



A selection of the items discussed in this issue.



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## Edited by Andy Taylor

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## Editorial 195

A sage in ancient times – Socrates? - said to be careful what you ask for, in case you get it. As I type this, more and more British politicians are realising that the saying has lost none of its validity. I'm reminded of the Scottish preacher's version of the Last Judgement: Lord, we didn'a ken – Ah well, ye ken the noo. Somehow the picture below, taken from the title page of ArGe Feldpost Öst-Ung's Rundbrief 123 (with their permission and my thanks), seems topical. Could it be the post-referendum leadership of Great Britain, boldly going where none have gone before?



One thing is certain in our future: uncertainties great and small, whether about the political arrangements in the currently-United Kingdom, or the possible need for visas to visit Sindelfingen or Numiphil and then having to pay customs duties on our purchases once we've got through the slower queue at passport control. Entering exhibitions will be much more difficult than at present.

I emailed an "Abschiedsgrüße" to my philatelic friends in mainland Europe. Some fear that Brexit will lead to the breakup of the EU, some wouldn't mind if it did. But all reassure me that philatelic friendship is unaffected by political separations – the activities and interests that brought us together will survive. This makes me feel a little better!

The Treaty of St Germain contains extensive provisions for persons resident in a state that wanted to be citizens of a different state, or whose present state rejected them. They did however have to move to their preferred state within a year. I was born in Aberdeen – do I have Heimatrecht in Scotland?

I'll give the final comment to Laurel and Hardy: "Well, here's another nice mess you've gotten me into!"

Ah yes, philately. Congratulations to our members who entered the World Stamp Show in New York! Johannes Haslauer received a Gold for 8 frames on "The World's First Correspondence Card", and Bill Hedley a Vermeil for 8 frames on "Postal Services in the Habsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1900". A longer results-list is on page 35

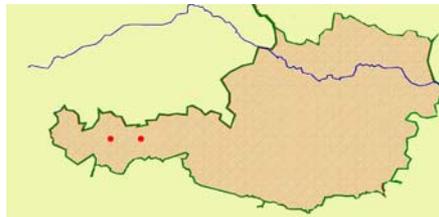
**Andy Taylor**

## British troops in the Tirol, 1918-1919

Compiled by Andy Taylor from (a) Schriftenreihe Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck #6: "Festschrift - 100 years of PKMI"; (b) items from the Allgemeiner Tiroler Anzeiger, found by Hans Moser and translated or paraphrased by Andy Taylor; (c) information supplied by Justine Taylor, the Archivist of the Honourable Artillery Company London; (d) postcards mostly from the Frost collection; (e) information from the British National Archives on-line. We are most grateful to Dr Moser, Ms Taylor, Mr Frost, Mr K Harvey, Mr Bravery, and the others who have helped.

### Introduction

This article shows and describes several postcards, mostly with scenic pictures of the Tirol, sent by British troops in the Tirol in the period just after the Armistice that ended WWI. A historic background gives excerpts from contemporary Austrian newspapers. Finally, some legends from 1918-1919 are corrected.



On the map, Imst is the left-hand dot in the Tirol and Innsbruck the right-hand one. All four companies (A-D) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (of infantry) of the Honourable Artillery Company were sent from Italy to Imst on 28 November 1918, arriving on the 30<sup>th</sup> and remaining until replaced by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Manchester Regiment in February 1919. The posted cards shown in this article are all from Honourable Artillery Company personnel.



This is a photograph of British troops in Imst. It wasn't posted, but brought back. On the back is written "Taken 1919 / Mch 1921 / To dear Edith / With all my / love from / Bert / a souvenir of / Austria". The inked X presumably identifies Bert.

Careful scrutiny of the cap badges on the original reveals both HAC-type and Manchester-types. The photo must thus have been taken in February 1919, when both regiments were in Imst.

### Selected literature gleanings

#### Kennedy & Crabb, Postal History of the British Army in WWI, page 258.

*To emphasise the allied character of the occupation, one British battalion was sent to Austria and was stationed at Imst in the Tirol. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Honourable Artillery Company (from 22 Brigade) was the unit selected; it was sent there on 28 November 1918. In February 1919 it was relieved by 22<sup>nd</sup> Manchester (from 91 Brigade), which remained there until April 1919. ... The occupation battalion does not appear to have been accompanied by a Field Post Office; mail is known postmarked at various different FPOs, presumably located in Italy since the postmark dates are usually 3 or 4 days after writing. The censor mark used by 2 HAC was No 430 (type CM8).*

The Kennedy & Crabb tabulation of the FPOs and dates is in columns 1 & 2; column 3 is the dates of the cards shown in this article.

FIELD POST OFFICE / F.D.1.	January 1919	Dec 1918, Jan 1919, Feb 1919
FIELD POST OFFICE / F.D.2.	December 1918 - January 1919	Dec 1918, Jan 1919
FIELD POST OFFICE / F.D.3.	January 1919	Dec 1918
FIELD POST OFFICE /F.D.4.	December 1918 - January 1919	
FIELD POST OFFICE /F.D.5.	December 1918 - January 1919	

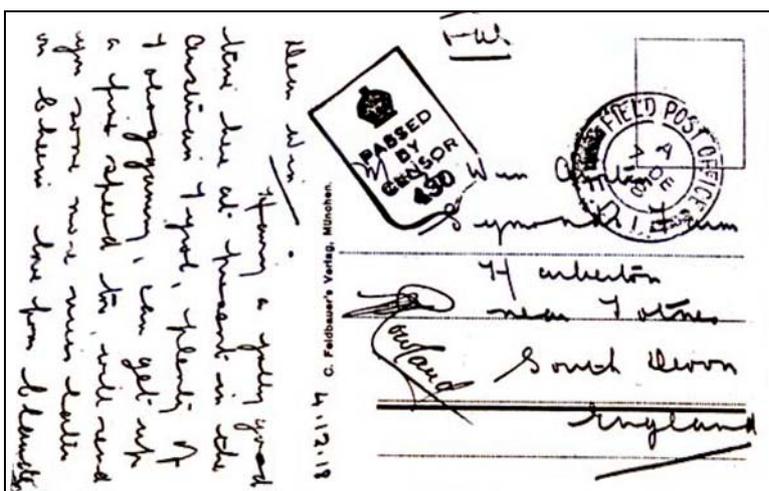
**“Post Offices of the British Occupation Forces in Austria 1918-19” by F.F. Meyer**

*After the Armistice of November 1918 the British Army in Italy was reduced by 30<sup>th</sup> December 1918 to four battalions with a few other Divisional troops. In addition, on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1918, a token occupation force consisting of the 2/1st Honourable Artillery Company was sent to Imst in the Tirol. This was replaced by the 22nd Manchester Regiment on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1919, who were withdrawn in April of that year due to the difficulty of supply – which had to be done from Italy, by means of sleighs over the [Brenner Pass]! For a time correspondence for these troops was forwarded to the Army P.O. in Italy and cancelled there (A.P.O. R7): but from about the beginning of January 1919 Field Post Office FD3 was used by the troops in Imst.*

The date of 3<sup>rd</sup> February is not supported by any other source; all simply say “in February”. The “Museum of the Manchester Regiment” web site says “The 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion moved into Austria on occupation duty during February 1919”

**Postcards sent by troops of the Honourable Artillery Company**

The HAC’s censorship cancel was a violet frame containing a crown and **PASSED BY CENSOR 430**. All cards bar the first have “O.A.S.” handwritten at the top; this will be “On Active Service” to justify the absence of franking. For each, the date of the canceller is at the top; the (earlier) date of writing below.

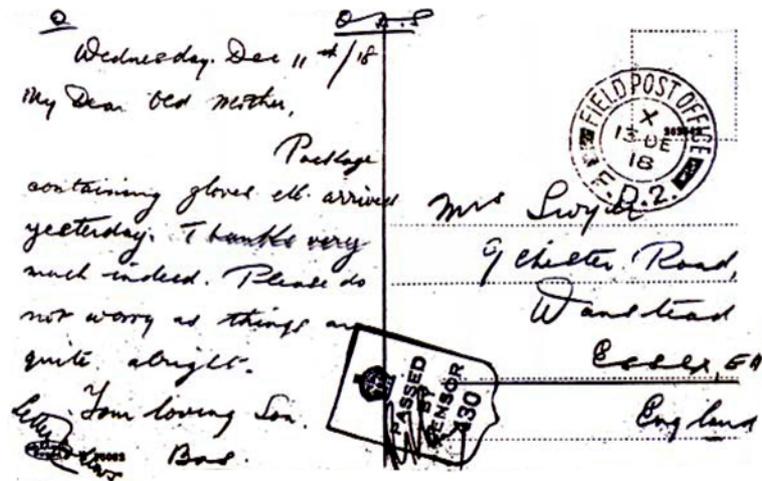


**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.1. 7 DEC 1918**

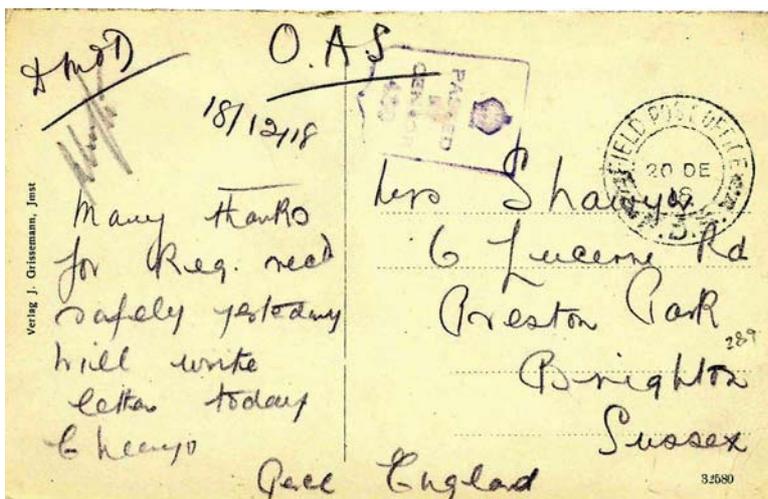
To Mrs Win Something, South Devon.  
 4-12-18: Having a jolly good time here at present in the Austrian Tyrol, plenty of tobogganning, we get up a fine speed too. Will send some more news later on. Cheerio Love from Charles.



**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.2. 9 DEC 1918**  
 To Mrs A G Billingham, Northampton  
 Imst (Tyrol) 6/12/18 Love to all. Had a nice walk along this gorge yesterday. Reg.



**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.2. 13 DEC 1918**  
 To Mrs Smyth, Essex  
 Dec 11<sup>th</sup>/18. My dear old mother, package containing gloves etc arrived yesterday. Thanks very much indeed. Please do not worry as things are quite alright. Your loving son Bas.



**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.3. 20 DEC 1918**  
 To Mrs Shaury, Brighton.  
 18/12/18 Many thanks for Reg rec'd safely yesterday. Will write letter today Cheerio



**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.3. 22 DEC 1918**

To Miss M A Richards, Llandaff, Wales

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 18 Much love

*Initialled not signed, but it's from Percy Gribble. See later.*



**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.2. 7 JAN 1919**

To Miss M A Richards, Llandaff, Wales

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 19 This is another of the places we went through on our way here. Much love darling.

*Percy Gribble.*

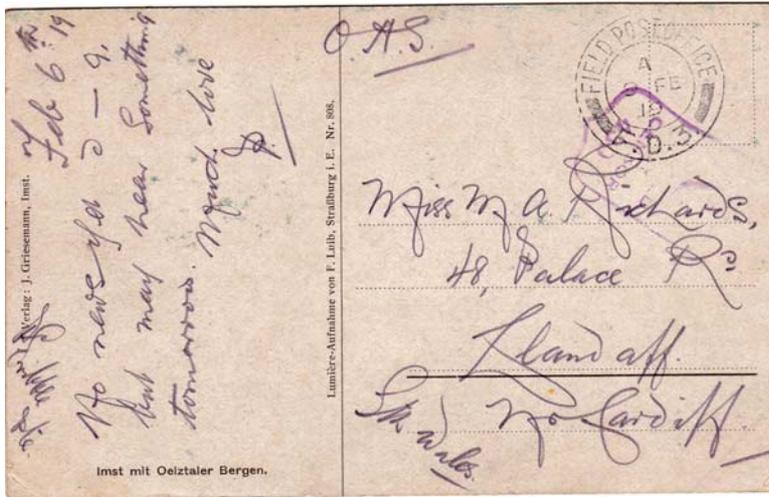


**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.1. 18 JAN 1919**

To Miss M A Richards, Llandaff, Wales

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 19. No mail again today darling, will write tomorrow certain. Much love.

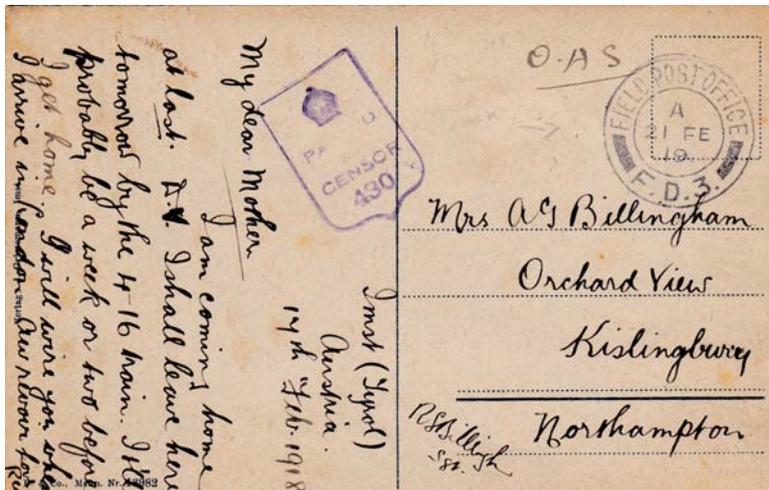
*Percy Gribble*

**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.1. 9 FEB 1919**

To Miss M A Richards, Llandaff, Wales

Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 19. No news of you darling, but may hear something tomorrow. Much love.

*Scribbled signature in L margin, possibly "Gribble Pte" ie Private.*

**FIELD POST OFFICE F.D.1. 21 FEB 1919**

To Mrs A G Billingham, Northampton Imst (Tyrol), Austria, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 1918 (*this must be a mistake for 1919!*)

My dear mother, I am coming home at last. D.V. I shall leave here tomorrow by the 4 16 train. It'll probably be a week or two before I get home. I will wire you when I arrive in London. Au revoir. Love Reg.

*Address side signed R.S. Billingham Sgt.*

Note that the first and last cards to Mrs Billingham were dated 6 Dec 1918 and 17 Feb 1919; and to Miss Richards 22 Dec 1918 and 6 Feb 1919. All have the HAC censor mark. This strongly suggests that at least these two HAC members remained for a short time after the formal handover to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Manchester.

The British Archives of births/marriages/deaths reveal that **Percy Glynn Gribble** was born in St Austell (Cornwall) on 10 Jan 1888, and died there in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1969. **Mary Augusta Richards** was also born & died there, on 20 July 1894 and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1988. They were married in the Glamorgan registration district (this included Cardiff, where she was then living) in the first quarter of 1921. There is no other couple with these names who were married in the early 1920s. Gribble is recorded on the appropriate Army form B103 as passing through Le Havre on 28 Feb 1919 on his way to the UK for demobilisation.

**Reginald Starmer Billingham** was born on 11 Feb 1893 in Kissingbury, Northants and died in the first quarter of 1970. He married Mary A Howes (born 6 April 1884) in the first quarter of 1912 and enlisted in the HAC on 22 Nov 1915, giving his home address as Regents Park, London. He moved to the front in September 1916. Serving in Belgium, France, Italy and Austria, he rose to the rank of Sergeant, having been awarded the Military Medal on 7 May 1917 at Bullecourt, south of Arras, while a Corporal (see Gould Walker pp 310-311). He was demobbed during February 1919. By 1939 he'd returned to Northampton.

## ***Austrian newspaper references***

The main source is the **Allgemeiner Tiroler Anzeiger**, copies of which may be consulted by visiting the Ferdinandeum in Innsbruck; it is not as yet available on ANNO (ie “Austrian Newspapers On Line” <http://anno.onb.ac.at/>). **Allgemeiner Tiroler Anzeiger** will be abbreviated as ATA below. References found by Dr Moser are:

**ATA Nr. 276, 2 Dec 1918.** English troops on the way from Innsbruck

**ATA Nr. 282, 9 Dec 1918.** Italians and English in Imst

**Bozner Nachrichten Nr. 282, 10 Dec 1918.** English troops in Upper Inntal: from Imst comes the news that instead of the Italian occupation a unit of English soldiers has been billeted on the town.

**ATA 10 Dec 1918.** Imst. 8 Dec: Italian and English occupying troops have been here for several weeks. An Italian Divisional Headquarters is established in Landeck under General-of-Cavalry Arrighi Giovanni; in Imst are subordinate group headquarters, two Italian Alpine companies as well as an English infantry company, the Honourable Artillery Company from London. The Italian troops will remain here until 15 December then return home for demobilisation on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Most of the Italians are from Piedmont and Udine. The English Colonel is to give his men a celebratory Meal, preparations for which are already under way. They are well provided for: white wheaten bread, high-quality meat, cheese (these we do not have), fish, excellent vegetables – all they need to requisition is hay and wood. In their free time the English go tobogganning with our young people. They have a regimental band, and give frequent concerts. They have taken over the Gasthaus Zur Krone and Gasthaus Zum Eggerbräu. Their evening Retreat ceremony is interesting. Relations between the local populace and the foreign occupiers are first class.

**ATA Nr. 284, 11 Dec 1918.** Tension between the Italians and the Allies...

**Bozner Nachrichten Nr. 284, 13 Dec 1918.** (*Repeats almost word-for-word the ATA article of 10 December.*)

**ATA Nr. 11, 14 Jan 1919.** It has emerged that the Italians have told the International Commission in London that 70% of the inhabitants of Vinschgau are Italian. Research in the local court archives of Glurns and Schlanders has shown that the area has been wholly Germanic for centuries.

**ATA Nr. 12, 15 Jan 1919.** Yesterday General Diaz (*head of the Italian Army in this area*) paid Imst a visit, and in the evening the Italian troops left, heading for Innsbruck.

**ATA Nr. 25, 30 Jan 1919.** Imst, 28 Jan: The largest part of the initially 600-strong English occupying troops, nearly all Londoners of the Honourable Artillery Company, have now returned to their homeland. Their demobilising is done such that those urgently required in their civilian jobs are released first. Teachers, professors, employees of large transport firms, bankers etc, who volunteered to join the HAC, have left Imst, travelling via Bozen & Trient to a collecting point at Monteccio, between Verona and Vizenza. Monteccio is especially interesting to the English as the (*supposed*) setting for Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”.

**ATA 24 March 1919.** Yesterday afternoon the ex-Kaiser and his family drove from Eckartsau to the station at Kopfstätten. Boarding a special train at 7pm, they proceeded non-stop towards Switzerland. The train is scheduled to cross the frontier at 3pm tomorrow.

**ATA 26 March 1919.** The ex-Kaiser and his family are now in Switzerland, having crossed the frontier at 5pm in a problem-free journey.

**ATA Nr. 94, 24 April 1919.** After a 5 month stay the English garrison has left Imst. On 29 November last year the 800-strong Honourable Artillery Company with its general staff and baggage train arrived. The troops, recruited from volunteers from London, were much liked by the locals, whose innkeepers and shopkeepers were sorry to see them go.

*[There is no mention in ATA of the replacement of the HAC by the Manchesters!]*

**ATA Nr. 106, 9 May 1919.** Imst is now a garrison town - of the Austrian Army.

## Legends and realities

**Legend 1:** The book “*The Honourable Artillery Company in the Great War*” by G Goold Walker (London, Seeley Service & Co Ltd, 1930) has on pages 367-8 a translation from “*the Tiroler Doniger of 10 December 1918*” about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion troops based at Imst:

*Already at the station life takes on interest from the sight of the well-grown, slender boys in their practical khaki uniforms, for Imst is full of English soldiers ... with clear water-blue eyes and straight noses. The Italians all have something passionate and pathetic about them; the English show self-assurance and cool self-control, but are naturally vivacious. If one looks an Englishman in the face, he smiles and tries to open up a conversation. They are beyond everything true children of the City of London. They take pride in their regiment, the Honourable Artillery Company of London, indicated by the letters H.A.C. ... The Englishman ... presents arms ... with such faultless precision that one would believe he was a wire doll worked by inward clockwork. A military service and a drill such as neither we ourselves nor yet a Prussian Guard Regiment have known.*

However, neither “Austrian Newspapers On Line” [<http://anno.onb.ac.at/>] nor the Ferdinandeum in Innsbruck nor the British Library in London have any record of a newspaper entitled “Tiroler Doniger”, and “the name isn’t Austrian”. No such paragraph has been found in the Allgemeiner Tiroler Anzeiger or the Bozner Nachrichten.

**Legend 2:** “*The Last Habsburg*” (1968, by Gordon Brook Shepherd; Pub. Weidenfeld & Nicolson) relates at page 245 an episode during the train journey of 23-24 March 1919 that took Kaiser Karl and Kaiserin Zita from Eckartsau to exile in Switzerland. The main paragraph is from the diary of the British Colonel Strutt, who masterminded the trip (and much else); the starred footnote is either his or Brook Shepherd’s, not mine.

*At Imst we stopped to put on a mountain engine. The platform was completely cleared and two pickets of British troops held the Fern Pass road about 200 yards east and west of the station. On the platform stood a fine British guard of twenty five men\*\*), and as the train moved out this guard presented arms to their Majesties [ie Kaiser Karl, Kaiserin Zita], who were standing at the window of their saloon - the only official honour paid to them on leaving their country, and that at the hands of their “enemies”. I was in another saloon with the rest of the party, who were immensely touched, poor old Ledochoffski bursting into tears. These troops were, as I ascertained later, from the H.A.C, and were as smart as Guardsmen. I heard later from the Empress that it was on this occasion that the Emperor broke down, for the first and last time. On the Emperor's instructions I sent a warm telegram of thanks to the Officer Commanding at Imst when we got to Switzerland ....*

*\*\*\*) They were from the Honourable Artillery Company - an odd coincidence since their Colonel at that time, Lord Denbigh, was from the Fielding family which claims relationship with the Habsburgs.*

Unfortunately for the tale, the Honourable Artillery Company had been replaced by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Manchester Regiment in February 1919. The HAC Archivist states that they have no record of any HAC troops in Imst after that date; and Goold Walker remarks on page 366 “by March, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion had ceased to exist”. He does say on page 365 that “guards and duties - principally with the object of impressing the native Tyrolese - throughout made a great claim on the time of the N.C.O.s and men. In particular there was a strong guard mounted at Imst railway station, which turned out on the approach of every train...” Presumably the Manchesters continued this task, or tradition.

## WIKIpedia

The 3 May 2016 Wikipedia entry for the Honourable Artillery Company has at the end of its First World War section “*In 1919 Lt-Col Edward Lisle Strutt commanded a detachment of HAC soldiers that escorted the family of Charles I, the last Austro-Hungarian Emperor-King, to safety in Switzerland in 1919, after having served as the family's protector at Eckartsau on the personal initiative of King George V. [25][26]*”. Both references are to books by Gordon Brook-Shepherd. However Wiki’s ref 25 page 144 and 26 page 41 make it clear that the escorting detachment was one sergeant and six men, supplied by the British Military Police in Vienna; they are referred to as Military Policemen throughout. The HAC isn’t mentioned. When Kaiser Karl and Kaiserin Zita were at Eckartsau, their security was provided by Austrian police from Vienna.

## Anti-Franz Joseph Propaganda cards

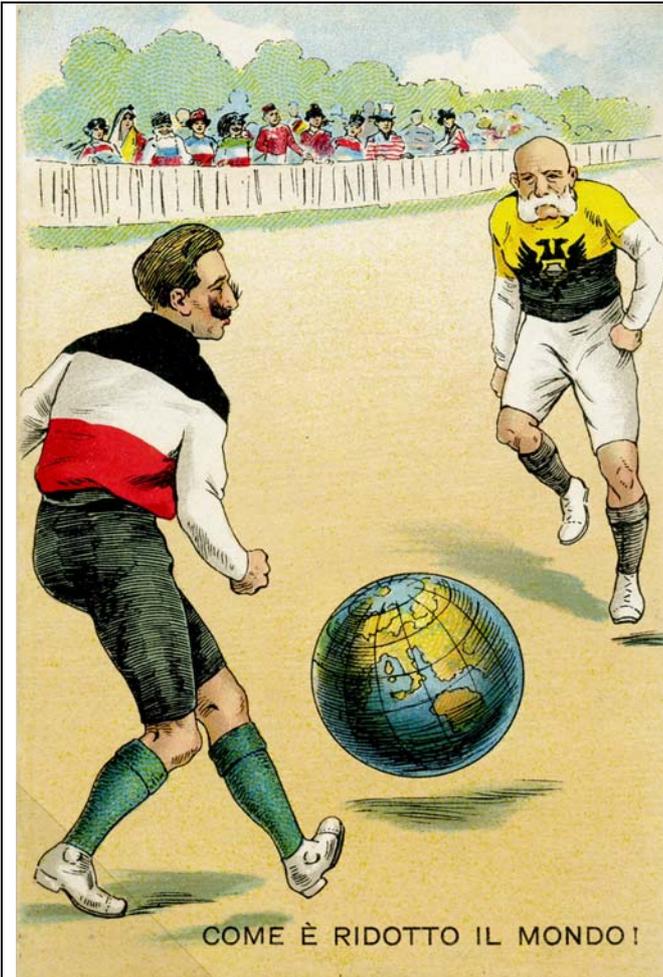
[Adapted by Andy Taylor from David Bravery's competition-winning entry at the 2015 Fest]



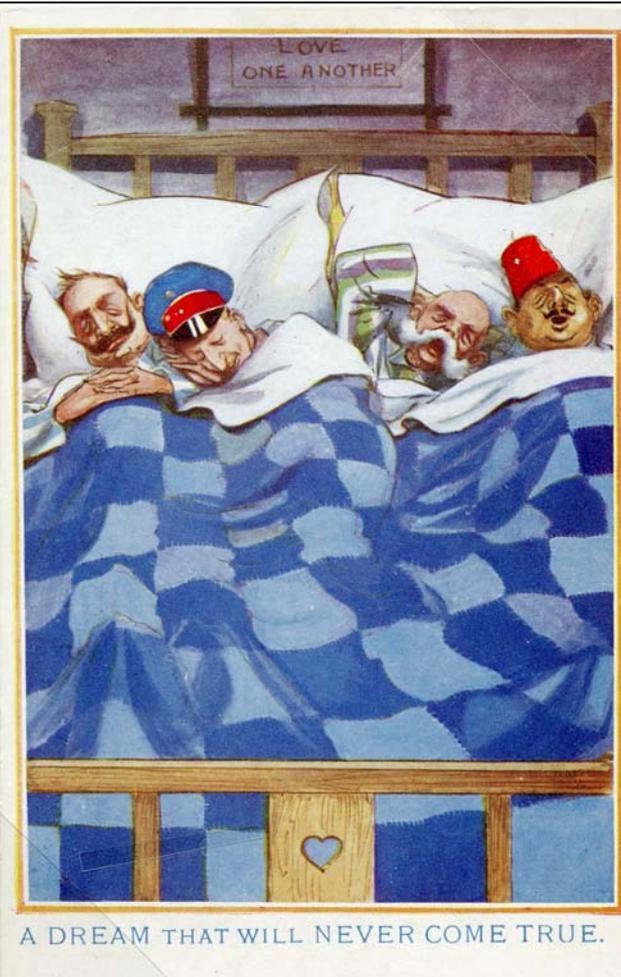
A French card from 1914: Italy rebuffs the Austrian-German invitation to join them. “As a steadfast tower that does not bend to the force of events.”



Franz Joseph and Kaiser Wilhelm shown as wounded soldiers after the first battles of WWI; Turkey as a demure young woman. This British card shows the Central Powers enticement of the Ottoman Empire, which joined them on 29 October 1914.



This 1914 Italian card shows Franz Joseph and Kaiser Wilhelm as footballers “playing with the world” with other nations such as UK, USA, France, Italy look on. The caption is “How the world has shrunk!”.



British 1916 card following Bulgaria’s declaration of war on 14 November 1915. The sleepers are Kaiser Wilhelm, Tsar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, Franz Joseph, and Sultan Mehmed V of Turkey. The caption is “A dream that will never come true”.



British satirical card from 1915, following initial Austrian reverses and retreats from Serbian and Russian forces. The Russian bear chases the Austrians, to the consternation of the Germans.



Italy – “Get another servant”

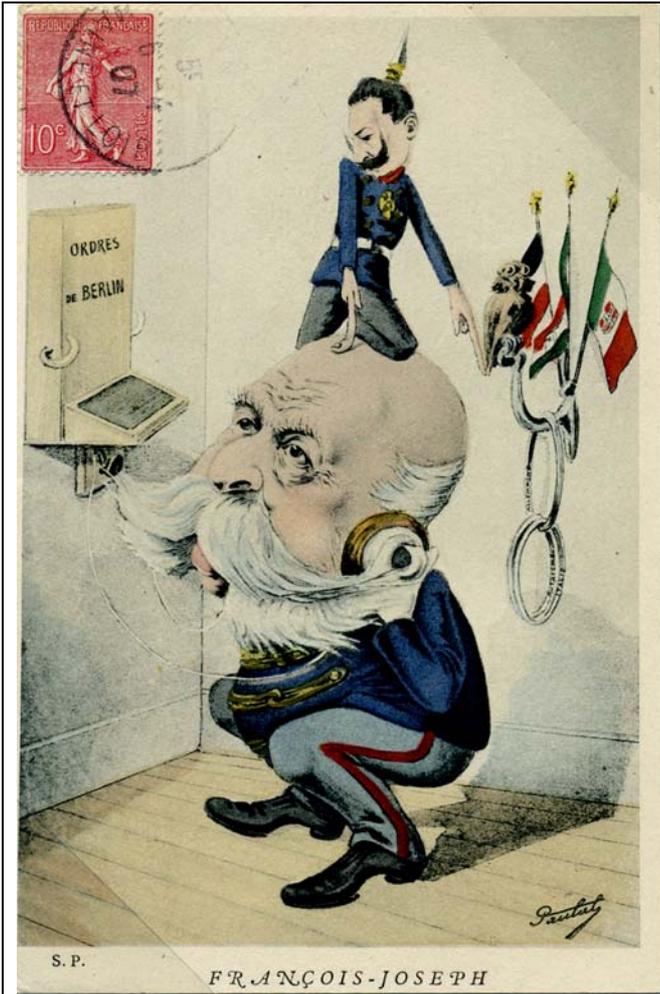


“The door-keeper discharged”

– to ridicule the departing Austrians and Franz Joseph (even though he had died 2 years previously).



1916 Italian card imagining the funeral cortege of Franz Joseph (hanging out of the coach) with Kaiser Wilhelm, Tsar Ferdinand, and Sultan Mehmed.

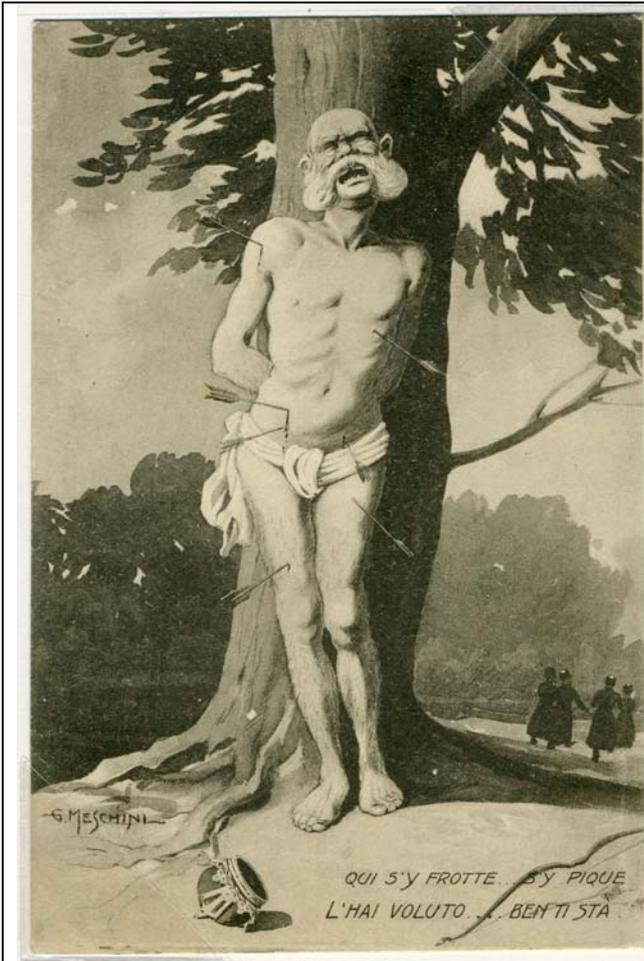


1917 French card "Orders from Berlin" portraying Franz Joseph as a puppet of the German Kaiser.

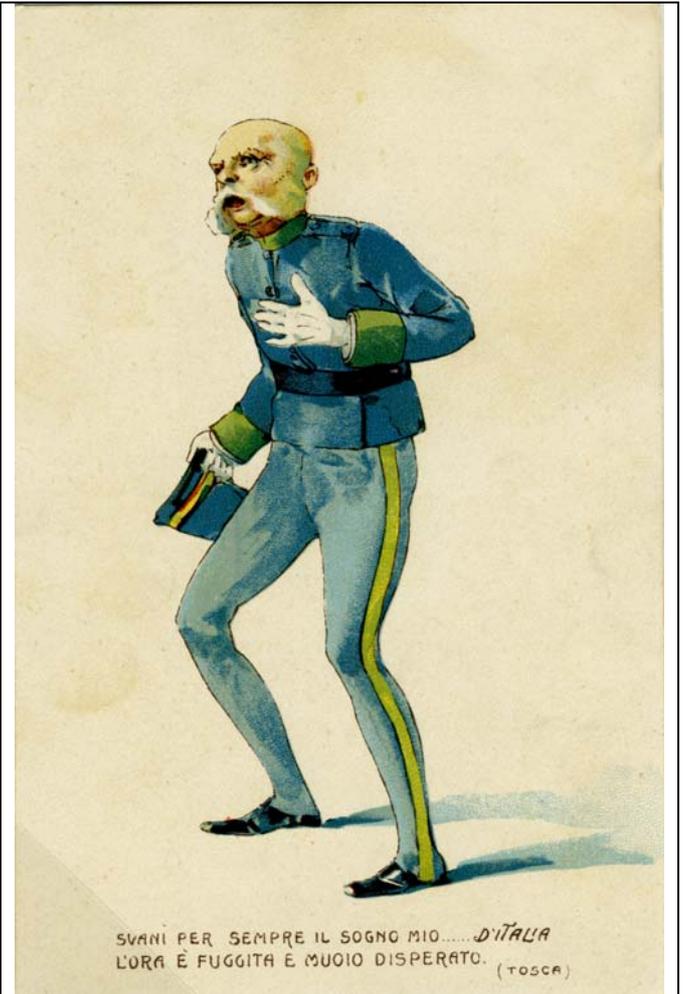
1917 French card "To the devil with the enemy" showing bombed towns in France and shelled coastal towns in Britain.



"The final loss" (Triest and South Tirol).



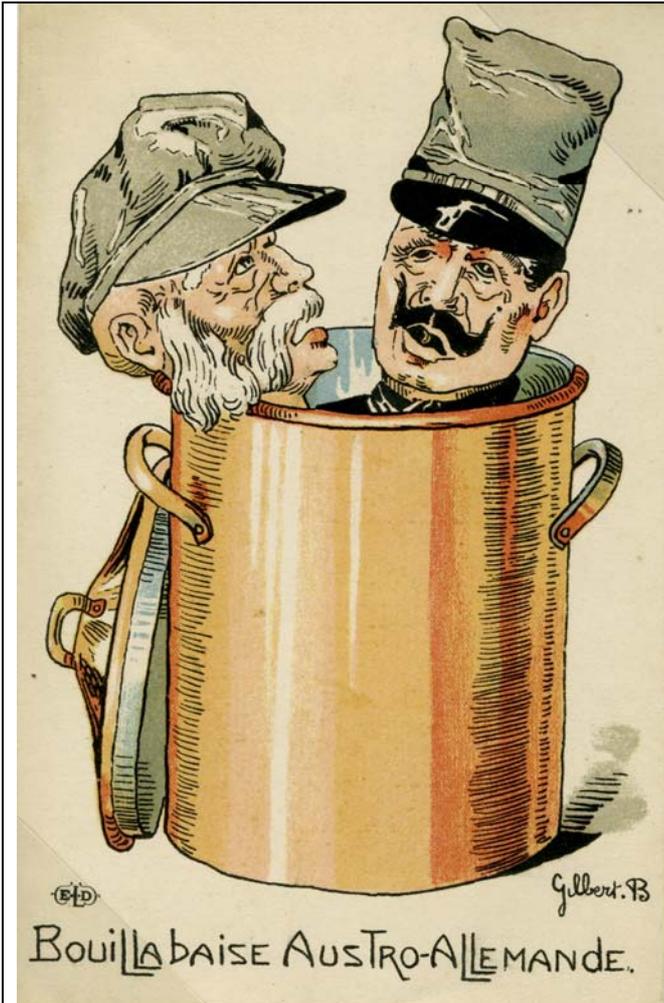
1918 French card depicting Franz Joseph as the martyred St Sebastian



1918 Italian card showing Franz Joseph in operatic pose “vanished for ever my dream of Italy now fled and I die desperate” (after Tosca!)



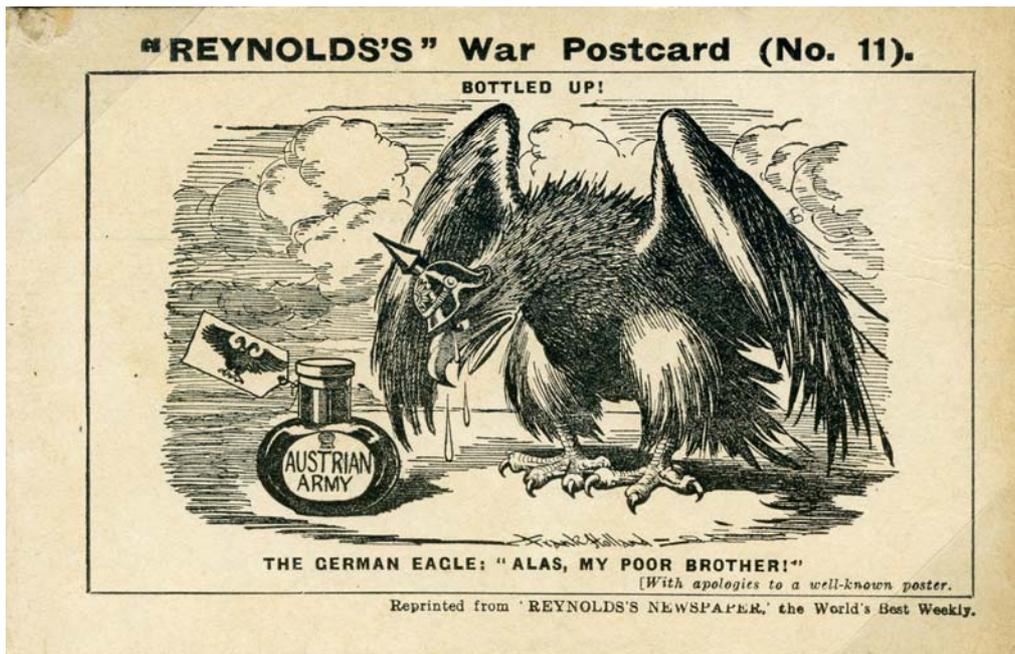
1915 French card with Kaiser Wilhelm looting Belgium while the Russians threaten Berlin and Austria lies helpless



The end of the war: 1918 French card showing Franz Joseph and Kaiser Wilhelm as “fish soup”



1918 card “The end of it all” with Great Britain carrying the dead German and Austro-Hungarian eagles



British card from 1917 “bottled up!” depicting the German eagle bemoaning the fate of the Austrian Army (shown as the double-headed eagle) bottled up in a Bovril bottle.



French cards from 1914. Above: a disdainful view of the “Triple Alliance” between Italy, Germany and Austria. Below: Franz Joseph as the Doyen of the Troup.



# Salzburg - 200 years in Austria.

[Adapted by Andy Taylor, mainly from the text accompanying the suit-of-armor stamp]



In 2016 Salzburg will celebrate a very special anniversary: in May 1816 the Kingdom of Bavaria ceded Salzburg to the Hapsburgs, meaning that it has now been part of Austria for 200 years. The province is celebrating this event by putting on a special exhibition in the Salzburg Museum; Austrian Post is celebrating it by issuing a commemorative stamp. The earliest evidence of human occupation in what is now the Salzburg region dates from the Stone Age. Until the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D. the area was occupied by the Romans, and later by the Bajuwaren or Bavarians. During the 8<sup>th</sup> century Bishop Rupert of Worms – now the patron saint of Salzburg – built the church of St. Peter on the site of the current cathedral and founded St. Peter’s Abbey and the Nonnberg Abbey convent. His ceremonial Cross is shown on the right.



Salzburg soon became an archdiocese. Hohensalzburg Castle, which still sits high above the city on the Festungsberg, dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century. From the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Salzburg was an independent prince-bishopric, the archbishops also being politically powerful princes. The province was made rich by salt and gold mining. At the time of the Counter-Reformation, Prince Archbishop Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau (1559-1617) played an important part in Salzburg, and the buildings which he erected still characterise the city today: Salzburg Cathedral, the Residenzplatz and Mozartplatz can all be traced back to his plans, as can the Neue Residenz and Mirabell Palace.



At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the city became the centre of the Enlightenment in southern Germany, this period including the creative outpouring of the great musical genius Mozart, who was born in Salzburg in 1756. A remarkably large variety of philatelic material commemorates Mozart!



Following the chaos of the Napoleonic Wars, the pronouncements of the Vienna Congress and the Treaty of Munich, both the city and the province were finally made a part of Austria in 1816, and thus came under the dominion of the Hapsburgs.

The subject of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary stamp is Prince Archbishop Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau’s armour. At that time it was not uncommon for ecclesiastical dignitaries to possess such an item for ceremonial purposes. The opulent suit of armour was made up of approximately 40 individual components, which could be combined appropriately, depending upon the type of tournament. Wolf Dietrich’s armour shows no signs of wear and tear.



It was probably made in Milan after his election in 1587, and is remarkable for the extravagant gilt and blackened etched decoration on all individual elements. In the chaos of the early 19th century, when Salzburg was definitively ceded to Austria, the armour was broken up; the individual components are now scattered across various collections in Germany, Russia and Great Britain. The engraved stamp depicts the body armour, helmet and arm pieces from the Bavarian National Museum in Munich. The armour of the Prince Archbishop is also the centrepiece of the regional exhibition “*Bishop. Emperor. Everyman. 200 years of Salzburg in Austria*” which is on show at the Salzburg Museum until 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to celebrate this special anniversary year.

Mozart is the most famous Salzburger, but there are many others!



Doppler, mathematician and physicist; discoverer of the “Doppler Effect”.



Makart, “artist to the aristocracy”.



Paracelsus, self-proclaimed great physician.



Willi Kaufmann, artist. “Salzburg from Nonnberg”.

The “new city” across the Salzach river from the castle has many well-known sites – and sights. The Landestheater puts on operas, operettas, ballets and plays; its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked with a commemorative stamp in 1975. Nearby is the Marionette theater, famed for its long tradition of classical pieces “acted” by puppets. The Mirabell garden is nearby, as is Makartplatz with the reconstructed Mozart House. And in the other direction (towards the airport) is the Stiegl brewery, maker of arguably Austria’s best beer.



This final illustration is the Mozart death anniversary block, with in the middle a vignette of the house in Salzburg’s Getreidegasse where he was born.



## Types of the 5kr value of the 1867 issue.

By Andy Taylor

**Question:** From a Dorotheum auction came a beautiful example of the 5 kr red value on piece with a full clear “Gurahoncz” circular postmark on the fine whiskers printing. A Ferchenbauer certificate accompanied this item, and states “Österreich 1867 (Ryan No. 574/400)”. My question is: “How can this item be 1867 when the fine whiskers printing was not issued until 1874?”

This question raises many interesting matters! My attempt at a comprehensive answer is updated from Austria 129. Thanks to Martin Brumby for useful comments. I have omitted the accents on “Gurahoncz”.

### Summary

- The “classical issues of Austria” are defined in a table, shown below.
- All stamps of the 6<sup>th</sup> issue of Austria are referred to as “the 1867 issue” irrespective of subtype or printing date.
- It is not true that all stamps printed before 1874 are coarse-whiskered and all on or after that date fine-whiskered.
- Gurahoncz was in Hungary, and 1867-issue stamps were mostly issued there before they appeared in Austria, (where they were quite content to use up stocks of the 1863/4 Imperial Eagle design, whereas this irritated the Hungarians). As the Hungarians were also keen to introduce stamps which were unique to Hungary, the 1867 design, common to both halves of the Empire, was invalidated there from from 1<sup>st</sup> August 1871.
- As the particular stamp in question is a 5kr, it can be “typed” and its earliest printing date determined. The appearance of the Imperial & Royal Whiskers is irrelevant! The differences between types are explained later.
- The most probable explanation of this stamp is that it is a finely printed specimen of the “coarse whiskers” stamp, printed for use across both halves of the Empire, sold and used in Gurahoncz while still valid (ie before 1<sup>st</sup> August 1871) and correctly cancelled where it was posted.

### Overview

This issue first appeared on 1 June 1867, remaining valid until 31 Oct 1884 in Austria and 1 Aug 1871 in Hungary. Its design reflected the politics of the time: in 1867 the Austrian Empire split into Austria [<sup>1</sup>], ruled by Kaiser Franz Joseph; and Hungary [<sup>2</sup>], ruled by King Franz Joseph - separate entities but dual monarchy. The separate postal administrations naturally wanted their own stamps, or as a stop-gap a stamp not containing references to the other entity. There was no time to design two new sets of stamps, neither were there adequate printing facilities in Budapest. Hence, a mutually inoffensive design was urgently required, to be printed in Vienna.

The chosen design shows a distinguished-looking man wearing a wreath and surrounded by twiddles. The currency symbol of ‘kr’ can be read as Kreuzer by an Austrian and Krajczár by a Hungarian. However the 50kr has the Imperial Austrian Crown above the head, at which the Hungarians took umbrage and hence extremely few are known used in Hungary.

The stamps were issued only in Hungary since Austria had adequate stocks of the previous 1863/64 issue; later when these ran out the 1867s were issued in Austria too. Many, but by no means all, philatelists regard the 1867 issue as the First Issue of Hungary.

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<sup>1</sup> (or Cisleithania – “a common yet unofficial denotation” as Wikipedia puts it.)

<sup>2</sup> (or – similarly – Transleithania)

The first printings are “coarse” or “soft”, since the cover of the roller that pressed the paper on to the printing dies was made from a textile. The colours vary greatly, catalogues typically identifying 5 per denomination, many with subtypes. This was caused by unstable badly-mixed inks.

Later printings (from the end of 1874) are “fine” or “hard”, the roller cover being rubberised paper. There are less colour variations, since synthetic inks were becoming available. Perhaps in compensation, demand was so great that all available perforating machines had to be used and 14 different simple and compound varieties are listed!

The coarse printings, then, were issued in both Austria and Hungary. The fine printing was issued only in Austria, but can be found legitimately cancelled in Hungary (eg a stamp overlooked at despatch being cancelled on arrival). Note that actual examples do not separate neatly into two distinct groups, and the state of the Imperial Whiskers is not a reliable guide to the printing [<sup>3</sup>]. The 25kr and 50kr stamps are usually found with a cancel showing parts of **GELDANWEISUNG**. This is not the Austrian equivalent of Brigadoon, a town mysteriously missing from the placename indexes: it means Money Order.

### ***The first and second issues of Hungary***

The First Issue of Hungary is the coarse printed issue of 1867, printed in Vienna but issued exclusively in and for Hungary on 1 June 1867. These stamps were later issued in Austria, as the 1863/64 issue ran out. They were invalidated in Hungary from 31<sup>st</sup> July 1871. Stamps with the exclusively Hungarian design of Franz Joseph heads (with St. Stephen’s crown and the Hungarian coat of arms) were issued in Hungary officially on the 1st May 1871; but actual sales started a little later, as the 1867 stamps were used up. Earliest recorded dates are between 7<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June (for different values of the Litho printings) and between 2<sup>nd</sup> July and 29<sup>th</sup> August for the line-engraved stamps.

### ***How could an Austrian stamp acquire a Hungarian cancellation?***

- The most probable way is that it was printed for the Kingdom of Hungary, sold and used there while still valid (ie before 1<sup>st</sup> August 1871) and correctly cancelled where it was posted.
- Possible but less likely is a post-1871 stamp issued and used in Austria, not cancelled there, and cancelled on arrival in Hungary. This is not as uncommon as usually supposed, because perception of this is skewed by Vienna, which had the special blank 3-ring cancels for that purpose, with a “1” or other number in the middle. Those are not especially rare, and when you try to estimate how often uncanceled letters were cancelled later, those are a large part of the sample. If a letter wasn’t addressed to Vienna, or didn’t go through it, it may well have been cancelled somewhere else as it went through, or at the destination, and using whatever canceller seemed appropriate.
- It could have been on a Newspaper stamp, which were cancelled on receipt. However the 5kr was not valid for newspaper post.

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<sup>3</sup> It is easy and virtually infallible to sort into the two issues an envelope of Penny Reds and Machins mixed together. But then sorting out either the Penny Reds or the Machins into different types, subtypes, printing dates, shades, flaws etc. is a significant challenge. There are numerous similar sorting challenges in the Classic stamps of Austria. Even a beginner will soon be able to differentiate (say) perf 9½ from perf 14. But there are quite experienced collectors who (for some reason) struggle with line and comb perforations. As for “hand papers” and “machine papers” in the first issue and “coarse whiskers” and “fine whiskers” in the 1867 stamps, an experienced (indeed, a specialist!) collector sorting through a mixed group will be able to easily and confidently sort *most* of the stamps into one category or the other. But you have no need to feel ashamed or defeated if you are left with a small group ‘in the middle’ which look rather like one category in one light and certainly like the other category in another light. Or after a wee dram. But when you look at them again tomorrow, you may not be so sure! Sometimes you can ‘cheat’ and get hints from postmark dates, or study the paper or other printing characteristics (as this article suggests) which may, at last, give confidence that you have correctly categorised this small residue of stamps. But, dear reader, if you tiptoe quietly to your desk in the middle of the night, you may just be able to hear those same stamps giggling as they change from one type to another and then back again.....

- ❑ It could have been on “Paquebot” mail. However Gurahoncz, being in the middle of Transylvania, doesn’t lend itself to this!
- ❑ It could have been on a Post Office Form such as a Paketsbegleitbriefe or a Recepisse. However these are distinctive if the stamp is stuck to a piece.
- ❑ It could have been by fraud, favour, fake, forgery and so on. Or indeed by a postal clerk dreaming of his date tonight with that young milliner....

### **Coarse vs fine whiskers**

The “coarse vs fine” whiskers are a consequence of the printing arrangements, and are not a design feature. The stamps were printed from “plates” comprising 100 individual clichés held within a frame. The plate was placed face-up on the bed of the press; above it were two rollers, a smaller one for the ink and a larger one for the paper. As the plate was traversed forwards and backwards, both rollers rotated. The plate was inked by the smaller roller, the skill of the printer ensuring that neither too much nor too little ink was applied. Meanwhile the paper was gripped to the larger roller (in English called the Impression Cylinder), which as it rotated pressed it on to the just-inked plate, causing the image to be printed. This roller was steel covered by a “make-ready” to allow the raised parts of the plate to press into the paper without creating indentations in the roller. Apart from the recognised subtypes of the 5kr, the differences are reputedly due to the use of felt or soft card as a make-ready under the stamp paper for the “coarse” prints, and a strong paper make-ready under the “fine” or “hard” prints, with variations caused by changes in the stamp paper itself, the make-ready becoming hard with repeated use or absorption of ink, etc etc. **It is not true that all stamps printed before 1874 are coarse-whiskered and all on or after that date fine-whiskered.**

Gary Ryan has pointed out that illustrations of the ‘coarse’ and ‘fine’ prints (such as that given in Michel or Gibbons) “*are an oversimplification and considerable experience is sometimes required to differentiate between the two.*” Study of the paper or the perforations can assist. However, a more reliable guide for the 5kr value is available, by examination of detailed design variations: see below. The first type II appeared in 1872, hence no type II stamps were sold in Hungary.

### **The Ferchenbauer Certificate’s Number**

The certificate refers to “**Ryan No. 574/400**”. However, there are (at least) three Ryan catalogues, and you have to know which issue of which stamp you are looking at in order to ensure you use the correct one! In particular, you have to know that Gary Ryan has proved to the satisfaction of most philatelists that the “First Issue of Hungary” is the coarse printed issue of 1867, printed in Vienna but issued exclusively in and for Hungary. The number 574 for the **GURAHONCZ** cds comes from the “First Issue of Hungary” book, where it is given 400 points for 1868, 1869, 1870 & 1871 dates, 500 for 1867 dates. The cancel in question is recorded between 1866 and 1887, after which it was replaced by various other cancels with the same name; the place was renamed as Honcztó in 1911 and now rejoices in the name Gurahonț in Romania.

### **Traditional Classification of Austrian Stamps**

The “traditional classification” of Austrian Stamp issues may lack logic, in that it separates issues that would be better grouped, combines issues better separated, and omits some issues entirely! But it is too well established to amend. According to Müller it is:

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	1850	Arms in rectangle
2	1858	Kaiser facing left, embossed, in a square
3	1860	Kaiser facing right, in an oval
4	1863	Arms in oval, perf 14
5	1863/64	Arms in oval, perf 9½
6	1867	Kaiser facing right, in a square (coarse or fine)
7	1883	Double eagle
8	1890	Kaiser facing left, in a square: Kreuzer (and also the 1891 octagons)
9	1899	Kaiser facing left, in a square: Heller (and also the 1901, 1904, 1905 & 1906/7 issues)
10	1908	Jubilee issue

So “*the 1867 issue*” is a term used to cover all issues of the “Kaiser facing right, in a square” design, even a stamp printed in 1882!

### ***The types and subtypes of the 5Kr value of the 1867 issue***

The 5kr stamp, of which 1,260,000,000 were printed as it was the inland letter rate, is the only value of this issue which occurs in two different types. The stamps printed from 1872 originate from a new master die, the original having either rusted or worn out. Each type comes in two (some say more) subtypes, identification of which can assist in deciding when, and in which country, a specimen might have been issued or cancelled.

In AUSTRIA 5/14, John F Giblin wrote about the 1867 issue, describing two subtypes of each of types I & II. There were two dies, from each of which two plates were made. In addition, he described the die and cliché preparation process, and tabulated the impression types and paper varieties: see below. He outlined the numerous colour variations, and the even more numerous perforation ones.

In articles in Die Briefmarke, translated into English by Giblin and printed in AUSTRIA 86/9, 87/44 and 88/39, Friedrich Schaffer identifies and describes seven identifiable subtypes. As the series of articles suddenly ceased, Schaffer may well have found more. He expounded on the printing history, the papers used, the flaws etc. However, his ideas do not seem to have been widely adopted. He does observe that the traditional classification of ‘coarse’ and ‘fine’ would be more useful and meaningful if replaced by ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ printing, caused by the use of felt and paper underlay respectively. He adds that, while ‘hard’ printing began at the end of 1874, coarse-looking stamps can be found from printings made up to 1883!

Giblin also translated a German translation of a Hungarian work (AUSTRIA 66/41, 67/38, 68/36, 70/30). It states that all the 5Kr stamps used in Hungary are Type I (defined as below) and identifies three subtypes thereof - but not the same three as Schaffer! Mixed pairs of subtypes are known. Numerous defects can be traced to imperfections in the felt underlay; as the issue was prepared and printed in a hurry there was no time to evolve a better method (eg the ‘hard printing’ introduced later).

### ***Identification of the types according to Ferchenbauer.***

In his Handbook, Dr Ferchenbauer divides the 5kr into two types, each with two subtypes. The distinguishing features occur:

- in the figure “5” itself;
- in the top and bottom corners of the ornament at the bottom left hand corner of the stamp; and
- in the ear.



In Ferchenbauer's <b>Type I</b> the "5" has a bent top; the "5kr." is offset to the right of centre; and the small ornamental piece to its left <u>does not extend</u> into the curl above it.	In Ferchenbauer <b>Type II</b> the "5" has a flat top; the "5kr." is centred; and the small ornamental piece to its left <u>does extend</u> into the curl above it.

Types Ia and Ib are separable by the shape of the ear:

	In <b>Type Ia</b> the ear appears correctly		In <b>Type Ib</b> the ear has an extra line, making the lobe appear separate
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Types IIa and IIb are separable by the shape of the ornament at "8 o'clock":

	In type IIa it is <b>separate from</b> the main ornament.		In type IIb it is <b>joined to</b> the main ornament.
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Other catalogues in common use more or less follow the same pattern:

Ferchenbauer	Michel	ANK	SG
Ia	Ia	Ix	A
Ib	Ib		
IIa	IIa	Iy	B
IIb	IIb	II	C

(which for example means that a stamp with the features of Ferchenbauer Type IIa would be classed by Michel as a IIa, by ANK as a Iy, and by SG as a B) and they record the usage of the types thus:

	Ferchenbauer	Michel	ANK	SG
<b>"Coarse Printing"</b>	37 I Type Ia 37 I Type Ib 37 I Type IIa	37 I Type Ia 37 I Type Ib 37 I Type IIa	37 I Type Ix 37 I Type Iy	AH52 Type A AH53 Type B
<b>"Fine Printing"</b>	37 II Type IIa 37 II Type IIb	37 II Type IIa 37 II Type IIb	37 II	61 Type B 62 Type C

Note that a (Ferchenbauer) Type II can be coarse, but a Type I cannot be fine whatever its whiskers look like! Mixed-type pairs (Ia+Ib, I+II) are known, albeit extremely rare.

**The printing impressions**

(J F Giblin's explanation.) It is usual to divide these impressions merely into 'coarse' and fine', but in fact they may be divided again into four distinct subdivisions. The impression roller was originally covered with a felt layer, but this was found to use too much ink, and in Autumn 1874 it was replaced by a harder roller thought to

be made of either rubber or of a decoupage of paper - more probably the latter. The impressions may thus be divided as in the table.

The table further gives the various changes of paper which were introduced as the printings were required. These changes of paper were not abrupt, but were introduced as needed. The first two types of paper had a sheet watermark "BRIEF-MARKEN" horizontally in the middle over two counter-sheets of 100 stamps each. Paper C of 1883 was similarly watermarked, but with letters which although still 23-24mm high, were now 478mm instead of 428mm long.

Impression	Roller-layer	F's Types	Dates	Paper
Coarse	Felt	Ia (1867) Ib (1870) IIa (1872)	1869-74	A
Intermediate	Felt: slowly hardening	IIa	1874-75	B
Fine	Paper	IIb	1874-83	B
Very Fine	Paper: slowly hardening	IIb	1883-84	C

### Types of Printing Paper:

A - Soft, uniform thickness, rough surface, fairly smooth.

B - Thinner, smoother, rather brittle.

C - Rather thin, hard, smooth, shiny and more brittle.

### Perforation varieties (according to Ferchenbauer)

The 'coarse printing' is always Sheet Perf 9½, except that type IIa also comes in 10½. 'Fine printing' (ie later type IIa and all type IIb) began as 9½, but the enormous demand forced the use from 1877 of line perf machines normally used for revenue stamps. The following line perfs are recorded:

Perf:	9	10½	12	13	9:10½	9:12	9:13	10½:9	10½:12	10½:13	12:10½	12:13	13:10½	13:12
IIa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IIb	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Michel adds that sheet perf 9 was "±¼"; line 9 was 8½-9¾; line 10½ was 10-11; and line 12 was 11½-12½.

### Further reading

More information can be found in Müller's "Specialised Catalogue of Austria 1850-1918", 5<sup>th</sup> edition published in 1952, APS Library item 21. See also Müller (APS Library 68 & 76); Ferchenbauer (APS Library 41); Puschmann (APS Library 240) etc etc. Perhaps the most comprehensive treatment is that by Waschutt (APS Library 52) which covers developments year by year for each value in great detail. All are in German. See also "Bélyegkönyv" etc by Gabor Visnyovszki (in Hungarian, German, & English; reviewed in Austria 124 p52; APS library 306). Gary Ryan's works are in English, although you have to know which issue of which stamp you are looking at in order to ensure you use the correct one!

- **Cancellations of Hungarian P.O.s on Austrian Stamps.** This covers the 1850-1867 issues of Austria. APS Library item 167.
- **Cancellations of Hungarian P.O.s on the First Issue of Hungary.** Vol 1 covers postal history, Vol 2 covers Miscellaneous markings. APS Library item 168A&B.
- **The Rarest Mixed Frankings of Hungary** (ie the 1850/58, 1863-4/7, and 1867/71 issues). APS Library item 241.

# POST PARTNERS

By Joyce Boyer

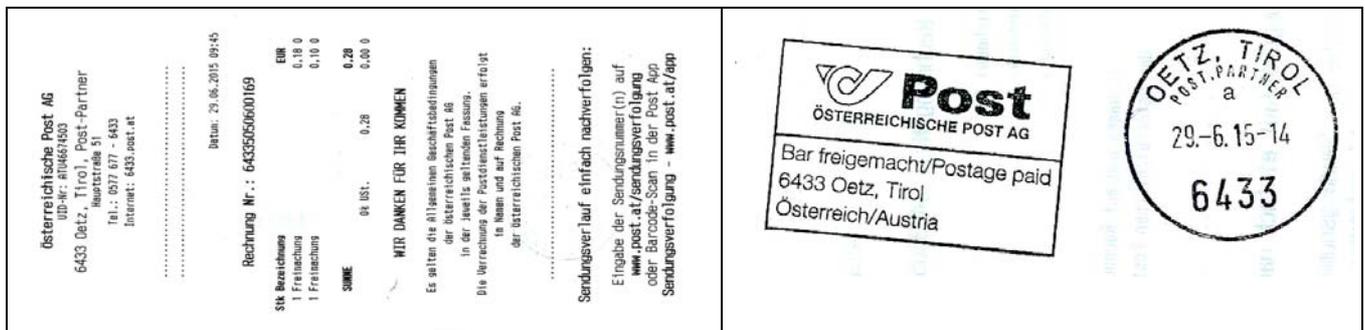
The post office in Oetz was closed in November 2010 a few weeks before it would have marked 150 years of service\*. For full postal services residents had to travel about 5 km to either Oetzthal Bahnhof or Umhausen, whilst for some services there was the Post Partner in Sautens. Visitors to the village are offered stamps to meet basic postage costs by the shops selling postcards.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 a Post Partner opened in Oetz based in the new Gemeindehaus building and was welcomed by residents. During my 2015 holiday I visited on a number of occasions to pay the extra postage needed since postage rates had been increased earlier in the year and I had a supply of stamps of lower value. It was clear that the post office operates separately from the Gemeindeamt although the two staff in the office will deputise for each other if one is absent, if they are free.

As this was a modern office I had expected them to print out a label showing the postage paid and therefore left space for this but discovered that they had a boxed 'Bar freigemacht/Postage paid' hand stamp that was applied together with a single circle hand stamp to cancel the postage stamp. The single circle canceller reads 'OETZ, TIROL POST PARTNER 6433' whilst the boxed stamp has '6433 Oetz, Tirol' with no indication that it is a Post Partner.



A receipt is issued to show the postage paid as part of their accounting system; here is a later-dated one.

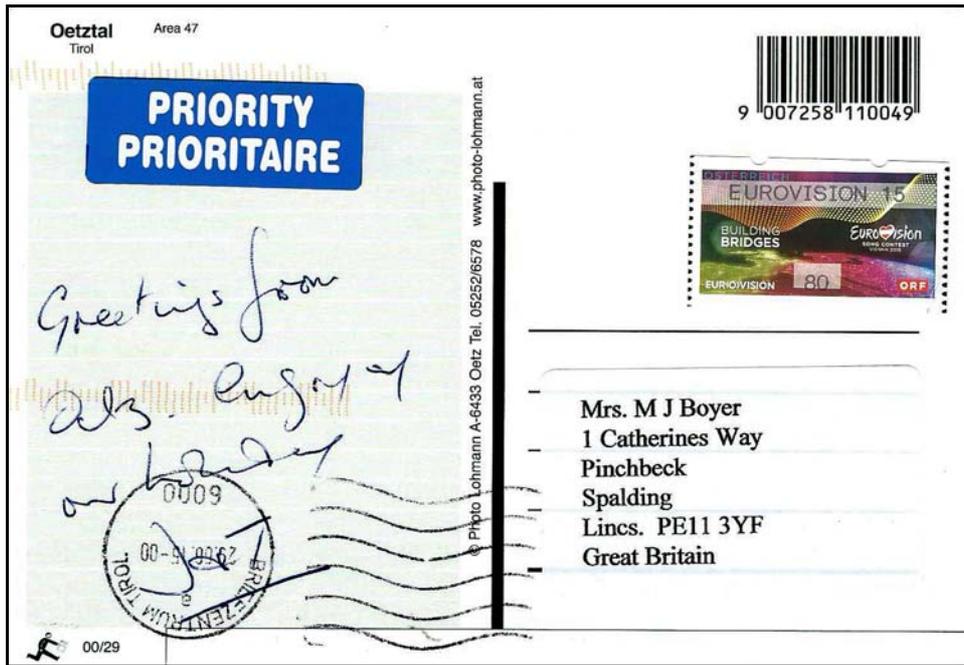


Interestingly, mail posted in the post box outside the building is taken to a central office and receives a meter cancellation consisting of six wavy lines and a single circle cancel reading 'BRIEFZENTRUM TIROL 6000'

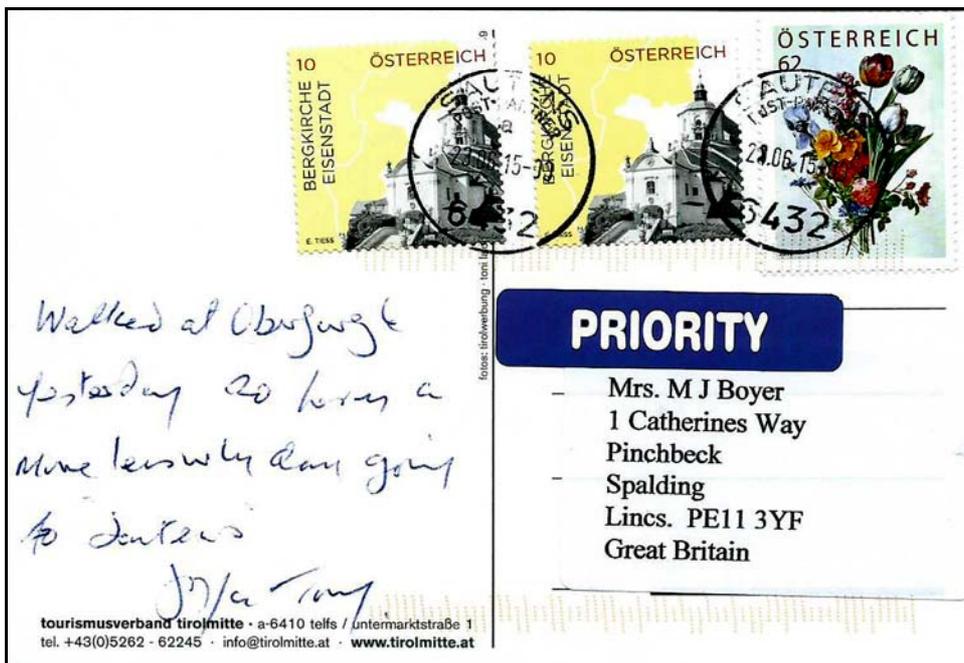


The item is shown below; it is franked with one of the pair of machine stamps that were available for the 2015 Eurovision Contest that was held in Vienna - see Die Briefmarke 4.15, album pages IV/V and XIII

\* This has happened before – the post office in Kub was similarly (mal?)treated. Ed.



A visit to Sautens where other cards were posted resulted in the addition of ‘make up’ postage stamps from the new definitive series resulting in the slight overpayment of postage\*.



This year I did not visit either Längenfeld or Obergurgl, both of which used a label last year to record additional postage.

\* They supply what they have available; you pay the face value of what you get, not the required make-up. Ed.

## Thimble cancellations (ie, a single circle up to 20mm outside diameter)



*The outside diameter of this superb BIALA cancel is exactly 20mm!*

*This article begins with two excerpts from Austria's archives, discussing what "thimble cancels are" and why they were introduced. It then adapts a display by Keith Brandon to provide many examples and details. "Cancel" is used instead of "postmark" mainly because it's shorter.*

### **Andy Taylor wrote in issue 153:**

I was asked: "What is the reason that the small, round, "thimble" cancels were introduced? Did they have any specific use or application or were they used like any other cancelling device?" The longest discussion on Thimble cancels I have found is in Muller's book on the 1867 issue, mainly pp XX-XXII. From that I have prepared the following summary. I have omitted Muller's lengthy analysis of sans vs serif type, and his separation of 20-23mm cancels from 23+mm, which would have added to the familiar ff and f the further designations m & n! The APS proposal to merge all sizes of thimbles into one designation 'F' is logical but found no favour anywhere.

Thimble cancels ("Fingerhutstempel") are single circles with an outer diameter up to 20mm. A new rule was made in 1867 that cancels had to have a year date; this provided the occasion for a new design of canceller, and thimbles were introduced in early 1868 into Austria and those areas (eg the Military Border District) that were at the time under de facto Austrian control. They weren't issued in Hungary. Although no formal ordinance has been found, it seems likely that the thimble design was intended to permit (perhaps even to force) the application of an aesthetically pleasing cancellation to the 1867 issue. Multiple frankings would require multiple cancellations, as the small circle would not cover more than one stamp effectively. The first thimbles were 19-20mm; by the end of 1868 18mm was commonest; in 1869 17mm and even 16mm cancels appeared. Changes in the Language Laws led to the widespread introduction of dual-language cancellations in 1871, which for all but the shortest place-names would not fit inside a small circle. By 1874 thimbles were no longer made.

*Austria 166 contained "Thoughts of a Postmark Collector", musings by Andrew Furst that first appeared in Austria 63, Spring 1983. One thought was:*

Thimble cancels occupy a special position on account of their pleasing appearance and consequent popularity. Perhaps many Austria cancel collectors save only thimble cancels, which would account for their relative scarcity. This would be borne out by Mueller, who applied a multiplier of 2 to 3 on most thimble cancels. But what is a thimble? According to Mueller, almost without exception all handstamps prepared between 1867 and 1872 were thimbles by their appearance, even though the diameter of some were over 20mm. To be able to define a thimble by measure, Mueller arbitrarily chose 20mm, the width of a stamp of the 1867 issue. Interestingly, Votoček chose 21mm as the upper limit for thimbles in his catalogue. But for all intents and purposes we are stuck with Mueller's definition in more ways than one. Some years ago I sent a few cancels to the Herr Generaldirektor, measurably below 20mm, and not listed as thimbles by either Mueller or himself. He returned them with the remark that "through heavy usage or warping often illusions of measurement were created. According to the original impressions of the engraver that Ing. Mueller was still in a position to see and measure, the diameter of the cancels in question was just over 20mm." This has puzzled me ever since. I would have thought through usage some handstamps could spread. How could they get smaller? Would it not rather be a case of a second - and smaller - handstamp having been engraved and put to use?

## The story of the Austrian thimble cancel

If we asked some collectors of Austrian material which was their favourite cancel type, we could be fairly sure that the so-called "thimble" would be at or near the top of the list. What could be more attractive than a well-struck thimble on an 1867 stamp? This popularity arises because the thimble is the only type of cancel that will fit completely on a loose stamp of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Postal historians have mixed feelings, because if this cancel is accurately struck it doesn't tie the stamp to the cover!



Thimble cancels are by tradition defined as single circles with a maximum diameter of 20mm; they are found in all sizes from 16mm to 20mm. Not all of Austria's post offices used thimbles, but some 1700 did. Colour and other variants bring the total to over 2000 different cancels, a large field indeed for a collector seeking 'completion'.

### The introduction of thimble cancels



Until 1867, single-circle cancels were the predominant type, although oval, boxed and others were also used. But in 1867 a number of important events took place:

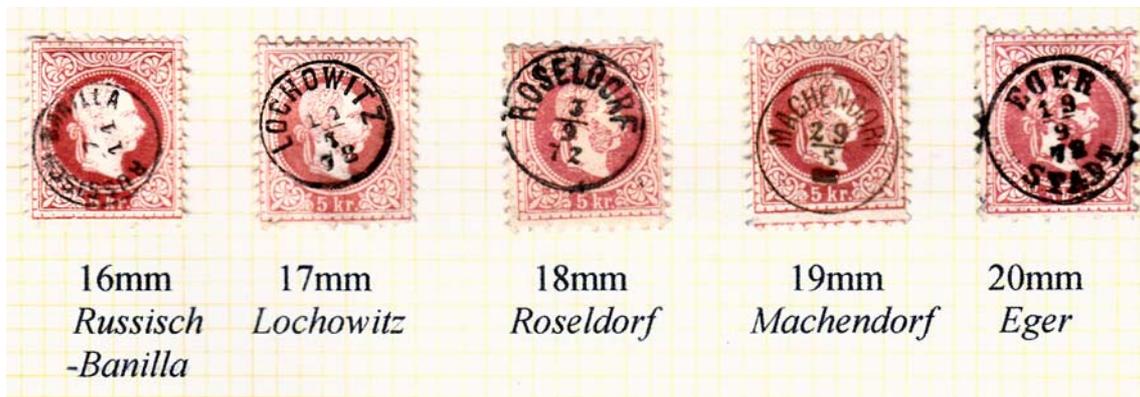
- ❖ On 1 May, the Hungarian postal administration became independent (for Croatia-Slavonia and the Military Border Districts)

- ❖ On 1 June, the first of the Austrian-Hungarian joint-issue stamps were released
- ❖ It was decreed that cancels should include the year in the date, as well as the day and month.

This last event led to the replacement of many cancellers. The single circle remained the most common type, but in Hungary the diameter of the circle was often enlarged to accommodate the year.



Perversely, the Austrian response was the thimble cancel (“fingerhut”), smaller than previous types, and introduced on 1 Jan 1868. It has been suggested that the small diameter was favoured so that a carefully-struck cancel would neatly frame the Emperor’s head, rather than disrespecting it with a large black obliteration.



**Usage of thimble cancels**

They are found on the stamps of the 6<sup>th</sup> (1867), 7<sup>th</sup> (1883), and 8<sup>th</sup> (1890/91) definitive issues, and on contemporaneous newspaper and postage-due stamps. They come from every province, as well as Levant and Liechtenstein.



Levantine Thimbles on Levant stamps!



Thimbles on newspaper and postage-due stamps



Thimbles on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> issues

### Usage in Hungary

This has turned out to be more complex than first thought, and will be dealt with in a later issue

### Croatia-Slavonia and the Military Border Districts

Initially these remained under Austrian control. Croatia-Slavonia transferred to Hungarian administration on 1 April 1868, the Military Border Districts following on 1 Jan 1871. During the brief period of Austrian administration, several offices introduced thimbles – and these remained in use after the transfer.



Military Border District post offices still under Austrian control after 1 May 1867 and introducing thimbles.



Military Border District post offices under Hungarian control after 1 Jan 1871 and still using thimbles.

### Usage in Levant



Wrapper sent unfranked to Milan with **SMIRNE** thimble cds pmk. Stamped 7 (dicesimi) to pay, with Italian 30c and 40c postage dues applied and cancelled in Milan. **BRINDISI** transit postmark.

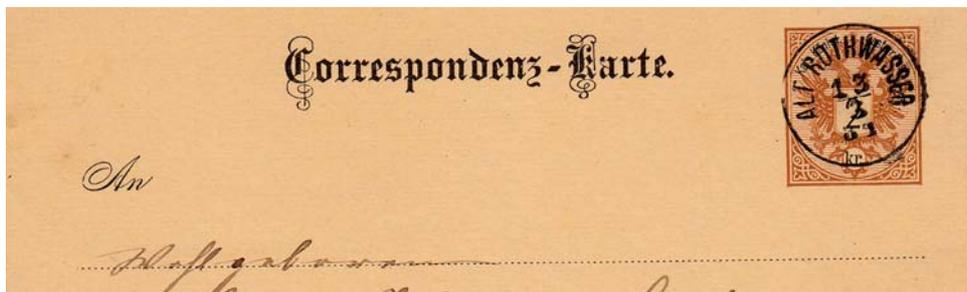


### Examples from APS auctions

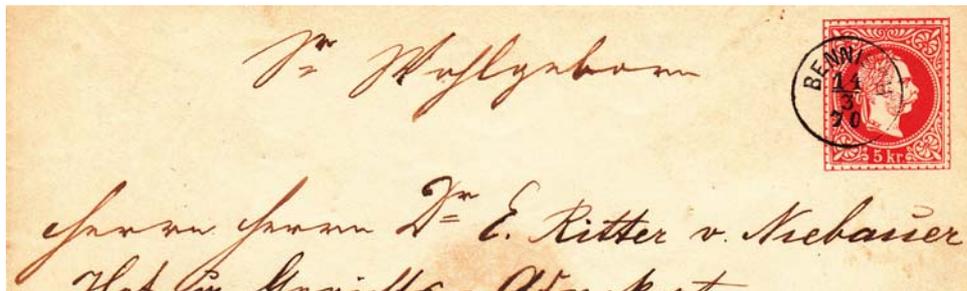
[The legend is "(auction-number slash lot- number) description". Only the top part is shown.]



(107/139) ALT-KARLSTHAL on 2kr 1883 psc



(107/141) ALT ROTHWASSER on 2kr 1883 psc.



(107/143) BENNISCH on 5kr pse



(107/147) BIELITZ BAHNHOF on 2kr yellow psc.



(107/183) GROSSHERLITZ on 2kr psc



(107/185) HENNERSDORF IN SCHLESICIEN on 2kr psc.



(107/187) HERMANSTADT / SCHLESICIEN on 5h adhesive on env to Prague.



(110/077) OBER-THOMASDORF / b. FREIWALDAU on 1883 imprint 2kr psc.



(115/089) BLUDENZ on 2kr yellow psc to Feldkirch.



(124/108) STOROZYNETZ on 2kr psc to Brunn.

Finally, two examples from Hans Smith's "The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant".



Scutari



Vidin

## THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, contact the [Librarian](#). If paying by Paypal remember to add **their 4.5% fee**. NOTE: If you pay by credit card, it will appear as “Modelmania” on your card statement.

### 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 19.10. 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.
- ❖ “**Rohrpost**” – **the pneumatic post in Vienna**. Second completely revised edition, now in web-site format in full colour with numerous added appendices. ISBN 978-0-900118-10-4.

### 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 £5, 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.
- ❖ **Ties** are available in blue from the Librarian: ties £6.75; **cravats (the last one!) also £6.75**.
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## World Stamp Show New York

All the Austrian & selected UK entries

Medal	Exhibit Title	Last Name, First Name	Cry	Class	Frames
LV	Save The Tiger	Findenig, Petra	Austria	10B	3
LG	The Most Important Postal Services in the Town of Hornstein	Gaubmann, Bernhard	Austria	10C	4
G	The World's First Correspondence Card, Its use in Austria, Liechtenstein, in Hungary and in Austrian post offices of Levant	Haslauer, Johannes	Austria	4	8
G	May we Introduce you to...	Hiessboeck, Helmuth	Austria	7A	8
G	From Rocket Mail to Space Mail	Hopferwieser, Walter	Austria	6	8
LV	Civil Austrian Airmail to America in the First Republic	Huethmair, Peter	Austria	5	8
V	Supplement Stamps of Austria to the Euro Introduction	Krondorfer, Ernst	Austria	13	5
G	Postal History of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1813-1900	Marakovic, Nikola Nino	Austria	3C	8
LV	Spacemail	Matejka, Alexander	Austria	6	5
V	The First Space Rocket and its heirs in East and West	Matejka, Jaromir	Austria	6	5
V	From Science-fiction to Science-fact	Matejka, Sandra	Austria	6	5
LV	The Austrian Post in the Levant – 200 Years of Habsburg Interests in the Orient	Schindler, Werner	Austria	3C	8
LG	Letter-Mail from Austria to Italy during the Risorgimento 1848-1870	Schoepfer, Klaus	Austria	3C	8
LS	AAA – All About Automobiles	Spieler, Rudolf	Austria	7C	8
LS	Kingdom of Lombardy – Venetia (1815-1866)	Stepnizka, Heinrich	Austria	3C	8
LS	Silent Hunters of the Night	Wallner, Stefan	Austria	10B	3
LV	German Feldpost 2nd World War	Zodl, Helmut	Austria	2C	5
LS	Czechout Interactive Indexes 1975-2015 (DVD)	Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain	U.K.	11C	Lit
LV	Austrian Post Offices in Bulgaria	Gatti, Idor	U.K.	3C	8
V	Postal Services in the Habsburg Kingdom of Hungary to 1900	Hedley, Bill	U.K.	3C	8
LV	Netherlands East Indies Mail 1789 to 1877	Wheatley, Richard	U.K.	3D	8

## 2016 NEW ISSUES (second instalment)

by Andy Taylor

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 sometimes details on the design. Many issues are also available in mini-sheets, blackprints, 'Buntdrucke' (ie printed in different colours from those issued) and so on. The Austrian Post Shop website [<https://onlineshop.post.at/onlineshop/>] once more contains lengthy descriptions in English of the background and design of each stamp.



**Motorcycles - Puch 125 LM**; 23.03.2016; 500,000; Offset; David Gruber; Enschedé

**500 years of the 1516 postal treaty**; 68c; 02.04.2016; 250,000; Offset; Anita Kern; Enschedé. See also separate article!



**Classic Editions**; 220c+80c; 02.04.2016; 140,000 blocks of 2 stamps; Offset; Anita Kern; Enschedé. See also separate article!

**Austrians in Hollywood - Michael Haneke**; 68c; 04.04.2016; 470,000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé



**Contemporary art in Austria - Erwin Bohatsch**; 80c; 04.04.2016; 250,000; Offset; Erwin Bohatsch / Regina Simon; ÖSD

**250 years of the Wiener Prater**; 80c; 09.04.2016; 250,000; Offset; Gustav Assem; Enschedé



**Classical traditional costumes - Montafon**; 68c; 30.04.2016; 470,000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Anita Kern; Enschedé

**Salzburg celebrates 200 years of being part of Austria** 100c; 30.04.2016; 180,000; combination printing with Etch-Art by OeSD; Anita Kern; ÖSD. See also separate article!



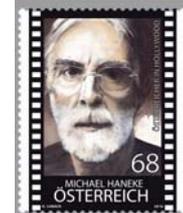
**Shrines of Europe – the Basilika of Mariazell** 80c; 12.05.2016; 265,000; Offset; Marion Füllerer; Enschedé.

**EUROPA 2016 - Think Green**; 80c; 14.05.2016; 250,000; Offset; Doxia Sergidou / Regina Simon; Enschedé



**Postcrossing**; 80c; 21.05.2016; 250,000; Offset; Robert Sabolovic; Enschedé. (*It's an international postcard interchange club*)

**International day of U N peace-keeping troops**; 68c; 29.05.2016; Offset; Anita Kern; ÖSD





**Classical traditional costumes - Scharding;** 68c; 29.05.2016; 470,000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Anita Kern; Enschedé (This tradition dates from 2003!)

**Scharding: 700 years a town;** 80c; 04.06.2016; 250,000; Offset; Karin Klier / Foto Andi Bruckner; Enschedé



**European Football Championship 2016;** 80c; 10.06.2016; 250,000; Offset; David Gruber; ÖSD



**Pietà mit Kreuz;** 6€30; 10.06.2016; 140,000; silkscreen behind glass; Regina Simon / picture from Hinterglasmuseum at Sandl; Neue Wiener Porzellanmanufaktur Augarten GmbH & Co KG. Block Issue. See also separate article!.



**Austrian Sculpture Park Museum Joanneum.** 15.06.2016; 250,000; Offset; Marion Füllerer; Enschedé. The Austrian Sculpture Park in the Styrian town of Unterpremstätten is a very special open air museum. The stamp shows one of the works exhibited there, the concrete boat.

**Religious art in Austria - Madonna with Halo.** 17.06.2016; 180,000; Kombinationsdruck, Offset-Stich (Etch-Art by OeSD); Peter Sinaweil; ÖSD. The parish church in the Upper Austrian municipality of Steyr is home to some artistic and historically valuable glass windows. One of the most important of these is the Madonna with halo.



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## 2016 NEW ISSUES: accompanying essays by Austrian Post

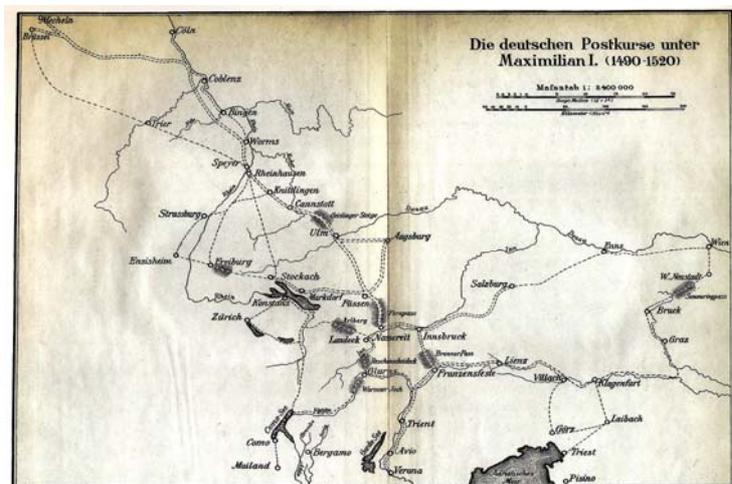
### 500 years of the 1516 postal treaty



The stamp's design shows a courier from the 16th century who is handing over a sealed missive. On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the postal treaty of 1516, Austrian Post is issuing a commemorative stamp to celebrate this historic event. The history of the Austrian postal service starts with Maximilian I, who was the Duke of Burgundy, King of the Romans, Archduke of Austria and subsequently Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. Maximilian chose Innsbruck as the site of his main residence and established a continuous courier service between it and the Burgundian Netherlands, where his young son Philip was growing up, and another to the French court, where his daughter lived. Janetto, Franz and Johann Baptista de Tasso, who later changed their names to "Taxis", were engaged to organise this postal service. The missives were transported by couriers on horseback, and the horses were changed at contractually agreed inns along the way.

Maximilian's son Philip, also known as Philip the Handsome, was Duke of Burgundy and later became the King of France. He appointed Franz Taxis – who had now been promoted to the nobility, becoming "von Taxis" – to the post of Master of the Post for Burgundy in 1501. In 1505 a postal treaty was signed which stipulated routes and transportation times, allowing 5½ days for the stretch between Brussels and Innsbruck, or 6½ days in winter, for example. Franz von Taxis was answerable "with life, limb and worldly goods" for the setting up of postal stations and for compliance with the regulations. Today he is considered the founder of the European postal service. After Philip's death Spain passed to his son Charles, who later became Emperor Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire.

In November 1516 Charles signed a new postal treaty with the two postmasters Franz and Johann Baptista von Taxis, which established new postal routes to Rome, Naples, and Burgos and set new transportation times. The couriers could only be used to convey royal missives; the conveyance of private letters was not permitted. Nobody was allowed to operate a postal service without the permission of the Postmaster General. This exclusive imperial postal service, with its headquarters in Brussels, enabled the Hapsburgs to communicate with allies and friends throughout a large portion of Europe in their Empire in which "the sun never sets". Only later did the transportation of private letters come to be tolerated and, eventually, officially sanctioned for economic reasons.



The postal treaties between the ruling household and the Taxis family were what enabled the house of Thurn and Taxis (as they were called after being promoted to the rank of count in 1650) to establish its monopoly in the historic postal service. Incidentally, the Italian name Tasso means badger, but by Germanising it they created the version Taxis. A badger is, however, included in the coat of arms of the Taxis family, which can be seen on the stamp.

*Editorial note: the above article covers some of the same ground as Inger Kuzych's "Before Lemberg: the development of the mail system in central Europe and the beginnings of the postal service in Lwow" which appeared in Austria 182 – and indeed "The Postal Service of the Thurn and Taxis Princes, Descendants of the Tasso Family" from Austria 145 (ex Bollettino Prefilatelico e Storico Postale issue 124.) . However I've included it here, partly to mark the reappearance on the Austrian Post web site of useful articles in English. See also "500 Jahre Europäische Postverbindung: aus Österreichs Postgeschichte ein Kaleidoskop".*

### Classic Editions



With its new “Classic Editions” series, Austrian Post is dedicating itself to the history of the postage stamp and presenting classic stamps issued in the time of the monarchy. On this occasion we are presenting the first Austrian postage stamp, the so-called Austrian arms issue from the year 1850. The postal service as we know it today can essentially be traced back to Emperor Maximilian I, who, in 1490, commissioned the Taxis (later Thurn and Taxis) family with developing a postal network. Couriers on horseback initially delivered only royal missives, with the conveyance of private letters being introduced at a later date. Over the course of the subsequent centuries mail coaches, ships and the railway were also used to transport the mail. The fee for carrying a letter

was paid by the recipient. The complicated and expensive accounting involved necessitated the introduction of a new system in which the costs were paid by the sender upon dispatching the letter. Following more or less unsuccessful trials with prepaid cancels, adhesive labels and postmarks, the first official postage stamp (the British “Penny Black”) was introduced in 1840. The invention of the stamp is credited to Sir Rowland Hill, who undertook a reform of the British postal service in 1839, but similar ideas had already been pursued by the President of the Imperial Chamber of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Laurenz Koshier, and by the Scottish newspaper publisher James Chalmers.



Ten years after the introduction of the first stamp in the world, Austria finally began to issue its own stamps. The first stamp to be issued by the Austrian Empire shows the Austrian coat of arms with the double-headed eagle. Stamps were issued in denominations of 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9 Kreuzer. The stamps for the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia, which also belonged to the Hapsburg Empire, bore the same design in the same colours, but with denominations of 5, 10, 15, 30 and 45 Centesimi. They were valid throughout Austria, whereas the Austrian edition could not be used in Lombardy and Venetia. The date of issue was 1st June 1850.

The stamps were originally printed on hand-made paper with a sheet watermark, but from 1854 onwards they were printed on machine-made, smooth paper with no watermark. At that time the stamps had no perforations, but were cut off the sheet using scissors – the first perforated postage stamps for Austria were the 1858 Franz Joseph issue, which succeeded the Austrian arms issue. There are many variations in the colour and quality of the Austrian arms issue, depending upon how carefully the stamp was cut from the sheet and the kind of paper and printing process used. As the first stamp to be issued by Austria, it is extremely popular with philatelists and collectors today. The mini sheet shows a 2 Kreuzer Austrian issue and a 15 Centesimi stamp from Lombardy-Venetia. The background is a 1 Kreuzer stamp, surrounded by blossoms and oak leaves, just as they are depicted on the stamps.

**Editorial addendum.**

*The first issue is found with numerous variants, which delight (or infuriate) the collector.*

<p><i>The currency was 60kr = 1fl, but the available paper &amp; printing presses couldn't cope with 12x5 or 10x6 layouts. So they had to print 8x8, and use four “St Andrew’s Crosses” to fill up the space. [Sometimes these are found used and cancelled as if they had been stamps!]</i></p>	<p><i>Labour was cheap but materials expensive; and the penalties for error severe. The printing shown at middle (and in B/W at right for clarity) was rejected, and the paper turned over and reprinted-on.</i></p>

## The world's first printed-on-glass stamp



With this glass stamp, Austrian Post is presenting a very special, exclusive stamp and once again showing a great deal of innovative spirit when it comes to stamp design – to date no stamp valid for franking has ever been made out of glass anywhere in the world. The glass stamp is 32x42mm and 2mm thick, and shows one of the famous “Sandlbilder”: a reverse-glass-painted Pietà from the Upper Austrian municipality of Sandl. In reverse glass painting the design is painted on the back of the glass, enabling the front to be cleaned easily, which was a big advantage in the smoke-filled farmhouse parlours of yesteryear. There is a long tradition of reverse glass painting in Sandl. This is because there were many glass works in the nearby Bohemian forests, from which sheets of glass could be acquired easily and cheaply. Glass painting provided peasant families with a welcome additional source of income; during the winter the whole family worked together to produce the mostly religious designs step by step, each member of the family having his or her own particular task e.g. painting in the outlines or filling in the coloured areas. The traditional design of the Pietà (also known as a Vesperbild in German) dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It shows the Virgin Mary weeping over the dead body of her

crucified son, Jesus. She is usually depicted alone, cradling the body of her son in her arms.

The subject of the Mother of Sorrows probably came to Sandl via the devotional images which were supposed to remind believers of Christ's suffering. The reverse glass painting used in this glass stamp comes from the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The painters are unknown; as was usual, the work was a collaborative effort. Particularly noteworthy aspects are the bold colours and the expressive brush strokes, which strongly emphasise Mary's pain and Jesus' suffering. The seven swords in Mary's heart symbolise the seven sorrows of the Mater Dolorosa, the Mother of Sorrows, Mary, whilst the tendrils of flowers below the cross represent the hope which Jesus' sacrifice brings to all people.

The Viennese porcelain manufacturer Augarten is responsible for the time-consuming production of the glass stamp. Every glass blank will be hand-crafted, with all production following ecological principles. The design will be applied to the back of the glass by hand using non-fading pigments and a special silkscreen printing process. The colours will then be heat-treated, thereby ensuring that the design is firmly bonded to the glass and giving the glass a particularly high tensile strength. The high quality, mostly hand-crafted production, the unusual material and the traditional, hand-painted design all make this stamp very special. Folk art and innovative production techniques will thus be combined to produce a very special miniature work of art.

*Editorial comments: The stamp is presented in a cardboard 'wallet'. The face value of 6€30 is the postage on a Maxi International Economy Letter: ie a C4 envelope up to 20mm thick and not over 500 grams; eg a short book. The stamp is supplied affixed to a piece of card to stop it falling out of the wallet. I took the risk of breaking it, and tried to remove the stamp from its packaging. The stamp itself has a circular thing on the back, presumably a sticky pad with a silicone-paper cover. It is held on to the presentation card by two blobs at opposing corners of transparent silicone claggy-stuff, which usually peel off (or at least 95% does). So it could be used – if you dare!*

