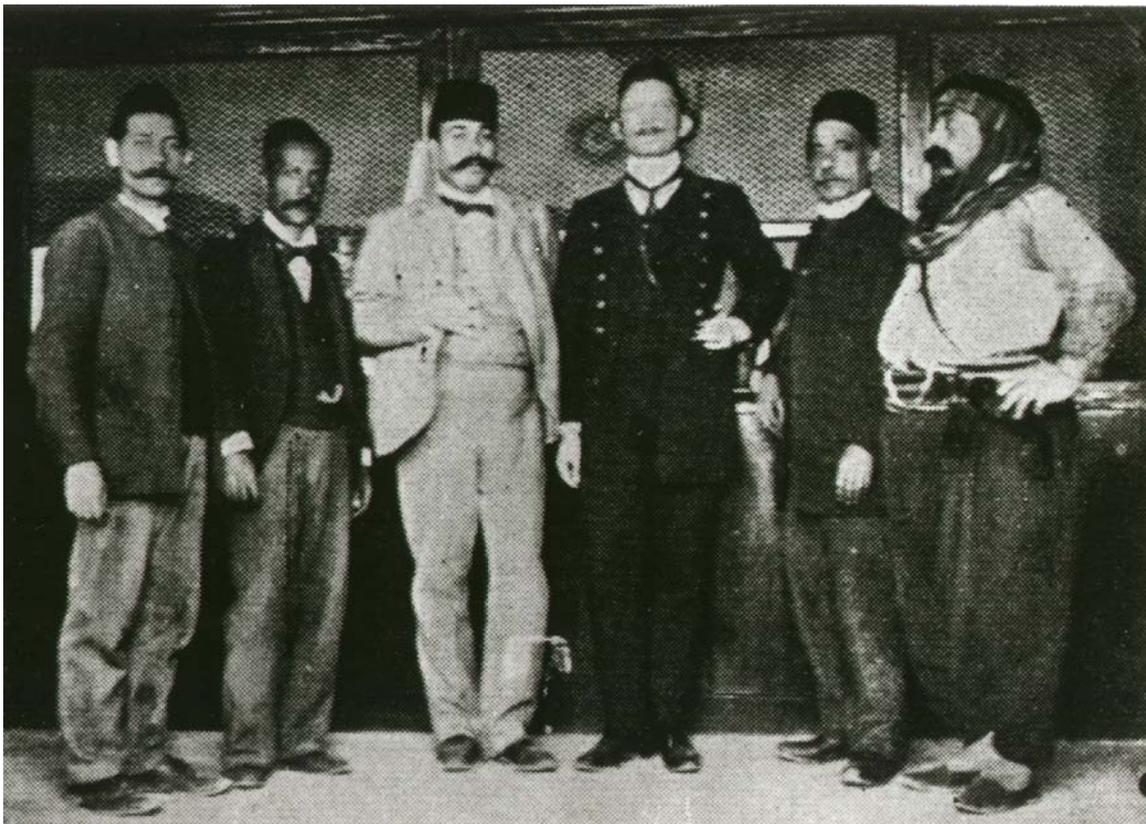
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EDITORIAL 183: *The APS has published...*

AN IMPORTANT NEW BOOK ON THE AUSTRIAN POST OFFICES IN THE LEVANT

Tchilinghirian and Stephen began to publish their seminal work “Austrian Post Offices Abroad” in 1963, describing, amongst other things, the over 120 Austrian post offices and postal agencies operating in the Levant, as the Turkish Empire was widely known in those days. A byword and essential tool for collectors of the Austrian Levant, “Tchilinghirian” is still the only publication on the full subject in English.

However, after 50 years, Tchilinghirian and Stephen's splendid work is now long due for a thorough overhaul, much further knowledge of the subject having been gained in the intervening years. The history and postmarks of the Austrian consular offices, including the postal agencies of the Austrian Lloyd Steam Navigation Company, have now been extensively revised by Hans Smith, a lifetime collector of the area, and has been published in hardback form under the aegis of the Austrian Philatelic Society in Great Britain. The book is written in English and in full colour throughout, with over 200 A4 pages of text and illustrations and a comprehensive listing of all known postmarks of the consular offices. It is now available from the “APS Bookshop” at a price of £50 plus p&p; APS members may obtain it for £40 until the end of 2013.



It's 1880, and the staff of the Post Office in Jaffa await your custom... More information on pages 10 and 11.

Andy Taylor, Editor

News about members

We mark the demise of Les Taylor of Edinburgh, whose death came rather more quickly than expected.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS

Translated by Tom Dickerson from Ferchenbauer's Handbuch and Spezialkatalog (Vienna 2008).(Vol III pp 344-347.) Copied by permission from APS^{US} journal XII Nr 3.

Introduction of Telegraph Stamps

Telegraph stamps existed in other countries well before their introduction in Austria. The original issuers were private companies. As early as the 1850s, English private telegraph companies issued their own stamps. In Austria, a private company (the Vienna Private Telegraph Company) in 1870 preceded the issue of telegraph stamps by the State authorities, even though the authorities had been considering the issue of telegraph stamps as early as 1868. The issue of such stamps hinged on the creation of a legal structure for telegraphs, but negotiations in this regard dragged on because they fell within the ambit of the "Customs and Commercial Alliance" agreements of 1867 which marked the separation of the Hungarian from the Austrian postal service. In consequence, extensive consultations between the Austrian and the Hungarian departments of commerce were necessary.

In 1869, even before the decision to issue such stamps had been made, proofs of such stamps had been created, but it was only in 1871 that the matter was given serious consideration. The impetus appears to have been a study commissioned by the Telegraph Office, which concluded that the issue of such stamps was urgent, for reasons which included the following:

Simplification of handling of dispatches, better accounting and financial controls, improvement of division of functions and job management, personnel reductions, a simpler process for the users of dispatches and alignment with systems in use in other countries. The recommendation of this study were the basis for the continued, slow negotiations. The discussions reached a turning point only because the Vienna World Exhibition of 1873 was imminent, and word came down from on high that the new legal structure needed to be in place by then. After a final push in the discussions between Vienna and Budapest, the path to the issue of telegraph stamps was cleared.

With a promulgation of the department of commerce of July 12, 1873, the first day of issue of telegraph stamps was set for August 1, 1873, the same day that Hungarian telegraph stamps would be issued. The same day also saw the issue of dispatch forms (telegram order forms) applicable to domestic telegrams of 20 words or less, which had a 50kr stamp imprinted on the form, as well as order confirmation receipts with an imprinted 5kr telegraph stamp. This was followed on January 10, 1876 with a telegram order form, called a "Telegraphen-Aviso", for telegrams of 10 words or less and an imprinted 30kr stamp

Termination of the Use of Telegraph Stamps.

The first impetus for the termination of the use of telegraph stamps came from a white paper, dated January 22, 1877 issued by the central telegraph cashier's office, which set forth instances of fraudulent re-use of previously used cancelled telegraph stamps by control officials. In addition, the hoped-for benefits of the stamps, including more efficient processing, accounting and controls did not materialise. Further, the Hungarian department of commerce decided to cease the use of its telegraph stamps as of the end of February, 1879. This particular action accelerated the Austrian ministry's decision in regard to this issue. The implementation of a new payment regime as of April 1 1879, which called for a per-word fee, provided the welcome excuse to eliminate the use of stamps entirely, since that new plan would have required a large set of stamps in many denominations. In fact, however, there was no real connection between the elimination of the stamps and the change to a per-word tariff; the explanation was merely an excuse to avoid the authorities the embarrassment of having to explain to the public why the stamps were being terminated, after their issue had been characterised as significant progress. The regulation creating the per-word tariff and simultaneously announcing the termination of the use of stamps was dated March 17, 1879. Thus, after April 1, 1879, telegraph fees were once again collected in cash. As of that day, the use of telegraph stamps was prohibited, and excess inventories of stamps could be cashed in at local telegraph stations until April 30, at district telegraph offices until June 30, and at the central telegraph cashier's office in Vienna until September 30, 1879.

With respect to dispatch forms and telegraph order forms, imprinted stamps were ordered to be removed as of April 1 1879 (i.e., the same day as the termination of the stamps' validity), but as a practical matter these forms, with the imprinted stamp still on them, continued to be used. Even when the new forms without the stamp imprint were available, the old inventories continued in use until they were exhausted. The end of the use of telegraph stamps came nearly five years before the merger of the postal and telegraph offices on January 1 1884, and were therefore unrelated events.

Disposal of Remaining Inventories

After the elimination of the use of telegraph stamps, the issue of disposing of the remaining inventories remained. Destroying the remnants was considered out of the question, because the philatelic value of the remainders was clear early on, and it was hoped that at least a part of the face value of the remaining inventory could be captured. The telegraph office had received offers to purchase both remainders of the telegraph stamps used on the telegraph forms, as well as the associated printer's waste. (For example, in 1878 from E.W.C Bredemeyer in Hamburg, or in 1880 from the Viennese stamp dealer S. Friedl). That same year (1880) the Hungarian authorities had sold their entire remaining inventory of stamps as well as forms (in all, about 4.8 million pieces) for 1300 Gulden to a paper dealer on the condition that he cut the stamp from the form at his own cost. In Austria, on August 4, 1881 the authorities promulgated regulations that called for the use of the 30kr Avisos and the 50kr form in other applications. For the former, the suggested use was for minor government dispatches (e.g., daily quotes on the Vienna stock exchange), and for the latter, attachment to telegrams submitted for dispatch on regular paper, but on the condition that the stamps so affixed had to be holed. With respect to the remaining inventory of telegraph stamps themselves (approximately 1.27 million pieces), a regulation promulgated on August 22 1884, called for a part to be sold to dealers at face value, another portion to be sold at the reduced rate of 3 Gulden for 1,000 stamps (without reference to face value) but marked "Specimen", and a final portion to be destroyed. The application of the "Specimen" overprint was carried out only upon receipt of specific purchase orders, and not simply applied to a portion of the remnants in advance. The remaining inventories were comprised almost entirely of the second, rotogravure issue, since the first intaglio issue was almost entirely used up.

1873 (INTAGLIO) ISSUE



Emperor's head in oval facing right, vertical rectangle, no watermark, various perforations, intaglio printing.

Issued on August 1, 1873, Nr. 2 after exhaustion of supplies of Nr. 1 in the autumn of 1873. Nr. 4 on November 1, 1873. For payment of telegraph fees. Valid until March 31, 1873. The paper used was of varying thicknesses and either white to yellowish or shiny (apt to crackle). The gum was either whitish or shiny.

In prior catalogs, the intaglio issue of 1873 has wrongly been referred to as the "Steindruck" issue, presumably because the flatness of the printed surface made it appear to have been printed by the "Steindruck" method. In an article published in Die Postmarke nr 348 of November 30, 1935, Edwin Mueller had already proved that the characterisation of these stamps as "Steindruck" was clearly incorrect.



In the intaglio issue, the small box containing the denomination comes in three variations, as illustrated & found on Nr. 1 (left); Nrs. 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9 (middle); and Nrs. 3, 5 and 7 (right).

The nine telegraph stamps of this issue are listed next. Multiples, even pairs and strips, used or unused, are extremely rare. All are line perf 10½.

Nr 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5Kr	5Kr	20Kr	25Kr	40Kr	50Kr	60Kr	1fl	2l
yellow-brown	grey-brown	blue	black	green	lilac-grey	carmine	yellow-orange	violet

Issues regarding perforation

To perforate the telegraph stamps, the same line perforation machines were used as for the 1867 definitive issue. The perforation of the stamps produced by the intaglio process (both used and mint) usually have shortcomings. The prices in the table thus refer to items with average perforations. Stamps with perfect perforations command premiums!

Ferchenbauer presents a table listing all nine stamps and pricing them by perforation types: Line 9, Line 9:10½, and Line 10½:9. Not all perforation-value combinations occur, eg 9:10½ is only found in 3 values. Unused stamps without gum are valued at 20% of the mint stamp price.



From left to right:
Line 10½:9 very fine perforations;
Narrow Format;
Wide Format;
Normal Format

Narrow and wide (and more rarely extremely short or especially high) formats exist in all denominations. Oversized stamps are more popular and command 10% premiums

Issues regarding cancellation

As a rule, the telegraph stations applied egg-shaped cancels with “K.K. Telegraphen-Station” or “K.K. Telegraphen-Amt”, at times with the location set forth in two languages. The pneumatic mail stations had similar cancellers with the inscription “K.K. Pneumatische Station Nr. ...”. None of these cancellers had an indication of the date. Blue postmarks are somewhat rarer than black postmarks (+25%), with red postmarks being extremely rare (+250%). Pen cancels using ink or coloured pencil exist also; such stamps are valued similar to used stamps without gum.

Proofs, Essays: These exist; see p. 350, after discussion of the rotogravure issue

Addendum: the regulations

1873 RGB127	7 July 1873	rates changed, stamps introduced for payment.
1873 RGB129	14 July 1873	details of the stamps design and usage
1879 RGB040	17 Mar 1879	from 1 April, service extended (eg you could send a telegram by semaphore to a ship!); rate structure now fixed fee plus rate-per-word; payment to be in cash; stamps abolished; refund arrangements detailed.

NOTES FROM PUBLICATIONS

APS^{US}

Vol 13 Nr 2 April 2013: Innsbruck postal history 1938-1945; “Fakes on Ebay and elsewhere” (*translation of Die Briefmarke 2007 issue 10 p 54; original by Fritz Sturzeis*); successful use of ‘printers waste’ 2Kr postcards; missing-dot error on 2Kr 1867 issue.

ArGe Feldpost Österreich-Ungarn

Nr 112: A Grand Week Out (the annual excursion); many half-page queries; proposed 1912 around-Austria postal flight; KGF-ARB-KOMP (= POW work companies) cacheted mail; Austrian fieldpost of the Polish Legion (eg KuK Etappenpostamt 118); distinguishing between KuK and German field post numbers; packet-post delivery marks (de Bellis; 11pp); etc.

ArGe Österreich

2013/1 Nr 101: Levant cancel forgeries (cont); 1897 tax inpayment cards; the curious tale of a Levant block; Innsbruck-Direktion Bezirkstempel; registered mail (cont); etc

2013/2 Nr 102: Baltic to Tuscany via Austria mail in 1847; the inland postcard rate rise from 8 to 10kr in 1918; Levant cancel forgeries (cont); the Bosnia-Herzegovina postal savings card; the single-circle-with-ornament Constantinople cancel; registered mail (cont); etc

Czechout

Vol 31 Nr 2: on-line index to all past issues; notes obituaries & reports; letters etc; the 1919 ‘Mucha’ newspaper stamps; sample mail; the Tatra Lake Mystery; 1914 Sokol festival in Brno; Hungarian names used in Slovak cancels; new issues; and much else of interest.

Die Briefmarke

2013/1: The new Stamp Gallery in the Post Office HQ (*pull-out frames as in the British Library*); operation of the 1770 Postordnung; the Rolling Stones and Philately; post in Soviet-occupied Styria, 1945; the 2013-summer designs for Automatenmarken; exhibition & society reports; book reviews etc.

2013/2: The 1933 ski championship in Innsbruck; ‘per Expressum’ and ‘durch Ordonanz’; the cost of buying post-WWII stamps when issued; trials of new auto-franking machines; thematic: horns animal and musical; post in British- and USA-occupied Styria, 1945; Numiphil 2012; etc etc.

2013/3: The Postojna caves; buying post-WWII stamps (cont); Esperanto on Austrian viewcards; Styria 1945 – Bad Aussee?; philately in schools; more re unissued stamps (p74); etc

2013/4: Thematic:Angels; 1945-46 emergency cancels; the Vienna Horn; philately in schools (cont); etc

2013/5: Thematic: Styrian Wineland; old journeys and the Fuhrmannsbrief; auctions & exhibitions; philately in schools (cont); etc etc

2013/6: Results of ‘best looking stamp’ and ‘golden lemon award’ for 2012’s issues; the new Post Museum at Eisenertz; seminar report: Modern Philately #10; old letters from Important People; the rapidly rising cost of ‘permission to collect on behalf of’ forms; thematic: Alpine flowers; ever-wider range of paraphilatic products from Opost; Salzburg Festspiele; societies etc etc

Germania

Vol 49 Nr 2: German international return-to-sender labels (Cf Austria 182 p21); Bodensee frogs; postage due on incoming foreign mail in late 1919; Tildes ogees and swung-dashes; etc.

Jugopošta

Nr 106 June 2013: Auctioneer needed; mail from Medjimurje (between the Drava and the Mura) at the end of 1918; French medical missions in Serbia 1915 (cont); etc etc.

Mil u. Phil

Nr 242: Articles on current Fieldpost and other activities.

Nr 243: Articles on current Fieldpost and other activities – including mail from the Golan Heights contingent, perhaps the last from there?

Nr 244: 50 years of commandos; personal-stamps (in colour); etc etc

Stamps of Hungary

No 192 March 2013: The Romantic Life of Count Richard Guyon-Debaufre; Zombie stamps (mainly on Ebay); ‘Austria – Hungary - 3, 6, 12, 24.?’ by Martin Brumby; Hungary’s Famous Men, Part 6 : Bolyai Farkas; The Military Aircraft Exhibition, Budapest, 1917; Questions and Answers; etc etc

No. 193 June 2013: Hungary’s telegraph development during the KuK period 1847-1918, with particular regard to philatelic viewpoint with coverage of formula use; The Second Issue of the ‘Kurhaus Auf Der Hohe Rinne’; What’s in your philatelic library?; Recent issues from Hungary; Questions and Answers; etc

Südost-Philatelie

Nr 121: The Serbian Army in Corfu 1916-18 (includes much Austrian material) – 42 pages!

Wiener Ganzsachsen F u PstSV

Dec 2012 (3/2012): new discoveries on the 45+45gro Costumes reply-paid postcard

Mar 2012 (1/2013): the 30gro foreign reply-paid postcard and more on the 45+45gro Costumes.

To borrow any of these, consult the Librarian

Additions to Library:

Ref	TITLE	Comment	Pages	Author	Pub'd	Text
453	Licht und Schatten, Liebe und Leidenschaft für Kunst und Philatelie – Ludwig Hesshaimer	Richly illustrated in full colour, easy-to-translate text, gives great attention to his philatelic creations	184	Wolfgang Maasen	2006	G
454	The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant	Tchilinghirian and Stephen Revisited	220	Hans Smith	2013	E

BOOK REVIEWS**Das Gebühren- und Stempelwesen in Kärnten**

By **Dipl.-Ing. Carsten Mintert**, published 2011 by Kärntner Philatelistenclub. ISBN 978-3-200-02341-3, hard bound, 242p, in German, colour ill, 30cm, price €40.00, available from fiskal.mintert@googlemail.com

The Carinthian Philatelists Club has, over the years, published some first rate books on the philately and postal history of the Austrian state of Carinthia. And Carsten Mintert is one of the leading lights in the ARGE Fiskalphilatelie im BDPh., and frequently writes for their ‘Rundbrief’. Visitors to WIPA 2008 may also recall his superb (and Large Gold + Special Prize winning) exhibit on Austrian Newspaper Tax Stamps 1789-1899.

So expectations were high when news arrived that Carsten was working on a “Handbook of the stamping of documents, playing cards and newspapers in Carinthia from 1686 to 2002”, as the book is subtitled. It must be said that the handsome product of his labours exceeds all hopes.

Although there has been a number of very useful journal articles published on Austrian Revenues in recent years, the only really useful addition to books on the subject since Martin Erler’s catalogues a quarter of a

Century ago has been “Pénzügyi bélyegek a Habsburg birodalomban és Magyarországon” by Burján, Fodor, Kernács, Székely & Szücs published in Budapest in 2007. This, however, only covers the Austrian half of Austria-Hungary up to 1867 and only briefly covers the stamped papers before adhesives were issued in 1854. It is also in Hungarian, which is a challenge to most collectors outside that country!

Carsten’s new book might, at first glance, be thought limited in its appeal to collectors of Carinthia alone. But, although Carinthia has some special features, it serves quite well as a microcosm for the Empire as a whole. Collectors specialising in Galicia or Silesia or Bohemia (for example) might hope for a similar work dealing with the stamped papers peculiar to those provinces, but I can’t imagine that they would not find the majority of this book of the greatest interest.

No less than the first 160 pages of the book contain a detailed and well-illustrated discussion of the stamped papers from the 1686 ‘Signettes’ introduced by Emperor Leopold, through the period of the ‘Tax-Farmers’ of the 18th century considering the general reform of the tax system between 1762 and 1802 (including the interesting tax treatment of playing cards, hair powder, calendars, newspapers and so on). The French occupation (including the period when Southern Carinthia was part of the Kingdom of Illyria) is well covered and both the tax markings and the rare complete documents are profusely illustrated. And so until the introduction of the 1854 first adhesives, often illustrating and always quoting the various tax decrees promulgated to control the Revenue.

This detailed treatment of the “pre-stamp” period is of the greatest interest to collectors of Austria, Hungary, Czech, Polish, Romanian, Serbian, Italian etc. material. It is certainly the best since L. Hanus published his ground-breaking “Stempelsignetten-katalog von Oesterreich-Ungarn” in Prague in 1930 (and considerably expands that work)!

The coverage of the somewhat simpler period since 1854 is brisker but includes both a huge amount of information and illustrations of gems of fiscal philately of every description. This includes, naturally, the First and Second Republic periods and the ‘Ostmark’ period 1939-1945 under German control. A useful section of the attractive but hard-to-find Carinthian ‘State’ revenue stamps and Municipal issues follows. Helpful notes on valuation, a good bibliography and a good extract from Emperor Franz’s Tax Decree of 1802 rounds off a volume which is absolutely indispensable to the collector of this material.

Reviewed by Martin Brumby

Licht und Schatten, Liebe und Leidenschaft für Kunst und Philatelie – Ludwig Hesshaimer

By **Wolfgang Maasen** ISBN: 978-3-932198-71-7 Hardbound, 184pp, German Text

Entering the APS library as book number 453, this book is a must for those interested in the work of Hesshaimer. It is richly illustrated in full colour with easy-to-translate German text and whilst I am aware of other books on the artistic emissions of the man, I know of no other on the market that gives such attention to his philatelic creations. I highly recommend it.

Reviewed by John Anthony

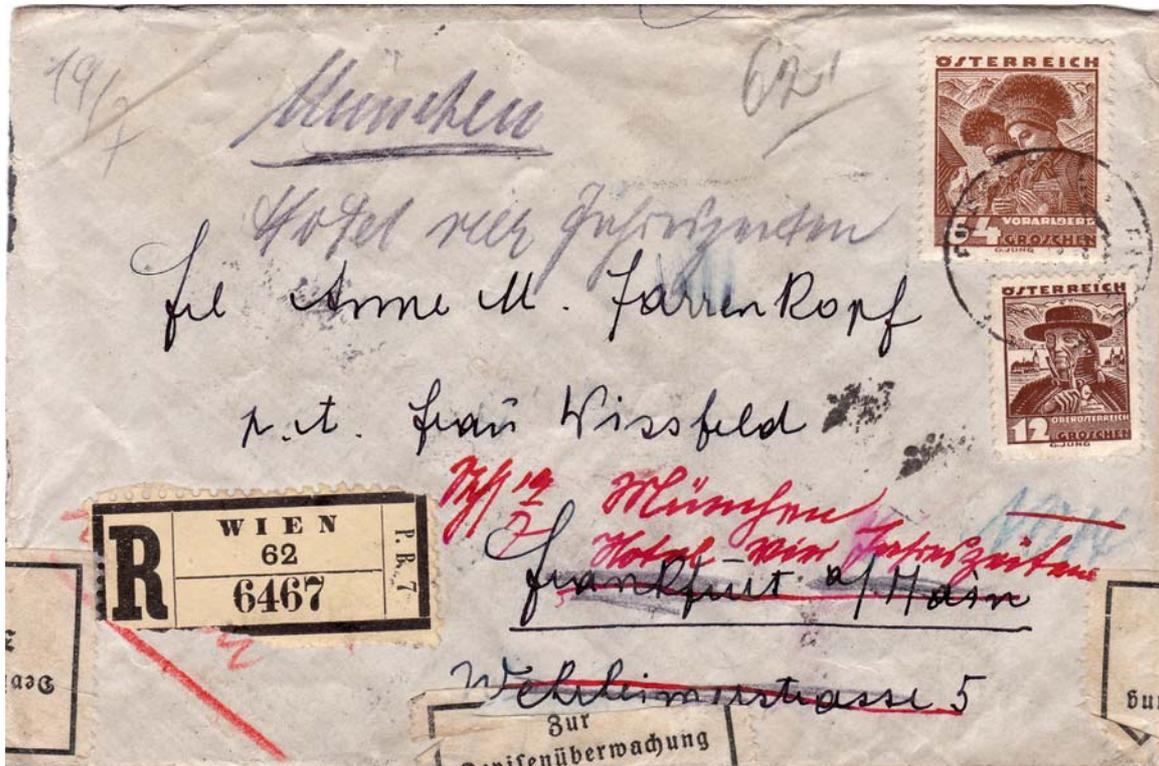
The Philatelic Journalist

This is the journal of the Association International des Journalistes Philatéliques. Nr 140 of March 2013 contains several interesting articles, including: the work of a literature judge (eg reading 120 kilos of books); judging philatelic websites; 300 years of fiscal philately (Mintert); philatelic literature in Poland; a worldwide inventory of all philatelic literature ever written [**now initiated at <http://www.globalphilateliclibrary.org/>**]; book reviews; etc.

Reviewed by Andy Taylor

Vienna to Frankfurt am Main

by Steve Schweighofer



The known:

The original posting was in Vienna, as noted by the registration label. The cancel is entirely unreadable, but the receiving markings on the back indicate it was probably 16 or 17 July 1937. The sender was Rosenbaum, Kircheng(asse) 18. Under the registration label a red Recom underlined can be seen.

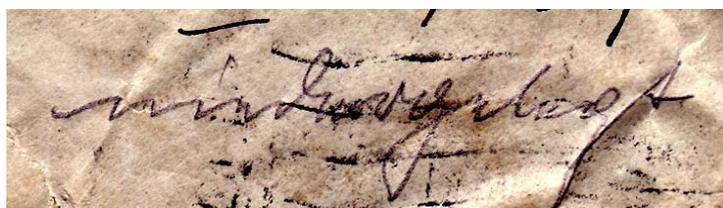
The letter is addressed to Frl. Anni M. Farrenkopf, p.t. (pro tempore) Frau Wissfeld in Frankfurt a/ Main, Wehrheimerstrasse 5.

It arrived and was back-stamped in Frankfurt 18 July 1937. The original address was crossed out in pencil and a new address written near the top of the front: München, Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten. In the upper left corner is a 19/7, also in pencil and probably the date of the first forward.

Back-stamped again in Frankfurt, but now a day later, 19 July 1937. The original address is also crossed out in red pen providing the same new address. The additional info in red is the same as the above in pencil; the numbers is the date (day first, then month).

Paper tape on the back, sealing the envelope flap, which reads, “Zur / Devisenüberwachung / zollamtlich / geöffnet” (officially opened by the foreign exchange monitoring office), was applied and sealed at Frankfurt (Main), where the letter was opened, checked by customs (and probably by the censors too!), sealed again and back-stamped Munich 20 July 1937. The letter must have been delivered shortly afterwards.

There is also a handwritten note on the back with another word I’m told by my local interpreter is “wiedergelegt 20.7. (initials). It’s shown here in tweaked colour, and on the next page untweaked.





The unknown:

Could “wiedergelegt” mean “Put aside” or “Laid back”?

An alternative reading of the word is “niedergelegt”, meaning that the cover has been flattened; it does look mangled rather than neatly opened by a censor.

Another marking not understood is the blue pencil “NON” (?) below the stamps. Comments are welcome.

Forthcoming Attractions

We have received permission to translate and publish a series of articles by Dr Heinzel; these are to be found in “Die Briefmarke Online” where they put articles for which there is no room in the printed journal [weep, weep! Ed]. The series is on “Private Stationery 1945 – 1951; a specimen is below.



For the first time ever, an Austrian-themed exhibit has won the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors coveted Diamond Award. Dr. Inger Kuzych’s display “Lemberg: Cosmopolitan Crownland Capital of the Austrian Empire” earned the prize by winning the exhibit’s 10th gold medal at the Columbus (Ohio) Philatelic Exhibition, 7-9 June 2013. There will be more on this in the next issue, and the display may be at London 2015.

THE APS BOOKSHOP

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CDs

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

Books:

- ❖ "The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant: Tchilinghirian and Stephen Revisited". by Hans Smith. Written in English and in full colour throughout, with over 200 A4 pages of text and illustrations and a comprehensive listing of all known postmarks of the consular offices. Price £50 (£40 to APS members if ordered and paid for in 2013).
- ❖ "A Celebration of Austrian Philately": the APS 60th anniversary 'Festschrift'. viii+162 pp A4 in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-05-0 Price **£15**
- ❖ "The Pneumatic Post in Vienna" now reprinted in one A4 volume, ISBN 978-0-900118-06-7 and now only **£32**
- ❖ "The Postal History of Ukraine: KuK Ukrainische Legion Feldpost correspondence cards 1914-1918" by Dubniak & Cybaniak. **£14 NB!! This is the last remaining copy!**
- ❖ **German/English Philatelic Dictionary**, published by the Germany Philatelic Society in the USA. This is the 2005 edition, 298 sides of A5, spiral bound, with appendix of abbreviations. Copies cost **£19.95**.
- ❖ *To all these add P&P: Pneumatic Post and Levant £6.50 to GB; all other books £3 to GB; everything at-cost to other destinations.*

Other items

- ❖ Back numbers of "Austria" are £1 each to members (£5 to non-members), subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Postage extra at cost.
- ❖ Blue-covered binders for A4 issues of 'Austria' are available at £4.99 each and will comfortably hold 8 issues (or 10-12 with a squash). Postage at cost (it's a "Packet"), or delivery by arrangement.
- ❖ **Ties** are available in blue from the Librarian: ties £6.75; cravats now sold out.
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Advert:

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

The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant

Tchilinghirian and Stephen Revisited

by

Hans Smith FRPSL



The largest known franking from an Austria post office in the Levant. 71 piastres, Constantinople to Vienna, 6.4.1888.

See also the outside back cover!



This coloured poster was published by the Austrian Lloyd in Trieste to advertise their new steamer service to the Levant.

Tchilinghirian and Stephen began to publish their seminal work “Austrian Post Offices Abroad” in 1963, describing, amongst other things, the over 120 Austrian post offices and postal agencies operating in the Levant, as the Turkish Empire was widely known in those days. A byword and essential tool for collectors of the “Austrian Levant”, “Tchilinghirian” is still the only publication on the full subject in English.

However, after 50 years, Tchilinghirian and Stephen's splendid work is now long due for a thorough overhaul, much further knowledge of the subject having been gained in the intervening years. The history and postmarks of the Austrian consular offices, including the postal agencies of the Austrian Lloyd Steam Navigation Company, have now been extensively revised by Hans Smith, a lifetime collector of the area, and has been published in hardback form under the aegis of the Austrian Philatelic Society in Great Britain. The book is written in English and is in full colour throughout, with over 200 A4 pages of text and illustrations and a comprehensive listing of all known postmarks of the consular offices. It is published by the APS in hardback. It is now available at £50 (£40 to APS members if ordered and paid for in 2013) plus P&P.

For further information and for placing orders:

- Write to Mrs J Boyer, 1 Catherines Way, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 3YF, UK
- Email levant@austrianphilately.com
- Visit www.austrianphilately.com/publications/index where you will find an order form

An interesting question about Airmail

by Joyce Boyer

Towards the end of 2012 a question was posed to the APS – there was an ‘Austrian old registered first flight cover to Canada via USA 1929’ item listed on Ebay: could it be correct? The registered cover from Stammersdorf was franked with a mixture of USA and Austrian stamps. The first thoughts of our web-master was that it looked a bit ‘dodgy’ but as he was no expert in airmails he would ask someone (me) who was.

I looked at the item on Ebay and found the date of the cover was early June 1929 and responded that the item was almost certainly genuine. The mixed franking relates to the need to pay the USA airmail fee which was 5 cents to Canada – an agreement between the US and Austrian postal authorities to allow all fees to be paid with Austrian stamps only came into force during 1929. The questioner was not aware of this but obviously two people thought the item correct and interesting since it sold for over \$100

I am now expanding on this for the benefit of all readers. The Austria–US agreement actually came into force on 1st June 1929 which is probably the date the cover was flown. I have in my collection a pair of philatelic covers, shown below, cancelled 31 May 1929 and sent from Vienna via New York to the Canal Zone which show the change. For both covers, the Austrian printed paper postage, registration fee and airmail to Paris came to 98 groschen. The rate from USA to the Canal Zone was 25 cents, or 2 schillings: so both covers are marginally overfranked. They would have arrived in New York on or after 1 June, so the second cover was validly franked by then!

The first flight for which Austrian stamps could be used to pay full postage was 1st June but USA stamps could still be used to pay the onward postage in America until, I think, 30th October 1929. Details are in PTVB Nr. 31 dated 22nd May.





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The Loss of Our Scandinavian Postal Historian



by Inger Kuzych

When Mr. Tønnes Ore of Oslo, Norway passed away in August last year, the philatelic world lost a captain in the field of postal history. Yet one would never know it because Mr. Ore was also a modest and unassuming man. I suppose, then, that it should not have come as a surprise to only learn now [I write this in March of 2013] that he passed away on 18 August 2012 at the age of 66. Nonetheless, it did come as a shock and I was deeply saddened. I only met Mr. Ore on two occasions, but both times I was genuinely impressed with his collecting and exhibiting fervour and philatelic knowledge.

The photo is of Tonnes Ore taken December 2010 at an event sponsored by the Oslo Philatelic Society, where he was honoured with the Grand Cross of the Order of The Golden Posthorn! Photographer: Mrs. Marit Elind.

I first got to know Tønnes at the Pan-Slavic Chicagopex show in 2007. He had flown in from Norway – apparently staying with family in the Chicago area – and displayed a multi-frame Carpatho-Ukraine exhibit that was particularly strong in pre-stamp-era material. Despite the fact that he was a bit downcast at the display “only” winning a vermeil at the show (it had previously won golds at European national shows, and I too felt it deserved a gold) he was more than happy to share his C-U knowledge with the rest of us neophytes gathered to learn more at his exhibit. (He continued to develop this exhibit and it became an international gold medal winner, see below.) Later, he joined a large group of fellow members from the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society for a memorable dinner at a local seafood restaurant.

I next ran into him at WIPA 2008 in Vienna, Austria. He did not exhibit at this venue, but we discussed many of the displays that we found outstanding and I introduced him to a few other collectors I had met at the show. He also met several members of the APS.

Mr. Ore’s main philatelic interest was the development of postal services in various parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire – from early pre-philatelic times to the present. His estate consisted of about a dozen collections/exhibits from certain provinces and areas of the Empire. Most of these were exhibited internationally, including Dalmatia, Trieste, Fiume, South Tyrol, Slovenia, Bánát & Bácska, Vojvodina, Western Ukraine, Austrian Silesia, and Carpatho-Ukraine.

A decision was made to sell the “Czechoslovakian” collections first through the Richard Burda firm in Praha/Brno, as a major part of their 39th auction (20-21 April 2013). The material offered in the Burda Auction – approximately 400 lots in a dedicated catalogue – drew on four of Tønnes’ postal history exhibits in addition to extensive balance material from the same areas. The exhibits:

- ❑ Carpatho-Ukraine, pre-philatelic to 1946. This eight-frame exhibit was developed and improved over 20 years to reach its high international level; exhibit sites included Praha 2008 (Large Vermeil), Bulgaria 2009, Antverpia 2010, and most recently an International Gold Medal at Indonesia 2012, in Jakarta.
- ❑ Austrian Silesia, early pre-philatelic to 1946 (exclusive of Eastern Silesia 1920; see below). Five frames; awarded national large silver.
- ❑ Eastern Silesia 1920 – Polish Zone. One-frame exhibit; awarded national vermeil.
- ❑ Eastern Silesia 1920 – Czechoslovakian Zone. One-frame exhibit; awarded national vermeil.

Complete scans of all four exhibits were submitted for online viewing at EXPONET (www.japhila.cz or www.exponet.info).

Further exhibits and balance material from other parts of Tønnes’ collections from the Austro-Hungarian Empire are being prepared for sale through auction houses in Austria, Hungary, and Serbia.

STAMPS OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC (iv)

By Andy Taylor

The “Aeroplanes over Austrian Landscapes” Airmail set of 1935

The brilliant air mail set, which was issued on 16th August 1935, was designed not by a new artist but by Georg Jung who had designed the 1934 “Costumes” definitive set. Unlike that set, the air mail stamps were produced by the photogravure process at the State Printing Works. The numbers printed were:

5g purple	550,000
10g orange	480,000
15g green	350,000
20g dull blue	390,000
25g dull purple	350,000
30g brown red	330,000
40g olive green	305,000
50g deep blue	330,000

60g sepia	285,000
80g brown	250,000
1S carmine	435,000
2S deep olive green	165,000
3S chestnut	130,000
5S deep blue green	130,000
10S slate-blue	105,000

The first printing of these stamps appeared in sheets of 5 x 10 without sheet edging, but the subsequent printings were issued with the sheet edging still attached. The stamps were line perforated 12½. The first mails franked with these stamps were flown from Vienna on the day of issue; mixed frankings with the 1925/30 issue are known. Different stamps show different planes – some with one engine, some three, and at least one glider! The set was valid until 31st October 1938. The designs have been described as follows:



5g purple. The castle of Güssing in the Burgenland. Here, in the south of that province, where three countries meet and the Raab traverses the land, and where the castle ruins of Neuhaus look down from the mountain, is one of the loveliest spots of Austria. A variety “cloud near the church spire” may be found on the 32nd stamp in the sheet. Another variety is a stroke on the front of the numeral 5 with an attached white spot.

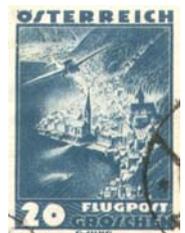


10g orange. The pretty peninsula of Maria Wörth on the Wörthersee in Carinthia. The fresco of the Apostles in the “Winter Church” of Maria Wörth dates back to the 12th century and is the second oldest fresco in Austria.



15g green. Dürnstein is shown sheltering beneath the dominating ruins of the old castle and a baroque monastery tower. This is the little market town where the story of Richard The Lionheart and his minstrel Blondel is still remembered today. A variety on the 16th stamp in the sheet shows as a thinning of the upper boundary line underneath the Ö of Österreich.

20g dull blue. The village of Hallstatt, in Upper Austria, is picturesquely situated on a steep slope at the south west end of the Hallstättersee. In the charnel house are displayed thousands of bones and skulls, each named, which have been preserved there since the 15th century. There were transferred there from the graveyard and the graves reused because the lack of space between lake and mountain meant that the graveyard could not be expanded.





25g dull purple. Salzburg is shown, dominated by the fortress of Hohen-Salzburg which crowns the south east point of the Mönchsberg. Few Austrian towns can compare with Salzburg for beauty of situation. It lies on both banks of the Salzach, whose grey-white glacier water hastens down its broad pebbly channel to join the Inn.



30g brown-red. Here is depicted the Schladminger Glacier on the Hoher Dachstein mountain (2995m) in Styria. The area is open all the year round to afford opportunities for climbing, skiing and other sports.



40g olive-green. This shows the Tirolean lake of the Wettersee in the Ötztal valley. Ötztal, the longest lateral valley of the Inn, is remarkable for the varied charms of its scenery. It is broad and fertile in the lower part, with fields of flax and maize and beautiful larch woods. Higher up it contracts to a number of wild ravines. Discerning tourists visit it annually. The Wettersee is a typical corrie lake, situated at the foot of the Wildgrat and the Brechkogel some 6km to the west of Umhausen - and 2km higher up. The prominent peak on the stamp is the Dreirinnerkogel, and the building directly below the plane is the Erlanger Hütte.



50g deep blue. This value depicts the little village of Stuben high on the Arlberg mountain in the Silvretta Group on the frontier between the Vorarlberg, Tirol and the Swiss Grisons. There is a well-known plate error on this value as a constant variety: the 6th stamp on each sheet has a stroke resembling an apostrophe, between the 5 and the 0 in the numeral of value.



60g sepia. Here the aeroplane flies over St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. This is the most important Gothic edifice in Austria, originally built by Ottocar of Bohemia in 1258 in the late Romanesque style whilst a Gothic choir with three apses was added in 1304 and the nave widened in 1359. The slender South Tower dates from 1365-1433; the North Tower was begun in 1450, never completed, and crowned by a cupola instead in 1556.



80g brown. Now the aeroplane flies on over Vienna; over the 15th century "Minorite" Church (i.e. belonging to the Franciscans or Friars Minor). Behind the Church may be seen the pyramid-like Hochhaus, a block of offices and flats erected in 1932.



1S carmine. A steamer on the Danube is shown on this stamp. It is passing the castle of Schönbüchel near the town of Melk in Lower Austria. Schönbüchel is the chateau of Count Vetter which was restored between 1819 and 1821. A plate error is found on this value: a break in the line under the second R in Österreich on the 36th stamp of each sheet.

2S deep olive-green. A viaduct on the Tauern Railway is shown. This line, begun in 1901 under the direction of K. Wurmb, was finished from Salzburg as far as Gastein in 1905 and carried on to Trieste by 1909. Boldly constructed along steep mountain slopes, it penetrates the main chain of the Tauern by a tunnel over 5 miles long.





3S chestnut. Here the aeroplane flies over a car travelling on the Grossglockner-Hochalpen road which was opened in this year (1935). This road goes up to a height of 2576m where it emerges on to a platform above the enormous Pasterze glacier. The Grossglockner itself, Austria's highest mountain (3798m), appears in the background of this stamp.

5S deep blue-green. This value shows the Tiroler Zugspitzbahn, the cable car which runs from Ehrwald in the Tirol (1225m above sea level) almost to the top of the Zugspitze (2950m). The actual summit is in Germany and the Zugspitze is the highest mountain in that country. The cable car was opened in 1926, is 3.6km long and ascends 1.7km. The main suspension cables are 62mm dia and weigh 87 tonnes each!



10S slate-blue. The last stamp of this set portrays a yachting scene on the Attersee, or Kammersee, in Upper Austria. This is the largest Alpine lake in Austria. Towards the north the banks gradually flatten, to the south rises the finely shaped Schafberg, and to the south-east is the broad ridge of the Höllen-Gebirge.

The Second "Winter Relief" set of 1935



Face	surcharge	colour	perf	quantity
5g	2g	yellow-green	12	300,000
12g	5g	pale blue	12	300,000
24g	6g	yellow-brown	12	500,000
1S	50g	scarlet	12½	70,000

Four values of the 1934 Peasants issue were re-issued on 11th November 1955 in changed colours with a black overprint "Winterhilfe" (WINTERHILFE on the 1S value) and the surcharge for winter relief, eg + 2g. Oddly, the high value was printed in smaller quantities, and only available at selected Post Offices as part of a set; the lower values were on sale everywhere. The stamps were valid until 1st November 1956.

The Austrian catalogues print a warning about forgeries with this issue. This is probably based upon an article by K. Neufeld (Austria Philatelist 1945 (43/44) pp. 3-4) which stated that there had been two separate attempts to forge this issue. A Munich forger produced 3000 sets in 1937 but was caught by the police in Munich and Linz on 14.9.1937 and sent to prison on 5.1.1938. The printing dies were not destroyed. At the beginning of 1942 about 2000 sets were found in Switzerland. A Zurich forger in 1957 had had 16,000 sets printed and the Swiss buyer sent them to the Criminal Technical Institute in Berlin. The latter declared them genuine but this was disputed in Berne so that about 1000 sets were destroyed. All these forgeries may be distinguished from the originals by differences in paper and colouring; they are apparently "sought by specialist collectors" and catalogued at double the price of the genuine!

The “Austrian Heroes” set of 1935



The “Famous Austrians” selected for portrayal on the 1935 Christmas Charity Set were mostly army commanders with one naval. The stamps were designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber for production by recess printing. The “100 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke” p.37 shows the unaccepted designs by Georg Jung and Professor Rudolf Konopa, and compares Professor Dachauer’s accepted and unaccepted portraits for the 24g and 30g values. The stamps are:

12g sepia **Prince Eugen of Savoy**: born 18.10.1663 in Paris; died 21.4.1736 in Vienna; on the stamp the date of birth is wrongly given as 1667.

24g deep green **Fieldmarshal Laudon**: Gideon Ernst, Freiherr von Laudon; born 2.2.1717 in Swedish Lavonia in today's Latvia; died 14.7.1790 in Neutitschein, Mähren.

30g maroon **Archduke Charles**: Erzherzog Carl Ludwig Johann Joseph Laurentius von Österreich, Herzog von Teschen; born 5.9.1771 in Florence; died 30.4.1847 in Vienna.

40g slate-blue **Fieldmarshal Radetzky**: Johann Joseph Wenzel Anton Franz Karl Graf Radetzky von Radetz; born 2.11.1766 in Schloss Trzebnitz bei Seltschan, Böhmen; died 5.1.1858 in Milan.

60g ultramarine **Admiral von Tegetthof**: Wilhelm von Tegetthoff; born 23.12.1827 in Marburg an der Drau, Untersteiermark; died 7.4.1871 in Vienna.

64g violet **Fieldmarshal Conrad von Hötzendorf**: Franz Xaver Josef Conrad von Hötzendorf; born 11.11.1852 in Penzing bei Wien; elevated to Freiherr in 1910 and Graf in 1918; promoted to Feldmarschall in 1916; died 25.8.1925 in Bad Mergentheim, Württemberg.

The set was issued on 1st December 1935 and remained valid for postage until 31st March 1936. Only 70,000 sets were issued and the stamps could only be bought at selected Post Offices as complete sets at double the face value. The surcharge was devoted to the benefit of general charitable funds. The stamps were line perforated 12½; there are no known perforation varieties and no known printing errors. The usual range of imperf sides, unissued colours, blackprint-proofs etc exists.

The Second F.I.S. Set of 1936

The International Skiing Association’s meeting at Innsbruck immediately followed the Winter Olympic Games at Garmisch, and Austria issued four stamps for the occasion. Three of them show glimpses of a ski race while on the fourth is a view of Maria-Theresien-Straße, Innsbruck. It was suggested in the British press that the woman skier shown on the 35g stamp during the course of a slalom race was a Miss Evelyn Pinching who became Woman Ski Champion of the World. German authors, however, claimed it was Christi Cranz; the German Olympic Women’s Champion who won this race in 1936. Actually it is most improbable that the figures on the first three stamps are anything other than figments of the artist’s imagination. The frame designer Karl Gesaner used photographs by Lothar Rübelt as the basis for his central designs but adapted these artistically to his own ideas. The stamps are:

12g green Slalom Course Skier (100,000)

35g carmine Woman Slalom Course Skier (70,000)

24g bright violet Skier on mountain slope (85,000)

60g blue Maria-Theresien-Straße (70,000)

Maria-Theresien-Straße is the chief street of Innsbruck, noted for its handsome 17th and 18th century houses and its background of the Nordkette mountains. On the left of the stamp is the Landhaus of the Tirol whilst in

the centre is the commemorative column known as the “Annasäule” erected in 1706 to commemorate the evacuation of the Tirol by the Bavarians and the French in 1703.

The stamps were printed by photogravure, line perforated 12½, and issued on 20th February 1936 at double face value for the benefit of general charitable purposes and also for the Austrian Olympic Fund. They were sold only at selected Post Offices but could be ordered from others. Although the 12g and 24g could be bought separately, the 35g and 60g values could only be obtained as part of complete sets. The stamps were valid for postage until 30th April 1936.



The Second “Mothers Day” Stamp of 1936



This stamp was issued on 5th May 1936 for the annual “Mothers Day” and was valid until 31st October 1936. The frame was designed by Professor Franz Retzl but the central design reproduced a famous painting by Albrecht Dürer. This painting is usually known as “Mary with the Child” (or sometimes as “The Madonna with the slice of pear”, a reference to the infant holding a piece of pear in his left hand); in the top right hand corner may be seen the artist’s monogram together with the date 1512. The painting (inventory no. GG-848) hangs in the Picture Gallery of the Art History Museum in Vienna and is painted on wood (49cm x 37cm).

Two million of this 24g deep blue stamp were issued, line perforated 12½, and printed by photogravure on ordinary chalky paper. The usual range of imperf sides, unissued colours, unissued-colour-proofs etc receive surprisingly high catalogue prices. Allegedly, although there was no surcharge some of the proceeds were to be used for Mothers' Relief.

A special cancellation (Worth p.17) inscribed **MUTTERTAGSFEIER** was in use between 5th and 7th May 1936 at ten towns (the provincial capitals plus Sankt Pölten and Wiener Neustadt).

The Third “Winter Relief” Set of 1936



This set, inscribed “WINTERHILFE 1936-37” was issued on 2nd November 1936 to raise funds for the usual charitable purposes. The frames were designed by Professor Franz Retzl whilst the central motifs were designed by Professor Rudolf Jettmar - this was the only set of stamps which he designed for the Austrian Post Office. He was born on 10th September 1869 at Zawodzie near Cracow and studied at the Vienna Academy of Graphic Art (1886-1892) before going to Karlsruhe and Dresden. He then won the Rome Prize and travelled in Italy before returning to Vienna in 1897. He worked in that city, producing etchings and art books as well as paintings, and died there on 21st April 1939.

5g + 2g	green	Saint Martin sharing his cloak	450,000
12g + 3g	violet	Allegory: “Healing the Sick”	450,000
24g + 6g	blue	Allegory: Saint Elisabeth feeding the hungry	400,000
1S + 1S	carmine lake	Allegory: “Warming the Poor”	100,000

The stamps were printed by photogravure on ordinary chalky paper and line perforated 12½. The 24g+6g stamp is known imperf on the left and all of them occur imperf-all-round. The top value 1S+1S was sold only in the complete sets and only available at selected Post Offices; so only 100,000 sets are possible. The other three were on sale everywhere. The stamps were valid until 17th October 1937, the day before the issue of the 1937 Winter Relief set - so Winter Relief stamps could be used throughout the year.

The “Austrian Inventors” set of 1936

The “Famous Austrians” selected for portrayal on the 1936 Christmas Charity Set were all inventors. As with the 1935 set the stamps were designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer and engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber. The book “100 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke” (p37) illustrates some interesting but unaccepted designs by Professors Junk and Seger. The set was issued on 6th December 1956. Each stamp depicts the relevant invention behind the head of its inventor. The inventors selected were:

12g sepia: Josef Ressel; inventor of the screw propellor for ships (and many other devices)

20g violet: Karl von Ghega; builder of the Semmering railway

30g brown lake: Josef Werndl; co-inventor of a single-shot breechloading rifle, adopted by the Austro-Hungarian army in 1867 and still issued in WWI to reserve troops.

40g blue-black: Carl Auer von Welsbach; inventor of the incandescent gas mantle

60g ultramarine: Robert von Lieben; inventor of a telephone amplifier using a cathode-beam relay, later improved by adding a control-grid thus creating the triode valve.

64g deep green: Viktor Kaplan; inventor of an electricity-generating turbine especially suited to low-head high-volume rivers.

The stamps were printed by the recess process at the Austrian State Printing Works in Vienna and were line perforated 12½. The usual imperfs, changed-colours, blackprints on various papers etc are known. An impression of 130,000 sets was printed and the stamps were only sold at selected post offices in complete sets at double face value. The additional surcharge thus raised was devoted to general charitable purposes. The set was valid until 31st March 1937.



The Third “Mothers Day” Stamp of 1937



This stamp was issued as usual on 5th May 1937 for the annual “Mothers Day” and was valid until 31st December 1937. Allegedly, although there was no surcharge some of the proceeds were to be used for Mothers or maybe Winter Relief. Sales until 10 May were via the Patriotic Front and seem to have been conditional on also purchasing one of their propaganda cards.

The 24g brown-red stamp was printed by the photogravure process on chalky paper and line perforated 12½. An impression of two million was produced, and a special cancellation (Wurth 1967 p.19) was used in Vienna I, V, XIII and XVII from 5th to 9th May to show its relevance to the Fatherland Front.

Cards (9.5 x 10.5 cm) bearing this stamp and the special cancellation, inside a border of green leaves and with the inscription “MUTTERTAG 1937 DES MUTTERSCHUTZWERKES DER V. F.”, were sold by the Patriotic Front to raise further funds. This was the only way to get a FDC.

The book “100 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke” (p.38) shows the unaccepted designs by Professors Andri, Dachauer, Zerritsch and Junk. However the design finally accepted, showing a child presenting its mother with flowers on Mothers Day, was produced by Franz Kraft. This artist was born on 14th September 1892 in Vienna and from 1914 to 1932 was Clerk to the Vienna Magistracy (= Town Clerk in UK); at the same time drawing caricatures and illustrations for books. This rather uninspiring design was the only one that he produced for an Austrian postage stamp.

The “Centenary of the Danube Steam Navigation Co.” set of 1937

On 9th June 1937 there appeared a set of three stamps to celebrate the centenary of the Danube Steam Ship Navigation Company.

12g brown lake “Maria Anna” 1837 paddle steamer (2,500,000)

24g slate blue “Helios” steamer (2,500,000)

64g green “Österreich” steam-tug (1,000,000)



The frames of the stamps were designed by Professor Franz Ritzl who had also produced the frames for the 1936 Winter Relief set. The set was printed by photogravure on chalky paper and line perforated 12. It was valid for postage until 31st December 1937. The usual imperf, colour etc oddities exist.

The 24g stamp has three constant plate errors. The 10th stamp of each sheet has the “C” in “ÖSTERREICH” with a deformed lower serif; the 31st stamp has a dark spot which appears as a cloud underneath the “ST” in “ÖSTERREICH”; and another stamp has a sausage-shaped mark above the flag.

F.S. Schanzer wrote at length on “The Ships and Boats on Stamps of Austria” (Bulletin of A.P.S. of New York 1955.7(8) pp3-6). He said: “The first stamp pictures the oldest steam-propelled water vehicle on the Danube river, the ‘MARIA ANNA’, a side wheeler and a real antique. Propelled by a coal-fired steam engine, the MARIA ANNA had two huge paddle wheels, one on each side, and was the big attraction of her time. When the DDSG celebrated its 100th anniversary, the Company built an exact and very interesting replica of the old MARIA ANNA, and her maiden voyage carried her up-river on the Danube from Vienna to Austria’s border.” The Maria Anna was built in 1837.

The second stamp of this set shows a more modern passenger boat on the Danube, the steamship HELIOS, which was one of a series of four ships, all built alike, and after which the whole series or class was named. The four boats were the HELIOS, the SATURNUS, the JUPITER and the URANUS. Schanzer says that the first three ships were built before the first World War, while URANUS was put into service in 1924. However the Register at <http://www.hajoregiszter.hu/> gives the build dates as 1922, 1918, 1916 and 1920 respectively. All four ships ran an express service between Vienna and Giurgiu, Romania. During the second World War the HELIOS was sunk to the bottom of the Danube near the town of Hainburg, but when the war was over, the Russians lifted her and set her afloat again. She was then remodelled and put into service under the new name of KAUKASUS. Some older catalogues wrongly call this boat the FRANZ SCHUBERT. The latter was the sister ship of the passenger boat JOHANN STRAUSS; both were much smaller than the HELIOS and both covered the passenger route between Vienna and Passau. Besides, the FRANZ SCHUBERT was built differently: above the stateroom deck was the dining room and on top of that a promenade deck. The HELIOS class has another deck of staterooms between the dining room and the promenade deck.

Finally, the last stamp of this set pictures a freighter on the Danube river, the ÖSTERREICH, built in 1927. Ships like her, mostly coal-fired side wheelers, were the hard workers on the Danube, towing from one to three trailer boats (Schlepper) behind them.

The Fourth “Winter Relief” Set of 1937

The designs of this striking set of stamps stand out as if they were white plaster casts against tempera backgrounds in the ceramic style of della Robia. They were designed by Professor Ferdinand Kitt who had been a pupil of Rudolf Bacher at the Vienna Academy. In 1919 he became a member of the Vienna Secession and was its President from 1926 to 1929. In 1927 he was appointed a Professor at the Vienna Ladies Academy at St.

Gilgen and he held this position until 1947. Professor Kitt mainly painted murals, frescoes, landscapes and portraits; this is the only set of stamps which he produced for the First Republic.



The set had various surcharges for winter relief as shown on top right of each stamp. It was printed by photogravure, p12½, and was issued on 18th October 1937 in the following values:

5g + 2g blue green “Child Welfare” (700,000)

12g + 3g sepia “Feeding the Children” (700,000)

20g + 6g deep blue “Protecting the Aged” (700,000)

1S + 1S carmine “Nursing the Sick” (200,000)

The top value could only be purchased at selected Post Offices and only as part of a complete set – much to the annoyance of some commentators, and customers who found that the high value was three times oversubscribed well before the date of issue. The lower values were on sale everywhere.

There are discrepancies between the various catalogues, reference books and the Austrian and German Postal Decrees on the validity date for these stamps. The best conclusion is that they were officially withdrawn on 1 July 1938, but were accepted on covers until 31 October.

The “Centenary of the Austrian Railways” Set of 1937



This set of stamps, issued on 22nd November 1937, would be more correctly described as commemorating a century of steam traction since only one Austrian mile of track, from Floridsdorf to Deutsch-Wagram, was actually opened on 23rd November 1837. Nevertheless, on 23rd November 1937, a memorial was unveiled at Floridsdorf, and wreaths were laid on the grave of Franz Xavier Riepl, the engineer who built the line. He was born 29.11.1790 in Graz, and died 25.4.1857 in Vienna. He was Professor of Commerce and National History at the Vienna Polytechnic Institute, later Director of the Kaiser Ferdinand Northern Railway. This set was valid for postage until 31st October 1938. Three special stamps, line perf 12½, were issued as follows:

12g sepia “Austria” Steam Locomotive (6,000,000)

25g deep violet “2-8-4” class of 1936. Steam (1,500,000)

35g brown lake Class 1170-200 Bo-Bo Electric (1,000,000)

The stamps were designed by Alexander Exax who was born in 1896 in Styria. He had studied at the Vienna Academy of Graphic Art and his first postage stamp designs were commissioned by the Greek Government. This was the only set of stamps that he designed for the First Republic.

The 12g stamp depicts the first locomotive “Austria” which was built in the British workshops of Robert Stephenson & Co. It was a sandwich frame locomotive with 5 feet diameter driving wheels and cylinders of 10 inches diameter with a 14 inch stroke. It weighed 14 tons and hauled the 38 tonnes train at 20 mph. The driver was British, and only British drivers were employed until 1849.

The 25g stamp depicts a steam locomotive, of the class then used for drawing the heavy express trains on the Vienna-Salzburg line. It has a 2-8-4 wheel arrangement, smoke-deflector plates almost concealing the chimney and electric headlamps and is capable of nearly 100mph even with extremely heavy loads.

The 35g value shows a class 1170-200 Bo-Bo electric engine of the type then recently introduced for passenger and goods working on the Tauern section of the Federal Railways; the electrification of which was completed in 1935. The axle load of these locomotives was 20 tonnes; 33 of these engines were built in order to replace the previous steam motive power.

The “Austrian Doctors” Set of 1937



The “Famous Austrians” selected for portrayal on the 1937 Christmas Charity Set were all medical men. As with the 1935 and 1936 sets the stamps were designed by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer; most were also engraved by Professor Ferdinand Lorber but the 8g, 12g, and 20g stamps were engraved by Arthur Schuricht who had engraved two of the values of the “Austrian Writers” set of 1931. The use of an additional engraver was probably because of the greater number than usual of stamps in the set. The set was issued on 5th December 1937 and the doctors selected were:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5g sepia Gerhard van Swieten | 30g lake-red Ferdinand von Arlt |
| 8g red Johann Leopold Auenbrugger | 40g olive Josef Hyrtl |
| 12g blackish brown Karl von Rokitansky | 60g deep blue Albert Christian Theodor Billroth |
| 20g blue-green Josef Skoda | 64g purple Theodor Hermann Meynert |
| 24g deep violet Ferdinand von Hebra | |

The stamps were printed by the recess process at the Austrian State Printing Works in Vienna and were line perforated 12½. Single-proof in unissued colours, and imperf-all-round, are known. 150,000 sets were printed and the stamps were only sold at selected post offices in complete sets at double face value. The additional surcharge thus raised was devoted to general charitable purposes. The set was valid for postage until 30th June 1938.

The “Greetings” Stamp Issue of 1937

For considerably more detail, illustrations, speculations etc see my article in Austria 138.

No satisfactory explanation is known for Austria’s sudden decision to issue “Greetings” stamps on 12th December 1937; just before Christmas, since no precedent for such stamps existed in Austrian philately. They were to be used on birthday cards and letters.

Professor Wilhelm Dachauer had been asked to design such stamps and the book “100 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke” (p.38) depicts an unaccepted design with the Christ child floating in a star of light and the 12 signs of the Zodiac representing the 12 Apostles. Such a design would have been more topical but, instead, his design for a vase of roses, framed by the signs of the zodiac, was accepted for two values: 12g blue-green and 24g carmine. The numbers printed are unknown

These stamps were recess printed at the State Printing Works in Vienna, comb perforated 13 and were valid for postage until 31st October 1938. The 12g can be found with plate numbers 1 – 6, the 24g with 1 – 4. Both exist imperf; as pairs-imperf-between; and in unissued colours.



The signs of the zodiac can be clearly discerned in the two vertical columns to either side of the stamps. They are as follows from top to bottom (1) left hand side: Scorpio (the scorpion), Sagittarius (the archer), Capricornus (the goat), Aquarius (the water carrier), Pisces (the fishes) and Aries (the ram). (2) right hand side: Taurus (the bull), Gemini (the twins), Cancer (the crab), Leo (the lion), Virgo (the Virgin) and Libra (the scales). The roses are based on Hybrid Tea types. Some choose to interpret the design as an allegory of the Virgin Mary surrounded by the 12 Apostles.



Post u Telegraphenverordnungsblatt 65/1937 announces these stamps. It states “*Introduction of special stamps of 12g and 24g for greetings letters (Greetings stamps). From 12th December 1937 new stamps of 12g and 24g in a special artistic design become valid, which should serve for the franking of greetings letters; they are however valid for the franking of all kinds of posted material in both domestic and foreign service, until further notice without time limit.*”. Sale on the 12th December 1937 would only take place at the Special “Day of the stamp” Post Office, at the Austrian museum for art and industry.

The German word consistently used is ‘Glückwunsch’ which translates as ‘greetings’. My dictionaries all suggest that if Glückwunsch is associated with anything specific, it is with the birthday of the recipient, and not with Christmas. The ‘Christmas’ link seems to be an invention of English-speaking cataloguers!

Many people assert that Professor Dachauer the engraver had hidden the heads of Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese premier in the blossoms of the roses. See Austria 138!

1938 Unissued series

A: Two sets were planned for issue in Austria during 1938 but never issued; these are illustrated in “100 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke” pp38-39 as follows:

Town and Country Scenes, after designs by Alexander Exax and Oskar Spitzer

- 5g St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Vienna; the south spire
- 12g Monastery Church at Dürnstein a.d. Donau, Lower Austria
- 30g Palace Fountain in the city of Salzburg
- 35g Abbey of Seckau, Cathedral of 12th century
- 36g Franz Joseph stretch of the Grossglockner High Alpine Road
- 40g Heidenreichstein Castle
- 1S ‘Church on the hill’ at Eisenstadt

Some of these scenes were shown in stamps of the Second Austrian Republic, e.g. St. Stephen’s spire, the Salzburg fountain, and Heidenreichenstein Castle.

“Famous Austrian Actors” after designs by Professor Wilhelm Dachauer. For extensive biographies see Austria 51 pp26-30.

- 5g Joseph Lange (1751-1831), actor, painter, novelist and composer. His acting career was mainly at the Burgtheater in Vienna. He was Mozart’s brother-in-law!
- 8g Therese Krones (1801-1830) the most popular actress of the 1820s; she appeared mainly at the Leopoldstätt Theatre.
- 12g Charlotte Wolter (1834-1897) who played tragic heroines at the Vienna Burgtheater (e.g. Lady Macbeth, Iphigenie, Sappho, Kriemhild).
- 24g Josef Lewinsky (1835-1907), a character actor who played at the Vienna Burgtheater, where he became a producer.
- 64g Josef Kainz (1858-1910), born in Wieselburg in Hungary he spent his early years in theatres outside Austria, coming to the Burgtheater in 1899. In the following decade he undertook 28 new roles which made him extremely famous (e.g. Orestes, Richard II, Shylock, etc).

B. A few stamps are catalogued which were prepared by over-enthusiastic supporters of the Anschluss but forbidden by the German authorities. Four values of the Costumes series (ANK568, 573, 574, 575) were overprinted with a swastika and a new value (3, 6, 8, 12 Rpf resp.); similar overprints exist on postal stationery; genuine specimens are rare and expensive. The 3, 6 & 12 Rpf overprints are also available imperf.



A 12g stamp exists showing an idealised Austrian being welcomed into Greater Germany by an idealised German and inscribed Deutsches Reich Land Österreich at the foot; it exists, or at least is listed, in dark blue-grey and in grey-black

Rectangular landscape “stamps” exist in various values (5g, 10g, 20g, 50g, 1S) and colours (green, red, blue, violet and black/grey); all with a “cross potent” (in German, “Krückenkreuz”) near the bottom left corner. This cross has horizontal and vertical arms of equal length, with crossbars at their ends. These are not postage stamps but propaganda labels, sold to raise money for Schuschnigg’s planned plebiscite in 1938. The Schuschnigg labels are available perforated all round but only on 5 green, 10 red, 20 blue, 50 violet and 1s black/grey - that is why it is impossible to get a complete strip of 5 x 2 = 10.



What's a Signet?

By Andy Taylor & friends.

This article is similar to a flat stone skimmed over a pond: it touches the surface without disturbing the hidden depths, then at the end sinks with barely a ripple. However it may explain to a few enquirers the strange marks or embossings on an old document. Longer articles are envisaged 'later'.

Signets

Signets (or signettes) were used in Austria to indicate that a tax had been paid, there being no alternative until the introduction of revenue adhesives on 1 November 1854. Austria was one of the first countries (in 1686, in the reign of Emperor Leopold I) to introduce a Stamp Tax which required that paper used for a variety of official purposes such as certificates for birth marriage or death, petitions, contracts, mortgages etc. be marked with an imprint to indicate the duty paid by way of a 'seal' normally indicating duty paid and, in some cases, also indicating the tax office applying the mark. These imprints are almost always in black ink and the later types are usually also embossed.



Especially in earlier times, the 'Austrian Empire' is better considered as a consortium of more-or-less independent kingdoms, duchies, counties and so on; the common link was that the same person was the ruler. A law had usually to be restated in each part and appear above the relevant name of the ruler: King of Bohemia, Archduke of Austria, Princely Count of Tirol, Lord of Cattaro and so on. Since photocopying hadn't been invented, the text sent by the Imperial Court had to be reset using moveable type – the possibilities for introducing errors were great, and if 'parallel texts' can be obtained much fun can be had in comparing them.

The different parts of the Empire might pay the same tax at a different rate, or were in some cases exempt for historical or political reasons. An area might be "farmed out" to a "tax farmer" who paid the Emperor a fixed sum for the right to collect specified taxes and keep the takings; such tax farmers tended to become rich. Each part of the Empire had different designs of signet.

There are three classes of tax.

Class A: a fixed fee for some general event - eg, for each bit of paper produced as evidence in court; each bit of paper associated with "the carriage of goods from a person to a second person by a third person".

Class B: a fee for general documents related to the value of the transaction recorded in the document - eg selling a house, registering your rights to a title of nobility. The transactions were listed in tables, and for each table a series of value-bands gave the fee; normally the fees were not a fixed fraction of the transaction (as opposed to today's Value Added Tax) although evidence of a few ad-valorem taxes can be found.

Class C: fees for specific things. There were flat-rate taxes for newspapers, birth certificates, school reports, marriage licences, death certificates, hunting & fishing permits, veterinary certificates etc.

The regulations and rates for taxes were set out in Decrees, sometimes of inordinate length – 80 sides of Fraktur is not uncommon, and the 1850 Decree is 100 pages! The 1888 Decree on the taxation of sugar occupies 72 pages, including a drawing of how to apply a tax label to a barrel.

Examples



Newspaper tax, Lombardy & Venetia. Clue: you will find this on a newspaper, usually written in Italian.



All these are Austrian newspaper tax signets; you are unlikely to find them on anything other than a newspaper.



Left: tax office cancels from Dux, on newspaper tax adhesives. These are **not** signets.

Right: At top, two Austrian newspaper tax signets applied to an incoming French paper; below them is a French newspaper tax signet.



Left: A kalender (almanac) signet. Right: various signets found on official documents.



This newspaper has on the right a newspaper tax signet for 1847. To the left, behind Oesterreichisch, is a 6 kreuzer tax signet – the court fee for producing the paper as evidence. The faint signet is a ‘control stamp’.

AUSTRIA IN TRANSITION, 1918-1921

by Andy Taylor. based on a display given by Dr John Pitts

“L’Autriche, c’est ce qui reste” - “Austria consists of what is left over.” Georges Clemenceau, 1918.

When Emperor Charles I withdrew on November 11, 1918, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was in the process of disintegration. The disruption resulted in (1) attempts by rump Austria (the new “Deutsch-Osterreich”) to unite with Germany in Salzburg and the Tyrol; (2) a foreign occupation and plebiscite in Carinthia; (3) the formation of local revolutionary committees in many localities; and (4) the assignation of the Burgenland to Austria. Attempts to become part of a new German republic were forbidden by the Allies. Such abnormal political and economic conditions created the necessity for emergency measures and stamp issues, as well as the opportunity for unnecessary and fraudulent issues.



This display presented emergency and local issues most of which, although printed contrary to regulations, were actually and undoubtedly used in the mails. Some were ordered by the provincial governments (Tyrol and Salzburg), others owed their existence to political or private intervention. Forgeries have been identified by Friedl and Pollak and, on the basis of their expertise, the items displayed are considered to be genuine unless otherwise indicated.

Auxiliary Post of Meran, 1918.

Following the occupation of South Tyrol by the Italian armies late in 1918, the postal service was suspended and the Chamber of Commerce of Meran, 35km NW of Bolzano, was authorised to establish a local post.



First issue, November 25, 1918.

Auxiliary Post of Meran, 1918.

Second issue, November 30, 1918 (?). The 2H, 5H and 10H values were, nominally, for newspapers, postcards and letters respectively.



Local additional franking to ensure delivery by the Chamber of Commerce following withdrawal by the Austrian administration. Known used examples are cancelled by the Algund cds, as in the example above which appears to pre-date the published (but uncertain) issue date by 2 days. The 10 Heller adhesive is tied by the faint oval hand-stamp of the Meran Chamber of Commerce “Gremium der Kaufmannschaft des Kurbezirkes Meran”.

Hluboka Provisionals, November 1918.

For over 300 years before 1918, the areas that were to become Czechoslovakia, namely Slovakia and Bohemia and Moravia, had been ruled over by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The beginnings of the new state came from an agreement between Masaryk, a Czech, and Stefaniik, a Slovak who inaugurated a movement for independence. A provisional government in exile was formed in September 1918 and Czech independence was declared in October.

The Revolutionary Committee in Prague immediately authorised the overprinting of the then current postage issues of Austria as well as the printing of the first stamps of the new Republic. The overprinted stamps included the Hluboka provisionals; they were not recognised by the Central Post Authority in Prague, and their importance was probably political rather than postal.

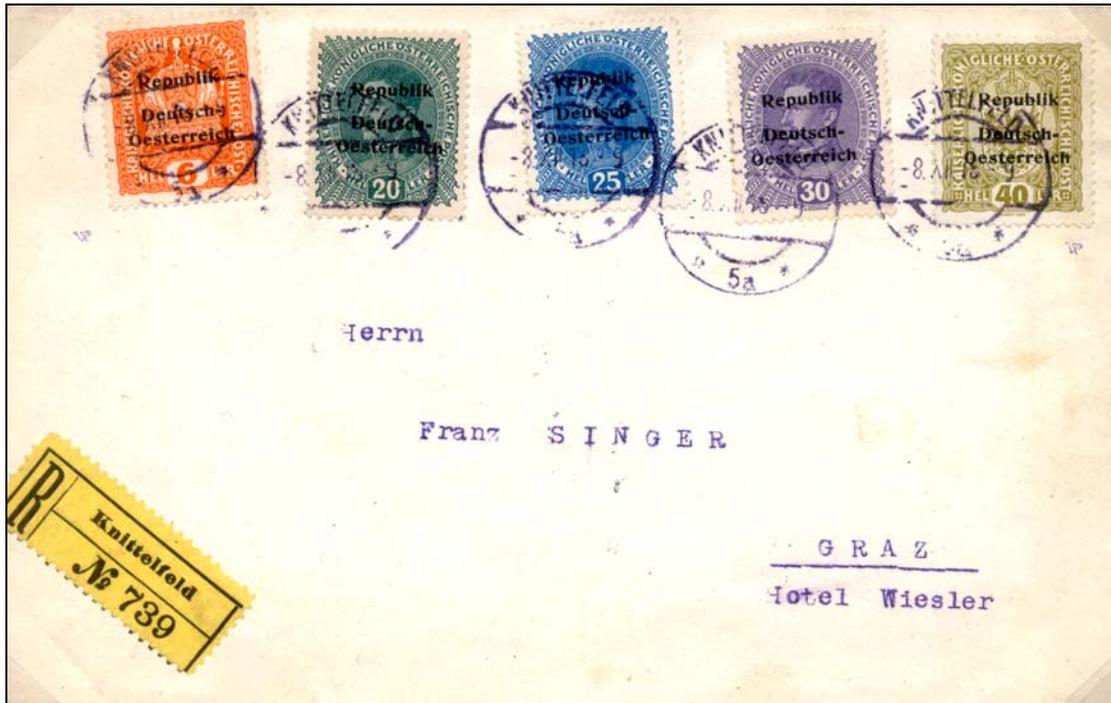


The Hluboka provisional overprints.

Local Issue of Knittelfeld, December 7-8, 1918.

The postage stamps of the old Monarchy were still in use after the overthrow of 1918, and so the District Committee of Public Welfare of Knittelfeld in Styria decided, on the initiative of the local soldiers council, to overprint these stamps "Republik / Deutsch / Oesterreich", thus drawing attention to the new Republic. The size of the overprint was 11 x 16¼mm and this helps to identify forgeries. The overprinted stamps were issued on December 7 and 8, 1918, at the office of the Public Welfare and also by the soldiers' District Council for the POW camp of Knittelfeld. The latter used its own Kriegsgefangenenlager / Knittelfeld cancel. The two types of cancel are shown, dated 7.XII. 18.





Registered letter from Knittelfeld to Graz dated 8.XII. 18.

Venezia Giulia (Trieste) Provisionals.

Under the terms of the Treaty of London, April 26, 1915, Italy joined the war on the side of the Allies in return for the promise of Trentino (Trento) and the Istrian peninsula, including Trieste. Italian forces entered Trento and Trieste on November 3, 1918 and the following day the Austrians signed an armistice. The first stamp issues for the newly acquired territory were of a provisional nature. In Venezia Giulia the overprint on the then current Austrian stamps read “Regno d’Italia / Venezia Giulia / 3. XI. 18”. The inclusion of Venezia Giulia into Italy was not confirmed until June 1921 at the Paris Peace Conference. Italy had included the port of Fiume in her demands but this was not acceptable to the allies



Registered local letter, 19.XII.18..

Land Tirol, December 12, 1918 - January 20, 1919.

Efforts of nationalists to secede from Austria and join Germany led to the overprinting of the then current postage stamps with a Tirolean eagle in support of demands for a National Assembly. Stamps were overprinted in violet-black using a rubber hand-stamp. The issue was sold at face value. Postal use was forbidden after January 20, 1919.



Tirol - Parcel Control Stamps, 1919 - 1921.

To control parcels containing goods destined for foreign countries, the export of which was forbidden, the Tyrolean Government ordered on April 17, 1919 their control in both postal and rail transportation. Originally it was intended to use small stamps for postal parcels and large stamps for railway parcels but this arrangement was short-lived.





Local Liberation Issue, Radkersburg, July 26, 1920.

To mark the evacuation of Yugoslav troops from Radkersburg in Styria, the State Printing Works in Vienna had planned an overprint of Austrian stamps. They were unable to carry out the job and, at the last moment, the local Liberation Committee stepped in. There are two printings of the 3-line overprint approved by the Ministry of Communications; the first (black, dull and blurred) was made locally at the print shop at Semlitsch, and the second, sharp and shiny, was made at the Deutsche Vereinsdruckerei, Graz. Both read “Radkersburgs/Befreiuugstag/26.Juli 1920”, with the letters ‘n’ and ‘u’ in the second word being deliberately switched by both printers to deter falsifications.

First printing:



Second printing.



Local Liberation Issue, Spielfeld, August 20, 1920.

As with Radkersburg, Spielfeld in Tyrol introduced an overprint on the regular postage stamps to celebrate the evacuation of the Yugoslav troops on August 7, 1920. This was also authorised by the Ministry of Communications, and the overprinting was effected by hand-stamp by the Liberation Committee on any postage stamps submitted to it against a payment of 2 and 5 Kronen for low and high denominations respectively. The overprint read "Befreiung / Spielfelds / 29. Juli 1920".



Letter to Graz dated 8.8.20, with overprint showing the variety 'missing s'.

On about half the issues the final s in Spielfelds of the 3-line overprint is missing because of a failure of the primitive hand-stamp. The private commemorative cancellation was done with a circular rubberstamp supplied by the Liberation Committee with "Spielfeld / Befreiung" around the circumference and the dates "8/8/20" and "29.7.1920" across the centre.

Local Liberation Issue, Spielfeld, August 20, 1920.

The cancellation of current postage stamps with the small circular hand-stamp was not authorised and after August 8, 1920 the overprinted stamps were invalid. On October 12, 1920, the Ministry of Communications declared that the overprint was done without the approval of the postal authorities, and it therefore had no official standing. The official postal cancellation for the regular mail was the Yugoslav "SPILJE" obliterator, seen on the cover below sent to Wien, dated 10.VIII.20.



Private commemorative cancellation. double circle, diameter 23¹/₂mm, „8.8.20 / 29.7.20“.

Yugoslavian official postal cancellation, circular, diameter 27¹/₄mm, „SPILJE / 10. VIII. 20 / * b ,,,,,“.

Plebiscite in Carinthia, September/October 1920. Austria or Yugoslavia?

The plebiscite in the province of Carinthia was to decide whether to join Austria or Yugoslavia, and special plebiscite stamps were designed but not officially issued. Instead the government reprinted the then current stamps in different colours and added an overprint. In spite of this, the designer of the non-accepted stamps had 1000 sets printed as essays. Although distributed, they served no postal purposes.



‘Taking the Oath’ and the ‘Carinthian Shield’ - propaganda essays.



Because of the disputed border, some deemed Carinthia to be a part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS). The card above carries the „SHS” postmark and censor of „Borovlje” (Yugoslavian name for the Austrian town of Ferlach, just 16km south of Klagenfurt) with the senders address clearly stating „Ferlach 1 Kärnten / SHS”. The card was sent 31 .VII.20 in the run up to the plebiscite.

Plebiscite in Carinthia, September/October 1920. Austria or Yugoslavia?

Yugoslavia introduced a series of its own special stamps - surcharges on the 1919 imperforated newspaper stamps of Slovenia. Each had a different surcharge, but all included the letters K, G, C, and A, which signified “Karinthian Governmental Commission, Zone A”. All the plebiscite stamps were sold at post offices at three times the face value.



Local registered letter, Maribor 2, 5.X20.

For the purpose of the plebiscite, the disputed territory was divided into the south, Zone 1, and the north, Zone II. The plebiscite was to be held first in Zone 1, then Zone II three weeks later but only if Zone 1 voted to join Yugoslavia. A 95% turnout voted 59% for Austria and 41% for Yugoslavia, so the second vote did not take place.

Eastern Tirol Plebiscite, October 17, 1920.

In Lienz the Plebiscite Committee for the Eastern Tirol ordered an overprinting of Renner Republic stamps with the words "Deutscher Gau Osttirol", and on October 16, 1920, these stamps were sold or distributed on the occasion of the proclamation of the German Gau (district) Osttirol in Lienz. These stamps were no more than private propaganda essays. Despite a selling price of 500 Kronen (face value 121.20 Kronen) they were quickly bought up. They were overprinted in gold; such was the demand for the first issue that a reprint in dull gold, consisting of 1000 sets, was supplied. Mail bearing first issue and reprint stamps was treated as unfranked.

Unfortunately, neither overprint is reproducible here because the gold doesn't show.

Tirol Plebiscite, April 24, 1921. Annexation by Germany?

On April 24, 1921, a plebiscite was held in the Tirol to decide on a possible link up with Germany. The plebiscite committee, with the consent of the Tirolean government, instructed the Innsbrück printing works to overprint the then current postage stamps with a lithographed eagle and date. Ten values were selected, the number of each overprinted ranging from only 500 to 3,800 according to value. There were two issues. In the first, Type 1, the eagle's tail is blunt and on the high values there is no hyphen between 'April' and '1921'. In Type II the eagle has a tail feather and there is a hyphen on the high values between 'April' and '1921'.

Type 1 - First issue.



Venezia Giulia (Trieste) Provisionals.

Express local letter, 8.XII. 18.

Postscript.

This display presented the significant emergency and local issues produced in Austria during a particularly turbulent period of its history - the 2 or 3 years immediately after the end of the Great War. If it is accepted that the people responsible for them were at that time the local people in power, and that the stamps were actually used through the posts, then technical considerations of administrative and political procedures should not be allowed to detract from their legitimacy as a collectible for the postal historian.

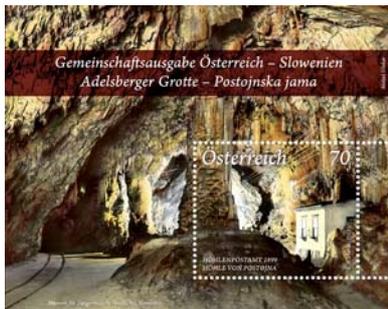
2013 NEW ISSUES (second instalment)

by Andy Taylor

Author's Notes

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date (first-valid, not the earlier on-sale); 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. Many issues are also available in mini-sheets, as blackprints, as 'Buntdrucke' (ie printed in different colours from those issued) and so on. The descriptions are translated from "Die Briefmarke" and the Post.at website.

The second quarter of 2013 saw the issue of 24 commemorative stamps, plus assorted stationery and other items not described here.



The Adelsberg Grotto – joint issue with Slovenia. 70c; 6.4.2013; 170,000; Offset; design Matjaz Ucar. This enormous cavern system is in the Karst area near the Slovenian town of Postojna; it is the second-largest in the world of those open to tourists. Formed almost a million years ago, it was discovered in 1213. Since 1872 it has been equipped with a railway system, electrified in 1959 to cope with the half-a-million tourists annually. A Special Post Office is operated in the season; it is listed in the 1901 Postamtsverzeichnis as Nr. 874 Adelsberg (Postojna), became k.u.k. Feldpostamt 81, and is now Slovenia Nr 1899.



Laibach, in the 'Old Austria' series. 62c; 6.4.2013; 400,000; Offset; design Prof. Adolf Tuma. The stamp shows the historic centre of Laibach (now Ljubljana in Slovenia) with the Prešerenplatz (named after a national poet), from a postcard of 1916. Laibach's history is long and complex; it has since Roman times been an important regional capital. The tram in the foreground is on the system completed in 1901. It was replaced with buses in July 1928, reverting to trams in 1931; they lasted until December 1958 although in recent years their reintroduction has been proposed.

Landhaus Bacher, in the series 'gastronomy with tradition'. 62c; 11.4.2013; 410,000; Offset; design Michael Rosenfeld. The establishment is in Mauthen in Lower Austria, and became a meeting-place for film stars, later achieving numerous culinary awards.



Modern Architektur in Austria - Landestheater Linz Musiktheater. 62c; 11.4.2013; 400,000; Offset; design Silvia Mouka. The building was designed by the London architect Terry Pawson, the exterior resembling a stage and cleverly balancing concept and function.



30th Vienna City Marathon. 62c; 14.4.2013; 400,000; Offset; design Gabriele Milewski.



The race was held on 14 April, alongside a half-marathon, children's races etc. The stamp shows runners crossing the Reichsbrücke from the Vienna International Center on their way to the Prater.



Musical instruments – the Vienna Horn. 90c; 15.4.2013; 250,000; Offset; design Maria Schulz.

The Vienna Horn is well-known in the musical world for its rich tones and beautifully smooth legato, although only a few modern orchestras, including the Vienna Philharmonic, now use it. It has the reputation of being difficult to play, requiring a more precise lip embouchure than for the more common double-horn. Playing high notes on the Vienna horn requires great concentration and excellent muscle control. Horn-players therefore dislike the instrument; and conductors are wary of it because of the higher chance of wrong pitch and ‘fluffs’. In the hands of a top-rate player, however, the smooth silky sound - the ‘sound of Vienna’ - is unsurpassable. The special sound of the instrument is partly due to its relatively narrow bore and unusual length of 3.7 metres, increasing to 5.2 metres when all valves are pressed. But the main distinction is the valves; they are a double-cylinder designed by Leopold Uhlmann (1806 - 1878) in 1830, called a “Pumpenventile”, actuated by push-rods connected to flat keys which the player presses. Their action avoids the brief but audible glitch when the double horn changes note.

130th anniversary of Julius Lott’s death: 70c; 17.4.2013; 812,000; Offset; design Ernst Sladek; printed by Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. Lott (1836 – 1883) was a railway pioneer; the stamp shows him inset on the west portal of the Arlberg tunnel. He died of tuberculosis, like many others at that time. He is commemorated by an obelisk in St. Anton am Arlberg, and Wien-Floridsdorf named Lottgasse after him.



100 years of the Toboggan: 62c; 19.4.2013; 400,000; Offset; design Samy Konkolits. The stamp marks ‘100 years of the Toboggan in Austria’ but English readers will know it as the helter-skelter. The first recorded helter-skelter in Austria was in 1913, operated in the Prater in Vienna by a Russian called Nikolai Kobelkoff.

Centenaries of Attersee shipping and Attergaubahn - Stern & Hafferl

This is a block containing two stamps in a dark blue surround – not illustrated as it wouldn’t print. 62c + 70c; 19.4.2013; 170,000; Offset; design Dieter Kraus. The

firm of “Stern & Hafferl” is based in Gmunden and is famed for operating transport by rail, road and water. It was founded in 1883 by Josef Stern and Franz Hafferl. The stamps show the flagship of the Stern & Hafferl fleet, the MS “Stadt Vöcklabruck” and a train on the Attergaubahn pulled by the elektric loco ET 20104.



Centenary of the paddle-steamer Hohentwiel. 62c; 4.5.2013; 400,000; Offset; design Tristan Fischer.

The “Hohentwiel” was once the State Yacht of the last King of Württemberg, Wilhelm II. Now, it is the oldest steam vessel still carrying passengers on the Bodensee; it is based in Hard by Bregenz. It has featured in several modern films, including “quantum of solace”!



50 years of the Folk Museum at Stübing. 70c; 5.5.2013; 400,000; Offset; design Marion Füllerer.

The museum, in a suburb of Deutschfeistritz bei Graz in Steiermark, contains 97 old farmhouses mills and workshops brought there from all parts of Austria and rebuilt as-was to display six centuries of the traditional farming culture of Austria. There is an old school, forest workers huts, and a smithy. Two exhibition buildings and many functioning workshops show the visitor ‘how it used to be’.



EUROPA 2013 “Postal vehicles”. 70c; 06.05.2013; 170,000; Offset; design Silvia Moucka; printed by Joh.Enschedé Stamps B.V (The value is on the bumper!) O-Post’s 2013 Europa issue is a self-adhesive stamp: the van peels off the backing paper and becomes the stamp! It marks the centenary of postal use of electric vehicles. On the left is the first-ever Austrian electric post vehicle, an Austro-Daimler E-Paketwagen which entered service on 15 June 1913. It ran on accumulators, changed daily, and had a range of 45km at a top speed of 18km/hr. The modern equivalent is the E-Caddy Renault Kangoo, resplendent in postal yellow.



150 years of the Red Cross. 62c; 8.5.2013; 400,000; Offset; design Markus Hechenberger. The Red Cross was founded on 17 February 1863 in Geneva by a 5-man committee chaired by Henry Dunant. Today, Red Cross or Red Crescent organisations exist in 188 countries.

Centenary of the Vienna Concert-house. 90c; 11.5.2013; 265,000; Offset; design David Gruber. The House was opened on 19 October 1913 with a gala concert featuring works by Bach, Beethoven and Richard Strauss. Since then a full range of performances have been given: classical, choral, opera, chamber, piano – and more recently literature, jazz and folk. The stamp shows the Lothringer Straße façade overlaid with a ‘Chromotop’ in coloured light by the artist Victoria Coeln.



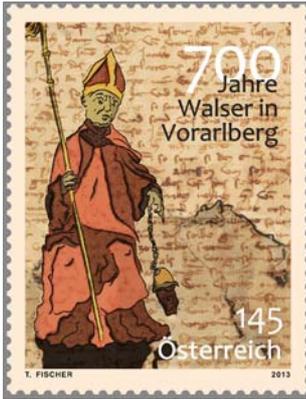
100th birthday of Robert Jungk. 90c; 13.5.2013; 250,000; Offset; design Michael Rosenfeld, photo Lilian Birnbaum. Robert Jungk was born Robert Baum in Berlin on 11 May 1913. His father David Baum adopted the pseudonym Max Jungk. The rise of Hitler caused Jungk’s brief arrest; on release he moved to Paris but returned to Germany as an under-cover journalist, moving frequently between cities to avoid capture. After the war he wrote on nuclear weapons, also inventing the ‘future workshop’ whereby social innovation and planning can be done by those it affects. He stood unsuccessfully on behalf of the Greens for the Austrian presidency in 1992, and died in Salzburg on 14 July 1994.



Franz West. B/W original; 70c; 14.5.2013; 400,000; Offset; Design Michael Rosenfeld; photo by Elfie Semotan. Franz West (1947-2012) is an internationally-famous Austrian artist, especially in three-dimensional works.

Wine-producing regions of Austria: South Styria. 62c; issued in minisheets of 10; 24.5.2013; 827,000; Offset; Design David Gruber; printed by Joh.Enschedé Stamps B.V. This region is well-known for its Sauvignon Blanc and the romantic scenery. The classics of Welschriesling, Muskatell, Weißburgunder and others are internationally renowned.

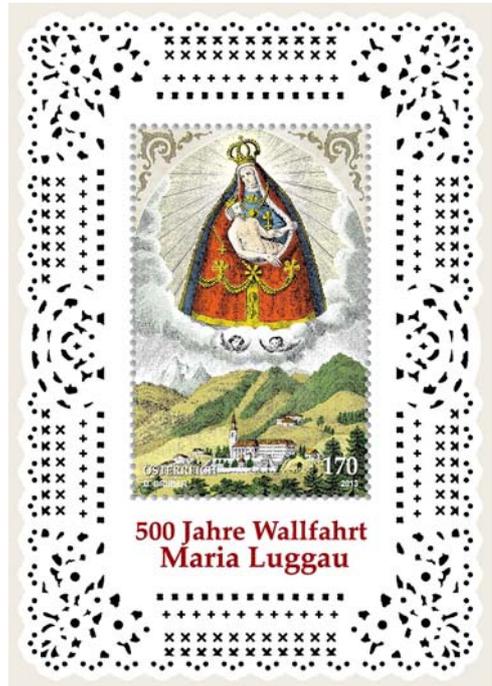




Seven centuries of the Walser in Vorarlberg. 1€45; 29.5.2013; 1,000,000; combination-printing; Design Tristan Fischer. The Walser are first recorded in Vorarlberg in 1313; their wanderings began in the Swiss canton of Wallis (hence their name) for reasons now unknown. They moved into many valleys – not solely the Kleinwalsertal known to philatelists! – and often obtained special privileges in exchange for special military responsibilities. The stamp shows their Patron Saint, St. Theodul, who was Bishop of Sitten in the 6th cy.

500 years Wallfahrt Maria Luggau. 1€70; a block which is perforated like a paper doily (*the holes are shown black in the illustration. Ed.*); 31.5.2013; 170,000; Offset; Design David Gruber; printed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH

The stamp marks the 500th anniversary of the first pilgrimage to Maria Luggau in Lesachtal in Kärnten. The design represents a vision seen by a peasant Helena in 1513 while resting during her work in the fields, floating over the basilica. 40,000 pilgrims now visit the site each year.



25 years of “St Anna” cancer research. 62c; 6.6.2013; 400,000; Offset; Design ComCom.

In the autumn of 1988 a research institute was founded by the parents of children being treated for cancer at the St Anna childrens hospital in Vienna IX. Led by Prof. Dr. Helmut Gadner, it has made great progress in diagnosis and treatment.



100 years of environment protection. 90c; 7.6.2013; 250,000; Offset; Design Theresa Limberger. The stamp marks the centenary of the “Naturschutzbund Österreich”, an independent organisation that welcomes all who share its aims of environment protection. It has 80,000 members organised regionally with its HQ in Salzburg

Youth protecting the world. 62c + 20c; 13.6.2013; 200,000; Offset; Design Sebastian Schnöll, who is a pupil at the ‘Privatgymnasiums der Herz-Jesu Missionare’ in Salzburg. The surcharge will be used for the youth work of VÖPh.



20 years of Fairtrade in Austria. 62c; 21.6.2013; 400,000; Offset; Design Michael-Johannes Hahn. The Fairtrade movement reached Austria in 1993, and as in other countries aims to give small and family producers in third-world countries a fairer share of the profits made from their products.



Postmaster Lorenz I. Bordogna von Taxis. 1€45; 25.6.2013; 270,000; combination-print; design Prof. Adolf Tuma. This portrait of Postmaster Lorenz I. Bordogna von Taxis (1510–1559) in the style of Giovanni Battista Moroni belonged to Carlos Tasso de Saxe-Coburgo e Bragança who in 2010 gifted it to the Kunsthistorischen Museum, Sammlungen Schloss Ambras.

Modern Art - Richard Gerstl, self-portrait as semi-nude. 62c; 27.6.2013; 400,000; Offset; Design Michael Rosenfeld. Richard Gerstl (1883–1908) painted the deeply symbolic and highly non-traditional 'Selbstbildnis als Halbakt' in 1904/1905 in oils on canvas; it is 159 x 109 cm

and is now in the Leopold Museum of Vienna.



Austrian churches: 850 years of Vorau Abbey. 1€45; 28.6.2013; 270,000; combination-print; design Prof. Adolf Tuma. The Augustine Abbey at Vorau in N-E Styria, founded in 1163 by Markgraf Ottokar III von Traungau, is shown after a coloured etching by G. M. Vischer dated to 1681.

Centenary of FC Wacker Innsbruck. 62c; 5.7.2013; 640,002; Offset; design Tim Berger. Issued as a minisheet of 6, almost all in dark green so unprintable here! The football club was allegedly founded in 1913 although it's only recorded from 1915. Whatever, the centenary was celebrated in 1913 by the fervent supporters of the club. It has had swings (beating Real Madrid in the 1970 European Cup Final) and roundabouts (losing 10 games out of 11 last year) – but with a change of manager looks forward to a bright future.



Centenary of the Außerfernbahn. 70c; 6.7.2013; 400,000; Offset; design David Gruber. This line, first suggested in 1843, started operation on 29 May 1913 connecting Reutte and Ehrwald-Zugspitzbahn. It has had numerous technical, financial, and political ups and downs – but still trundles on. The stamp shows a train pulled by an electric loco type Reichsbahn-Baureihe E62.

The Austrian Post continues to produce definitive and commemorative stamps, as well as a wide range of philatelic products; the current range is described in their regularly-issued catalogue “**Grosse Kunst im Kleinformat**”. An example of a typical range is this A5-size “**Marken Buch**”, containing 8 Personal Stamps illustrating State Coaches, with brief essays on the subject. Larger A4 books in the Marken-Kollektion series, usually containing both commemorative and personal stamps, cover for example the Tirol, Ships, Jugendstil, the Salzburg Festival, Mozart of course, the Biedermeier Period – the list seems endless. Most are available in German only, but selected ones come in other languages such as English and Japanese.



They also now offer mint stamps from the 1900s – a block of four of the WIPA 1933 can be yours for 1800 Euro, post& packing free.