

*A selection of the items discussed in this issue.*



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**Edited by Andy Taylor**

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## A word from the President



I would like to encourage Members in the U.K. to attend the meetings we organise from time to time. I'm aware that our programme has been biased towards locations in London and Yorkshire, not convenient for many of you. We are trying to rebalance this. You'll see from the Newsletter that we have added Worcester to the programme, and I hope that Members in the Midlands and West Country will be able to attend. We have just held a well-attended meeting at York Stamp Fair, and meetings are arranged later in the year for London, Bradford, Lincoln, and of course our weekend gathering in Peterborough.

What benefit do you get from these meetings? Firstly you get a chance to see a variety of interesting short displays on various aspects of Austrian philately and postal history. You're encouraged to bring a short display of your own, but it's not compulsory! Secondly you get the opportunity to meet fellow members, exchange news, get help with your queries and so on.

You'll also find in the Newsletter details of our "Fest" weekend in Peterborough. It's in a better hotel than we have often had, with no increase in price, right in the historical town-centre. I hope to see a great many of you there. Meanwhile put those meeting-dates in your diary, and let's see a good turnout at Worcester - or we won't be there next year!

Keith

## Editorial 189

Congratulations to those who won prizes at Autumn 2014 Sindelfingen, Germany's leading stamp collecting event. 'The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant' achieved the 'Silver Posthorn' award for literature; and Bill Hedley's display of the 'Postal History of Pressburg' gained the Silver Posthorn for Postal History. At Sindelfingen there are six categories of displays, with a single award of 1st prize (Golden Posthorn), 2nd prize (Silver Posthorn), 3rd prize (Bronze Posthorn), and 4th prize (Certificate of Merit) in each of the six categories. There is no 'points' system so after the first 4 placings in each category nothing further is won.

I didn't get to Numiphil this year, but I heard that some who did were treated to a new addition to the Viennese culinary repertoire – Chicken Sushi – which they found somewhat underwhelming.

On the cover is a postcard which you may find amusing – it purports to explain the coded meanings to be attached to the position and orientation of a stamp on a letter. Make of it what you will ☺

You may recall that in 2005 the APS produced a 3-volume book on Vienna's Pneumatic Post System, reprinted in a single volume in 2008 and now sold out. Since 2005, many people in many countries have made many new discoveries, several reported in this journal, and a Second Edition seemed called for. This would be in colour, with easy-to-find contents, and would include all the background material that can only be found in Vienna's obscurer corners. It soon became evident that if printed on paper it would be unmanageably large and unaffordably expensive, so would have to be published electronically. This could be done as PDF files, or using web-site technology, and experiments showed that a web-site implementation was considerably more flexible in layout – for example one doesn't have to fit illustrations into a rigid A4 page size, pop-ups are simple, and cross-references easy. It is hoped to announce the work's availability (on CD) in the next issue.

On a later page you'll find a list of the Austria-related entries at London2015. Note that the Literature is available in a Reading Area; don't miss our member Octavian Tabacaru's "KuK Feldpost mail 1914-1918. Catalogue part I: Postcards", which was awarded the GRAND GOLD medal in Debrecen in April 2014.

**Andy Taylor**

## 2014 NEW ISSUES (last 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; printer; 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 'Buntdrucke' (ie printed in different colours from those issued) and so on. The details are increasingly sourced from "Die Briefmarke" since the revamped Post.at website no longer provides them.



**Modern Art in Austria.** 62c; 370,000; 10.10.2014; Offset; design by Dieter Kraus from the painting of Isabella Reisser by Anton Romako; ANY Security Printing Company PLC. Romako was born in Vienna in 1832, studied under Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller, and worked in Rome for many years before returning to Vienna.

**Railways - 120 Jahre MurtalBahn.** 62c; 230,000; 10.10.2014; Kombinationsdruck, Offset-Stich (Etch-Art by OeSD); design by Peter Sinaweil; Österreichische Staatsdruckerei GmbH. The stamp shows Steam Loco U11, built in 1894 by Krauss & Co in Linz and still going strong! The narrow-gauge line runs from

Unzmarkt to Tamsweg, and was often used by Kaiser Franz Joseph on his way to Murau to hunt chamois.



**Opening of the new Vienna Main Railway Station.** 90c; 10.10.2014; 230,000; Offset; design David Gruber and Roman Boensch; ANY Security Printing Company PLC. The new Wiener Hauptbahnhof, sited where the Südbahnhof and Ostbahnhof used to be, makes it possible to travel by train to and through Vienna: eg Linz to Vienna Airport direct in under 2 hours. It has parking for numerous cars and bikes, recharging points, an extensive commercial and refreshment area, and housing for 13,000.

**80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Udo Jürgens.** 70c; 360,000; Offset; design by Marion Füllerer after a photo by Dominik Beckmann; ANY Security Printing Company PLC. Born in Klagenfurt in 1934, Jürgens is a jazz pianist, a composer for such as Shirley Bassey & Sammy Davis jr, a performer at the Eurovision Song Contest, and famed in many other aspects of the modern musical scene.



**The Infanta Margarita Teresa in a white dress,** in the Old Masters series. 1€45; 18.10.2014; 220,000; design by Dieter Kraus after the 1656 painting by Velázquez; Kombinationsdruck, Offset-Stich (Etch-Art by OeSD) by Österreichische Staatsdruckerei GmbH. The painting shows Margarita Teresa aged 5, and as was customary was sent to her uncle (who was also her cousin), the future Kaiser Leopold I, whom she was to marry in furtherance of the Habsburg policy of 'Power through marriage'. She married him when she was 15, bore six children of whom one survived to adulthood, and died aged 21.

**Austrian Photography: Ursula Mayer.** 90c; 22.10.2014; 230,000; Offset; design by Regina Simon after Ursula Mayer; ANY Security

Printing Company PLC. Ursula Mayer is a modern multimedia artist; born in 1970 she studied in Vienna and London. She has exhibited her works worldwide, and received numerous prizes. The stamp shows a scene from her film 'Interiors', in which the sculptures of Barbara Hepworth play a central role.

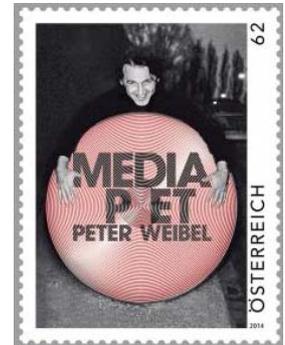




**Young Art in Austria.** 1€70; 22.10.2014; 200,000; Offset; design by Regina Simon after the work by Gelatin; ANY Security Printing Company PLC. Gelatin is an Artists Collective comprising Wolfgang Gantner, Ali Janka, Florian Reither and Tobias Urban. Their artistic individuality has been exhibited in many ways and diverse places. This stamp is based on one of their two dozen interpretations of the Mona Lisa.

**Modern Art: Peter Weibel.** 62c; 25.10.2015; 360,000; Offset; design by Regina Simon after Peter Weibel; ANY Security Printing Company PLC. Weibel was born in Odessa in 1944, grew up in Austria, and after dabbling in literature, medicine and mathematics joined the Wiener Aktionisten. He is perhaps best known for interactive computer-based art installations and as an

art teacher. The stamp shows “Peter Weibel Media Poet”, a video showing the many sides of his work.



### 25 years of “Vienna Philharmonic” gold coins.

70c + 90c; 5.11.2014; 150,000 blocks-of-2; offset with gold embossing; design by Thomas Pesendorfer (head engraver of the Austrian Mint); Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. The design shows the front and back of the 2014 one-ounce gold coin of 100 Euro face value. Notionally legal tender, although on 11 December it cost 1,018 Euro, the 99.99% pure coin has to be kept in a protective capsule. The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these widely-collected coins in 2004 was marked by the issue of 15

examples of “Big Phil”, a 1,000 ounce (31.1 Kg) pure gold coin! [Your editor doesn't have one.]



### Christmas 2014 – the Krumauer Madonna.

70c; 14.11.2014; 900,000; Offset; Dieter Kraus; ANY Security Printing Company PLC. The Krumauer Madonna is 1100mm high and was made about 1400; originally brightly coloured and gilded, it has now faded, and some parts are missing. It was found around 1900 in Krumau in Bohemia, now Český Krumlov, and is now in the Kunstkammer of the Kunsthistorischen Museum in Vienna.

**Christmas 2014 – Winter Landscape.** 70c; 14.11.2014; 750,000; Offset; design by David Gruber after the painting by Lucas I. van Valckenborch; Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. Self-adhesive; issued in rolls of 50 (strips of 5 are available to collectors). The images supplied are too small to reproduce here.

**Christmas 2014 – Adoration by the Three Kings.** 62c; 28.11.2014; 2,350,000; Offset; design by Tristan Fischer; ANY Security Printing Company PLC. The design is based on a gothic oils-on-wood painting in the Graz Diocesan Museum formerly part of a winged altar.

**Christmas 2014 – Adoration by the Kings.** 62c; 28.11.2014; 2,750,000; offset; design Marion Fuller after the original by Breugel; Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V. Self-adhesive; issued in rolls of 50. The images supplied are too small to reproduce here





### 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Arthur Zelger.

1€70; 5.12.2014; 200,000; Offset; design by Anita Kern after an original by Arthur Zelger; ANY Security Printing Company PLC. Zelger was a graphics designer, best known for the 'logo' of Tirol and for the 1964 & 1976 Innsbruck Olympics; he also designed commemorative coins, and many of the commonly-seen tourist signs.

### And in 2015?

The official Opost list has been released "but is subject to change" – as is normal. It contains the usual mixture of singles, blocks, miniature sheets etc including "150 years of postage stamps" in May and the Easter Hare in August. A feature worth noting, however, is that on **1 March 2015 the postal rates are to change** and some of the weight-size-rate bands are to alter. I understand this is an attempt to remain competitive in the Small Packet market, which with the huge increase in on-line-shopping (and in texts!) has become a much larger proportion of the items delivered. Opost are also pushing 'post boxes' located either in your house or in central locations, to which packets can be delivered.

To coincide with these changes, **a new definitive series will be released in February and valid from 1 March**. Its theme is "Impressions of Austria", and the designs are famous views such as Salzburg castle, Innsbruck's Golden Roof, Vienna's Stephansdom etc. The main face values are 68, 80, 100, 150, 160, 170 and 400 cents, plus make-ups of 6, 10, 20 and 40 cents. I suspect equal representation of every Land has caused more designs to be issued than are mathematically necessary!

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- ❖ *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.
- ❖ **The Early Austrian Post Offices in the Ottoman Empire** – Hans Smith’s Presidential Display to the Society of Postal Historians on 10 April 2010

### 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. ISBN 978-0-900118-09-8
- ❖ “**A Celebration of Austrian Philately**”: the APS 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary ‘Festschrift’. viii+162 pp A4 in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-05-0 Price **£15**
- ❖ **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: Levant £8, 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.
- ❖ The Society has an excessive stock of **blue-covered A4 binders** for Austria. **Special Offer: two for £5**, plus P&P at cost (it’s a “not-small Packet”). Apply to the Librarian. Offer closes at 23:59 on 31 March 2015.
- ❖ **Ties** are available in blue from the Librarian: ties £6.75; cravats (only 3 left) also £6.75.
- ❖ **The few remaining green binders for A5 issues of ‘Austria’ now only £2 each plus P&P.**

### 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 Librarian.

## NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

### ***ArGe Feldpost Öst.-Ung***

**2014 June Nr 118:** Q&A; “Austria-Hungary’s Last War”: Oct-Dec 1914 [*an ongoing series of heavyweight articles. Ed.*] Austrian army & navy and the 1864 Schleswig-Holstein War [*superbly illustrated*]; Hauptmann Max Macher the balloon commander (ii).

**2014 Dec Nr 119:** news; Q&A; “Austria-Hungary’s Last War”: Jan-Mar 1915 (especially the Przemyśl siege, lavishly illustrated); the 1864 Schleswig-Holstein War continued; the Carpathian battles; a new series of books on WWI topics; effects of WWI on foreign parcels; Calcium carbide factories in Dalmatia; etc etc.

### ***ArGe Österreich***

**2014/4 Nr 108:** The “Austria” cancels of Tuscany (ii); new Schraffenstempel from Niebylec [*AB says it’s in the Proof Book*]; Austria-Hungary-Germany registered mail, 1861-1916; WWII mail from Mauthausen, some with Bohemia-Moravia stamps; etc.

### ***Czechout***

See [www.czechout.org](http://www.czechout.org) where you can read (but not print) every issue including the latest.

### ***Die Briefmarke***

**2014/10:** The House of Austria; distinguishing between Fahrpost and Briefpost; post-WWII zoning; a Frankenfels forgery; and as normal extensive information on new issues & special cancels; youth and club reports; book reviews; much interesting correspondence; etc.

**2014/11:** Maria Theresia’s Patent of 1748; the 1914 War Charity issue; Thematic:Crystallography; the Christmas stamps; and the normal information.

**2014/12:** Thematic:“and peace on earth”; musings on “pre-philately”; the Arms postcards of 1945; Austrian troops in the Wehrmacht captured in N. Africa after El Alamein and given chance to join ‘Austrian Volunteer’ unit with the French [a little-known sideline of history]; Sefer Pasha (aka Graf Ladislaus Koszielski); the (extensive) planned 2015 new issues programme (including 8 die-cast model cars); the problems when underfranked mail was sent to a postage-free recipient such as a tax office; and the normal information

### ***Germania***

**Vol 50 Nr 4:** The 1929 Deutsche Nothilfe stamp booklets; Saar plebiscite of 13 Jan 1935; Postal stationery wrappers: supply & demand analysis; Kindertransport to the UK; etc.

### ***Stamps of Hungary***

**No. 198 Sept 2014:** A Hungarian Field Post card of WW2; Field Post of World War 2 - Part II; Two more Hungarian Field Post cards of WW2; etc etc.

**No. 199 December 2014:** The Orient Express, 1883-1900; Przemyśl – The Tragedy of the beleaguered fort, Part I; Mail received before it was posted; “Curiouser and curiouser!” plus meeting reports etc.

### ***Jugoposta***

**Nr 111 Sept 2014:** The Serbs in France during WWI; etc

**Nr 112 Dec 2014:** Serbian telegraphic mail during WWI; etc etc.

# The 1905 Austria-UK Money Order Agreement

POST OFFICE.

## AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE

POST OFFICE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF  
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

AND THE

ROYAL IMPERIAL AUSTRIAN POSTAL  
ADMINISTRATION

CONCERNING THE

EXCHANGE OF MONEY ORDERS.

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[Cd. 2913.] Price 1d.

Austrian laws, agreements and treaties are readily available on-line; UK ones are rather elusive!

**AGREEMENT between the POST OFFICE of the UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND and the ROYAL IMPERIAL AUSTRIAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION CONCERNING THE EXCHANGE of MONEY ORDERS.**

**ARTICLE 1.**

Between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Austria (including the Austrian Post Offices in Turkey) there shall be a regular exchange of Money Orders.

**ARTICLE 2.**

1. Money Orders may be remitted either by post or by telegraph, according to the desire of the sender; but telegraph Money Orders are not admissible in the service with the Austrian Post Offices in Turkey.

2. The exchange of Money Orders by post shall take place exclusively through the medium of offices of exchange to be designated by the contracting Administrations by mutual agreement.

**ARTICLE 3.**

1. Money Orders issued in the United Kingdom for payment in Austria shall be made out in crown currency, and those issued in Austria for payment in the United Kingdom shall be made out in sterling currency. The amount shall be paid into the Post Office by the senders in the currency of the country of issue; and the Administration of the country of issue shall itself determine the rate of conversion of the amounts into the currency of the country of payment. The contracting Administrations shall communicate to each other the rate of conversion which they adopt in this connection, and also any changes which may be made in the rate.

2. Payments by and to the public on account of Money Orders shall take place according to the gold value of the money of the country of origin or of destination, as the case may be, and shall be made in true legal currency of the country concerned.

3. Money Orders from the United Kingdom intended for payment at the Austrian Post Offices in Turkey shall be converted into francs by the Austrian Administration according to the relative gold standard value of the crown and franc currency.

**ARTICLE 4.**

1. In the case of Orders issued at Post Offices in the United Kingdom for payment in Austria the maximum amount for a single Order is fixed at £40 sterling and for Orders sent in the reverse direction at 1000 crowns.

2. In the issue of Money Orders no account shall be taken of any sum less than one penny or one heller.

**ARTICLE 5.**

1. The British Post Office and the Austrian Post Office shall each fix for itself the charges to be made for the Money Orders which it may issue; but the one Administration shall inform the other of the charges fixed and also of any alterations which may be made in the charges.

2. The Administration of the country of origin shall retain these charges, but shall credit the Administration of the country of destination with  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one per cent on the total amount of such of the money orders as are paid in its territory.

3. The sender of a Telegraph Money Order has to pay, besides the charge mentioned in the first paragraph of this Article, the charge for the Money Order telegram.

**ARTICLE 6.**

The sender of a Money Order shall be permitted to require the return of the amount, or to make corrections with regard to the name or address of the receiver, so long as the Order remains unpaid, and provided that the amount has not already reverted to the country of origin under the provisions of Article 7. Before the amount of a Money Order is repaid to the sender it must be ascertained that the Administration of the country of destination has not paid and will not pay the Money Order.

**ARTICLE 7.**

The amounts of Money Orders which have not been claimed by the payees shall after the expiration of the limit of time prescribed under the regulations of the country of origin revert to the Administration of that country.

**ARTICLE 8.**

In cases of fictitious Telegraph Orders, ostensibly issued in one of the contracting countries, and paid in the other, the responsibility for any losses involved shall be shared equally by the Austrian and British Postal Administrations, if it be found impossible to determine in which of the two countries a fraud may have been committed. The two Administrations shall in like manner share any loss which may be incurred through a fraud or an error in connection with the transmission of a telegram of advice over the telegraph lines of an intermediate country or a cable company.

**ARTICLE 9.**

1. The accounts relating to the exchange of Money Orders between the contracting Administrations shall be prepared by the Austrian Post Office. The precise conditions governing the preparation of these accounts are specified in the Detailed Regulations provided for in the following Article 13.

2. The balances of the accounts shall be settled through the medium of the Account Division of the International Bureau of the Postal Union. For this purpose, the amount to the credit of each Administration shall be converted into franc currency according to the gold standard (100 crowns = 105 francs 1.4 centimes: £10 sterling = 252 francs 21.5 centimes).

**ARTICLE 10.**

For the issue and payment of Money Orders exchanged between the contracting Administrations the internal regulations of each country shall apply in so far as no other regulations are made under this Agreement and the relative Detailed Regulations.

**ARTICLE 11.**

Should the Austrian Post Office desire to send Money Order remittances through the medium of the British Post Office to any of the Foreign Countries, British Colonies, &c., with which the British Post Office transacts Money Order business, it shall be at liberty to do so under the conditions set forth in Article XIII of the Detailed Regulations; and should the British Post Office in like manner desire to send Money Order remittances through the medium of the Austrian Post Office to any countries with which the Austrian Post Office transacts Money Order business it shall be at liberty to do so under similar conditions.

**ARTICLE 12.**

Each of the two Administrations shall have power to suspend for a time Money Order transactions with the other Administration in extraordinary circumstances of a kind that would justify the measure, on condition of giving immediate notice thereof, by telegraph if necessary, to the other Administration.

**ARTICLE 13.**

Measures of detail and regulation necessary for carrying out this agreement shall be mutually settled by the contracting Administrations.

**ARTICLE 14.**

This Agreement shall be deemed to have come into force as from the 1st of April 1904, and shall be terminable by either contracting party at any time on giving six months' notice.

On the day of the completion of the present Agreement, the Money Order Agreement dated the 3rd, 12th, and 17th of June 1885, as well as all additional Articles to that Agreement, shall terminate.

Executed in duplicate, and signed in London on the 28th of October 1905.

In Vienna on the 10th of November 1905.

## London 2015

- ☺ Main attractions – see opposite page!
- ☺ First-day entry tickets now on sale
- ☺ Second and later days are free
- ☺ APS-related entries are listed below (liable to last-minute changes!)

Start Frame	Name	Exhibit Title	Class
0026	Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH	MICHEL Austria Specialized Catalogue 2014	Lit
0065	Tabacaru, Octavian	KUK Feldpost mail 1914-1918. Catalogue part I: Postcards	Lit
0086	CPSGB	Czechout 2014	Lit
0097	Smith, Hans	The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant	Lit
0106	Taylor, Andy	Austria: the journal of the Austrian Philatelic Society	Lit
2006	Puschmann, Fritz	Austrian issues 1850-1867	Trad
2047	Merlak, Mirko	Postal History of Dalmatia 1919-1921	Trad
2048	Rogina, Nenad	Rijeka 1918 – supporting issues with the Fiume overprint on Hungarian stamps	Trad
2102	Kamps, Reinhard	Fürstentum Liechtenstein: die Verwendung der Nachportomarken bis 1928	Trad
2193	Csicsay, Péter	Postmasters' receipts from northern Hungary	Trad
2389	Wheatley, Yvonne	Czechoslovakia: The Allegory Issue 1920 to 1932	Trad
3011	Baurecht, Günter	Der Innerösterreichische Postkurs und das innerösterreichische Postamt in Venedig	PHist
3021	Lind, Armin	Money- and Value-Letters in Austria	PHist
3026	Schindler, Werner	The Austrian Post in the Levante – 200 years of Habsburg interests in the Orient	PHist
3052	Novaković, Damir	Surface Postal Rates of the Free Territory of Trieste - Zone B	PHist
3170	Droemont, Wilma	Départements conquis 1792–1815	PHist
3245	Jakab, András	Die selbständige ungarische Postverwaltung bis zur Gründung der UPU 1867-1875	PHist
3277	Karpovsky, Itamar	Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1850 – 1914	PHist
3317	Mentaschi, Mario	Letter mail from and to the old Italian states beyond France and Austria, 1850-1870	PHist
3420	Pálka, Juraj	Hungary pre-stamp period	PHist
3428	Bračič, Bojan	Postmarks of Post Office Ptuj 1818-1945	PHist
3429	Petauer, Boštjan	Bosnian Field-post Cancellations 1914-1918	PHist
3494	Mellaart, Alan	Ottoman Empire Postal History of Greece 1840-1912	PHist
3499	Oztuncay, Bahattin	Ottoman Field Post Offices during World War I	PHist
3504	Tunaci, Atadan	Ottoman Railway Postal History	PHist
3593	Kuzych, Ingert	Lemberg: Cosmopolitan Crownland Capital of the Austrian Empire	PHist
3677	Jurkovič, Martin	Postal History of Carpatho-Ukraine 1876-1945	PHist
5069	Boyer, Joyce	Austrian Air Mails 1918-1938	Aero
9006	Szücs, Károly	The Less Denomination With The Highest Importance	Revenue
9041	Taylor, Andy	The Austrian Newspaper Tax	Revenue

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### Partners



# A SURVEY OF AUSTRIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

by Henry Pollak<sup>1</sup>



## Introduction

Postal stationery (Ganzsachen in German) is a very diverse field, and it should not be difficult to write an article on the subject that is both enjoyable and informative. However, there does not seem to be complete agreement as to what should be included in the term “postal stationery”. So, an attempt must be made to define and systematise the field about to be discussed. In order to set bounds on the following survey, I have set out the following categories:

- Group A.** Paper items on which a postage stamp, or stamps, are imprinted; the paper contains space for an address and for a message, be it written on the paper, or enclosed within it. From Austria, there are five classes of such stationery. They are listed in the order in which they were first issued: envelopes, post cards, wrappers, letter cards, and gummed address labels.
- Group B.** Forms for purposes other than correspondence, but imprinted with some form of stamps: most often revenue stamps, but sometimes postage stamps, or postage due stamps. Additional postage stamps, and non-imprinted postage dues which served as receipts for a delivery or advice fee, were often added. A frequent purpose of these forms was to accompany, or pay for the transportation of, goods of a relatively small size such as small packages. There are many different variants of such forms, whose distinct purposes are not always easy for the modern mind to grasp. Large shipments of freight outside of the postal system are not considered here.
- Group C.** Forms without any imprinted stamps, but performing services similar to those discussed above. Among those issued by the postal services, the most frequently seen are postcards issued for postage-free communication by government agencies, and envelopes for the specific purpose of sending money.

<sup>1</sup> Reformatted and illustrated by Andy Taylor. Note: the illustrations have been resized to fit the space.

**Interpolation.**

Everything mentioned so far applies, mutatis mutandis, to the postal services of most countries. Before beginning a detailed discussion of each of these Groups, it is necessary to first mention three major factors affecting postal stationery that are either unique to Austria, or apply to only a very small number of other countries. They are: (1) the problem of the multiple languages of the Austrian Empire (up to 1918), which affected all three Groups; (2) the existence of postal stationery with stamps imprinted to private order (mostly of Group A, but even some of Group B), and (3) the existence of special postal stationery for use in the pneumatic posts active in Vienna and in Prague. All three factors add greatly to the multiplicity of existing stationery of various kinds, and to the fascination of collecting postal stationery from Austria.

**Group A**

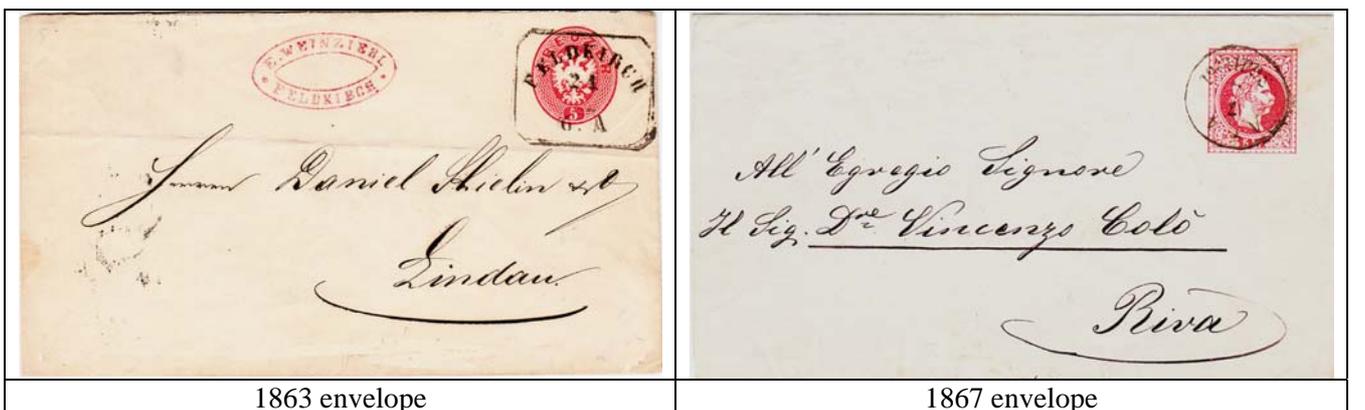
**Group A. Part 1.**

**Stamped Envelopes** (Umschlag; plural Umschläge). Stamped envelopes were first issued in 1861, and reached their peak of popularity in the 1870s, during the long use of the 1867 issue. The 5-kreuzer 1867 envelope is probably seen used more often than any other Austrian envelope. The 1870s witnessed much of the changeover in the pattern of correspondence from the folded letter of the pre-stamp and the “classic” periods of Austrian philately, to the much more common use of envelopes without imprinted stamps. This pattern had completely taken over before the end of the monarchy – and is now in turn being displaced by email. None of these stamped envelopes were imprinted with any text, so the language problems did not apply to them.

No official imprinted envelopes were issued from 1901 until 1980, when an envelope was issued to commemorate 80 years since the end of official stamped envelopes. But they were taken up again thereafter, and official stamped envelopes are still being produced. There was also an unsuccessful experiment from 2001 to 2005 (that is, across the currency change from Schillings to Euros) to issue and promote so-called “Bonus-Briefe”. These are flat-rate envelopes imprinted with non-denominated design, i.e. the contents are not weighed. They found very little usage and are no longer being sold. Reminders with an additional imprint “Justiz” were used up in the judicial system.



The 1861 series included envelopes with high-face-value imprinted stamps that were not otherwise issued: 20-, 25-, 30-, and 35- values, both in kreuzer (for the Empire in general) and soldi (for Venetia). They are all among the rarest of Austrian postal stationery, with used copies almost unknown. But be wary of reprints!



	
<p>Top of 7 Schilling envelope from Ellmau to St Gilgen</p>	<p>Top of 55c envelope (issued 17/9/2004) from Innsbruck to UK</p>

**Group A, Part 2.**

**Postcards** (Postkarten or Correspondenz-Karten) are easily the most popular of all forms of Austrian postal stationery to collect. They were first issued on October 1, 1869. Because this occasion followed the official separation of the two countries, the cards exist in two forms, both with German text but with either the Austrian or the Hungarian insignia.



1 May 1871: First day of use, Hungarian postcard.

The use of postcards was extensive right from their introduction, and their popularity continued unabated until World War II. Immediately after the war ended in 1945, cards imprinted with 5 or 6 pfennig “eagle” stamps were issued in Vienna and the Soviet Zone of Occupation of Austria. They were demonetized, along with the stamps of that series, on December 20th, but no post cards were available to replace them! The cards, but not the stamps of the same design, were revalidated in just a few days and remained usable (although not at all common) for almost two years thereafter. The general usage of postcards did decrease after the war, but they were kept popular by contests and puzzles from newspapers and the radio – to which

you sent your entry on the back of a postcard. The Internet is doing away with this use too, but official postcards are still being issued – mostly, I would say, for stamp collectors. In the late 1920s and 30s, and again after 1951, there was an extensive program of issuing postcards with scenic views in the upper left of the address side. Many thousands of such different cards exist, but they also have not been visible in recent years. There were also many private cards, without imprints, imitating the official design!

Between 1871 and 1918, the multiple languages of the Empire had a great effect on postcards. Every card was issued not only in German, but also in German plus one of the other seven languages of the Empire. Sometimes two non-German languages were doubled up on one card, and only during World War I did the practice cease on some issues, and the cards were issued without any text at all. It is fun to collect all the cards in all the languages, but if you collect used, care must be taken that the cards were actually cancelled in the proper province, and not mailed by collectors in their own district.



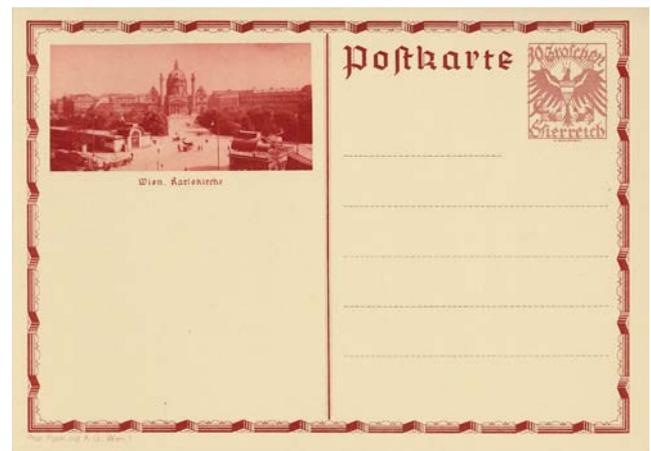
Austrian postcard, 1872



Austrian postcard, 1883



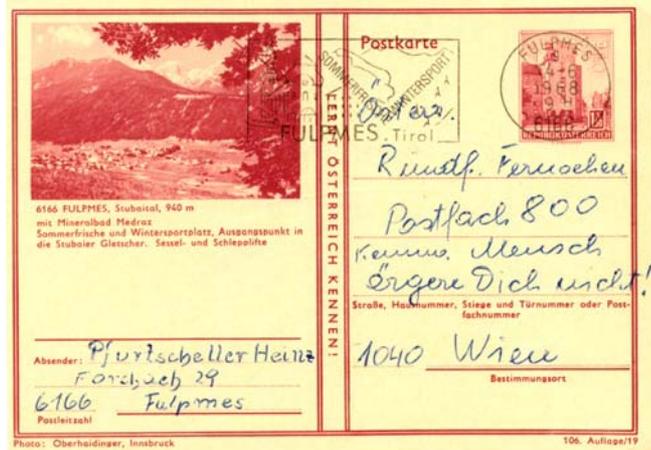
UPU card



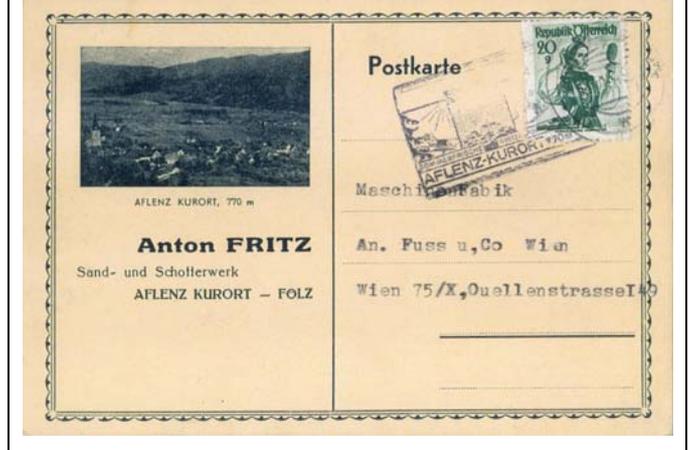
1932 30 gr. Picture Stationery Card (one of 50 views)



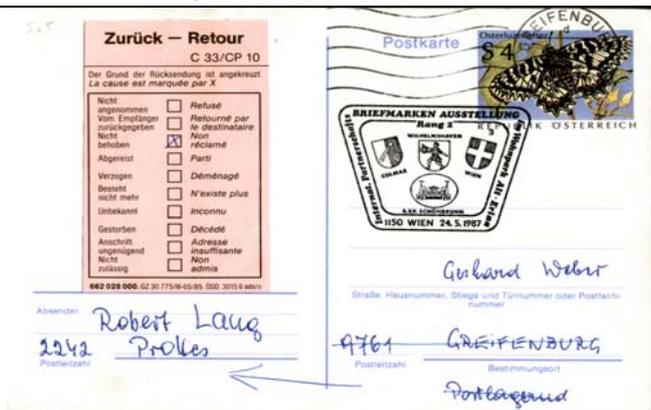
Postcard updated by a second official imprint



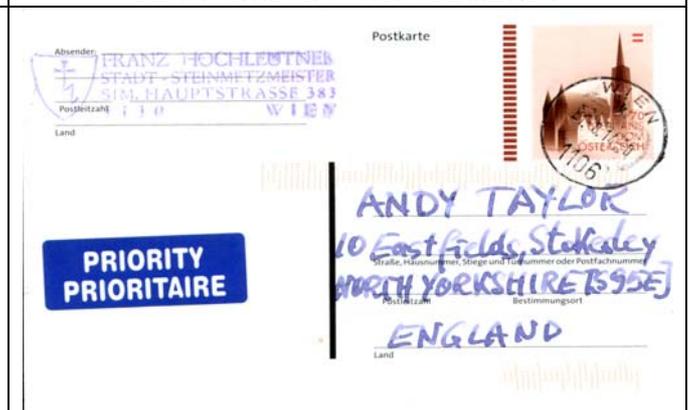
Official "local views" card



Private "local view" card with adhesive



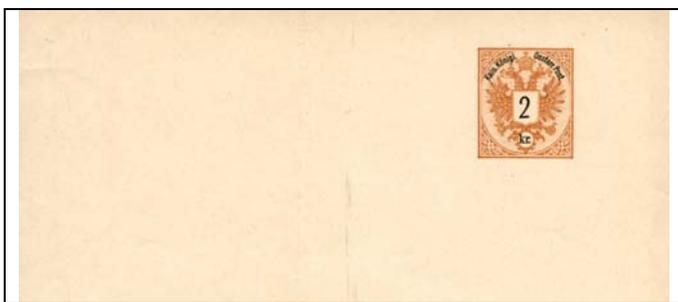
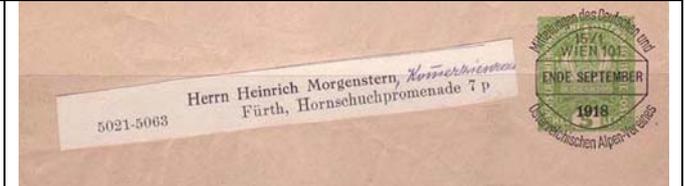
Philatelically used 4 Sch postcard



Commercially used 70 cent postcard

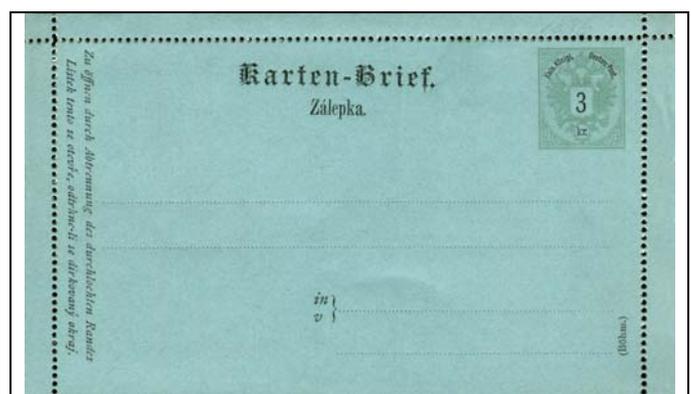
**Group A, Part 3.**

**Wrappers** (Streifbänder) were used to facilitate the mailing of newspapers and printed matter. They carried no text, so there was no language problem. First issued in 1872, they carried a 2-kreuzer value until 1900, and then a 3-heller value until the 1908 issue. These were minimum rates, and wrappers are sought after with additional franking, especially to other countries. In the 20th century, wrappers imprinted to private order are probably more common than the official ones. In particular, values of the newspaper stamps of the various series between 1900 and 1922, as well as various regular postage stamp issues, up to about 1929, were so imprinted. When the newspaper stamps of the monarchy were imprinted to private order on wrappers (2-heller and 6-heller values only), this was often done in a colour different from those of the regular newspaper stamps. Since all newspaper stamps of Austria were imperforate, cutouts of these private-order imprints - in unexpected colours and on poorer quality paper than the regular stamps - often confuse collectors. "It doesn't look right, and I can't find it in the catalogue!" The German-Austrian Alpine Society (**Deutsch-österreichischer Alpenverein**) had special arrangements with the post office to facilitate the mailing of its newsletters. Wrappers, both official and printed to private order, appeared over the years, and often the imprinted stamps were precancelled.

	
<p>1883 Streifband</p>	<p>1900 Streifband, uprated for Wales</p>
	
<p>1916 newspaper wrapper with address label</p>	<p>1918 DOAV precancelled</p>

**Group A, Part 4.**

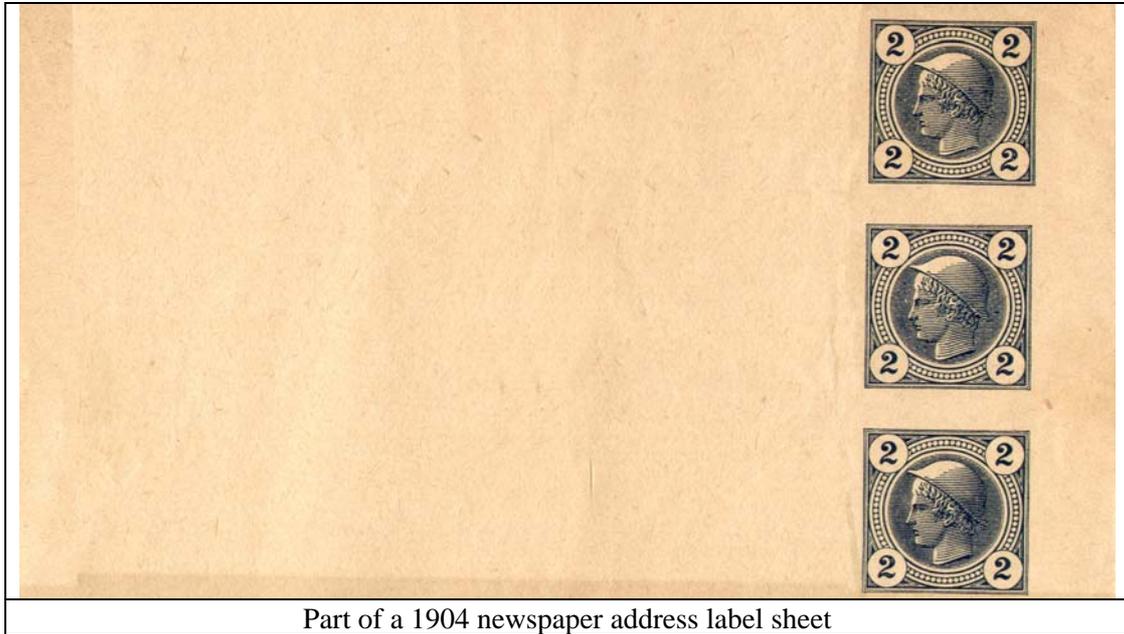
**Letter cards** (Kartenbriefe) were first issued in 1886. They tried to combine the advantages, and not just the names, of both letters and postcards. They were, like a postcard, a single piece of paper, not two, but they provided the privacy of a letter, because the message was inside the letter card, which was kept closed by a glued band around the periphery. They were produced in all the languages of the Empire until 1900, when text ceased to be printed on them. Rather few were issued during the First Republic, and only one, imprinted with the 40-groschen of the costume series, has been issued (in 1949) since World War II. They never achieved very much popularity; the used post-war 40-gr without additional franking is a rarity.


<p>3Kr letter card; a notice on the back states that it is for local use, and requires uprating with an adhesive if sent outside the area of posting.</p>

**Group A, Part 5.**

**Address labels** (Adresszettel), intended for mailing newspapers, were first provided in 1904. They were imprinted with 2-heller newspaper stamps of the 1900 and the 1906 series, and were not printed again. But address labels imprinted to private order continued until about 1951. Some of the issues-to-private-order after World War II can easily be misinterpreted as being imperforates with large margins, or even possible souvenir

sheets, especially with judicious trimming. Although one of the criteria for postal stationery was that it have space enough to write on it, some of these “address labels” didn't even have enough room for an address! Criticism of such misuse of address labels with the three UPU stamps of 1949 led in 1951 to a cessation in printing ANY postal stationery to private order. The practice has not been resumed..



Part of a 1904 newspaper address label sheet

To assuage the creative urges of philatelists, there are now “Personalised Stamps” printed to private order; as at 9 Dec 2014 the number of different designs of Personalised Stamp commissioned was 113,124 of which comparatively few are available to collectors.

These are so successful that the Austrian Post Office now issues them in competition with its own commemoratives!



**Second interpolation**

**Stationery for Airmail.** In the First Republic, an envelope and four postcards were issued officially for airmail uses. After 1948, a number of official airmail envelopes as well as aerograms were issued. Many more envelopes and cards were issued to private order in 1933, as well as envelopes (1948-1951) and aerograms (1950-1951).



**Stationery Imprinted to Private Order.** This practice was mentioned in discussing wrappers, address labels, and stationery for airmail. However, a more thorough explanation is required. Postcards imprinted to private order were first permitted in 1892, and were issued on three special occasions in the 19th century. They were then allowed more broadly for much of the period from 1902 to 1951, and many special occasions were

honoured with the issue of such cards. It may well have been that imprinted stationery was also created to improve controls of some operations in business and industry, a purpose similar to that of perfins. Envelopes and letter cards could also be imprinted, and it was even permitted to imprint additional stamps on officially issued stationery. Incidentally, postcards with initials perforated through the stamp do exist, but they are unusual. Normal stationery cards were also imprinted (especially with firm's texts and adverts, but also with pictures), from the earliest issues onwards.

It was natural, however, that the diversity of such private-order products would increase with growing use by philatelists. The Imperial Jubilee Exhibition in Prague in 1908 had a facility on their premises for imprinting stamps, both on new and on previously imprinted stationery. One could bring in any picture post card and have it imprinted! The variety created was enormous. Even now, new combinations of stamps imprinted on this occasion continue to be brought to light. Something similar existed at the WIPA in 1933.



See also the next article by Paul Watkins, first printed in Austria 128, Winter 1999.

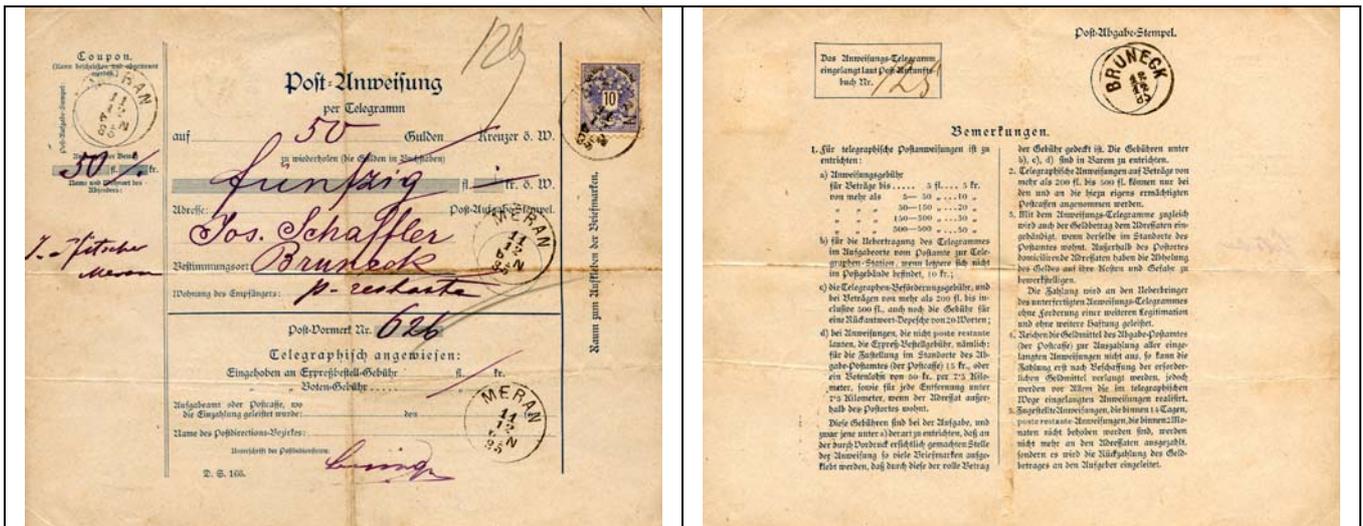
**Pneumatic Mail (Rohrpost).** The pneumatic system in Vienna opened in 1875; at first a folded letter sheet (shown on the first page of this article) and then envelopes were especially produced for the purpose. Since the pneumatic mail was part of the telegraph system initially, the envelopes were imprinted with a telegraph stamp until 1882. The folded letter sheet was highly unpopular, and there were large remainders. The text, initially quite extensive, was in German. In 1899, a pneumatic system was opened in Prague, and a bilingual envelope was issued, which was superseded in 1900 by a series of separate envelopes for each language and, in 1907, by envelopes with no language. Postcards began in 1879, and letter cards in 1886, with the identical sequence of language changes. New envelopes were last issued in 1908 and, in Vienna, new cards and letter cards in 1922. Imprinting to private order exists for all three forms of pneumatic stationery.



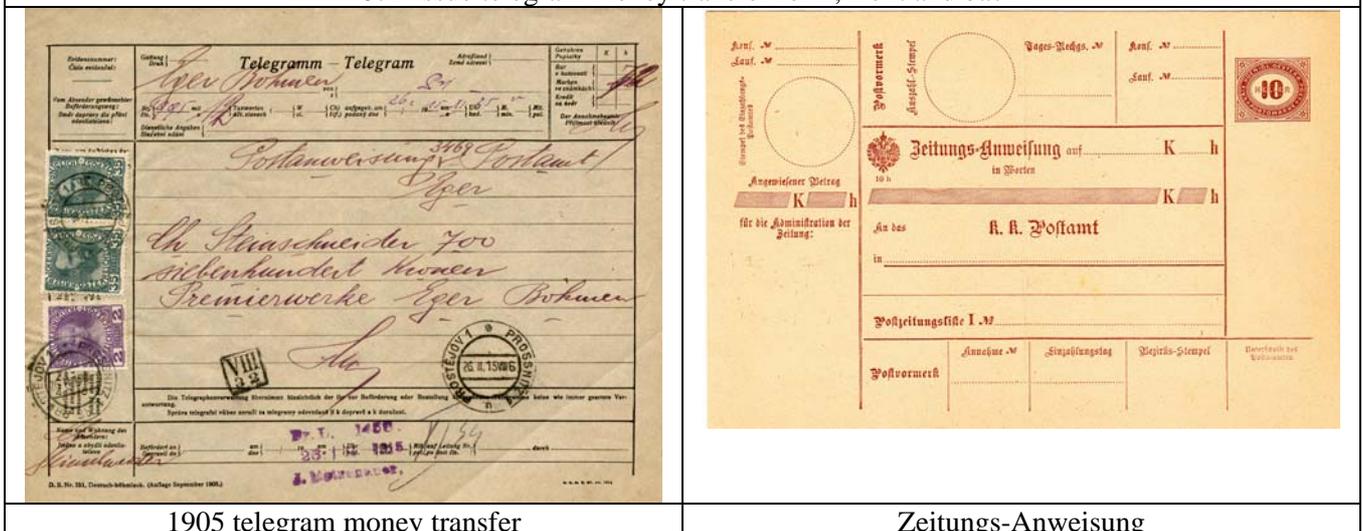
**Group B**

**Group B. Part 1.**

**Money Orders** (Post-Anweisungen, initially two hyphenated words, later one word). A postal money order service began in Austria in 1875; the forms were imprinted with postage stamps and the last such postal stationery was issued in 1935. Three years later, that last form had its Austrian eagle overprinted with a swastika. After World War II, the forms no longer had imprinted stamps. Special forms were also issued during the monarchy for subscribing to newspapers (Zeitungs-Anweisung) and paying taxes. The latter was a pretty complicated form. The one for newspapers was imprinted with postage due rather than postage stamps. Most of these forms came in all languages of the Empire. It is not always possible to tell from a used coupon what the language of the stationery was. Envelopes for sending cash had no imprinted stamps; see Group C.

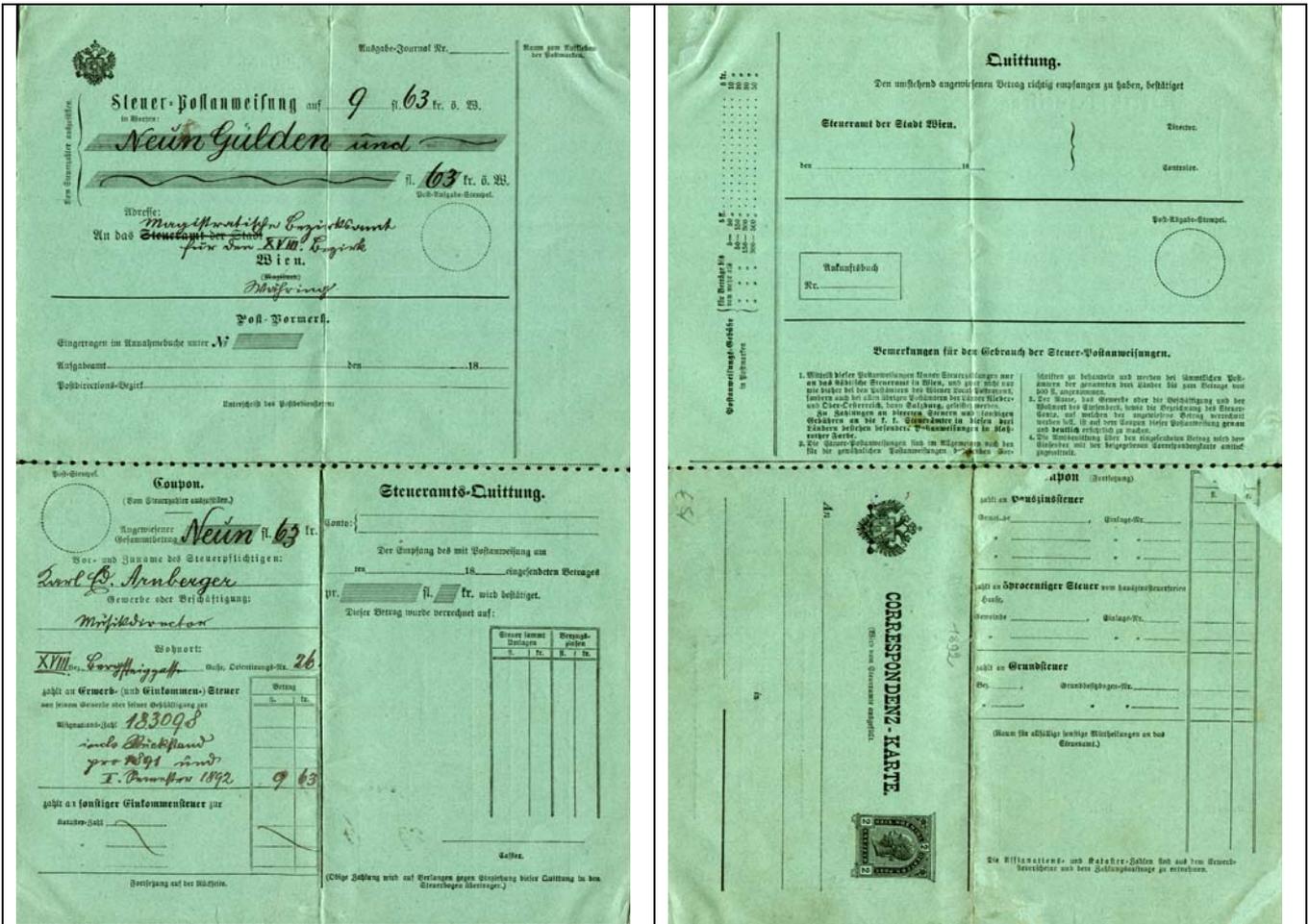


1872-issue telegram money transfer form, front and back

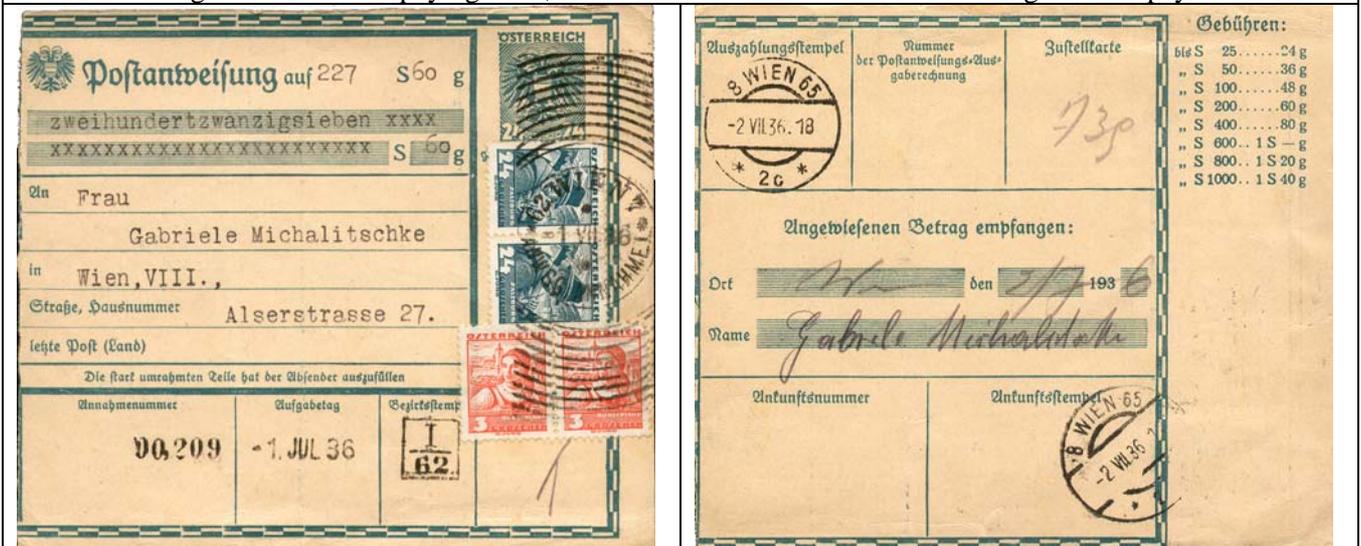


1905 telegram money transfer

Zeitungs-Anweisung



The green Vienna tax paying form, front & back. It looks as if Herr Amberger didn't pay it!



Post-Anweisung, 1936, front & back. The elaborate cancellation on the front was done by a single and rather large canceller.

Group B, Part 2.

It is only natural that besides sending money, one might also want to use the post office to try and collect what others owe. So, **Cash on Delivery** or COD (Nachnahme) forms were developed. The forms, introduced in 1871, didn't last long, and in 1882 an allegedly simplified form, now named Postauftrag, was introduced. These forms had no imprinted stamps until 1913. Imprinted forms continued to be produced even after World War II until, in

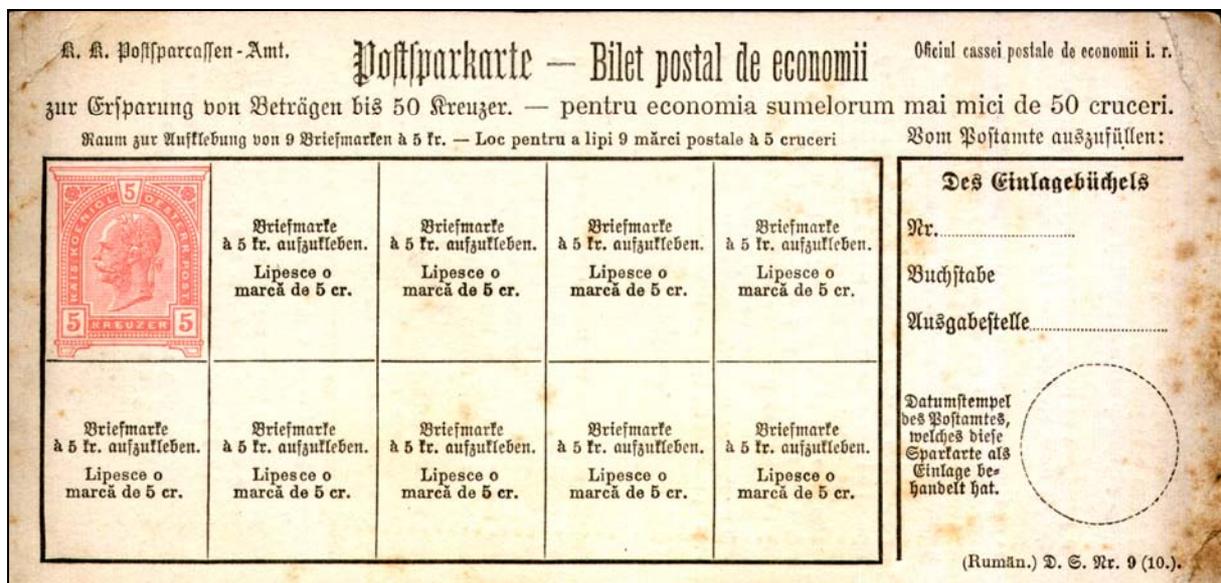
1958, the imprinted stamps were once again removed. After World War II, special forms with imprinted stamps were printed for the finance offices, which continued using such forms into the late 1970s.



Most of the cards that survive are where the recipient refused to pay, and the sender had to pay the ‘Vorzeigsgebühr’, here charged with 15 groschen postage due, to get his card back.

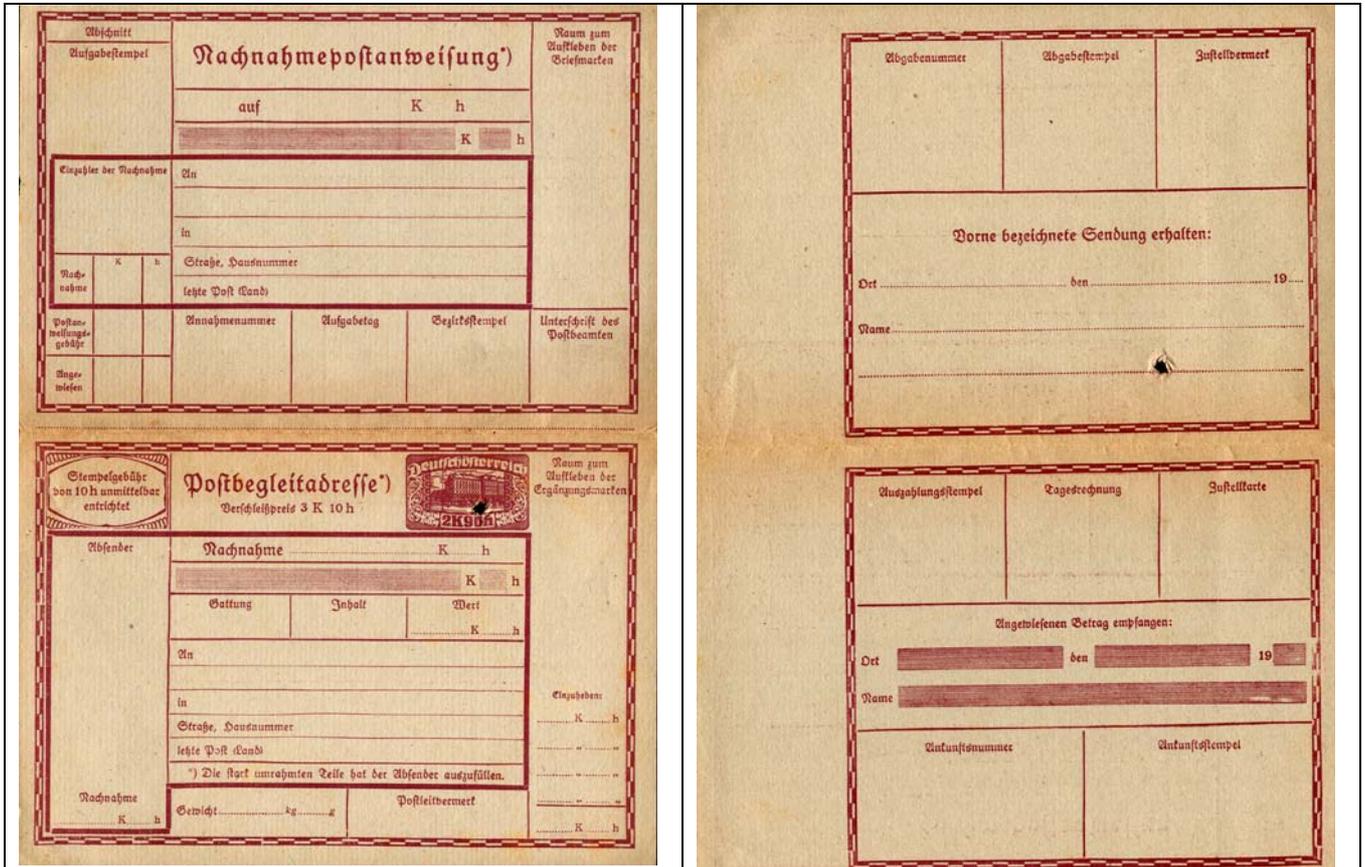
**Group B, Part 3.**

Besides sending and collecting money, you might just want to save it. The post office was also happy to oblige in this effort, and issued **postal savings cards** (Postsparkarten) starting in 1882. These had an imprinted 5-kreuzer or 10-heller postage stamp, with room for nine more stamps to be affixed, and were also issued in all languages of the Empire. Once the card was filled, the post office would accept it, and enter the amount into your postal savings book.

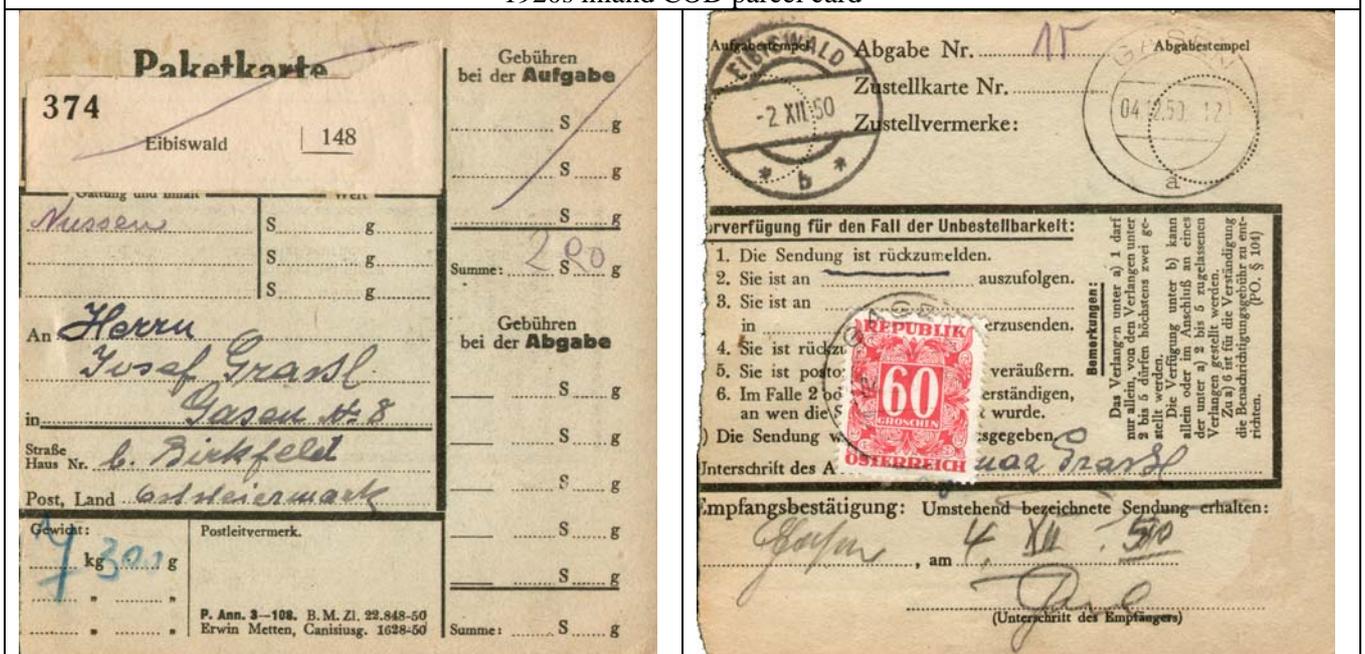


**Group B, Part 4.**

**Forms to accompany packages.** Such forms had existed without imprinted stamps for a long time, but in 1871, they were first issued with an imprinted revenue stamp. Initially they were called Frachtbrief, which can be understood as a way-bill, or a bill of lading. A later change of name to the more accurate Post-Begleitadresse indicated that it accompanied the package. These items may be called package or parcel cards; they were printed in all the languages, and also in COD versions. For a brief time after World War I they were imprinted with the design of a postage rather than a revenue stamp, the tax being collected in cash (see top left of card).



1920s inland COD parcel card



1950 packet card, front & back

During the last 10 years of the monarchy, official package cards also existed with imprints of an additional postage stamp to private order. This seems to have been a sound business practice for a firm that mailed many packages, and not at all philatelically inspired.

Package cards were not kept by the recipient, nor returned to the sender even if the package was undeliverable. (If either sender or recipient refused to hand it over to the mail deliverer, they had to pay for the affixed postage stamps!) Package cards came back to the postal administration. The post office periodically sold sacks of these accumulated package cards, called Skart, and many of our used postage stamps, especially high values, come from package cards. Also, there were delivery and advice fees for packages, paid with postage due stamps. When sufficient postage dues were unavailable, typically because of a rate change or a currency change, the post office used all kinds of emergency measures, and the Skart is the source of most of our philatelic knowledge of these practices.



“Abholschein” – this card was delivered to inform you that there was a packet awaiting your collection at the post Office. For this information you paid 60 groschen.

Packet card for three items to the same address.

## Group C

The number of different forms without imprinted stamps, but associated with the postal system in various ways, is in the thousands. It is a challenge to collect even a subgroup of these forms; not aided by their complete renumbering every 20-30 years. One can only marvel at the variety of functions that were performed and the records that were kept. Receipts attesting that something had been sent, and that something had been received, would alone fill many albums. But these items look less akin to Groups A and B than envelopes and postcards that were issued by the postal authorities but for various reasons were not imprinted with stamps. We shall briefly discuss three kinds.

### Group C, Part 1.

**Money letters (Geldbriefe).** These are envelopes, sold in the Empire for 1 kreuzer then 2 heller, intended primarily for sending banknotes through the mail. They were in use from 1874 to 1946. Money letters were imprinted on the outside with lines on which to enter how many were enclosed of each kind of banknote current at the time of printing, and they were sealed (the rule book included diagrams of how to do it properly) in the presence of both the sender and a postal official by wax seals of either one or both of them (it varied). Initially, and again at the end of their period of usage, fees were collected in cash, but during most of their period of usage, stamps were affixed. If you seek high-face-value stamps issued between about 1890 and 1918 and actually used on a cover, these money letters are a lot more affordable, and findable, than other kinds of envelopes. Two further comments: banks, as well as private printers, made such envelopes available before 1874; and early in the inflation period (1921) the rules were changed, and the fees were again paid in cash. (Yes, there are auctioneers who imagine that there were emergency shortages of postage stamps.) The envelopes were produced in all the languages of the Empire. They are especially interesting between about 1898 and 1905, when various banknotes in Gulden and in Kronen overlapped for varying lengths of time. The last

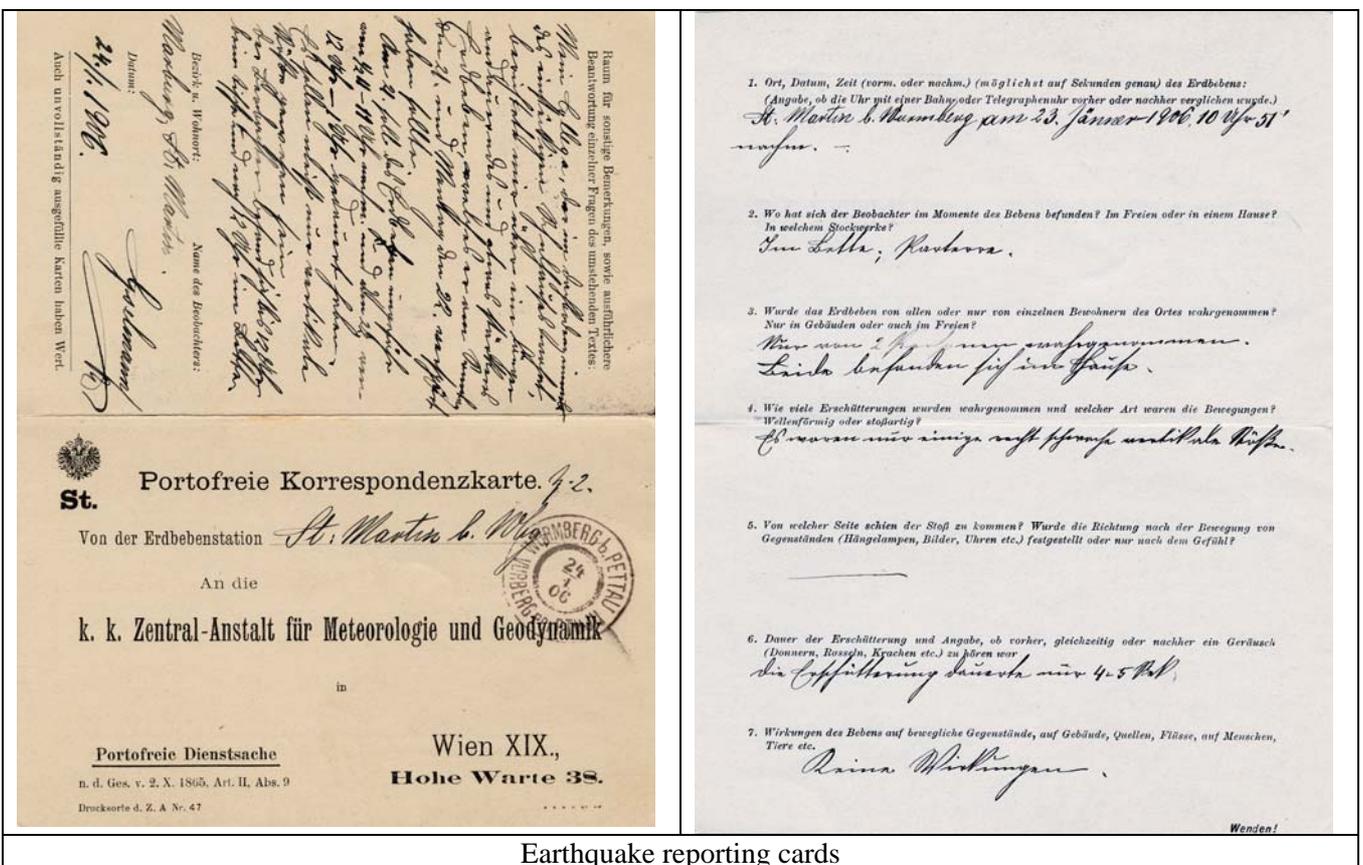
printing of mixed currency envelopes was in May 1905. The Geldbrief is also one of a very small number of postal forms on which the antiquated language indication of “Ruthenian” was changed to “Ukrainian” in 1918.



Front and back of a 1916 Money Letter

**Group C, Part 2.**

Beginning in 1884, **post cards for postage-free communication** (Portofreie Korrespondenzkarte) were issued for government agencies. (Reply cards also exist.) These cards existed until 1921, and their last usage was by Austrian troops facilitating the transfer of the Burgenland from Hungary into Austria. One also comes across specially-printed postage-free postcards for reporting earthquakes to a Geological/Meteorological Institute (k.k. Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik) in Vienna. Presumably, the cards (and the earthquakes) also existed in all the languages of the Empire, but too few have been observed to be certain.



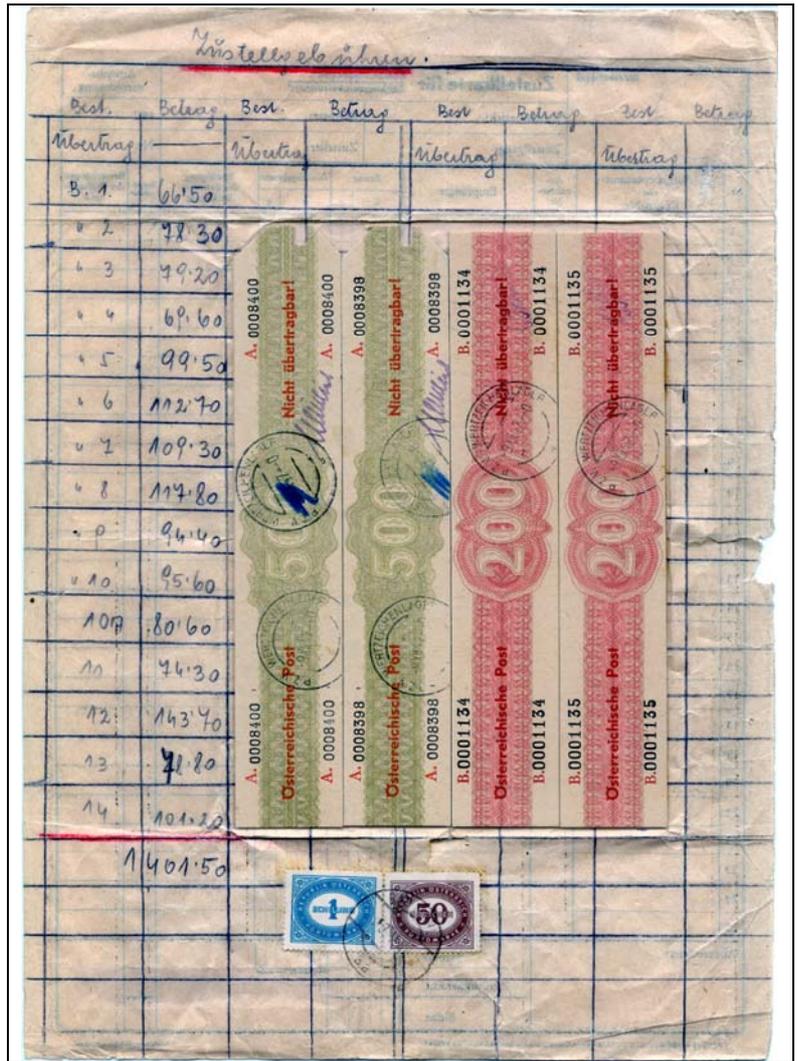
Earthquake reporting cards

**Group C, Part 3.**

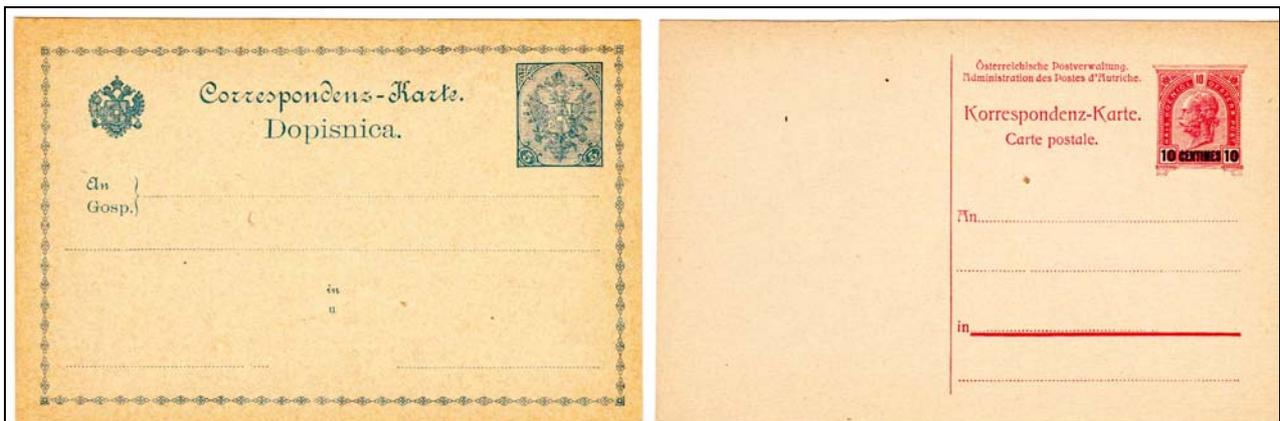
There was in Austria for many years a system whereby one person could go to his post office and pay for physical cash to be delivered to another person.

The necessary accounting produced many forms, duplicate books, etc. Briefly, 'A' completed a form with details of 'B' and how much B was to receive. A paid this plus assorted fees. The form went to the Postsparkasse in Vienna, who issued more forms to B's post office. There, a special postman called The Geldzusteller drew out the exact amount of cash for each of his deliveries. The recipient signed for the cash and paid the delivery fee. The Geldzusteller then accounted for the delivery fees, either on the prescribed form or as in this 1947 example on whatever he could find, and used the cash he'd collected to buy postage dues which he stuck on his form.

Here, instead of licking and sticking another one thousand four hundred 1-Schilling dues they used the cardboard 'keys' for Pitney Bowes franking machines!



Had enough? Well, there is still the stationery for Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as for the Offices in the Levant.



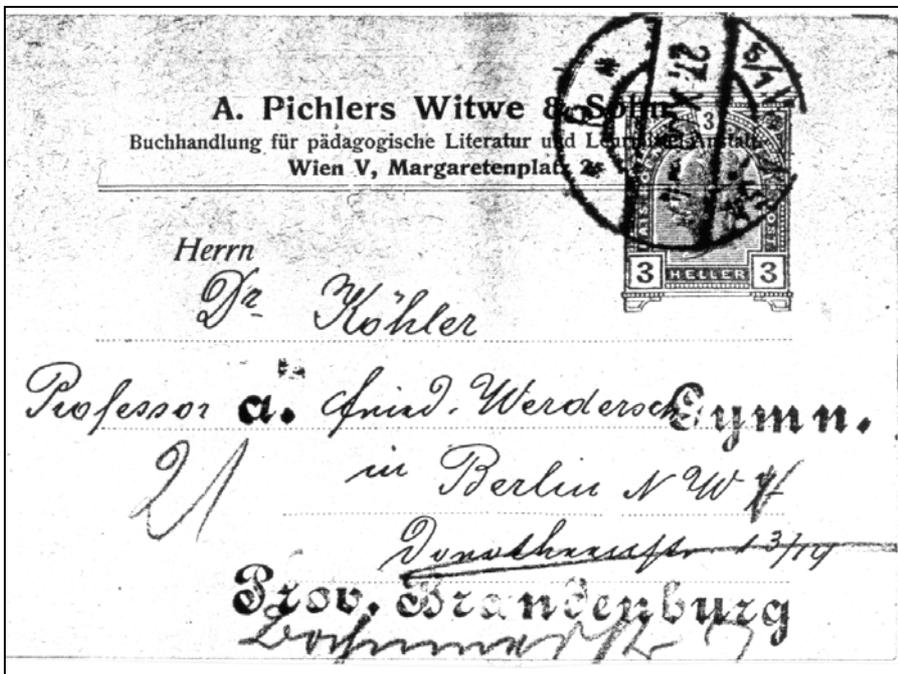
But probably the best thing to do at this point is to stop.

## Privately produced Postal Stationery 1903-1916

by P Watkins

The Austrian Post Office issued little variety of postal stationery, in comparison with the British or French postal authorities. For the sake of convenience, many companies, particularly those based in Vienna, had their own stationery manufactured and stamped with the imprint currently in use by the Post Office. It was advantageous because:

- it speeded up the dispatch of mail - no time was wasted in affixing stamps;
- it simplified dispatch office accountancy;
- it enabled the company to advertise on its envelopes or cards;
- it prevented loss through the pilfering of postage stamps;
- it was possible to precancel bulk postings, saving the time of P.O. staff and further speeding the delivery process.

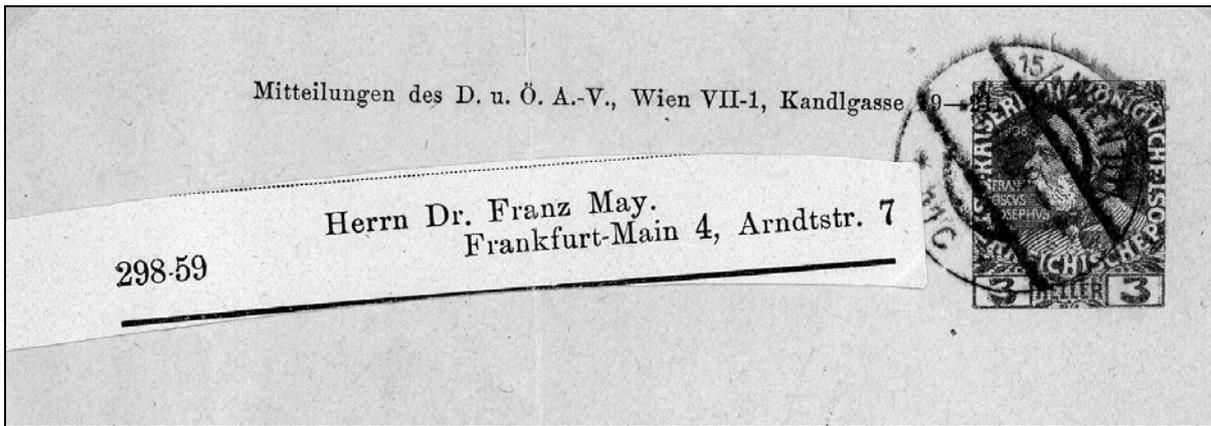
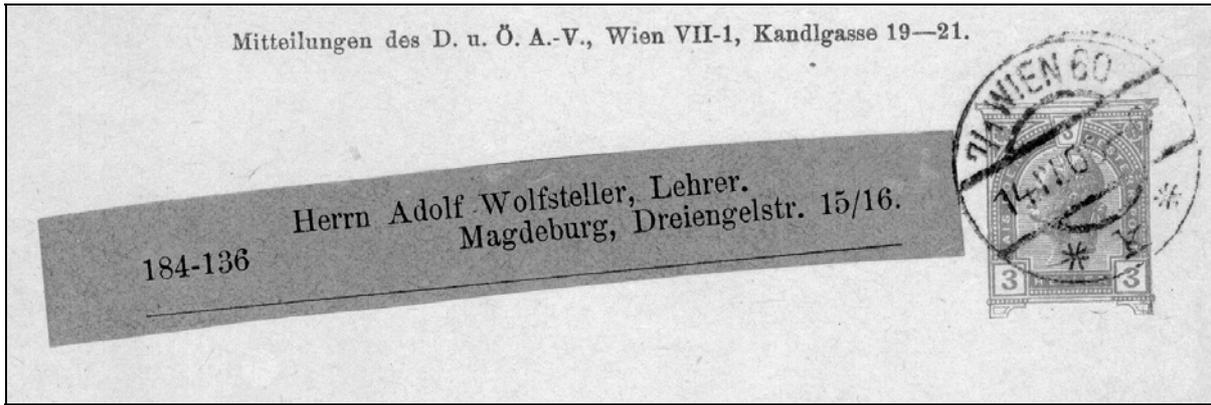


Two distinct stamp designs were in use during the period 1903-16: the "Torbogen" and Jubilee issues - the former used only on stationery.

There is a fascinating range of material stamped at the 3 heller printed matter rate – an unusual example is this stamped label for Pichlers Witwe & Sohn.

The Deutsche u. Österreichische Alpenvereine was a unique case: with a huge mailing of newsletters to members throughout Austria and Germany it took advantage of this option from 1903, producing stamped journal wrappers to which the address labels could be gummed; there were bulk posting arrangements at the two Offices nearest its headquarters: 60 (Neubau) and 101 (Westbahnhof). By 1909 the wrappers were being pre-cancelled by hand at 101 and in the next year there was an agreement for the club to use wrappers with a printed precancellation, which continued until 1918.





For the small proportion of DÖAV members living in other foreign countries, a 5h wrapper was printed; naturally, these are far less common than the 3h wrappers.



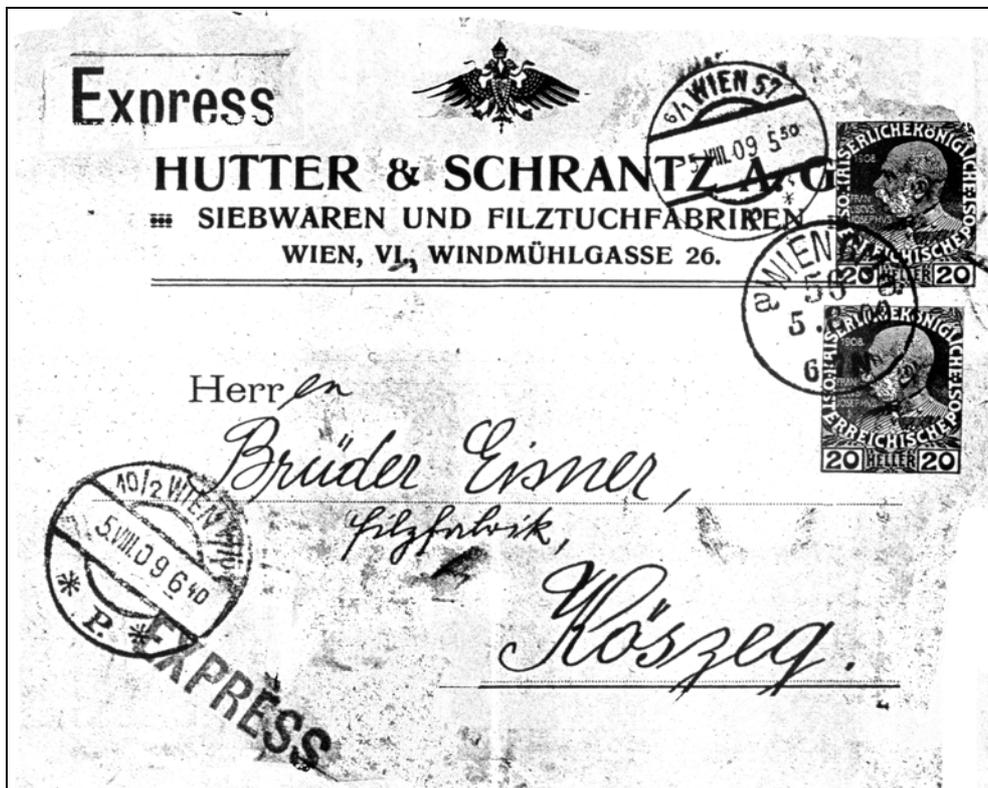
The 1908 Jubilee design is found on envelopes franked at 5h, 10h & 25h.

Less commonly, paired imprints created particular rates, such as this Österreichische Länderbank envelope stamped at the 35h registered rate.

The 3h imprint was redrawn for use on stationery, to show Kaiser Franz Josef rather than Josef II - this was created for official stationery and used for private stamping, also.

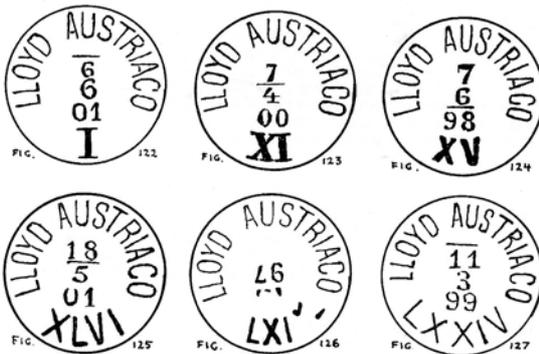


More unusually, the Hutter & Schrantz envelope shows the same process with a 20h imprint, printed in a pair to create a 40h pneumatic rate franking, as there was no single stamp of that value. (Note the pneumatic-post handling!)



## Austrian Lloyd Cancellations on non-Austrian stamps.

Terry Russell, a member of both the Malaya Study Group & the East Africa Study Circle, asked us for information on a Lloyd cancel on a non-Austrian stamp, and sent us three others for the interest of our members. The leftmost stamp is the queried one; it is a Straits Settlements QV 8 cents cancelled LLOYD AUSTRIACO 5/3/94 XXXVII in blue.



Our Librarian has managed to locate some information, in Tchilinghirian and Stephen pp 91, 92, & 138. The cancel is T&S type LB-37, one of a lengthy series of single-circle cancels. It was prepared in 1891 and issued in 1892 to the MARIE-VALERIE which used it until 1901. T&S do not record it in blue; and it does not appear to have been reused on a different vessel.

The others are (left to right):

- 'KOERBER' on a Zanzibar ½ anna (monogram)
- 'AFRICA OE LLOYD' on a KEVII East Africa & Uganda ½ anna
- 'MARQUIS BACQUEHEM' on a KEVII Straits 3 cents. This vessel was built in 1893 and served mainly on the Trieste-Kobe line. The cancel is T&S type LB-33 and this vessel used it from late 1893 to 1901/2. T&S state that it is only known used on non-Austrian stamps, and remarkably few examples are known - they give only three!

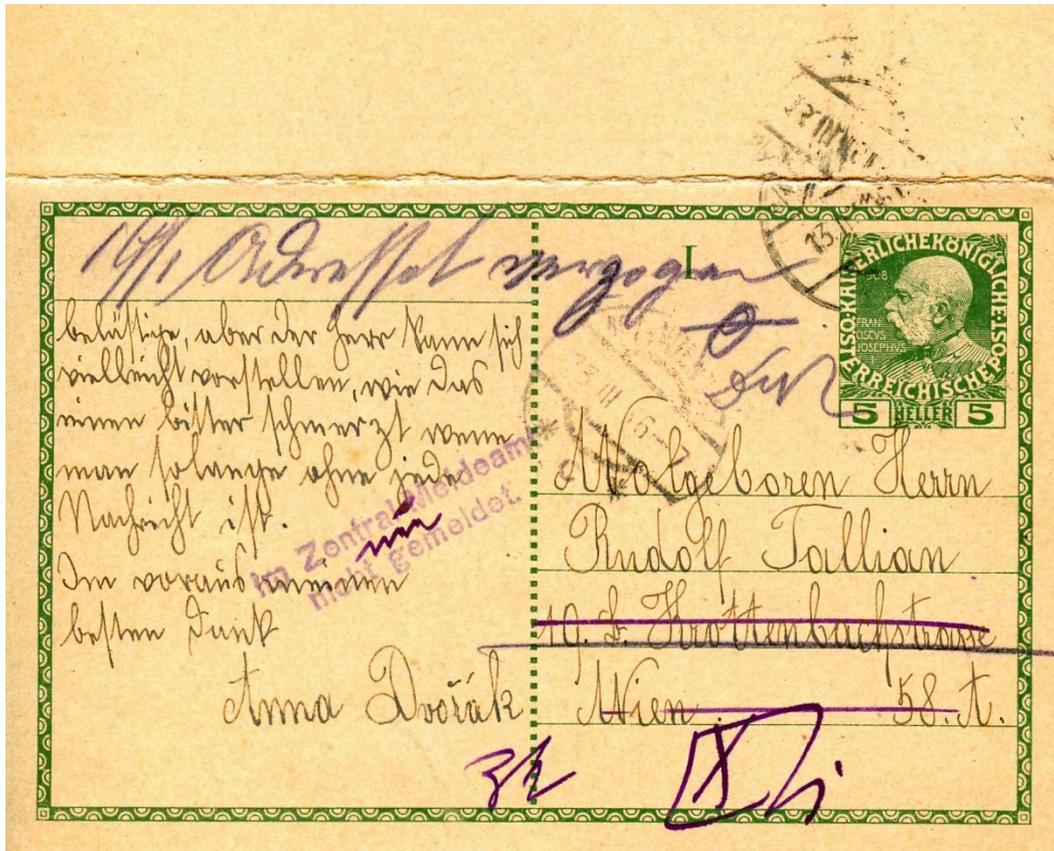


These additional scans do not give any indication of the vessel concerned so may not be of any great interest. However they might go to (dis)prove periods of use. The date on the QVic 3c is 20/9/97

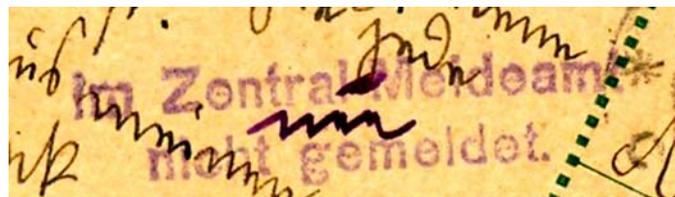


## A QUESTION from Roger Morrell

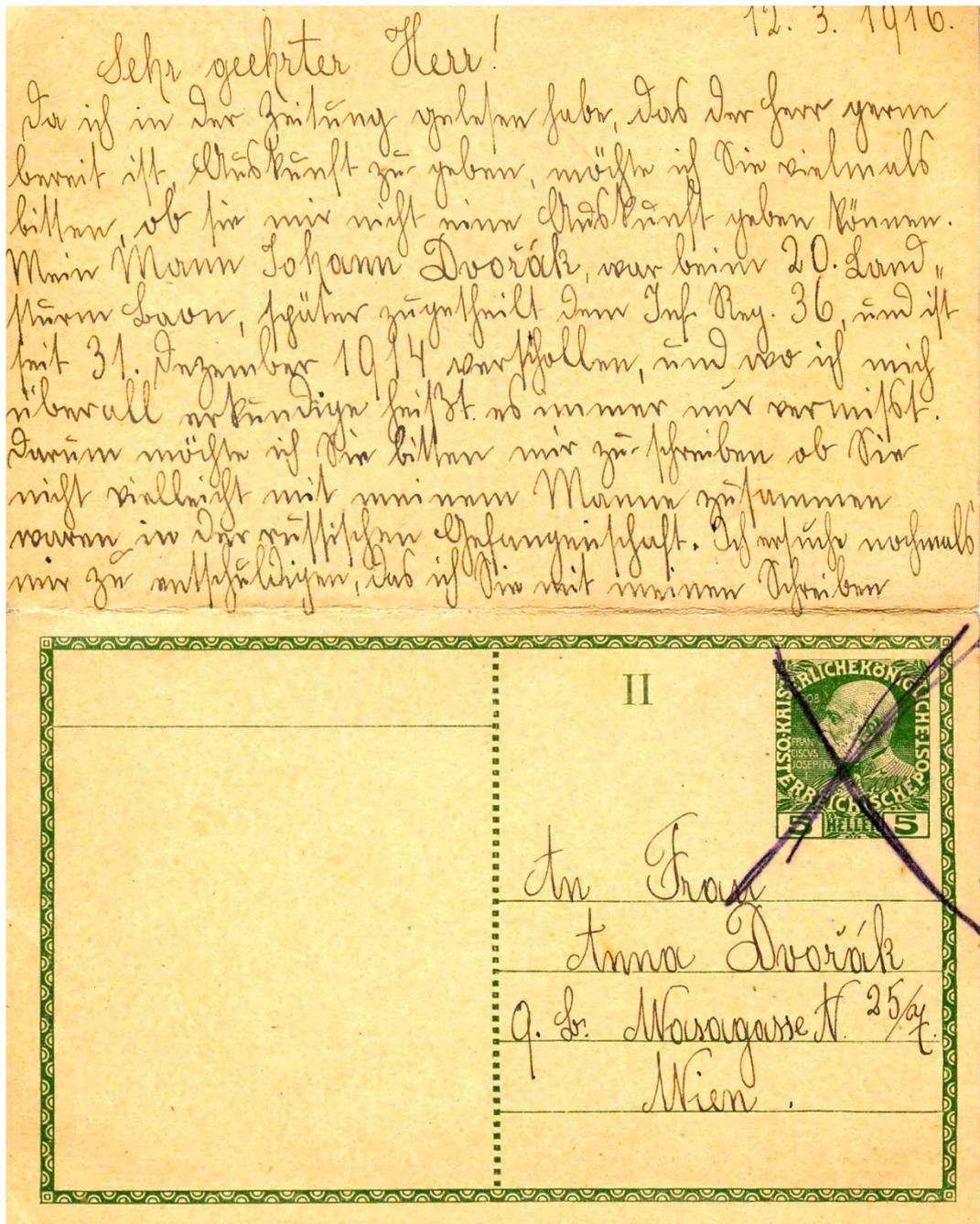
“Can anyone confirm what’s going on here?”



This reply-paid postal stationery card was written on 12 March 1916 by Anna Dvorak with the return address of Wasagasse, Vienna (near the city centre), and posted on 13 March in Vienna, addressed to Rudolf Tallian at 19 Krottenbachstrasse Vienna 58 (out to the north-west of the city). The datestamp cancelling the indicium is a partial miss-strike, probably similar to a second datestamp of the same day, but also a bit indistinct. (It’s been struck so hard that a mirror image has appeared on the back: presumably it picked up enough ink from the table top!) The key point of interest is the violet two-line cachet reading ‘Im Zentral Meldeamt nicht gemeldet’ (‘in the central registration office, not registered’). The cachet isn’t really a censor mark, so not unexpectedly it’s not in Thielk/Schilling’s listing. The purple pencil *Kurrent* at the top of the card reads something like ‘19/1 Adressat ...zogen’, with some initials. The address has been struck through, and the indicium on the unused reply paid half has also been struck through, as if to invalidate it.



Now the questions: would I be correct in interpreting that some person with a beady eye belonging to the police state intercepted this item and identified an unregistered addressee? Why isn’t there a more formal cachet of the intercepting organisation? Is this because the card wasn’t going anywhere, and was merely ‘confiscated’ and ‘archived’? Did the Meldeamt really have the time to look at every item of mail going through the system to check up on folks? Is anyone aware of other evidence that this process was going on? Would the outcome be that a posse of plain clothes heavies turned up at the addressee’s pad the following morning before dawn to arrest him? If anyone can read the card text (I’m struggling), are there any clues in it that might explain what’s going on?



Interestingly, this registration system continues. The current English language bit of the Vienna city website <http://www.wien.gv.at/verwaltung/meldeservice/pdf/meldeserviceenglisch.pdf> reads: "Why do I have to register? According to Austrian law you have to register with the authorities within three days before or after moving to a new address. The residence registration is connected with postal services and with several rights such as voting rights and parking stickers (Parkpickerl)."

## A letter to Wildshut

by Andy Taylor

This arrived from the “Queries” facility on our web site. What’s going on, they asked, and why can’t they find the Wildshut purple-ink Frakturschrift cancel in their books?



The letter was sent by airmail from Australia to Herr Reimund Frommwald at the poste-restante counter of Ostermiething; there’s an arrival mark on the reverse dated 13.1.1957. The 30g due (the poste-restante fee for a letter in 1957) is cancelled Ostermiething; someone has added a big blue cross. The application of the 30g due would be entered in the Ostermiething Postage Dues book.

The letter wasn’t collected from Ostermiething, but the staff there would have known that the temporary or permanent residence of the addressee was at Wildshut, some 10km distant. So, the letter would have been forwarded to there, the due invalidated, and the entry in the Dues Book reversed.

But who applied the Wildshut markings? Extensive consultation has produced two explanations, the Yorkshire and the Tirolean.

*Yorkshire* believes that the ‘Wildshut’ was applied at the office there – or to be precise the office that dealt with deliveries to there; given the date of 1957, Stohl (see below) tells us that this office was actually at Wildshut. The format of the mark is the standard Office Name marking, well-known from Dienstsache mail. The purpose would be to endorse the invalidation of the poste-restante charge.

*Tirol* however states that the Wildshut mark is a provisional one - probably made by assembling separate rubber letters in a holder (cf John Bull) - and was applied by Ostermiething so that their sorting staff knew where to send it. It was struck twice, once weakly and again with considerable force so as to be clearly legible.

## **Wildshut in Stohl**

The straight-line Wildshut marking is not one of those listed in Stohl. It looks like an Office Name, intended for use on forms. Stohl has for Wildshut:

**E 16.10.1851: WILDSHUT, D 1939/40: PST I, D 1945: PA, U 1.1.1974: ST.PANTALEON, OÖ**

This has to be interpreted according to his pages 15A and 23A, noting that he uses a comma where a British reader might expect a semicolon. The sequence is:

E 16.10.1851: WILDSHUT	The office was opened on 16.10.1851 as a full Post Office with the name WILDSHUT.
D 1939/40: PST I	In 1939/40 it was downgraded to a Poststelle I.
D 1945: PA	and in 1945 reinstated as a Post Office.
U 1.1.1974: ST.PANTALEON, OÖ	On 1.1.1974 it was Umbenennung**. “St Pantaleon, OÖ” was used to avoid confusion with the St Pantaleon in NÖ.

\*\* “Umbenennung” means “change of designation with or without a new location”: see below.

Using Google for what it’s good at, you’ll find that (Burg) Wildshut lay on the border between Bavaria and the Archbishopric of Salzburg; was the seat of local justice from 1402 till 2002; was a hunting lodge of the Wittelsbachers (Sissi!); and has a rather nice Schloss which lies on a bluff overlooking the Salzach. There you can hold seminars, Fests, and weddings - and travel to them by the Salzburg Lokalbahn.

St Pantaleon describes itself as a thriving industrial centre, well within Lokalbahn- or car-commuting distance from Salzburg. (And it’s in Upper Austria not Salzburg, which probably has tax advantages.) St Pantaleon is the name of a wider area, so its centre is a sensible place to move the post office to, instead of having it at a railway station on the fringe. And indeed, the Austrian Post Office Filialefinder says the nearest office to Wildshut is 2km away, at *Post Partner, 5120 St. Pantaleon, Oberösterreich, Pantaleoner Straße 25*.

## **Umbenennung**

Umbenennung as applied to a Post Office seems to have several possible meanings - but as with all Austrian Postal matters guessing (or British logic) is a bad guide! Credible scenarios include:

1. The services provided at Post Office ‘A’ are now provided by Office ‘B’; Office ‘A’ is closed. Eg, in 1974 Wildshut was umbenennunged to St Pantaleon.
2. The services provided at Post Office ‘A’ are now provided at the premises of Office ‘B’ but still use the name ‘A’. Eg, Vienna 53, which during WWI operated its Rohrpost from Vienna 76 while using the name Vienna 53.
3. Office ‘A’ changes its name and maybe its location while still providing the same services. Eg, most of Vienna’s offices!

Luckily, I can call upon the assistance of Frau Mag Sinnmayer, the Austrian Post’s Archivist. She informed me that “Umbenennung” normally means “change of name”. Often the new name of the Postamt follows a change in the name of the town (eg from “Kreuzen” to “Bad Kreuzen” in 1973 or “Radegund” to “Sankt Radegund” in 1963). Sometimes it can be connected with a change of location (but properly that would be described as “Umbenennung und Verlegung”).

Postamt “Wildshut” could have changed the name to the name of the bigger “Gemeinde” (commune) “St. Pantaleon” to which Wildshut belongs, without change of location

Or, it adopted the new name and moved its location the short distance to St. Pantaleon - according to the “Postämterverzeichnis” there was no “Postamt St. Pantaleon, Oberösterreich” before 1974. The Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt only give an exact office address (street, number of building) in big cities.

## Dr Karl Renner - 65th anniversary of his death

By A Taylor

Karl Renner was born on 14th December 1870 in Unter-Tannowitz (or Dolni-Dunajovice), a Moravian market town north of Nikolsburg (or Mikulov), the nearest large town some 8km distant. He was the tenth son of Matthäus and Marie Habinger Renner, who were farmers. The family had to struggle for its very existence, so he had a hard but not joyless youth. His cleverness and eagerness to learn were noticed by his teachers in the village school, and they urged his father to let this very talented youngster continue his studies. Matthäus ventured the attempt despite the ever more hard-pressed material circumstances into which the family came, due to poor harvests and the unfavourable economic development of agriculture in the 1870s.

Since the hoped-for free tuition in the Piarist gymnasium in Nikolsburg fell through, the whole plan was in danger of failure after just a few weeks. But the tough will to self-assertion of the 11-year old won out! Since the paternal home could provide only a roof over his head and a scant measure of daily bread, the small boy walked day after day, summer and winter, morning and evening, in all kinds of weather for two hours from his native village to school in Nikolsdorf, and back. This was an almost superhuman demand on an undernourished child, but perhaps the precondition for the robust health which Karl Renner enjoyed into his “ripe old age”.

He obtained a position in the Library of the Imperial Council and after studying law at the University of Vienna he obtained the degree of Doktor juris in the spring of 1896. Whilst still a student he married his wife Luise, and the pair remained devoted to each other till his death. Influenced mainly by his parents he became a member of the Social Democratic Party, then led by Viktor Adler.

Opposed to the Habsburg monarchy, Dr. Renner was prominent as a party leader and was elected as deputy to the National Assembly in 1908. He thought deeply about the social and political problems of his times. His publications were nationalistic, in line with the trend of the period. His “Fight of the Austrian Tribes and the State”, “Principles of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy” and “Marxism” were followed by “The Self-Determination of Nations”.

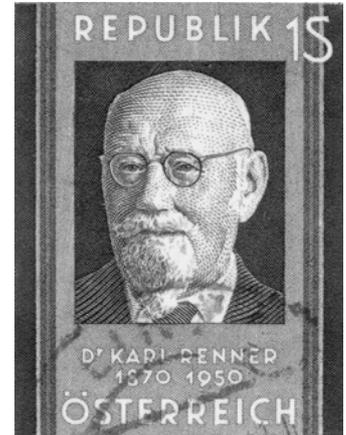


After the “declaration” of the Emperor Karl on 11 November 1918 and the proclamation of the “Democratic Republic of German Austria” on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Karl Seitz became Head of State and Dr. Renner formed the first, temporary Cabinet of the Austrian Republic. In the elections in February 1919, Dr. Renner’s party emerged as the largest representation in the National Constitutional Assembly and he became the first State Chancellor of the young republic. It was this temporary entity which negotiated and signed the Peace Treaty at St. Germain with the Allies on 10 September 1919. A new coalition government was formed in which Dr. Renner added to the Chancellorship the portfolio of Foreign affairs. When that coalition was dissolved, he continued as Foreign Minister until he resigned in October 1919. The

Austrian Republic, formally recognised by the Allies, came into existence on 1 October 1920 and Dr. Michael Hainisch (1858-1940) was elected as its First President on 9 December 1920.

Elected to the National Assembly in 1920, Dr. Renner remained a member until 1934 and acted as its President from 1931 to 1933. He found time to write the words of the first national anthem for the First Austrian Republic, “Deutschösterreich, du herrliches Land”; the music is by the Austrian composer Wilhelm Kienzl (1857-1941).

On 20th May 1932 Dr. Engelbert Dollfuss became Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs with a parliamentary majority of one. In order to govern effectively, in the Autumn of 1932 he used a War Emergency power to deal with economic problems without reference to Parliament. A special session of Parliament in March



1933 was convened to discuss the measures necessary to deal with a railway strike. It ended in disorder when the President (i.e. Speaker) Dr. Renner, and the two Vice-Presidents resigned.

Dr. Renner was one of the Socialist leaders imprisoned in 1934 when the Dollfuss regime crushed the revolt of the Socialist workers by force and outlawed the Socialist party. Because of the lack of evidence against him, Dr. Renner was released a few months later and remained politically inactive during the following years when Austria under Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg drifted more and more into the Nazi camp.

Dr. Renner had supported Austria's union with Germany, declaring that "Austria has no future". With the rise of nazism, however, the question of Anschluss took on different aspects, and when Hitler's forces marched into Austria on March 13, 1938, Dr. Renner realised that he and those of like mind had fought a losing battle. He left his home in Vienna and went to live at Gloggnitz in Lower Austria.

Seven years later, on April 3rd 1945, he established contact with the Russian occupation forces that had marched into Austria, and on 20 April he was asked by the Russians to form the first Austrian Provisional Government and become its Chancellor. The new Government took office on 27 April; it was a coalition consisting of 10 Social Democrats, 7 Communists, 9 conservatives and 3 non-party representatives. The Declaration of Austrian Independence was issued, stating in part "The Democratic Republic of Austria is re-established and shall be conducted in the spirit of the constitution of 1920" - not, note, a reversion to the immediately pre-Anschluss situation - and "The Anschluss ... is null and void". Dr. Renner and his wife were provided by the Government with a house in the American zone of Vienna. Following a broadening to include all the provinces, Renner's Government was eventually (20 October 1945) recognized by the Allied occupation powers, and soon afterwards it issued the first call for elections in Austria in eleven years.



General elections were held on 25 November 1945, and on 20 December Dr. Renner was elected Federal President for a term of six years, thus giving him the rare distinction of being chosen twice for virtually the same office, both after a world war. He received the unanimous vote of the two houses of Parliament, representing all three parties, including the Communists. Later he moved into the famous Hofburg palace on the Ring, the first non-royal head of the Austrian state to govern from the previous residence of the Habsburgs.

The famed Renner Sheets (see below) celebrating the first year of the Second Republic were placed on sale for two days: on 5 September 1946 (to subscribers only, and only one set per person irrespective of what they'd asked for) and 6 September 1946 (to everybody else) – as usual, the authorising decree (see below) was dated 19 September and published on 3 October. They were available only at 10 selected offices, the Länder capitals plus Urfar, and were postally valid until 30 September. The surcharge went to the State; the decree didn't specify it but it was 100%. The face values were 1, 2, 3, 5 Sch plus a surcharge of the same amount and each sheet had 8 stamps surrounding a label: so one set cost you 176 Sch. The decree concludes by stating that you couldn't hand them back and reclaim your payment (this presumably to catch hard-up subscribers).

As President, Dr. Renner pleaded for the return to Austria of South Tyrol, condemned the zoning of Austria by the occupation powers, and asked for a reduction in the numbers of the occupation forces. He stressed political unity and disclaimed Pan-German aims, saying he had always been an internationalist.

Dr. Renner repeatedly made it plain he favoured the United Nations rather than the Communist brand of Internationalism, and consequently, when the Communist International was reorganized as the Communist Information Bureau at Warsaw in 1947, he was denounced as a "traitor to the working class". A few weeks later Dr. Renner called for an immediate peace treaty with Austria to "free her from imposed international entanglements" and to restore her sovereignty.



The idea that Austria should regain its independence and thereafter remain permanently neutral in foreign affairs had first surfaced in public in Jan 1947, when President Renner suggested it, and the Socialist Party formally adopted it as their policy. In 1951, Dr. Theodor Körner, then President of Austria, again proposed: "A free and independent Austria, removed from all rivalries and not tied to either side, but devoted only to the cause of peace, will be an asset for Europe and the world."

In 1948 Dr. Renner told the annual conference of Austrian trade unions that a one-party state cannot bring about social progress. He urged the delegates to adhere to democratic methods to obtain a "truly social state". He held up as a model the United States and Great Britain, which he said had drawn ahead of the rest of the world by change without revolution. In a 1949 radio appeal for admission of Austria to the United Nations, Dr. Renner said there was "no serious political group in Austria which covets anything but true, full and peaceful democracy". Soon afterward in 1949 the Austrian right-wing parties decisively defeated the Communists in the second postwar elections.

Dr. Karl Renner died on Saturday Dec 30th 1950. His body lay in state for two days in the Hofburg; he was buried in Vienna on Thursday January 4th 1951. He has appeared on several commemorative issues since.

## Post- und Telegraphenverordnungsblatt Nr.13

Herausgegeben vom Bundesministerium für Verkehr,  
Generaldirektion für die Post- und Telegraphenverwaltung. — Wien, den 3. Oktober 1946.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>I. <b>34.</b> Herausgabe der Werte zu 15, 20, 45, 80 und 90 g der Landschaftsserie, sowie des in geänderter Farbe aufgelegten Wertes zu 8 g der gleichen Serie.</p> <p><b>35.</b> Kleinbogen der Sonderpostmarkenserie mit dem Bildnis des Herrn Bundespräsidenten Dr. Karl Renner.</p> | <p>II. <b>23.</b> Verlust von Formblatturschriften aus dem Banknotenumtausch.</p> <p><b>24.</b> Verlust von Dienstausweisen.</p> <p><b>25.</b> Auffindung eines Dienstausweises.</p> |
|--|--|

### **35. Kleinbogen der Sonderpostmarkenserie mit dem Bildnis des Herrn Bundespräsidenten Dr. Karl Renner.\*)**

Am 5. und 6. September 1946 werden die Sonderpostmarken mit dem Bildnis des Herrn Bundespräsidenten Dr. Karl Renner in Kleinbogen herausgegeben.

Bei der auf Japandokumentenpapier gedruckten Ausgabe sind pro Kleinbogen je 8 Stück eines

\*) Siehe Vfg. 24, P. u. TVBl. Nr. 10/1946.

Wertes um das von je einer Zierleiste flankierte und mit einer zweizeilig gehaltenen Inschrift „Ein Jahr befreites Österreich“ überdruckte österreichische Bundeswappen gruppiert; jeder Kleinbogen trägt überdies das Signum Professor Hans Ranzonis d. J., von dem Entwurf und Stich stammen.

Die Auflagenhöhe beträgt 20.000 Stück. Über den Ertrag des Zuschlages in der Höhe des Nennwertes verfügt die Bundesregierung.

Die Kleinbogen der Sonderpostmarkenserie mit dem Bildnis des Herrn Bundespräsidenten Dr. Karl Renner werden am 5. und 6. September 1946 nur an den Schaltern folgender Postämter abgegeben:

- für das Burgenland beim Postamt Eisenstadt,
- für Kärnten beim Postamt Klagenfurt 1,
- für Niederösterreich beim Postamt Wien 15,
- für das nördliche Oberösterreich beim Postamt Urfahr 1,
- für das südliche Oberösterreich beim Postamt Linz 1,
- für Salzburg beim Postamt Salzburg 4,
- für Steiermark beim Postamt Graz 1,
- für Tirol beim Postamt Innsbruck 1,
- für Vorarlberg beim Postamt Bregenz 1,
- für Wien beim Postamt Wien 15.

Am ersten Tag der Ausgabe, das ist am 5. September, werden Kleinbogen nur an Abonnenten abgegeben, und zwar erhält jeder Abonnent

gegen Vorweis des Behebungsscheines einen Satz Kleinbogen, ohne Rücksicht darauf, wie viele Sätze im Abonnement bestellt sind und bei welchem Amte sie behoben werden.

Der Bezug dieser Kleinbogensätze ist durch Abdruck eines von der Postzeugverwaltung mitgelieferten Stempels auf dem Behebungsschein vorzumerken.

Am ersten Tag unverkauft gebliebene Kleinbogensätze sind am zweiten zu verkaufen, am Schluß der Verkaufszeit unverkauft gebliebene der Postzeugverwaltung zurückzusenden.

Die einzelnen Marken eines Kleinbogens können in der Zeit vom 5. bis 30. September 1946 zur Freimachung verwendet werden; der Zuschlag bleibt hiebei außer Betracht.

Ein Umtausch der Kleinbogen findet nicht statt.

(B. M. Zl. 25.370 vom 19. September 1946.)

The PuTVBlatt announcing that the Renner Sheets had already been issued (hence it was too late to buy them!)



The 1S + 1S value of the Renner Sheets.

### ***Why (and how) were these sheets issued?***

The on-sale period was only two days (5 & 6 September) and no official advance notice was given. They were only available at 10 post offices, and were only postally valid for 3 weeks. They were sold only in complete sets of four sheets-of-eight, which cost you 176 Sch – and the average monthly salary of a Beamte was 150 Sch.

I am unaware of any official explanation, although I am equally unaware of any searches in the State Archives. Various surmises have been put forward. Maybe they wanted to celebrate the Second Republic's first anniversary with something special? Perhaps it was to please - or niggle - the occupying powers? Maybe they saw it as yet another way of earning desperately-needed foreign currency? The last is probably the most likely!

Although there were long queues in Postgasse, more than half of the 20,000 printed were disposed of through Other Channels. It is alleged that 12,000 were “reserved for the American occupying troops”. Quite a number of airmail covers are known, franked with strange divisions of the sheet (eg horizontal pair with all the margins, vertical strip including the label and so on) and sent to America – thus becoming “genuinely used” and resellable at a profit!

### ***Was there a Blackprint?***

Briefly: no. A few 'colour trials' exist but none are in black. The author thought he had discovered a set of blackprints, but they are almost certainly cut-outs, possibly from an old Lindner album.



### ***Where did they get the paper?***

In 1946 there were great shortages of everything; the Postal Authorities found enough to print stamps on but not to issue their instructions to each Post Office. So how did they find expensive 'Japan' paper? In about 1943, the Staatsdruckerei in Vienna printed the stamps for the Generalgouvernement, ie German-occupied Poland. One of those special series for Poland was printed on that yellow Japan paper, and that there was left-over paper from that printing in the Staatsdruckerei in 1946. Since they already had it, as kindly supplied by the Germans, it was available for a limited printing of the Renner sheets.



Above: this card, issued between 1920 and 1934, shows the junction of today's Burgring (foreground, with trams) and Dr-Karl-Renner-Ring running past Parliament.

## Stanley Gibbons Part 2 Catalogue for Austria & Hungary – retail price £39.95.

This has been up-dated and re-issued in 2014 and now includes two pages devoted to the Allied Occupation of Fiume in 1918/19. The issues for the United Nations Vienna office are also included and they claim that there are 'numerous new varieties and errors listed'. However they do not include the many faults and flaws on the Costumes and Buildings definitive series.

Many of the earlier stamps are still illustrated in black and white and where there is a set of stamps generally only one has been illustrated. Mention is made of the Personal stamps now available but SG do not list them as they are not generally available – one of the two personal stamps illustrated is the 55 cent version of the APS stamp of 2008. There is a list of the Frama and Automatic machine labels with a list of the sources of the stamps but without any valuations.

My most recent Netto catalogue is the 2012/13 edition so I cannot make a straight comparison of values but have noticed that they fluctuate widely between the two catalogues. One example is the 1950 stamp depicting Andreas Hoffer – Netto list this at a higher price used than mint whereas Gibbons has the reverse and from my experience Netto are correct. The latest issues are optimistically priced – the eleven stamps that form the latest definitive issue have a combined value of £50 mint and £46 used whilst their face value is €1.06 [the actual cost is more since they are sold in booklets or as coils].

In my view Stanley Gibbons is a good basic catalogue in English with prices that may not reflect the true values of stamps.

Our auctioneer generally uses the Netto catalogue for his lists. For anyone wanting to convert the SG number I am happy to help – I also now have access to a Scott (the American) catalogue for issues up to 2004 and will try and convert the numbers if asked – for contact details see list of officers.

I make no comment on the Hungary section of the catalogue since I do not collect this material.

Joyce Boyer, librarian.

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## Validity of the Posthorn Series

Andy Taylor

An article by the late Dr Christine Kainz in Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreich e.V's Rundbrief Nr. 52 cleared up the uncertainties over the withdrawal date of the Posthorn Series (ANK697-713) brought to Austria by the Allies, and the subsequent levying of postage dues on items franked with them in the period 21 May - early June 1946. However as the question keeps reappearing, a repeat of the answer is due.

“Post- und Telegraphen Verordnungsblatt Nr. 8/1946” dated 4 July 1946 explains all! The “Valid to 31.05.1946” given in the catalogues is too simplified, and marks only the extreme expiration date of the validity. The Blatt says at Para 21:

<p><b>21. Aufhebung der Gültigkeit der Marken der „Posthornserie“ zur Freimachung.*)</b></p> <p>In den Bereichen der Post- und Telegraphendirektionen Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt und Linz sowie im Bereiche des Post- und Telegrapheninspektorates Urfahr wurden mit Dienst-anweisung vom 21. Mai 1946, B. M. Zl. 10.149/</p>	<p>1946, mit sofortiger Wirksamkeit die Marken der „Posthornserie“ zur Freimachung nicht mehr zugelassen.</p> <p>Ab 1. Juni 1946 aufgegeben, mit Marken der Posthornserie freigemachte Sendungen sind mit Nachgebühr zu belegen.</p> <p>(B. M. Zl. 10.149/46 vom 16. Juni 1946.)</p>
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**Suspension of validity of the stamps of the post horn series.** In the areas of the Post and Telegraph Directions of Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt and Linz as well as in the area of the Post and Telegraph Inspectorate of Urfahr the regulation of 21 May 1946 [BM.Zl.10/149/1946] withdrew with immediate effect the validity of the stamps of the post horn series. Items posted from 1 June 1946 with stamps of the Posthorn series are to be surcharged. [B. M.21/10/149/46 of 16 June 1946]

The PuTVB is to be interpreted thus: The relevant regulation dated 21st May 1946 as adopted states that “with immediate effect the post horn series stamps are no longer valid for postage”. As soon as a post office knew the content of this regulation and/or had a copy of it (it could have been distributed by fax), it was required to immediately levy a surcharge on a letter bearing a post horn stamp. This is why some offices charge postage due before 31 May 1946.

