

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

John Anthony retired on 31 March as Treasurer (after fourteen years) and Membership Secretary (after ten years). The Society is indebted to him for his long and efficient service in these low-profile but crucially important roles.

The Committee has asked Andy Taylor to take on the Treasury and Nick Coverdale to become Membership Secretary, in addition to their existing roles. I'm afraid that once again this demonstrates that fewer and fewer Officers are taking on more and more of the Society's work, and none of them is getting any younger. We won't be able to continue like this indefinitely. Could you put in a little time to help your Society remain vibrant and prosperous? Please have a chat with any of the Officers to see how you could help.

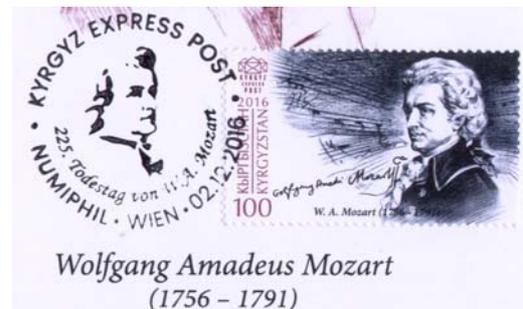
Keith

## Editorial 197

**Note! The APS Paypal arrangements changed on 1 April 2017. Details on page 2**

A book review in "Stamp Lover" observes that "...the book is free to download from the internet (a grandchild can help with this if necessary)". One is never too old to learn; remembering, however, is a different matter.

Mozart lives on! Surprisingly, I can't find any Austrian commemoration of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's death, but on 8 September Kyrgyzstan issued an adhesive stamp, in the set "The Anniversaries of Great Musicians". Mozart looks rather apprehensive, perhaps because the other three stamps marked birth anniversaries while his was for his death. The stamp was available with a Numiphil cancel in Vienna last December, the actual anniversary being on December 5<sup>th</sup>.



Grumble corner... I see that fluorescent highlighter has replaced the biro as the UK's preferred dumb canceller ☹

Grumble #2: Some computing on the "2016 new issues list" suggests that "one of each" will cost 82.21 Euro. Agreed, 21€62 of that is the new definitives; however there will be other items added later. I could have an extended Numiphil-weekend, dine at Pürstners every night, and spend less!

We say goodbye to ex-member Carli Corrado from Trieste, whose death on 22 November 2016 was announced by his daughter, Federica; and to Michael Hampson, stalwart of the Yugoslavia Study Group.

Note the advertisement for a new Auctioneer in the newsletter.

## Index to "Austria"...

There is an Index to the contents of "Austria" at <http://www.austrianphilately.com/ausmag/subject.htm> It needs improving, or even better doing afresh! One known problem is that many of the articles' titles give no clue to the contents; while the "subjects" are too specific and too numerous. Anyone with ideas on how it should be arranged is invited to contact the editor. Unusually, those who do so will NOT be required to implement their suggestions (although if they'd like to every assistance will be provided).

**Andy Taylor**

## CHANGE OF OFFICIALS AND PAYMENT METHODS

John Anthony, who has been Treasurer since 2003 and added the Membership Secretary role in 2007, retired from these offices at the end of March. The Society is most grateful to him for these many years of service.

The Committee met on Saturday 18 March and made the following co-options under Rule 11, to take effect on the first of April 2017:

- Membership Secretary - Nick Coverdale. He also continues in office as Secretary.
- Treasurer - Andy Taylor. He also continues in office as Editor.

PLEASE NOTE that all paypal payments must now be made to [andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk](mailto:andy@kitzbuhel.co.uk) remembering to annotate your payment with "who from and what for". Please make your payment in sterling – **and please add 4.5% to cover Paypal's charges to us.** More details at bottom right of the inside back cover.

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### ***Tiroler Werbestempel***



Our member Dr Hans Moser and a colleague are preparing a new edition of the Philatelistenklub Merkur Innsbruck book on Tiroler Werbestempel – the circular ‘advertising’ and the beside-the-date-slogan cancels. Anyone with a box, collection or envelope of these

is invited to contact the Editor, who has a copy of the 2007 edition and can check if your specimens are known or new. You’d need to provide a scan – descriptions-in-words don’t really work – and if at all possible the cancel’s date.



authors. Most entries deal with previously-unrecorded cancellation colours or issue-usage. The book is of excellent production quality.

## The Society's Library - Use it or Lose it

**I** took over the library at the end of 2000 and have enjoyed my time as librarian sending out books as requested but also corresponding with, talking to, and helping members with their library problems. I have indicated to the committee that I would like to retire from this position by 2020 and the question of my successor will need to be considered by them. If you would like to volunteer for the position please contact me for more information.

We currently have over 450 books in the APS library occupying some 10 meters [35 feet] of shelf space. Members should have/had a copy of the library list – in general the 2008 edition but newer members have a later version. An up-to-date version is available on the APS website.

Of the books held, many have never been out of the library - possibly because they are in German or another language other than English. A number must also be regarded as out-of-date or possibly replaced by a recently issued book - Perfins is one example of this.

Your committee is currently reviewing the books held in the library with a view to reducing the overall number [and shelf space needed!] concentrating on out-of-date and un-used books held when I took over.

May I encourage members to use the services of the library if we are to avoid this valuable asset being lost to current and, perhaps more importantly, future members.

The APS pays the outgoing post on all loans up to a maximum of £4.50 which covers most of the books. A loan is initially for one month but is generally extendable on request unless another member asks for the book.

**PLEASE use your library!**

Joyce Boyer, Librarian

## Research Notes

During the summer of 2016 I received an enquiry about our book Dalmatia and whether any further volumes had been published. I put the enquirer, now a member, in touch with Martin Brumby and understand that they have been in correspondence and exchanged research notes.

I am aware that following the death of some members we have lost their expertise and any research notes they had may have been sold either completely or in sections or just discarded.

I have received an offer from a member who acquired some of the late Henry White's Vienna papers to deposit a copy of his [the members] research notes when completed but it will take some time before they arrive.

This has caused me to think about the papers I have - maybe I should transcribe Henry's handwritten pages detailing the postage rates applicable for mail posed in Kleinwalsertal to preserve these in one document for future members - the information is available in the library if you know in which book(s) to look.

Your committee has agreed that any member may deposit a copy of their research notes with the library for use by current and future members. Details of any papers lodged in the library will be recorded. With the members approval such research notes could be made available on the APS website, transferred to a CD, or published in a future edition of Austria.

If you are interested in depositing your research notes in the library or on the website please contact either me or Andy Taylor.

**Joyce Boyer, Librarian.**

*Library notes continue at foot of next page* 

## THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, contact the Librarian. If paying by Paypal remember to **add their 4.5% fee**. NOTES: (1) If you pay by credit card, it will appear as “Modelmania” on your card statement. (2) **the Librarian has a new email address** – [library@austrianphilately.com](mailto:library@austrianphilately.com) Her old one no longer works.

### 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 cleaned-up pictures of the original pages, not searchable text. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-08-1.
- ❖ “**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+162pp. 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, still current. 298 sides of A5, spiral bound, with appendix of abbreviations. Price **£20**.
- ❖ *To all these add P&P. For GB: Levant £5, all other books £3. 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 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.

### Library changes continued...

**New library book**. Number 469: “*Die Oesterreichische Levantepost in Bulgarien (Staatspost, Lloyd, DDSG) philatelistisches Handbuch und Katalog*” Dr. sc. Georgi Popov. 80 pages in German, published in 2015. Includes a list of towns, the cancellations used, all illustrated, with prices.

**Supplement to Nr 174**. Zivilpost-Zensur in Oesterreich-Ungarn 1914-1918 – First up-date by Oscar Schilling. Printed in German, 126 pages published 2016. “It does what it says on the cover, providing amendments and new finds to the 3rd edition of the book.”

**Removal**. Book 19 has been withdrawn since it is duplicated as 386 and 387 which are in better condition.

## Book Reviews

The front covers of the books are illustrated on the back cover of this issue!

**“Österreichische Postämter erzählen Geschichte(n)”** by Wolfgang Schubert, published by the author, Wien 2016. 140 pages, in German, softback, illustrated in colour. Reviewed by Keith Brandon.

The title translates as “Austrian post-offices that tell a story”, and he gives a page or two for each of sixty-eight offices which have an additional interest because of their geographical, historical or other special situation. Included are offices in royal palaces; exhibitions and congresses; tourist attractions, spas and mountain-huts; parliamentary and military establishments; business and infrastructure locations; and post-offices in geographical enclaves (such as Neum and Jungholz).

The book is well-illustrated, but some ability to read German is necessary to properly understand it. As far as I can see, there is nothing in this book that is newly-discovered; Schubert credits Wikipedia with most of the background information, and the illustrations are partly drawn from other books he has written. However, it is an imaginative selection of stories. If, like me, you are interested in special post-offices, it is a good €20 worth.



**“Four Important Exchange Offices”** by James van der Linden RDP, published by La Marque Postal, 2016. 72 pages, in English, hardback, illustrated in colour. Reviewed by Keith Brandon.

The full title is “Four Important Exchange Offices handling world’s international postal relations, 19th century - Panama, Alexandria, Aachen and Trieste”. The four locations selected were the “pinch-points” through which a high proportion of international mail were exchanged between nations and shipping lines. Two of them, Alexandria and Panama were the focus of mail travelling between two oceans, initially overland and then through the Suez and Panama canals. The first half of the book deals with such mail.

The second half of the book deals with international mail passing in and out of Continental Europe through Aachen and Trieste. A considerable amount of Austrian international post followed these routes, and this half of the book is likely to be the main interest to Austrian collectors, particularly students of Trieste.

The whole book is invaluable in explaining the complexities of the rate-markings found on these letters, with extensive use of actual covers to explain them. The information is based upon extensive digging in the archives, with postal-treaties explained, and good usage of clear maps of the routes. We English-speakers are very lucky that the author has chosen to publish this book in our language! The book is likely to be of interest to Members with interests in international mail in to, out of and in transit through the Austrian Empire; the Austrian post-office in Alexandria; ship-mail and the postal history of Trieste.



**“Austro-Hungarian Cruisers and Destroyers”** by Ryan Noppen, illustrated by Paul Wright, published by the Osprey Publishing, Oxford, 2016. 48 pages, in English, softback, illustrated in colour. Reviewed by Keith Brandon.

I am the last person to review this book because it is not a subject I collect! However, I know that many of our Members are interested in the exploits of the Austrian Navy, and I wanted to ensure that they were aware of this informative work in the English language.

The first half of the book features each Kriegsmarine ship within each class of vessel. The specifications and armaments are given for each ship along with its history. Many of the vessels are accompanied by both detailed technical illustrations (with cutaway artwork) and by real contemporary photographs. The second half of the book details the operational involvement of the cruisers and destroyers in the various sea-battles of the First World War, well-illustrated with photographs and contemporary war-paintings.

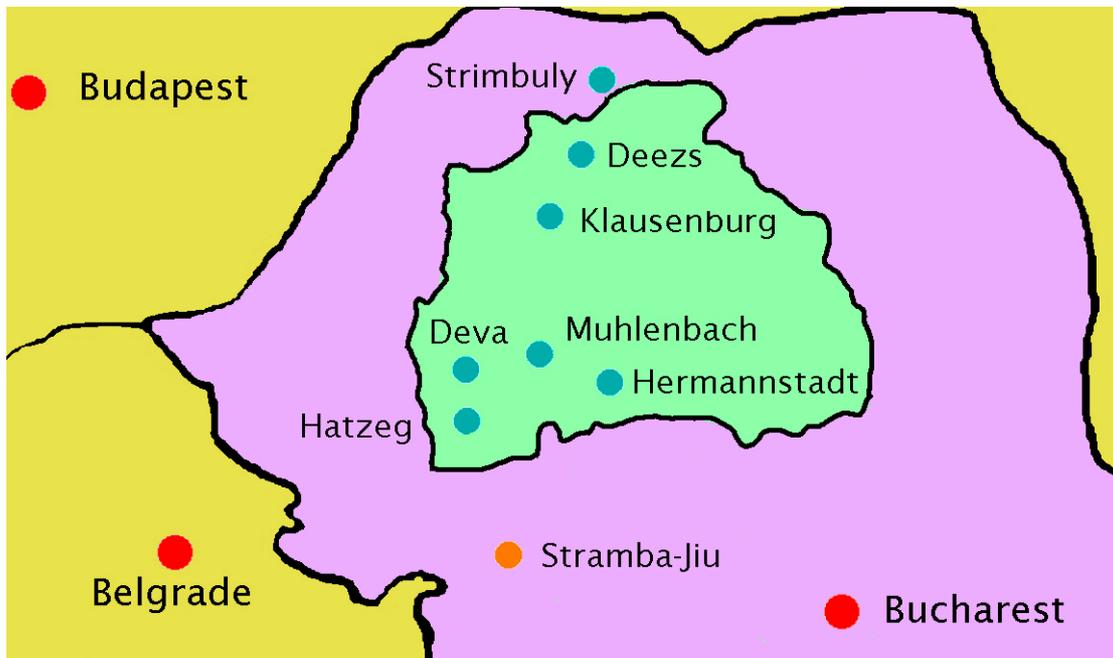
The book is available from Osprey Publishing on line or through book-shops for £10.99. I note that they have also published a sister-volume on Austro-Hungarian Battleships, which may also be of interest to Members.



Putting all the postmarks in date order provides the following route:

Nr	DATE	POSTMARK	NOW
	27 March	WIEN	
1	1 April	HERMANNSTADT	SIBIU
2	2 April	DEVA	DEVA
3	4 April	HATZEG	HATEG
4	6 April	DEVA	DEVA
5	8 April	HERMANNSTADT	SIBIU
6	9 April	DEVA	DEVA
7	10 April	MÜHLENBACH	SEBEŞ
8	12 April	KLAUSENBURG	CLUJ-NAPOCA
9	13 April	DEEZS	DEJ
10	--	[STRIMBULY]	STRÂMBU-BĂIUȚ

All these places (apart from Vienna!) were in the Austrian province of Transylvania, and are today in Romania. The town-names used in the postmarks were German or Germanised, and the last column above shows the current Romanian names.



The lilac area is (part of) the territory of today's Romania. Within it, the green area was Transylvania during the Austrian Empire time, when our letter was sent.

The journey started, as one would expect, from Vienna to the provincial head post-office at Hermannstadt. Then it all went wrong, and the letter bounced between Hermannstadt and Deva before heading off in a new direction. Why? I embarked upon a philatelic journey of my own to retrace the letter's path.

Locating Strimbuly was not easy, and I started to understand why the head-post-office in Hermannstadt would have problems. Through Google and Wikipedia I found a location now known as Strâmbu-Băiuț, which turns out to be a pit-village in a mining area centred on Cavnic, 14km away. So far, so good; we have a mining connection! It is situated in northern Romania, and has a population today of around 700. In fact it lay just outside Transylvania, in Maramures County, part of Hungary at the time. This no doubt contributed to Hermannstadt's confusion.

Strimbuly opened its own post office in 1857 also known by its Hungarian name, Horgospataka. The village also had mid-nineteenth spellings of Strimbulu, Sztrimbuly and Sztrimbu. The difficulties in delivering the letter become clearer; not just alternative spellings, but conflict between different nations and ethnic groups, each wanting to use its own language.

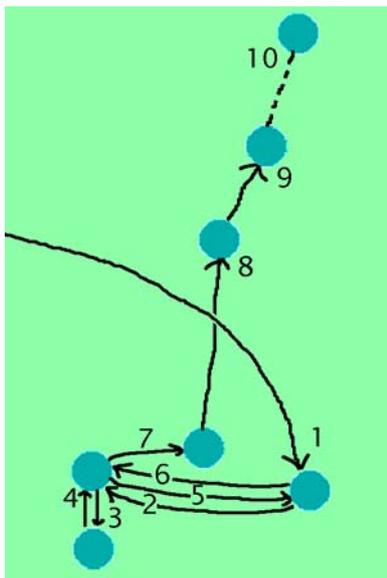
We have to remember that Transylvania had a significant minority of Saxon German immigrants, who spoke German. In addition, the Postal Directorate in Vienna encouraged the use of German / Germanised town names for mail throughout the Empire. But there was also a large ethnic Hungarian population in Transylvania, and, after the 1867 “Compromise” between Austria and Hungary, the province was administered by Hungary. Behind all that were the Romanian majority with an obvious preference for the old Romanian names.

This is mirrored in the names of the village in question. STRIMBUL in Romanian means something that is not straight, and the Google satellite-view confirms that Strâmbu-Băiuț is in fact on the bend of a river. The word is spelt STRAMBUL in the modern Romanian orthography. The first postmark of the office was STRIMBULY, recorded by Gudlin from 1857 to 1869, when the office and postmark adopted the Hungarian name HORGOS PATAKA (which translates as “crooked stream”).

In the early twentieth-century, the Hungarian Government unilaterally renamed Romanian places whose names bore any connection with German, Romanian or Serbian identity, and our “crooked brook” was re-titled Kohóvölgy (or “Furnace Valley”). Márfa and Szép record a KOHÓVÖLGY cancel from 1911 onwards.

The modern name, Strâmbu-Băiuț, means Strâmbu near Băiuț, to differentiate it from other places with similar names. Băiuț in fact comprises three villages: Băiuț itself, Poiana Botizii and Strâmbu-Băiuț. The crooked brook has re-established itself!

Returning to 1855, before Strimbuly had its own post-office, the nearest office for mail from the south would have been Deezs, which is why the trail of postmarks on the letter from Vienna ended there. It seems certain that we have located the right Strimbuly, and that the Hermannstadt postal administration eventually did too, sending the letter north through Mühlenbach and Klausenburg to Deezs.



The number on each arrow is that of the destination, as listed in the table above.

The question remains of why the head post-office sent the letter to Deva twice. They must have had a destination in mind, and I have found a likely candidate. In southern Romania, in Gorj county, is a village named Strâmba-Jiu. The Holy Trinity Monastery there (founded in 1597) was perhaps better-known in Hermannstadt than the northern pit-village, but neither is in Transylvania.

The postal route from Hermannstadt to Strâmba-Jiu would indeed have gone to Deva and then south to Hatzeg. At the first attempt, it seems that the letter got as far as Hatzeg, who realised the mistake and returned it to Deva who sent it back to Hermannstadt. The odd thing is that none of the offices concerned wrote on the cover the reason for redirection, or suggestion for an alternative destination. The Hermannstadt and Deva offices unhelpfully exchanged the letter twice in each direction without comment.

The letter should correctly have been addressed to *Strimbuly, Ungarn*, rather than *Strimbuly, Siebenburgen*. Then it would never have been bagged to Hermannstadt, but would have gone from Budapest to Nagy Banya (Baia Mare) and would have reached Strimbuly from the west without need to enter Transylvania.

#### Acknowledgments:

My thanks to Octavian Tăbăcaru for help with the Romanian orthography, to Martin Brumby for reviewing the article, and to Andy Taylor for help with the maps.

The postmark handbooks referred to are:

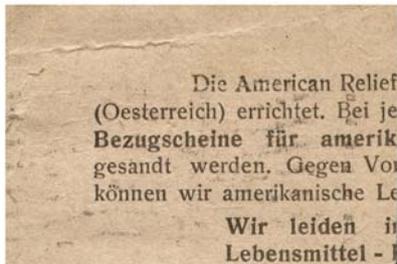
T. Gudlin - “*The Classic Postmarks of Hungary*”,

A. Márfa & E. Szép - “*The postmarks of the Hungarian Post Offices and Postal Agencies, 1871-1920*”.

## Post-WWI famine relief in Austria

by N I Karborundstein

Immediate are my needs, and my relief, Must not be toss'd and turn'd to me in words, But find supply immediate. (*Timon of Athens* II.1). For this relief much thanks. (*Hamlet* I.1)



Why does this piece have both Austrian and British stamps – and what was “American Relief...” anyway? It all goes back to the Treaty of Saint Germain<sup>1</sup>, which established today’s Austria while setting strict limits on what it could and could not do.

Austria in 1919 had great debts, little assets, few jobs, hordes of redundant bureaucrats and manual workers – and in particular insufficient coal and food (there had been a severe famine in 1918) and no money to buy any. Claims for war reparations far exceeded assets. Furthermore, the surrounding countries, mindful of real and perceived past injustices, saw no reason to assist their former rulers by selling them food or fuel. The new Austria had a population of some 7½ million of whom one-third lived in Vienna. Various organisations, notably the Quakers, were striving to rescue the children in Vienna, whose plight had attracted particular international attention, taking them out of Austria even as far as northern Sweden so that they might have better care and food.

It was generally concluded that the Peace Treaty had placed Austria in an impossible position, even with the incorporation in 1921 of the Burgenland which one Minister had described as “Vienna’s garden”. The cry arose “Something had to be done” instead of politicians scoring points off each other or promising little and delivering less. Enter the League of Nations, and Herbert Hoover who was then chairman of the American Relief Administration, the 1918 counterpart to World War II’s United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Hoover arranged for international loans, persuading the western allies that it was in their interests to prevent a starving Austria turning to communism; and also arranged for the shipment of food.

One aspect of the American Relief Administration activities was to create a system whereby people in Austria could send post- or letter-cards to anyone they knew in America. Several varieties of these cards exist. The card invited the recipient to send an “American Relief Warehouse food draft”, which could then be presented at the Warehouse. The text points out that food parcels addressed to private individuals normally don’t arrive, and it is pointless sending money as there is no food on sale.

The decorated letter card (inscribed Post Card) is franked 80 heller and cancelled NEW YORK 1920; it also has a faint Dec 27 arrival cancel. The postcards (sent to the author as B/W photocopies) are franked 40 heller; one is dated 25 Feb 1920 and the other is uncanceled. These frankings are compatible with the foreign postcard rates (40h from 15 Jan to 14 Apr 1920, then 80h). It is quite likely that these cards would be shipped in bulk from Vienna to America and cancelled on arrival, so the New York cancel is explicable. However, no reason has been found for a 50 heller franking (50h was the inland postcard rate) supplemented by a British one penny! It is vaguely the colour of the 30h needed to make up 50h into the foreign rate...

<sup>1</sup> The Treaty of Saint Germain was signed on 10 Sept 1919 and effective about a year later. Plain-text English-language versions are available in the Australian repository; a parallel-text page-image French and German version is in the Austrian Staatsgesetzblatt, pp 995-1245; and an English page-image version (and the map) exists on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office database. Fully-clickable versions of the links to these are on the APS web site at <http://www.austrianphilately.com/saintgermain.htm>

Liebe Verwandte! Mein Brief war im 1850ten Jahrgang  
 der Wiener Zeitung in Wien Persönliche Mitteilungen: in Verbindung mit Herrn  
 in. Lind nach Amerika ent. Er war ein Sohn des ungarischen  
 Grafen Joseph Heugebauer gebornen Pranter. - Ich bin seit  
 5 Jahren zum 2. Mal verheiratet u. habe 3 Kinder im Alter  
 von 1 Monat bis 4 Jahren. - Infolge der unruhigen  
 Befindens ist mir in einer sehr unbilligen Lage u. bitte Sie  
 für meine lieben 3 Kinder ein Weihnachts-Dollarpaket  
 zu senden. Nach Erhalt dieses folgt eine entsprechende Beschriftung  
 über Herrn Joseph Heugebauer Verwandte. Freyhergasse in  
 Wien in der 1. Zone u. in der 1. Zone  
 Max Heugebauer Direktor i. R.



Printed by J. Weiner, Vienna

### Weihnachts-Dollarpakete!

Schon seit zehn Monaten werden von den American Relief Administration  
 Warehouses in Österreich Lebensmittelpakete an Inhaber von Lebensmittel-Bezugs-  
 scheinen ausgefolgt. Bei jeder Bank in den Vereinigten Staaten oder deren Filialen  
 in Südamerika, Zentral-Amerika und Canada können Lebensmittel-Bezugscheine  
 (\$ 1000 und \$ 5000) für amerikanische Lagerhäuser gekauft und uns nach Wien  
 gesandt werden. Gegen Vorweisung dieser Bezugscheine in den amerikanischen  
 Lagerhäusern in Österreich können wir besondere Weihnachtspakete beziehen,  
 welche außer der bisher gelieferten Lebensmittel auch Kakao und Zucker enthalten.

Auch dieser Herbst findet unsere Ernährungslage  
 nicht günstiger als vorher und die Aussichten für  
 Weihnachten können wenig Hoffnung verheißen.

Helft unser Weihnachtsfest verschönern, indem Ihr einen Lebensmittel-Bezug-  
 schein für amerikanische Lagerhäuser an uns sendet.

Max Heugebauer Direktor i. R.  
 (Vor- und Zuname)

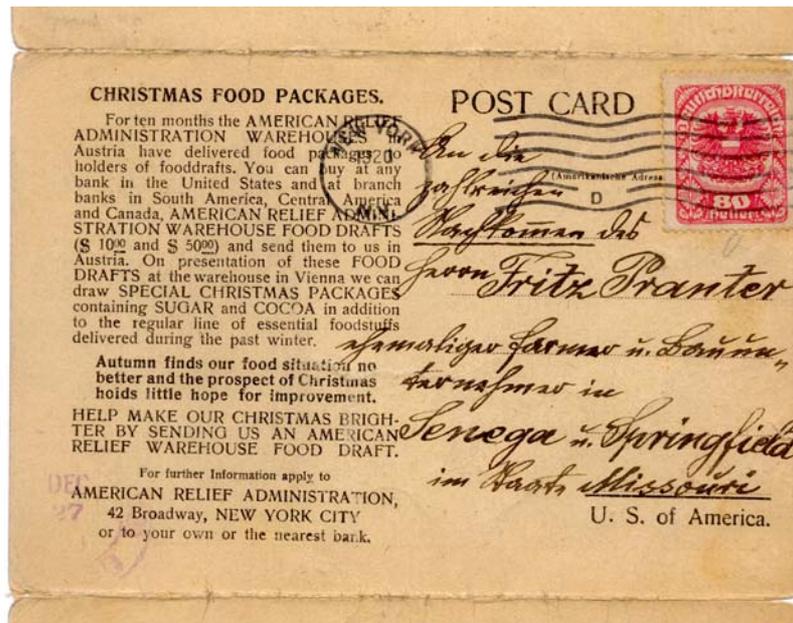
Jakobingasse Nr. 38, II. Stock  
 (Bezirk, Straße und Nummer)

Graz, Steiermark.  
 (Ort und Land)

Nähere Auskünfte bei der  
 AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION,  
 42 Broadway, NEW YORK CITY  
 oder bei Eurer eigenen, oder der nächsten Bank.

WICHTIG: Name und Adresse müssen leserlich und  
 ungekürzt geschrieben sein.

Letter-card, cancelled New York 1920: the message side. Item printed by J Weiner, Vienna.



Letter-card: the address side. (How to get from Graz to Vienna, and return safely with a food parcel, is not stated!)

### A little history...

*Herbert Hoover's memoirs* give an idea of the enormous scale of the problems.

*...The peacemakers had done about their best to make it a foodless nation. ... [Austria] had for a few hundred years subjected the Croats, Serbians, Slovenes, Czechs, Slovaks and Poles to cruel tyranny and it was hardly to be expected that they would give her enthusiastic cooperation. Her neighbors at the beginning cut off all the natural flow of food and coal by way of reminder of past sufferings. Austria's sudden conversion to liberal government did not wipe out the hates overnight. ... There was a national bank gold reserve of about \$M40, of which 80% was claimed by the other succession states. There was \$2M or \$3M of gold exchange in the private banks, but this constituted about all the assets except the pictures in the galleries. ... they needed \$100M worth of food to get through to the next harvest.*

An Austrian-Allied meeting in Berne on December 24, 1918 discussed the food situation. Everybody agreed that Austria was starving, could not feed itself, and desperately needed food; however it had no realisable assets. It also emerged that **the French wanted it understood that Austria must not join Germany**. This was duly fed back to the peace negotiations in Paris, and led to the forbidding of "Deutschösterreich".

*... The food operation was indeed a race against both death and Communism. Doing the best we could we never had ten days' supply of food on hand in Vienna. It was expected that the Communists would try to seize the government on May Day 1919. I authorized the authorities to post the city walls with a proclamation containing a statement signed by me that "Any disturbance of public order will render food shipments impossible and bring Vienna face to face with absolute famine." Things passed off quietly. Again, a Communist crisis arose when Hungary went Bolshevist. But fear of starvation held the Austrian people from revolution.*

Hoover summarised the actions taken to postpone imminent starvation and collapse. *Food came from (thousands of tons) United States 613; United Kingdom 12; Italy 66; Yugoslavia 34; Czechoslovakia 40; Switzerland 12; Hungary 9; Netherlands 3; plus others, making a total of 787 thousand tons in the Relief Administration period. It was paid for (all in million U S Dollars in 1919) by 'Child Feeding' charity from USA 11; cash paid in USA 5; loans from USA 72; from UK 16; from France 6; from Italy 1; plus commodity exchange with other countries equivalent to Italy 21; Czechoslovakia 10; Hungary 1; Yugoslavia 2; Switzerland 2. The total expenditure was 145 million U S Dollars.*

**André Stohmann**  
 05 WIEN  
 III., Linke Bahngasse 13

**POST CARD**

The American Relief Administration has established an AMERICAN RELIEF WAREHOUSE in Vienna, Austria. You can buy at any bank in the United States AMERICAN RELIEF WAREHOUSE FOOD DRAFTS and send them to us in Vienna. On presentation of these FOOD DRAFTS at the warehouse in Vienna, we can draw AMERICAN FOOD.

We are in great need of food in Austria. Individual food parcels sent from America usually do not reach us. Money does us no good when there is no food to buy.

HELP US IN OUR DISTRESS BY SENDING AN AMERICAN RELIEF WAREHOUSE FOOD DRAFT — QUICKLY!

For further information apply to AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION, 115 Broadway, NEW YORK CITY or to your own or the nearest bank.

*P. T. The*  
*C. E.*  
*Hessman Stamp Co*  
*Olive Street 2600*  
*St. Louis*  
*Mo. U.S.A.*

10 W I E N  
 25 H  
 30 H  
 213

J. Weiner, Vienna

(over)

Die American Relief Administration hat ein amerikanisches Warenhaus in Wien (Oesterreich) errichtet. Bei jeder Bank in den Vereinigten Staaten können Lebensmittel-Bezugscheine für amerikanische Warenhäuser gekauft und uns nach Wien gesandt werden. Gegen Vorweisung dieser Bezugscheine im Warenhaus in Wien können wir amerikanische Lebensmittel beziehen.

Wir leiden in Oesterreich großen Nahrungsmangel. Lebensmittel-Pakete von Einzelpersonen in Amerika kommen meistens nicht an. Was nützt uns Geld, wenn wir dafür keine Nahrungsmittel kaufen können!

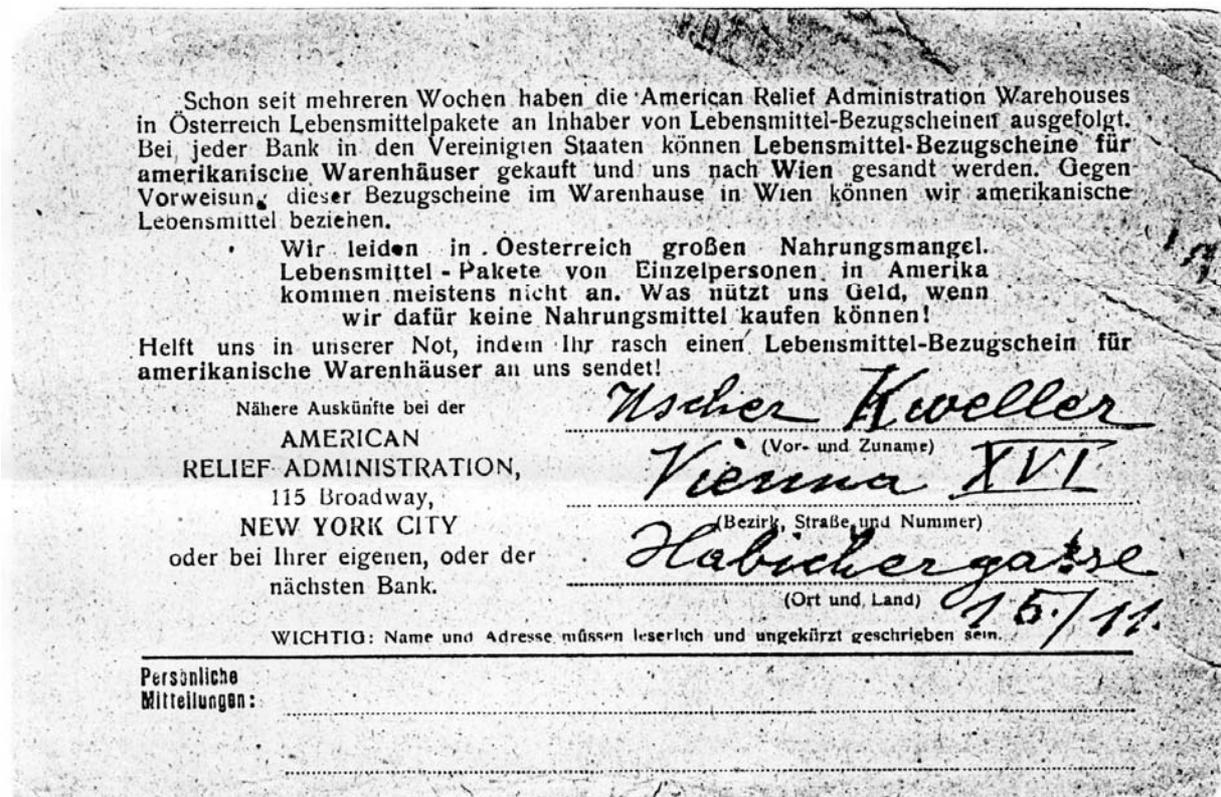
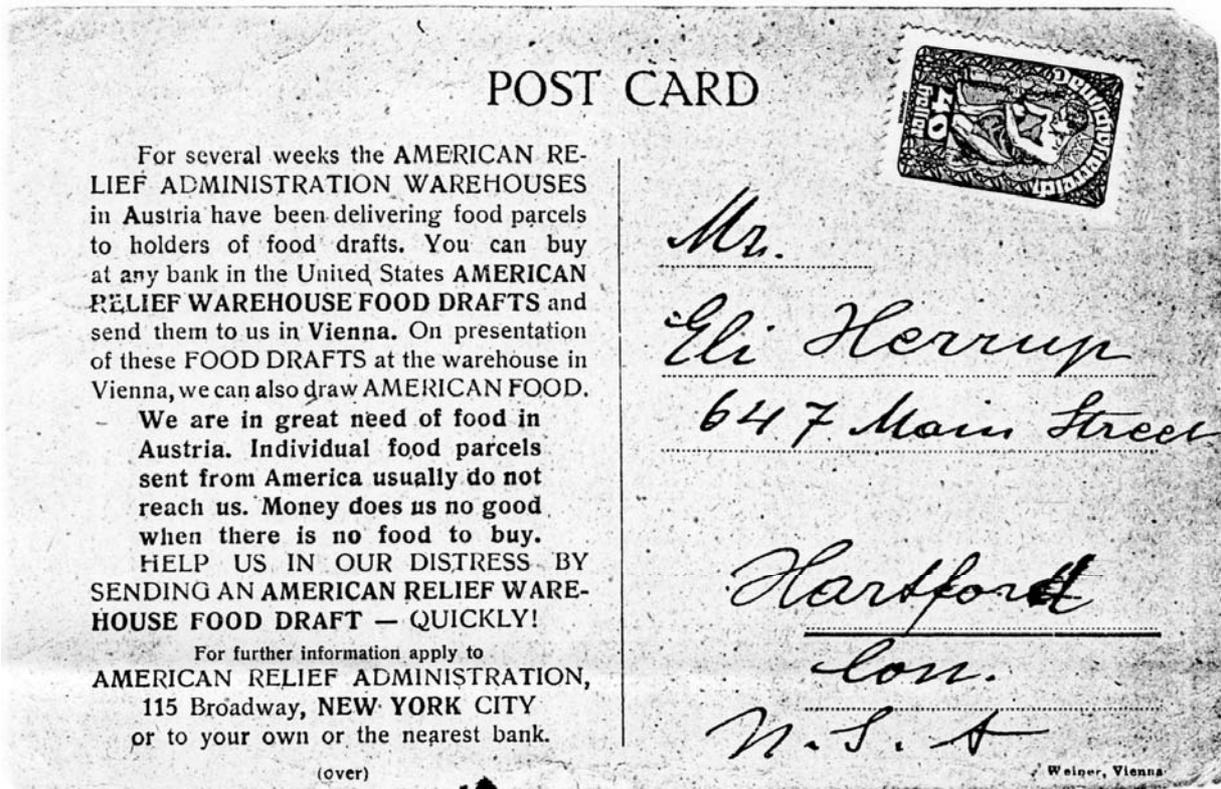
Helft uns in unserer Not, indem Ihr rasch einen Lebensmittel-Bezugschein für amerikanische Warenhäuser an uns sendet!

Nähere Auskunft bei der  
 AMERICAN  
 RELIEF ADMINISTRATION,  
 115 Broadway,  
 NEW YORK CITY  
 oder bei Ihrer eigenen, oder der  
 nächsten Bank.

**André Stohmann** Stamp Dealer  
 W I E N (und Zuname).  
 III., Linke Bahngasse 13  
 (Bezirk, Straße und Nummer)  
 Wien III Vienna, Austria  
 (Ort und Land)

WICHTIG: Name und Adresse müssen leserlich und ungekürzt geschrieben sein.

Post-card, cancelled Vienna 1920



Post-card, uncanceled

“Help the children” slogan cancels are found on many items of mail from these times:



This envelope was sent on 22 March 1921 from Vienna to Pilsen, which was by then in the Czechoslovak Republic. The foreign letter rate was 5K then, and on the back are twelve 40h + one 20h stamps (uncancelled) to pay it. Note the dual-language slogan.



This envelope was sent from Vienna to Mainz in Germany on 30 Nov 1920; the inland letter postage was 80h and Germany has been taken as inland. The violet 48 is an official's check mark. The stamp is perfined WB. The brown label indicates that the envelope has been opened and resealed after inspection under the currency control regulations.

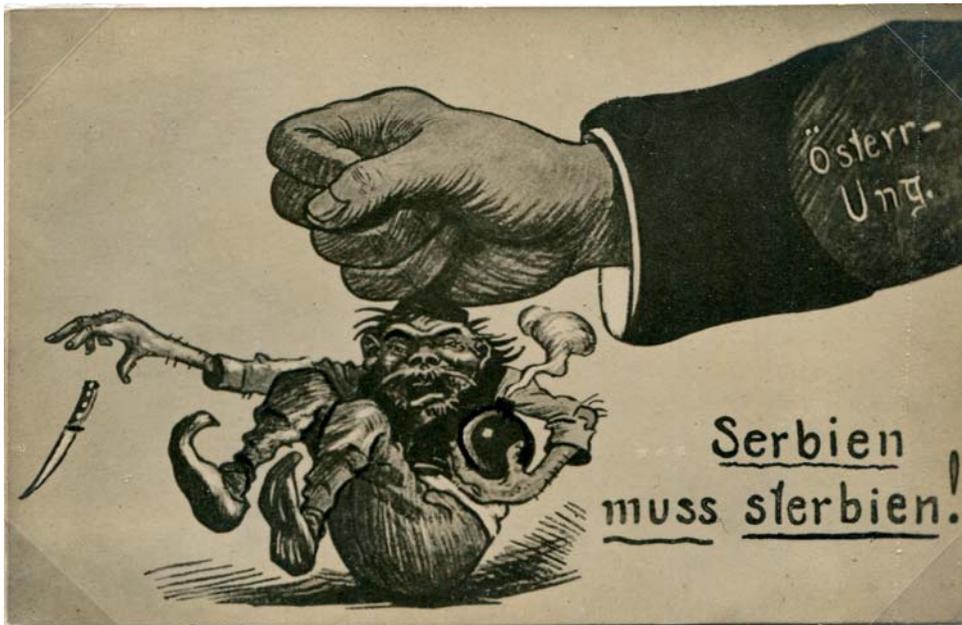


And just to show that those who forget – or choose to ignore - History may have to repeat it, here is basically the same slogan from the United Nations in 1948.

# The Austro- Hungarian Navy in World War I

This is the first in a series of articles based on the extensive and detailed display given by Lindy Bosworth to the 2016 Fest at Peterborough. The editor is most grateful to her for writing the text and supplying the scans from which the illustrations have been taken.

This display aimed to give an overview of the many vessels operative in the kaiserliche und königliche Kriegsmarine from 1914 until its abrupt demise in 1918. The Austrians acquired their first warships in 1786 as a safeguard against the growing power and influence of Venice. From then until the end of WWI there was an Austrian presence in the Adriatic. Between 1890 and 1914 the Kriegsmarine enjoyed a renaissance. Many factors contributed including naval rivalry with Italy, growing interest in sea power, and overseas expansion. In 1890 the first battleships of the *Monarch Class* were built.



The First World War was triggered by the assassination on 28 July 1914 of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, nephew and heir of Emperor Franz Josef. The Archduke and his wife were on a visit to Sarajevo, capital of the A/H province of Montenegro. The weapons were supplied by a Serbian secret society, 'The Black Hand'. Austria blamed Serbia for his death, and delivered an unreasonable ultimatum resulting in the declaration of war. In 1914 most European countries were tied to one another by treaties or agreements in the event of hostile actions against one of them.



Rulers of the Central Powers, 1915



They Must Be Punished! Greetings from the School of War.

Italy, Germany and Austria-Hungary had been members of the Triple Alliance since 1882; but at the outbreak of war Italy chose to remain neutral which had an effect on naval activity in the Adriatic. Flottenkommandant (Fleet Commander) Haus recognized the value of his battle fleet lay in maintaining its existence as a fleet to counter the threat of Allied powers. It meant that the larger vessels of the A/H Navy rarely left port and naval action was made by smaller cruisers, torpedo boats and submarines. The A/H Navy presence did mean that a fleet of the French and British Navies was deployed in the Mediterranean permanently to prevent supplies reaching the Central Powers.

The German Mediterranean Fleet consisted of two vessels, the Goeben and the Breslau, which were in dock in the A/H port of Pola in July 1914. When war was declared they set sail to attack French shipping in the Mediterranean but were ordered instead to sail to Constantinople. They were escorted through A/H territorial waters by a number of vessels of the A/H Navy. The Goeben and Breslau reached Constantinople safely and were then 'purchased' by Turkey for its Navy. The German Navy presence in the Mediterranean was thereafter limited to submarines.



Patriotic Postcards – “Co-operation”



The Adriatic

At the beginning of the war the A/H Navy had five classes of battleships, heavy and light destroyers, cruisers, gun boats, torpedo boats, supply and training vessels and submarines. Merchant vessels were requisitioned for service throughout the war. Their priority became coastal defence particularly after Italy declared war on A/H on 23 May 1915. Besides the Adriatic Fleet there was a Danube fleet of monitors and several other smaller fleets.

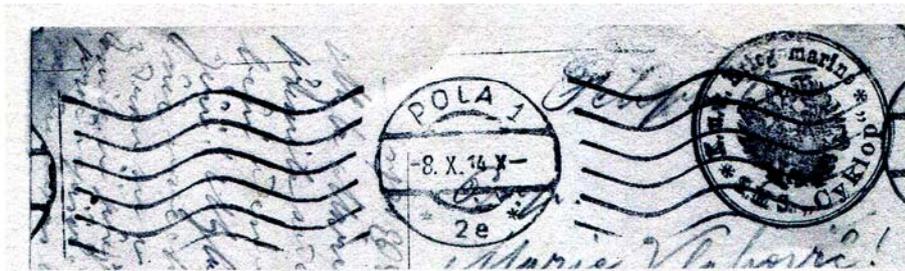
The Navy's main base was at Pola on the Istrian peninsula, which also had facilities for building ships although most were built at Trieste. Other bases along the Adriatic coast included Sebenico, Rogosnica and the most southerly - Cattaro (Kotor) There was a Hungarian yard at Fiume. Armament for many of the vessels was supplied by the Witkowiec (Škoda) works.

The Navy recruited from all over the Austro-Hungarian Empire and since there were at least eleven ethnic groups the language problem was acute. The official language of the Empire was German and all orders were given in German. Officers had to speak four of the Empire's languages whilst ratings had to be able to speak some Croat and Italian and understand orders given in German. The problem was eased by informally assigning ethnic groups to particular trades - Austrians, Czechs and the more highly educated tended to specialize in signals and engine room duties. Magyars were likely to be gunners whilst Croats and Italians were seamen or stokers. Ethnicity was not a problem within the Navy and it was only after the death of Emperor Franz Josef in November 1916 that nationalist feelings became more evident.

Naval post was free of postage during the war, but registered and other special services had to be paid for. In ports other than Pola, mail was handed in at the local civilian or Army postal facility for onward transmission. Mail from sailors was mainly postcards sent to relatives, loved ones and friends using view cards, patriotic, sentimental and humorous themes.

Censorship was used but does not appear to have been rigorous. The outgoing mail was collected by a designated officer (usually a Quartermaster -at- Arms) then censored by the First Lieutenant, who applied the ship's mark plus occasionally his initials. He was responsible for the mail until delivered to a post office. In the Adriatic most vessels used the KuK Marinefeldpostamt Pola 1 office which is the most common cancel to be found. However at the beginning of the war the civilian office Pola 1 was used. Shore establishments and army units based in the Pola area also used the Marinefeldpostamt facility.

### **The postmarks of Pola**



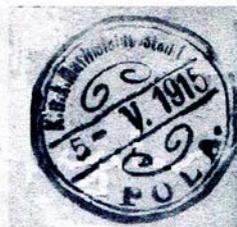
Pola 1 roller type cancel used on Navy mail at the beginning of the war.



**TYPE C.** This was the first dedicated MFPA Pola cancel used. It appeared early in 1915 although the precise date is not known. The 29mm single circle rubber cancel quickly became worn out and was superseded in April 1915 with another design incorporating the date. This cancel is scarce.



**TYPE B.** Sometime in April 1915 a new rubber, double circle 27mm cancel was introduced with bridged date. This also quickly wore out and was replaced with a more elaborate design later in April 1915. This cancel is not common.

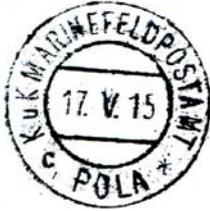


**TYPE D.** A more elaborate single circle 29mm cancel was in use for a short time between April and May 1915. There are two types:

- a) with month in letters
- b) with month in Roman numerals

Both versions are seldom found.

From an unknown date in May 1915 a double circle 28mm metal handstamp was in use until the end of the war. This is the most common of the Pola marks and found on much of the mail from A/H Navy personnel. The cancel was also used by some of the Pola naval shore establishments.



**TYPE A.** Double circle mark with 'K. u. K. Marinefeldpostamt' and 'POLA' round outer circle separated by \*(star) to the right and lower case letter to the left. This letter denoted which branch/counter handled the item. Letters from a to j are found with **je, m** and **n**; letters **h, i, j** and **je** are rarely found. The date at centre consists of day and last two digits of the year in Arabic numerals with the month in Roman numerals.



The branch/counter mark with letter **d** exists in two types:

a) **Type A** with width of letter **P** as 1.5mm

and base of letter **A** as 2mm



**TYPE Aa** with width of letter **P** as 2mm

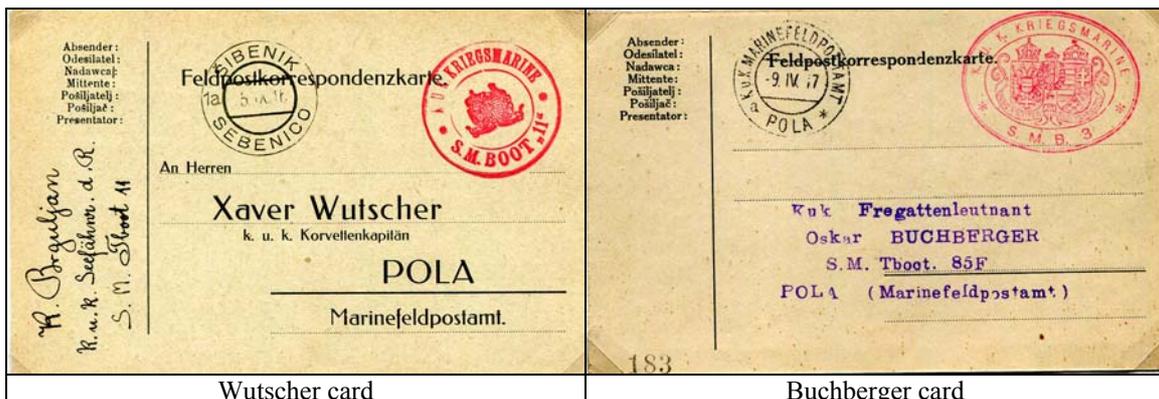
and base of letter **A** as 3mm.



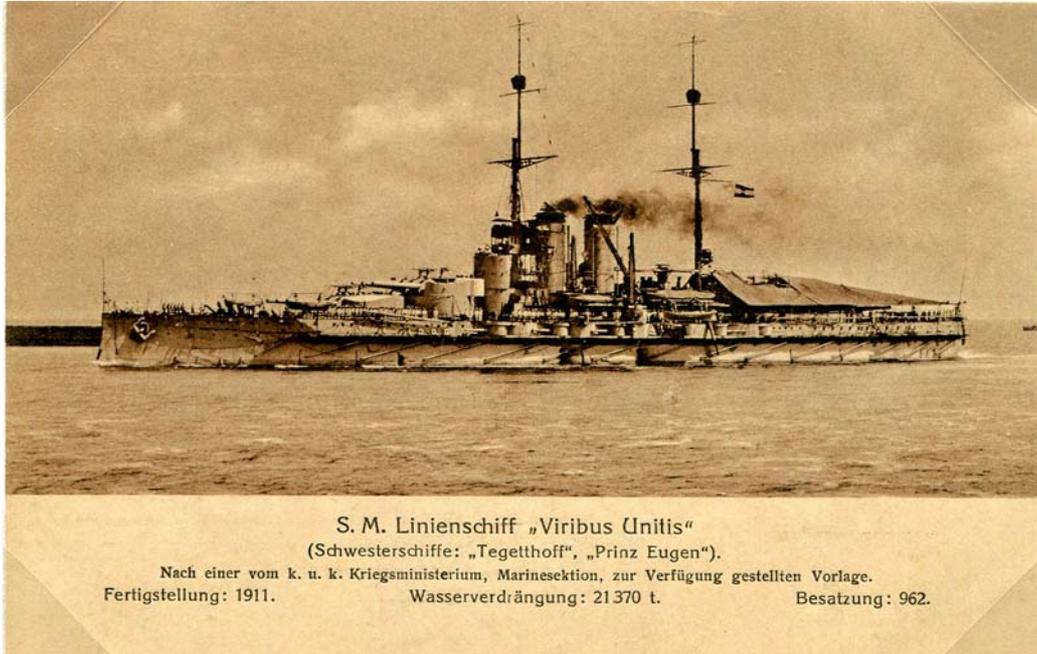
The branch/counter mark with letter **m** has only been found as **TYPE Aa**

Note: The Pola cancel types are named in Lindy's notation, which is used on all her display pages. The date order is C, B, D then A. The occurrence-frequency order is A, B, C, D.

Nearly all the vessels of the Navy had their own canceller with a variety of styles applied in various colours of ink. Some of the larger vessels had more than one canceller in use at the same time. Larger vessels generated more mail which can be found more easily than mail from much smaller vessels such as submarines. Finding all the cancels of any given vessel is no easy task, especially fine, clear examples. Serving in the Navy were two sailors who were avid collectors of ship cancels - Captain Wutscher of SMS Ulan and Fregattenleutnant Buchberger of SMS Torpedoboot 85F. Their 'philatelic cards' are sometimes the only known cancels from a small vessel. (SMS - Seiner Majestäts Schiff)



The flag-ship of the A/H Navy was the **Tegetthoff class battleship** *Viribus Unitis* (Power in Unity - the personal motto of Emperor Franz Josef) which was launched on 5 December 1912. She was sunk in Pola harbour on the night of 3 October 1918 by an Italian Midget 200lb mine attached to her hull. She rolled over and sank and lay bottom up in the harbour until work to scrap her began in 1926. This was not completed because complaints about the noise by residents stopped work. Some of her bow plates with an inscription can be seen in Venice Harbour. An exact scale replica of her is on show at the Vienna Military Museum.



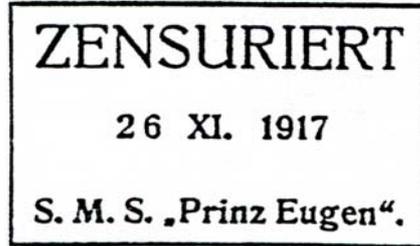
*Viribus Unitis*, with her sister vessels *Tegetthoff*, *Prinz Eugen* and *Szent Istvan*, spent most of the war at anchor in Pola harbour. Their only major operation was the bombardment of the Italian coast on 24 May 1915 following the Italian declaration of war against A/H. This was a success as it paralysed Italian naval planning for the rest of the war.

This card shows Marine Kommandant Admiral Haus (1851-1917), produced by Brüder Kohn in Vienna from a 1914 photo by C Pietzner. He became Commander-in-Chief of the Navy in February 1913 when Admiral Rudolf Montecuccoli retired, and died of pneumonia on board *Viribus Unitis* on 8 February 1917. Kaiser Karl attended his funeral in the Pola Naval Cemetery on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Haus was succeeded by Miklós Horthy de Nagybánya (1868-1957).



These Tegetthoff-class vessels were the last capital ships to be built by the A/H Navy. Although plans were in place for four further battleships of 24000+tons to be completed between 1917 & 1919, they were never laid down. Each of these serving Tegetthoffs had crews of over 1,000 officers and men so mail from them is more common. They all used at least ten different ship's cancels - some more elusive than others. Prinz Eugen used seventeen different cancels!



S. M. S. „VIRIBUS UNITIS”



Above: Tegetthoff censor mark, 44x14mm in red; MFPA Pola type A cancel dated 27.X.17. Right: cartoon card; the sailor’s hat band says “SMS Tegetthoff”!



St Istvan was sunk on 10 June 1918 by direct hits from two Italian torpedoes whilst underway from Pola to a planned raid on the Otranto Barrage. When news of the loss of St Istvan reached Admiral Horthy in Viribus Unitis, the planned attack was aborted and the whole fleet returned to Pola. This was the last occasion that the Austrian fleet put to sea.



The sailors are holding a Tablet of Honour presented to the St Istvan by the Hungarian Adriatic Association on 6 Jan 1916. It shows St Istvan above the inscription “St Istvan guided the Hungarian fatherland with good luck, like a ship on the sea of history; the same luck shall accompany this ship of His Majesty on all her voyages”. The tablet went down with the ship.

The **Radetzky class battleships** formed the 2nd Squadron of the Fleet and came into service 1910 -1911 (Erzherzog Franz Ferdinand 1910; Radetzky and Zrnyi 1911). They were smaller than the Tegethoffs - 15850 tons with complements of 870+ officers and men. Just like the 1st Squadron, they spent most of the war at their moorings in Pola only venturing out for the combined fleet raid on Italian positions on 24 May 1915 or for routine exercises. Radetzky was the first A/H battleship to fire her guns in anger during the war. She was ordered to Cattaro to support Austrian military units defending the area against Montenegrin forces supported by the French. The French batteries were destroyed on Mt Lovcen and she returned to Pola.



Some of the larger vessels of the Navy had their own imprinted fieldpost cards. These were produced by Jos Krmpotič at Pola.

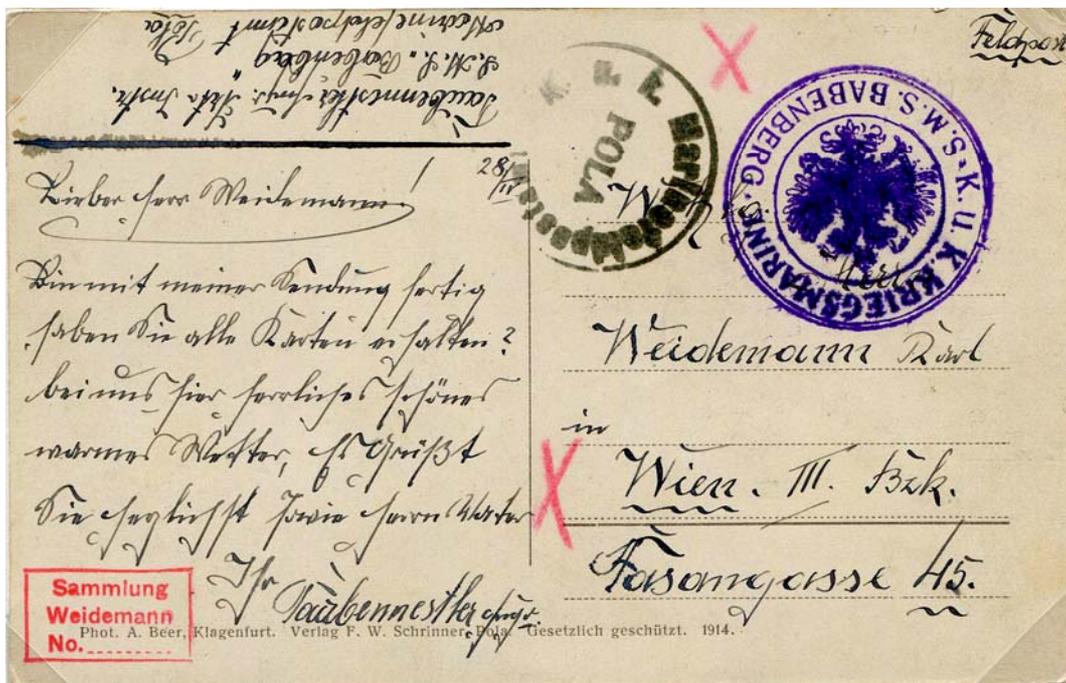
The lower card shows a battleship being loaded with coal – by hand. The Radetzky carried 1350 tons of coal, giving her a range of 4000 miles.

The 3rd **‘Erzherzog’ class of battleships** were built at Trieste and came into service between 1906 /1907. Erzherzog Karl, Erzherzog Friedrich and Erzherzog Ferdinand Max were smaller than the Radetzky's and again spent most of the war at their moorings in Pola. However they sailed to Cattaro on 2 February 1918 to quell a mutiny which broke out in several vessels there. Under the command of Vice Admiral Seidensacher order was restored and they returned to Pola on 11 February. They were again in Cattaro from 4 April 1918, remaining there until the end of the war. Croat seamen of the A/H Navy at Cattaro briefly formed a Yugoslav Navy. The three battleships flew the red, white and blue ensign of the new Navy but on 10 January 1919 the Allies intervened, the ensigns were hauled down and the vessels disarmed.



Photo of the Erzherzog Friedrich, and a named-ship card from her.

The **Habsburg Class battleships** forming the 4th division of the fleet were the first A/H battleships to be truly ocean going but still smaller (8965 tons with crews of some 640 officers and men) than their contemporaries in other navies. Habsburg, Babenberg and Arpad were built in Trieste and came into service 1902/1904. The commanding officer of Habsburg at the outbreak of war was Linienschiffskapitän Nikolaus Horthy, later to command the light cruiser Novaro, then to become commander -in -chief of the A/H Navy and after the war Regent of Hungary. All three took part in the Fleet action against Italian coastal targets on 24 May 1915. At the end of 1917 all three were paid off to release manpower for service in submarines and the air service. Arpad is believed to have acted as a prison hulk following the mutiny in the fleet at Cattaro.



Card with 35mm double-circle SMS Babenberg cancel and late (28 April) usage of MFPA Pola type C.

The Monarch, Wien and Budapest were the first 'modern' battleships to be designed and built by the Austrians coming into service in 1898. They were even smaller than the Habsburgs at 5785 tons and had crews of 426 officers and men. They formed the 5th division of the fleet. Monarch spent much of the war at Cattaro, and after the mutiny of February 1918 was disarmed to be used as an accommodation ship for submarine crews based in the Bay of Cattaro. Budapest and Wien with Monarch bombarded Montenegrin positions on Mt Lovcen<sup>1</sup> which overlooked the Bay of Cattaro in August/September 1914. Although they reduced the Montenegrin defences it was another eighteen months before they were finally defeated. During November/December 1917 Wien and Budapest with an escort of smaller vessels bombarded Italian positions in the Gulf of Trieste. On 10 December the two battleships were at anchor in Trieste harbour when two Italian MAS (Motoscafi Anti Sommergebile) craft managed to get past the harbour defences and fired their torpedoes. Wien was hit, rolled over and sunk within five minutes with the loss of 32 dead and 17 wounded. The torpedoes aimed at Budapest missed and exploded on the jetty.



Cards from SMS Wien. Note no Pola cancels but one civilian cancel from Baošič

During the 1890s a series of vessels were built as torpedo ram cruisers - a cheap alternative to battleships - but with the advances in warship design and improved technology they were only 'state of the art' for the 1880/1890s and were obsolete by the time they were commissioned.

Kaiser Franz Josef 1 (4,000t) was in service from 1890 with a crew of 440 men. She spent most of the war in the Bay of Cattaro as a local defence vessel and was disarmed after the February 1918 mutiny, serving as a floating ammunition depot for other disarmed vessels. The armaments from the disabled vessels in the Bocche were intended to fortify positions for coastal defence in the Spring of 1918 but this did not happen due to shortages of materials, labour and transport. The High Command was worried that there would be an invasion

<sup>1</sup> See Cattaro map in part 2.



Another of these armoured cruisers was Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresia which spent the war as a local defence vessel at Sebenico/Sibenik, but from the end of January was moored at Pola to be used as an accommodation facility for German submarine personnel at Pola.



Top: card sent to relative serving in an infantry regiment. 35mm ship's handstamp with date 6.2.17, overlaid by MFPA Pola type A with the same date.

Bottom: view card of Sebenico sent to a soldier in Freistadt. 35mm ship's handstamp with date 21.3.15. Single-line red Zensuriert applied on board.

Note the **Gott strafe England** cachet!

**To Be Continued**

# JOINT AUSTRIAN / CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELIC SOCIETIES MEETING

at York Stamp Fair, 21 January 2017

by Keith Brandon

Eleven Members of the two Societies (plus two guests) took a break from the Fair dealers for the regular January meeting of the Austrian Society to which the Czechoslovak Society Members are invited. Seven Members had brought a short display, brief details as follows:

**Joyce Boyer** showed us the latest addition to her Innsbruck collection, First World War postal history, which she had just written up for the first time,

**Nick Coverdale** presented a fascinating array of Czech Scouting covers, including letters to Sir Robert and Lady Baden Powell,

**John Colton** displayed World War Two postal-stationery cards of the German Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, an almost complete assembly,

**Alan Berrisford** brought along a further section of his inexhaustible collection of Austrian Galicia; material which he had recently acquired or written up. He was particularly proud of a Lemberg item acquired for £5 in the last APS Auction, bearing a postmark that he had never seen before in forty years of collecting the area,

**Barry Clark** treated us to his telephone cards of Imperial Austria,

**Richard Wheatley** had selected from his collection of the Czech War Heroes issue, a display of mail from Czechoslovakia to Austria,

**Keith Brandon** finished off with some postcards of the Prague Jubilee Exhibition of 1908.

As so often happens, the selection of material presented could not have been more different!

## APS at Lincoln: 18 March 2017

The Austrian Philatelic Society's annual meeting in Lincoln on 18 March 2017 attracted a very good turnout of twelve Members and a guest.

The first half was given over to an invited display from Joyce Boyer who showed us her comprehensive collection of material from the Kufstein-Ala railway-line in Tirol. Included were the travelling post-offices on board, from the beginning to modern times, mail from the towns and villages along the way, and special cancellations for various anniversaries connected to the railway.

After the break, several Members showed short displays:

- ❖ Barry Clark - the Austrian Telegraph service
- ❖ Brian Madeley - Lombardy & Venetia
- ❖ Andy Taylor – unusual modern stamps commercially used (albeit by dealers)
- ❖ James Hooper - 1920s postal-stationery viewcards
- ❖ Nick Coverdale - Croatia in WW2
- ❖ James Hooper - WIPA 65 cancellations.

We were most grateful to Brian Madeley for arranging the meeting and Ann Madeley for the steady flow of tea and biscuits.

## The size of the 1916-1917 2-Kronen stamps

This brief article discusses the size of the 2Kr stamps; the 3Kr 4Kr & 10Kr will appear later. The stamps and measurements are by Colin Tobitt; the speculations are by your Editor.

### The stamps

The Austrian 1916-1917 2Kr stamps are catalogued as follows:

2 Kr issue	Size	Ferchenbauer	ANK & Michel	Stanley Gibbons
1916 Dark Blue	“Tall” – 25x30mm	200A	200I	262
	“Wide” – 26x29mm	200B	200II	
1917 Light Blue	“Tall” – 25x30mm	204aA, 204bA	204I	262a
	“Wide” – 26x29mm	204aB, 204bB	204II	

“Tall” is also called “narrow” and “Type I”; “Wide” is “Type II”. Ferchenbauer lists separately two slightly different blues in the 1917 issue (light, and unsharp). The issue on granite paper (ANK 208) which appeared as the war was ending adds complexity to the list but nothing to the discussion of size, so won't be mentioned again.

A friend gave me a folder containing a mixed assortment of 761 of these two 2Kr issues. Sorting out the different types of each value highlighted the variations in the sizes and papers. Beside the tall format 25x30mm and the wide format 26x29mm there is an intermediate type, which can be explained by the design being printed on dampened paper and being fed into the machine in two different orientations

The folder contained 400 Dark Blue 2Kr stamps comprising 211 tall format 25x30mm stamps on yellowish-white paper; 82 wide format 26x29mm stamps on bluish paper; and 107 stamps measuring 25.75x29.5mm on bluish grey paper.



26x29

25.75x29.5

25x30

Similarly, there were 361 Light Blue 2Kr stamps comprising 288 tall format 25x30mm stamps and 26 wide format 26x29mm stamps, both on bluish grey paper; and 47 stamps measuring 25.75x29.5mm on yellowish-white paper.



The Michel catalogue observes that the kronen issues [occur on] an intensely greyish 'war paper'. The paper of the actual stamps looks bluer than it appears on the scans.



Because of the height variations, anomalies can be found in the line perforating. A normal stamp has 20 teeth vertically; these three have the same image size (26x29) but have 21, 20, and 19 teeth.

**Editor's speculations on the cause.**

An article in Austria 60 page 21, and Ferchenbauer 2008 volume II, say that there are 2 types of paper. Type I, which shrinks more in the breadth when drying; and Type II, which shrinks more in the height. Then, by inserting the sheet sideways or straight-on, one can create four possibilities. However only 3 can be identified: tall-thin, short-fat, and intermediate.

We are told that the papers shrunk both horizontally and vertically; Type I shrinks more horizontally, Type II shrinks more vertically. However I cannot see how to deduce the original size, ie that of the plate-of-cliches. A plausible guess seems to me to be that the \*difference\* in shrinking might be 10%, ie 3mm. Then a 25x30mm type I began life as 28x30mm times a common factor, namely the general shrinkage - which I can't guess though probably it wasn't huge.

The printing sheet of 10x10 then becomes 280x300 plus margins. I suppose the sheet could be rotated to 300x280. It's about 7% different from a square. Wouldn't the operator notice if he'd rotated it? Would the press physically accept it?

Does Ferchenbauer help? Maybe. In Vol II p.289 he explains that it depends on the orientation of the printing sheet when cut from the Papierbahn, which I think is the continuous roll produced by the paper mill. I could see this happening if the roll arrived from the mill with damaged edges; or was a different size of paper from a different mill, forcing the cutting to be done 'the other way round'.

This way, you get vertically-shrinking and horizontally-shrinking sheets of type I paper, and likewise of Type II, all of the same presumed-not-square shape. But then we should find FOUR sizes of 2Kr, not three - unless by happenstance the two intermediate sizes are the same.

This may be the case. Some very minor difference in size have been noticed, too small to measure without scanning and enlarging them by a factor of 2 or more; or using some elaborate equipment. It is hard to quantify which category these fit into but the catalogue pricing (eg ANK 200 tall is 50 cents, wide is 20 Euro) suggests that for both dark and light blue stamps, the tall and the intermediate are in the same size group and there are more of them about!

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# TAUCHBOOTBRIEFE

By Andy Taylor, advised by Roger Morrell

A Tauchboot is a submarine, and a Tauchbootbrief is, unsurprisingly, a letter transported by one. Specifically, the term is normally reserved for letters transported by cargo submarine from Bremen to USA during WWI. Or at least, intended to be thus transported: events overtook the plans, as can happen in Europe. Until relatively recently, little had been published about this mail-carrying system. Now, there are a couple of books, several displays, and numerous web pages concerning it. Most are in German. Examples of Tauchbootbriefe have emerged, and are sometimes offered for sale at large prices.

A recent article in the London Philatelist (September 2016 pp 359-374), repeated in Stamps of Hungary (Dec 2016 pp 6-21) by Ute and Elmar Dörre, is entitled “Hungarian WWI submarine letters to the Americas”.

This article will concentrate on the Austrian aspects of Tauchbootbriefe, which were a small part of the whole. A few references will be given, but since most are links to web pages we’ll put a page on the APS web site with all we know about. Copying long URLs from these pages into your browser is pointless: if you have internet access you can go via our page, and if you don’t they are useless anyway! From the home page click “Many articles about Austrian philately” and then “Tauchbootbriefe” in the last row.

When WWI began, the British created a naval blockade in the North Sea; this prevented Germany importing raw materials such as rubber, zinc, nickel, and cotton. Herr Alfred Lohmann, President of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce, suggested an unarmed cargo- and mail-carrying submarine service, enabling trade to continue between Germany and neutral countries such as the USA.

A special company, the Deutsche Ozean Reederei, was founded in November 1915, and two submarines built: the Deutschland and the Bremen. Each had a crew of 29 and could carry 600 tonnes. The Deutschland was ready first, and made two return trips to the USA in June-August and October-December 1916 (each leg took about 3 weeks). The Bremen set off on 26 August 1916 - and hasn’t been seen since. The British Navy have no record of sinking it; it may have hit a mine.

Nevertheless, a third trip by the Deutschland was planned for 15 January 1917, with a cargo including 10 tonnes of private mail. Approval was obtained from the governments of Austria, Hungary etc, and an announcement made to the public on Christmas Day 1916. Mail had to be franked at UPU rates (eg 20pf for a 20-gram letter), then placed unsealed in an outer envelope addressed to “Tauchbootbrief nach Bremen” and franked with the ‘submarine surcharge’ of 2RM per item.



In Austria, the first intimation to the public seems to be in the Innsbrucker Nachrichten’s evening edition on 29 December 1916; the charges were stated in German currency and the attribution is “Berlin 28 Dec”. A total of 20 articles have been found in Austrian newspapers; all state that their information comes from the Post- und Telegraphendirektion in Vienna or the Handelsministerium. Some give the full details while others are brief reminders of what to do, or to not do. (A list of all the newspapers and what they mentioned is in the web site version of this article.)

The invitation from Berlin to Vienna, and presumably to other Axis countries, to take part was on 25 December. The fact that the official Austrian position was not confirmed until rather later means that their permission was not in place on 25 December. This looks like a slightly belated invite from the Germans - one suspects the Germans themselves made the announcement public on or about 24 December, and this was picked up by the

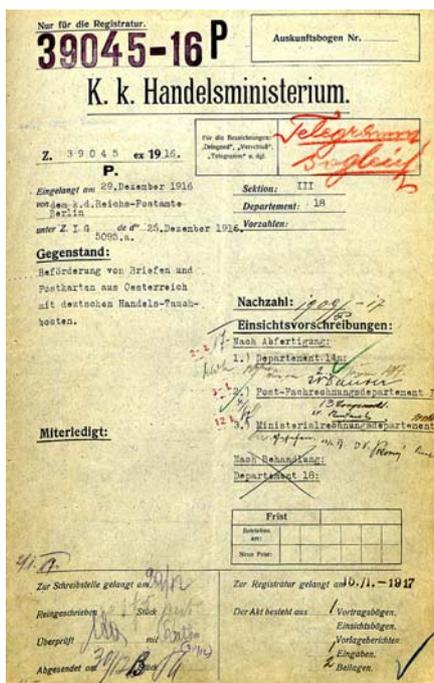
Austrian newspapers before the government got its invite and approved acceptance of the invitation and willingness to go along with the idea.

The Austrian newspaper articles of 1917 give the charges in Austrian currency [postcards & letters 3Kr up to 20 gram, 6Kr for 20+ to 40 gram, 9Kr for 40+ to 60 gram], and refer to “a decree of the Trade Ministry”. This has proved elusive! There is nothing in the “*Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt für das Verwaltungsgebiet des k.k. Handelsministeriums*” of 1916 and 1917 – this is the official collection of postal decrees from Vienna. Nor is there mention in the “next layer down”, the Lower Austria *Verordnungsblatt*. However Dr Moser has found it at Innsbruck, set forth in the “*Amtsblatt der k.k. Post- u. Telegraphen-Direktion für Tirol u. Vorarlberg 1917 17/3 Seite 13-15; Nr. 48.741/IIIa*”. This begins: “Beförderung von Briefen und Postkarten nach überseeischen Ländern mit deutschen Handels-Tauchbooten [Tauchbootbriefe]. Das k. k. HM hat mit dem Erlass vom 29. Dez. 1916, Zl. 39.045/P Folgerndes anher eröffnet ‘Zur Beförderung mit deutschen Handels-Tauchbooten können bis auf weiteres ...’...”. The complete text is transcribed later.

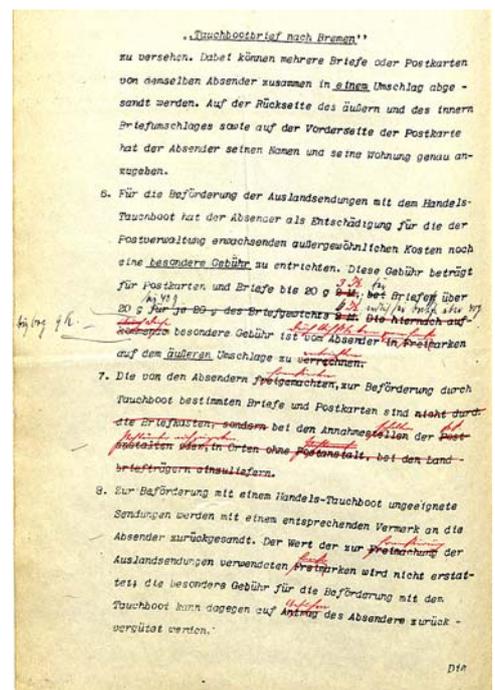
So, at last we have the Austrian Decree: *k.k. HM Erlass vom 29. Dez. 1916, Zl. 39.045/P*. Or at least the filing reference for it. 'Zl' means either Zahle or Zeile or (akten)Zeichen depending on who you ask. I have tried to find this in the on-line index for the State Archives but failed. I did find that “The fire at the Palace of Justice in July 1927 considerably reduced the holdings of the Allgemeines Verwaltungsarchiv” - not very promising.

The Austrian State Archives are at Nottendorfergasse in Vienna (across the road from the U-Bahn maintenance depot!); and nothing beats a personal visit. Briefly, you turn up when it's open, prove who you are, pay a small access fee, fill in a search form saying what you want; wait; the person-on-duty will either bring it, or tell you it'll take x days to retrieve, or say they have no trace of it. Normally, they'll do their best to locate it: it may be filed under a different name, etc. Copying is possible. Your Editor couldn't get there – so many thanks to APS member Otto Teufel who could and did. He and Dr. Susanne Kühberger located the three available folders on Tauchboots, which are:

**Folder 39045-16P**, opened on 29 Dec 1916, deals with the Handelsministerium's response to a telegram from Berlin on Xmas day followed up by several appendices. The filed copies appear to be “working documents”; the front cover records what it's about and to whom it has been communicated. Appendix 1 is a memo from the Reichspostamt in Berlin to the Handelsministerium's Section III in Vienna outlining the proposals. The costs were to be shared amongst the participating countries, who should recover them from correspondents in whatever way they saw fit. It says what ‘submarine surcharge’ Berlin will levy, but leaves it to Vienna to set theirs. And it asks that correspondence should be by telegramme as the next sailing will be soon.



Left: the front cover of Folder 39045-16P; providing a summary of what it covers and notes on who has formally seen it.



Right: a page from Appendix 2, showing the extent of the corrections made in Vienna to Berlin's document!

Appendix 2 is untitled, undated, and unsigned – and heavily altered in red ink; it looks like translations from Prussian into Austrian! The amended wording is also the text of the Innsbruck *Amtsblatt*; and give or take a few

editorial tweaks is also that published in the Austrian newspapers. The folder was handed over to the registry (for indexing and archiving) on 15 Jan 17.

I suspect a mad scramble when Berlin realised that they hadn't actually remembered to inform their allies, and sent a flurry of telegrams - the sailing date being by then decided although not made public. It seems likely that post offices in Austria were told about this not by formal paper communication, but by telegram, in a bit of a panic. Interestingly, Hungary was much quicker off the mark in telling the populace!

**Folder 1450-17P**, opened on 13 Jan 1917, records the Kriegsministerium getting involved by slightly rewording a few sentences, and 'requesting' that the facility be extended to Bosnia-Hercegowina. It was handed over to the registry (for archiving) on 3 Feb 1917.

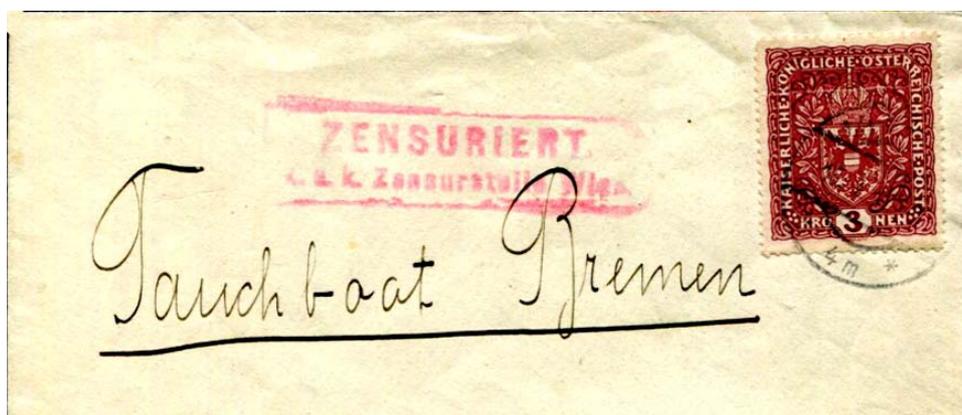
**Folder 1909-17P**, apparently opened on 7 Feb 1917 but containing material dated 13 Jan 1917 and stamped 17 Jan 1917, is a memo from Berlin on the accounting arrangements for mail from Bosnia-Hercegowina; attached is the form for recording the total number of items at each rate. Registration was on 17 Feb 1917.

Over 60,000 items were submitted for the third Tauchboot trip. However the German High Command decided in January 1917 to introduce a policy of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, expecting to starve Britain into submission before America could enter the war and mobilise. The USA broke off diplomatic relations with the German Empire on 3 February 1917, and declared war Germany on 6 April 1917 (and on Austria on December 7, 1917). Transatlantic cargo submarines no longer seemed a good idea.

The items sent to Bremen were supposed to be cacheted "Zurück. Wegen Einstellung des Tauchbootbriefverkehrs zurück an den Absender" and were then returned to the sender, who could take the outer envelope to their Post Office and have the surcharge refunded (but wasn't compelled to). These outer envelopes were supposed to be retained as a receipt and then destroyed, in case the high-value stamps were cleaned and reused, but as usual some found their way to the philatelic trade.



Example of an inner letter: Austria to Cleveland, Ohio, USA



Outer letter (top half only) from Vienna to Bremen

**The text of appendix 2 of Folder 39045-16P, and the author's paraphrase**

Beförderung von Briefen und Postkarten nach überseeischen Ländern mit deutschen Handels-Tauchbooten [Tauchbootbriefe]	<b>Forwarding of letters and postcards to foreign countries by German cargo-submarine</b>
Das k. k. HM hat mit dem Erlass vom 29. Dez. 1916, Zl. 39.045/P Folgerndes anher eröffnet: "Zur Beförderung mit deutschen Handels-Tauchbooten können bis auf weiteres versuchsweise gewöhnliche Briefe ohne Wareninhalt und Postkarten (ohne Antwortkarte) nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika und nach neutralen Ländern im Durchgang durch die Vereinigten Staaten (Mexiko, Mittel- und Südamerika, Westindien, China, Niederländisch Indien, den Philippinen usw.) bei den k. k. PÄ unter den nachstehenden Bedingungen aufgegeben werden:	The Austro-Hungarian Ministry of Trade announced in a decree of 29 Dec 1916 as follows: "Until further notice, ordinary letters (without enclosed goods) and postcards (without reply-card) to the USA and to neutral countries routed through the USA (Mexico, Central & South America, the West Indies, China, Dutch East Indies, the Philippines etc) may be handed to the Austrian Post Office for forwarding by German cargo-submarine, under the following conditions:
1. Die Briefe und Postkarten unterliegen hinsichtlich der zugelassenen Sprachen und der sonstigen Anforderungen den während des Krieges aus militärischen Rücksichten für gleichartige Sendungen nach dem neutralen Ausland angeordneten Beschränkungen.	Letters & cards must comply with the wartime regulations for sendings to neutral countries.
2. Das Höchstgewicht der Briefe darf 60g nicht übersteigen.	Max letter weight 60 grams.
3. Die Sendungen (Briefe und Postkarten) müssen frankiert und auf der Vorderseite mit "Tauchbootbrief" bezeichnet sein.	Letters & cards must be franked, and be marked "Tauchbootbrief" on the front.
4. Für die Briefe und Postkarten gelten die Gebührensätze des Weltpostvereins.	UPU rates apply to letters & cards.
5. Der Absender hat die Tauchbootsendungen in einen offenen Briefumschlag zu legen und diesen mit der Aufschrift "Tauchbootbrief nach Bremen" zu versehen. Dabei können mehrere Briefe oder Postkarten von demselben Absender zusammen in einem Umschlag abgesandt werden. Auf der Rückseite des äußeren und inneren Umschlages sowie auf der Vorderseite der Postkarte hat der Absender seinen Namen und seine Wohnung genau anzugeben.	The sender shall put his mail in an unsealed envelope addressed to "Tauchbootbrief nach Bremen". More than one item may be put in a single envelope. The sender shall put his name and address on the back of the outer and inner envelopes and on the front of a postcard.
6. Für die Beförderung der Auslandssendungen mit dem Handelstauchboot hat der Absender als Entschädigung für die der Postverwaltung erwachsenden außergewöhnlichen Kosten noch eine besondere Gebühr zu entrichten. Diese Gebühr beträgt für Postkarten und Briefe bis 20g 3K, für Briefe über 20g bis 40g 6K, endlich für Briefe über 40g bis 60g 9 K. Diese besondere Gebühr ist vom Absender durch Aufkleben von Frankomarken auf dem äußeren Umschlag zu entrichten.	The sender must pay a special rate to cover the postal service's extra-ordinary costs of forwarding by cargo submarine by affixing adhesives to the outer envelope (postcards & letters up to 20 gram 3Kr; 20+ to 40 gram 6Kr; 40+ to 60 gram 9Kr).
7. Die von den Absendern frankierten, zur Beförderung durch Tauchboote bestimmten Briefe und Postkarten sind bei den Annahmeschaltern der k. k. PÄ abzugeben.	The franked items for forwarding by cargo submarine are to be handed in at the P O counter.
8. Zur Beförderung mit einem Handelstauchboot ungeeignete Sendungen werden mit einem entsprechenden Vermerk an den Absender zurückgesandt. Der Wert der zur Frankierung der Auslandssendungen verwendeten Frankomarken wird nicht erstattet; die besondere Gebühr für die Beförderung mit dem Tauchboot kann dagegen auf Ansuchen des Absenders zurückvergütet werden.	Items unsuitable for forwarding by cargo submarine will be so marked and returned to the sender. The foreign postage will not be refunded, but upon request the submarine surcharge will be. [Author's comment: so the envelopes could legitimately be retained by the sender!]
Wann Briefsendungen mit den Handelstauchbooten befördert werden, wird nicht bekannt gegeben. Die Absender müssen daher unter Umständen mit einer längeren Beförderungsdauer rechnen.	The sailing date of the submarine will not be made public; senders must expect a long delay.
Die "Tauchbootbriefe" sind hinsichtlich Leitung und Zensurierung wie andere Auslandsbriefe zu behandeln.	Tauchbootbriefe will be handled and censored in the same way as all other foreign mail.

The author thanks Roger Morrell, Otto Teufel, Mag Eva Sinnmayer, Dr. Susanne Kühberger, Dr Hans Moser and others who have helped him.

## 2017 NEW ISSUES (1<sup>st</sup> 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 illustration of the "Christmas 2016 – Der holde Knabe im lockigen Haar" stamp in the last issue came from a picture of the box-of-50 and was badly smudged. Here is a better one.

**The new definitives**, valid from 1 Jan 2017, are designed by Anita Kern and printed in offset by Enschedé. Their theme is "Austria's heraldry", and the designer chose to focus on sections of the coats of arms in order to make unfamiliar details visible. As well as adhesives, postal stationery is available with the new design: inland and foreign postcards and envelopes.



**150 years of Carnival in Villach.** 80c; 7 Jan 2017; 175,000; Offset; David Gruber; Enschedé. Sold as singles, and in packets of 4.

**Outlook 2050 - Visions of Austria's Future - "Tensile Test".** 68c; 18 Jan 2017; 270,000 in sheets of 6; Offset; Hannes Glantschnig; Enschedé. Creativity and the ability to present an abstract topic in an aesthetically relevant and meaningful way are the essential prerequisites when designing a stamp. This year's topic was "Visions of Austria's Future: how will Austria



develop in economic, social and cultural terms over the coming decades?" The design of the winning stamp with the title "Tensile Test" shows the word Austria written in red. The script, representing Austrian society, is rent by a deep tear held together by two staples.



**500 years since the Reformation.** 68c; 24 Jan 2017; 175,000; Offset; David Gruber after a photo by Alfred Gugerell; Enschedé. On 31st October 1517 in Wittenberg, Martin Luther published his 95 theses against the sale of indulgences then practised by the Catholic Church and set in motion a process of reformation of the Christian world. By the mid-18th century, Protestant lumberjacks from Altaussee and Gosau had migrated to the heavily wooded region around Lilienfeld. They had secretly smuggled their German-language Lutheran Bible into their village. The stamp shows this Mitterbach Bible, dating from around 1650, which is kept in the Protestant rectory and used on special feast days.

**Margherita Spiluttini.** 80c; 8 Feb 2017; 175,000; Offset; Regina Simon; Enschedé. One of Austria's best-known photographers, the artist from Salzburg, Margherita Spiluttini, is being presented on a commemorative stamp in the "Photographic art in Austria" series. The stamp shows a black and white photograph of the Hochtannberg in summer from the year 1992, a barite print bonded to aluminium.



**60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Falco.** 80c; 19 Feb 2017; 175,000; Offset; Philipp Neuhaus/Bernhard Kronberger; David Gruber; Enschedé. Falco was born Johann Hölzel on 19th February 1957 in Vienna, and died in a car crash in his chosen home, the Dominican Republic, on 6th February 1998. He is often described as "the most successful Austrian musician of the modern age".

**The modern concert Harp,** in the series 'musical instruments'. 2€10; 22 Feb 2017; 150,000; Kombinationsdruck, Etch-Art By OeSD;

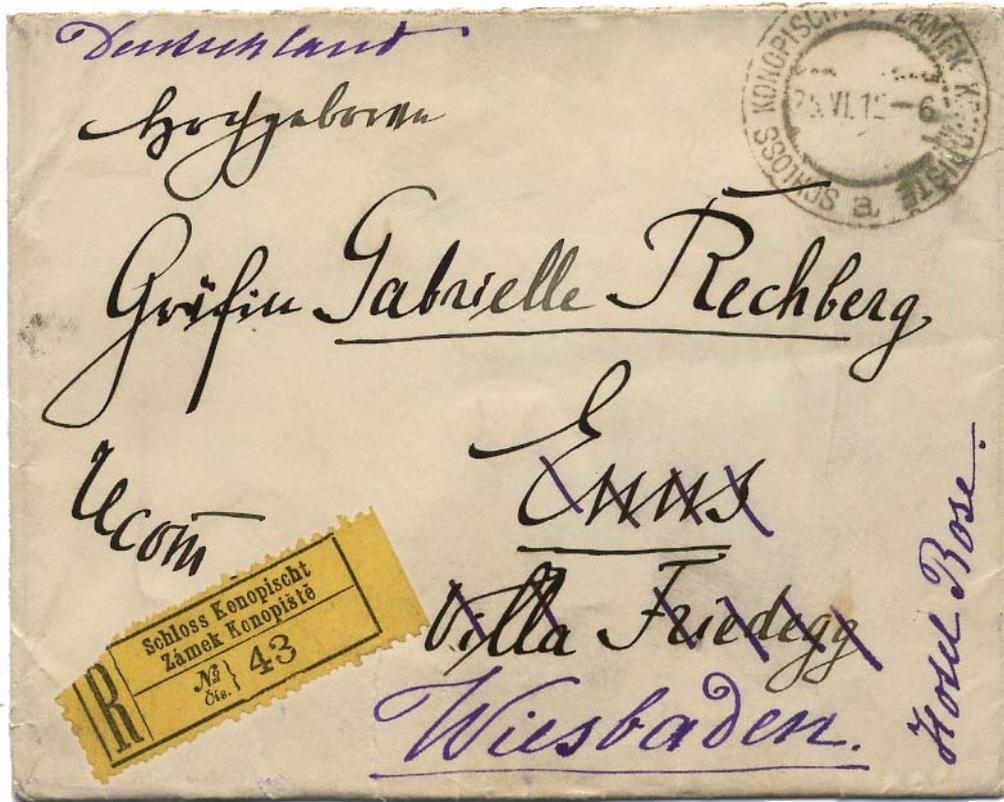


Maria Schultz; ÖSD.



**The typewriter: Peter Mitterhofer.** 80c; 22 Feb 2017; 350,000 in sheets of 10; Offset; David Gruber; Enschedé. In the "Austrian Inventions" series, the stamp celebrates Peter Mitterhofer, who made the first typewriter in the 1860s in Partschins in South Tirol.

## A letter from Franz Ferdinand



This registered envelope was sent to Gräfin Gabrielle Rechberg at Villa Friedegg, Enns, in Germany – and redirected to the Hotel Bosc in Wiesbaden. It is of course unfranked, and has a double-ring cancel **SCHLOSS KONOPISCHT ZÁMEK KONOPIŠTĚ** dated 25 June 1912 plus a matching registration label.

Schloss Konopischt is a large, three-storey château located in what is now the Czech Republic, about 50 km southeast of Prague, outside the city of Benešov. The original building, rebuilt in Baroque style in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, was bought by Franz Ferdinand in 1887 and greatly enlarged; its surroundings were expanded.

[Currently, HSH Princess Sophie von Hohenberg, a great grand-daughter of Franz Ferdinand, is claiming for the restitution of the castle to her family, on the grounds that the provisions of Article 208 of the Treaty of Saint Germain, and Article 3 of Law 354 of 1921 in Czechoslovakia, do not apply to them since they were never recognized as part of the House of Habsburg. She filed a lawsuit in December 2000 in Benešov, the nearest city, for ownership of the castle and its dependencies, including 6,070 hectares of woodland and a brewery.]

The letter inside is handwritten on two notecards, each with an embossed coat-of-arms. The signature at the end matches those of Franz Ferdinand available on Google. The coat-of-arms is the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece surrounding a shield with several Bohemian symbols and surmounted by a regal crown, but its precise significance has not so far been traced.

The letter's addressee was born Gabrielle von Rechberg und Rothenlöwen zu Hohenrechberg on November 14, 1883; her father was Otto Graf von Rechberg und Rothenlöwen zu Hohenrechberg and her mother was Therese Prinzessin zu Hohenlohe-Waldenburg-Schillingsfürst. She married Otto, Fürst zu Oettingen-Oettingen. Evidently adequately aristocratic to merit a handwritten letter from the Austrian Heir Presumptive!

in der Verfügung dieser Messen  
nicht ändern... Und Montenegro  
ist in den Bestimmungen für die  
Haupt einzig & allein  
Zustand  
Nun bitte ich mich um  
Nutzung des Primars Autors  
Klein lassen! & seine die  
qualifiziert, als, wenn er noch mehr  
abgeben würde, ich sehr gerne  
einen talentierten Beschreiber  
selber würde

 Konopischt

Königliche Gräfin!

Ich Allen weiß  
ich die Zufriedenheit bitten,  
sich nicht zu scheuen auf Ihre  
Freuden zu warten, aber ich werde  
sich bemühen & habe mich nicht  
sich in der Hoffnung zu versetzen  
in Ungleichheit zu sein  
Montenegro zu sein.



Zu meinem größten Leid.  
wäre ich die Zufriedenheit in  
Ihre von Ihnen Befürchteten  
Klein zu lassen. Ich bin  
in Haste & nicht mehr wohl  
kommen zu sein & habe mich  
sich in der Hoffnung zu versetzen  
auf die Hilfe der Unter-  
stützung zu sein; letztere jedoch  
in der Ungleichheit zu sein  
mit der Ungleichheit zu sein  
zu sein, wenn es mir diese

Zufriedenheit dieser Punkte  
Ihre die Originalität für  
sich. Ich bin die  
Bekanntmachung eine feierliche  
Schlichtung der Sache gesagt,  
Weil die Originalität, Postskriaturen  
Postskriaturen etc etc & so die  
sich in diesem Falle die Originalität  
vollständig nicht einzuwenden sein.  
Ich bitte so gerne eine große  
"gütliche Bewusstheit" in allen Angelegenheiten.  
Recht die Schlichtung erfüllt, aber  
ich habe in diesem Ressort keine  
nicht zu befehlen & kann daher

 Konopischt

Grüß dich Mai fest ich so auch  
 wieder einmal bei Friedegg wohl,  
 dich war noch Alles geschlossen  
 in diesem die hundertste noch  
 nicht eingezogen gewesen zu sein.  
 Ich war so glücklich wieder einmal  
 auf dem Berg zu sein in Ems gehen  
 zu sein. Bei dir war dich so viele  
 liebe alte Erinnerungen zu dir  
 Köpfe dich. Mein  
 Lybich dich ich sam dem besten  
 dich in die feine dich dich



Sie im Meinigen gewonnen  
 Landstätt, sowie noch die das  
 bestes was ich noch einmal  
 Jahre wird die gute Sache  
 Kathilde in dem "Aven"  
 laß dich dich.

Mein dich ich die dich  
 Gräßen Ihre Mich dich dich  
 mich dich dich dich dich  
 dich dich dich dich dich  
 Mit dem dich dich dich

in jungstlichen dich dich  
 Ich dich dich  
 dich dich  
 267  
 dich  
 1912.