

## The Austrian Telegraph Service



**Aufgabs-Recepisse**  
Recepis podavaci

der k. k. Telegraphen-Station }  
o. k. telegrafické štace v }

Der Gefertigte bestätigt die am } / 187- {nm} {Uhr } {Min. }  
Nízepsaný potvrzuje, že dne } {o} {hod.} {min. }

{Mittags erfolgte Aufgabe eines mit } {fl. } {kr.} frankirten  
{poledne podán byl telegram } {zl.} {kr.} frankovaný,

Telegrammes an }  
svědělci p }

in }  
ve }

(Böhm.)



Evidenznummer:	Gattung	TELEGRAMM		Adreßland	GEBÜHRE
Vom Absender gewünschter Beförderungsweg	von				Aus dem Vorschein
Nr mit Taxworten ( W. Ch.) aufgegeben am 190 um Uhr M. Mit.					K
Dienstliche Angaben:					Der Annahmestempel
Stundung der Gebührenabrechnung					
<p>Die Aufgabe von Telegrammen gegen nachträgliche Gebührenabrechnung kann nur bei jenem Telegraphenamte stattfinden, bei welchem diesfalls ein angemessener Gebührenvorschuss erlegt worden ist</p>					
Stampiglie des Absenders:					
Die Telegraphenverwaltung übernimmt hinsichtlich der ihr zur Beförderung oder Bestellung übergebenen Telegramme keine wie immer Verantwortung					
Befördert an am 190 um Uhr Min. Mit. auf Leitung Nr. durch					

QUITTINGS-COUPON			
Stampiglie des Absenders:	über K h als Gebühr für das an		
	in	aufgegebene Telegramm Nr.	vom 190 mit
Dienstliche Angaben:		Amtsstempel	Der Annahmebeamte:

# AUSTRIA 203 – Summer 2018

## The Austrian Telegraph Service

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**Edited by Andy Taylor**

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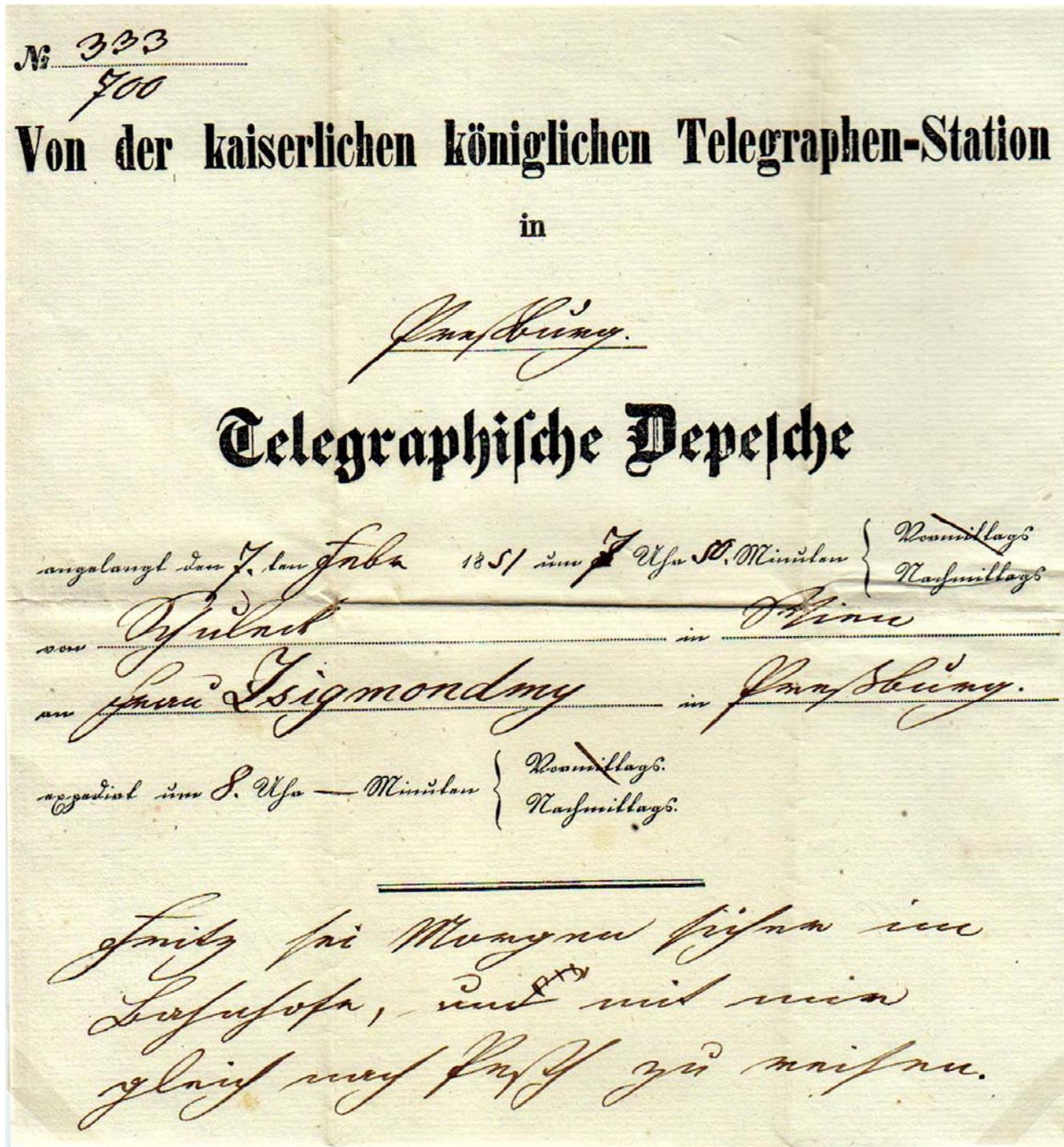
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# THE AUSTRIAN TELEGRAPH SERVICE <sup>1</sup>



One of the earliest telegrams<sup>2</sup> known! It was sent in February 1851 from Vienna to the telegraph station at Pozsony (today Bratislava) and transcribed on to this form which was then sent to the recipient in a telegram envelope.

<sup>1</sup> By Andy Taylor, Roger Morrell, and Barry Clark, with considerable help from many APS members. Based on (a) a display by Barry Clark to the 2017 Lincoln meeting (b) the translation of pp 855-869 of Ferchenbauer's Handbuch in the APS(USA) Journal issues 1/5 & 2/1 (c) a display by Andy Taylor at the 2011 Harrogate Fest (d) the APS's Rohrpost CD (e) Articles from Stamps-of-Hungary. Dr Ferchenbauer has allowed us to reproduce material from the 2000 edition of his Handbook. We thank all concerned for their kind permission.

<sup>2</sup> The source documents use Telegram, Telegramm, Telegramme – quite often all three in the same document. We will use Telegram because it's shorter, unless quoting directly, eg the title of a form.

**Introduction**

The Telegraph started in Austria in 1845 when an experimental line was completed between Vienna Nordbahnhof and Floridsdorf by the Northern Railway Co. Development of the system continued in line with the expansion of the railways, who erected telegraph poles along their network. Initially the service was only used by the railways as the Government refused to permit the public to use it. The first long-distance telegraph service began to operate between Vienna and Brünn in March 1847, a distance of 154km, and was used exclusively for Government messages. It was so successful that the line was extended by a further 200km to Prague in the same year. About the same time lines were completed between Vienna and Pressburg and Vienna and Triest. Thereafter construction of a telegraph network to cover the entire monarchy took place. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1847 agreement was reached for the transmission of messages between Austro-Hungary and Prussia. However it was not until 15<sup>th</sup> February 1850 that the public were allowed access.

From the outset the Austrian Government kept the telegraph and postal administration separate, but both came under the authority of the Ministry of Commerce. The administrations worked together to set up district offices (Vienna, Agram, Brünn, Cracow, Graz, Innsbruck, Lemberg, Linz, Pest, Prague, Reichenberg, Temesvár, Triest, Verona, and Zara). As a result of the settlement with Hungary on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1867, the administration of telegraph services in Hungarian territories was transferred to Hungarian control. This led to the reorganisation of telegraph services in the Austrian half of the Empire; and in May 1872 the service received its own regional offices (Vienna, Brünn, Czernowitz, Graz, Innsbruck, Lemberg, Linz, Prague, Triest, and Zara) that were closed when independent telegraph administration ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1883.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 1884 there was a single administration for postal and telegraph services. Even before then the post office had provided services to the telegraph administration, such as forwarding telegrams in locations without a telegraph office, as well as observing and reporting damage to telegraph lines adjacent to post roads. Telegraph services expanded rapidly and in close relation to the extension of railways.

**Procedures and forms**



The illustration shows the transmittal form for a telegram from Semlin to Alt Pazua on 18 Dec 1869 with the receipt glued on top.

The sender wrote the text and the address of the recipient on an “Aufgaben-Blankette” (the transmittal form). The sender was given a receipt (Gebührenquittung or Aufgabeschein) that showed the charges paid, including fees for any special services. Initially receipts were provided free, but after 1<sup>st</sup> August 1873, they were issued only on request and upon payment of a fee. At the receiving office telegrams were written on a form for incoming telegrams and were delivered by messenger or forwarded by post.

At first telegrams were accepted only at telegraph offices; later also successively at post offices, railway stations and private telegraph offices, mail boxes at post offices and travelling post offices, collection boxes for pneumatic

mail in Vienna, and even by rural letter carriers. Certain special fees, for instance for expedited delivery over telegraph lines, had to be prepaid with stamps placed on the transmittal form.

**TELEGRAMM.**

Raum für Depeschensmarken

Adresse *Kornenburg*

Text *Altenstädter Schenkung  
nach St. Augustin  
Kolon Goleinböck  
fünfzehn  
ausgegeben*

	Franco		Creditirt	
	fr.	kr.	fr.	kr.
Telegraf.-Gebühren.				
Nebengebühren ...				
Summa		50		

Angenommen durch *Kornenburg*

von *H. K.*

3126 Postens-Nr. 90

Register-Nr. 1

Worte *10* Chiff *150*

Dienstl. Zusätze

Expedirt

am 187... um M.

auf Leitung Nr.

durch

Telegraphen-Druck Nr. 78.

The fees for sending a telegram had to be paid in cash until 1<sup>st</sup> August 1873 when telegraph stamps were introduced and their use made compulsory. This situation lasted until 31<sup>st</sup> March 1879 when the stamps were discontinued and cash was reintroduced. After 1<sup>st</sup> January 1884 there was an option of using cash or postage stamps. The details of the telegraph stamps are in a separate article.

For all these procedures there were official forms that went through many printings and changes. In 1873, transmittal and receipt forms with telegraph stamp imprints were placed into use; they were valid until 31.3.1879. On 1.1.1885 forms with imprints of current postage stamps were introduced for deferred-payment customers (see separate article with listing and examples).

From 1<sup>st</sup> May 1905, all telegrams placed in mail or pneumatic mail boxes, as well as telegrams sent at post offices outside the telegraph network or given to rural letter carriers or telegraph messengers, had to be franked with postage stamps on the transmittal form to the amount of the prescribed charges.

The transmittal forms were kept for a period of time (to allow for queries) and then destroyed - hence there are very few surviving examples of the

actual forms used. This means that the main source of study of telegraph cancellations are on telegram receipts (Aufgabescheine) issued by the sending office – these will be discussed in a later article. Some of the stamps which did escape destruction can be found but at best have only partial cancels.

## Telegram Rates

The cost of sending a telegram was complicated and was governed by numerous agreements between the telegraph administration and the railway companies who owned the lines. Domestic rates were strongly influenced by the German-Austrian Telegraph Association agreements. Foreign telegrams rates are particularly confusing with numerous bilateral agreements between different countries – the first International Telegraph Treaty of 1872 (RGB152) is 82 pages long! Such rates were made up from charges imposed by the sending and receiving countries and these often included a transit fee. Distance was a key factor and where a message went overseas the cost of submarine cable transmittal had to be added. From 1<sup>st</sup> July 1886 (1 April 1879 to/from Germany) rates for telegrams sent abroad combined a basic rate and a fee for each word. From time to time the Austrian authorities reissued the regulations and rates for foreign telegrams, specified by destination, to enable officials and senders to charge and pay the correct fee

## Domestic Telegram Rates

Period	Rates			Paid by
10th Jan 1850- 30th Sept 1863	60kr for 1 to 20 words per zone; 10 zones based on distance			Cash
1st Oct 1863- 31st Dec 1865	Simple telegrams (1 to 20 words)		Per 10 extra words	Cash
	To 10 <i>Meilen</i> (1)	40kr	20kr	
	10 to 45 <i>Meilen</i>	80kr	40kr	
	45 to 100 <i>Meilen</i>	120kr	60kr	
1st Jan 1866- 31st Mar 1870	Simple telegrams (1 to 20 words)		Per 10 extra words	Cash
	To 10 <i>Meilen</i>	40kr	20kr	
	10 to 45 <i>Meilen</i>	80kr	40kr	
	Over 45 <i>Meilen</i>	120kr	60kr	
1st Apr 1870- 31st July 1873	Simple telegrams (1 to 20 words)		Per 10 extra words	Cash
	To 10 <i>Meilen</i> (Zone I)	40kr	20kr	
	Over 10 <i>Meilen</i> (Zone II)	60kr	30kr	
1st Aug 1873- 31st Mar 1879	Simple telegrams (1 to 20 words) regardless of distance		Per 10 extra words	Telegraph Stamps
	Basic	50kr	25kr	
	Railway Teleg Surcharge	20kr	10kr	
	Local Telegrams	20kr	10kr	
	From 1st Oct 1876: 10 word domestic telegrams	30kr	n/a	
1st Apr 1879- 31st Dec 1891		Local	Elsewhere (2)	Cash; from 1st Jan 1884 cash or postage stamps
	Basic Rate	12kr	24kr	
	Rate per Word	1kr	2kr	
	Railway Teleg Surcharge	n/a	1kr per word	
1st Jan 1892- 31st Dec 1899		Local	Elsewhere (2)	Postage stamps or cash
	Rate per Word	1kr	3kr	
	Min rate per Telegram	20kr	30kr	
1st Jan 1900- 30th Sept 1916		Local	Elsewhere (2)	Postage stamps or cash
	Rate per Word (3)	2h	6h	
	Min rate per Telegram	40h	60h	
1st Oct 1916- 11th Nov 1918	Rate per Word	8h	8h	Postage stamps or cash
	Min rate per Telegram	1k	1k	

(1) A “*Meile*” is the Austrian postal mile of 7.586km

(2) From 1891 “Elsewhere” included Bosnia-Herzegovina.

(3) In 1900 and 1901, the rate per word was 6h for local telegrams as well.

## Special telegrams and charges

### Forwarded telegrams

The sender of a telegram could add “**nachzusenden**” (forward) to the address. In that event when the receiving office was informed of a new address at the time of attempted delivery, it would forward the telegram to that address. The “nachzusenden” could also be accompanied by several addresses, and the telegram would be sent successively to these addresses until it was actually delivered.

### Reply-paid telegrams

A service that started in the early years of telegraph operation made it possible to send a telegram and pay in advance for a reply. The sender wrote “**Antwort bezalt**” (reply paid) after the text and before the signature, and prepaid the reply with the amount of the fee for a simple telegram. This covered a reply of up to 20 words; up to 30 was possible but the number had to be stated in the original telegram and the appropriate fee paid.

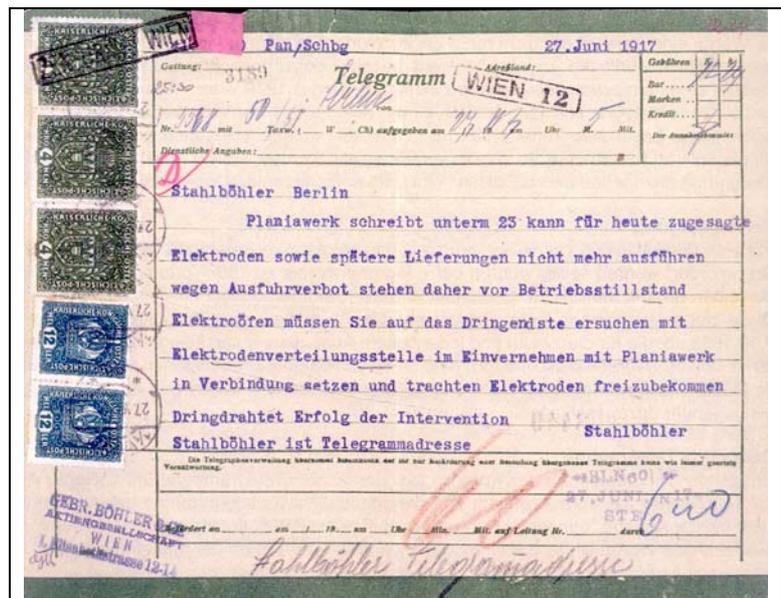
## Duplication

For a reduced total charge, duplicate copies of a telegram could be delivered to several recipients served by the same receiving office.

## Urgent telegrams

Urgent private telegrams were charged triple the normal fee. From 1<sup>st</sup> July 1866, prepayment of urgent reply telegrams was permitted by writing “**dringende Antwort bezahlt**” (urgent reply paid) or “RPD” along with the number of prepaid words. Additionally, a red **D** could be added, as here at the beginning of the typed message.

The illustration shows the green-margined transmittal form for an urgent telegram dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 1917, from Vienna to Berlin, franked with 12kr24h in payment of the rate per word and the fee for urgent telegrams (51 words x 8h = 408h x triple rate = 12kr24h).



## Oddities

We haven't found the instructions for these, but we are assured that there were periods when these services were provided: (a) greetings telegrams, elegantly written on a special form (b) singing telegrams, where the message was sung to you by the delivery postman. The latter were subject to severe delays while a suitable messenger was located!

The top half of a greetings telegram is shown opposite.



## Monthly or deferred payments (“Gestundete”)

Certain senders were allowed to pay a deposit and be billed monthly; they were charged a reduced fee of 2kr (later 5h) for a receipt coupon which was kept by the transmitting office for accounting purposes. A series of special handing-in forms was issued for these telegrams – see later.

## Letter telegrams

Letter telegrams were introduced in Austria on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1912 and for traffic between Austria, Liechtenstein, Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1914. These telegrams were sent for half the normal fee when traffic was light (eg at night) to the telegraph office closest to their destination, and then delivered in the normal way – ie, as an ordinary post-paid letter. The service was only available between offices both of which were equipped with a Hughes apparatus (see Kainbacher vol III part 2 page 257 for the 1923 list).

## Cancellations

An independent telegraph administration using its own cancels existed until 31<sup>st</sup> December 1883. The use of telegram cancels began in the central office in Vienna in 1859. By the mid-1860s many telegraph offices had oval

cancelers without the coat of arms, as well as a circular canceler in the form of an official seal with the imperial double eagle. The cancel inscriptions did not differentiate between telegraph offices, branch offices, substations and summer offices; only main offices were shown as such.

Cancelers from pneumatic stations and railway telegraph offices are also found. The cancellations are mostly in black, sometimes blue or violet, rarely green or red; one also finds handwritten and crayon. Some cancelling devices employed by telegraph offices remained in use after the consolidation of the post and telegraph administrations. Cancelers of local post offices also came into use after the consolidation. The selection below is from Klein's "The Regular Postmarks of the Permanent Local Post Offices in the Austrian half of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy".



1070



1153



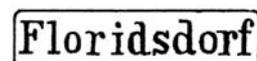
1146



1154



1151



1140



1147



1150



1149



1141



1152



1142



1138

PRAG  
PRAHA 10

1145



1136

### **Forwarding by the Postal Service**

Even though a rapidly growing number of telegraph stations formed an ever denser network, it was unavoidable that telegrams would have to be forwarded by courier, express messenger or the postal service if the addressees were situated outside the delivery districts of the telegraph offices. An inordinate number of regulations tried to make the interplay of the various services as smooth, efficient and accountable as possible.

From **February 1851**, telegrams that were to be forwarded by the postal service were handed over to the appropriate post office as registered letters against a forwarding receipt. The franking and registering fees were to be paid by the sender in cash.



Telegrams for locations in foreign countries to which telegraph connections did not exist were sent to the closest possible inland telegraph station, and from there handed over to the postal service for forwarding, with correct letter postage paid by adhesive stamps.

The illustration shows an official envelope for a telegraph dispatch from Venice to Salonika, Greece. It was telegraphed from Venice to the telegraph station at Hermannstadt, then handed over to the postal service there as a registered letter and forwarded to Salonika. The franking of 3 + 6 + 9 + 9 kr, 1850 issue, covers the letter and registration fee of an ordinary letter to Greece; the telegraph fee was paid in cash.

**From 1<sup>st</sup> October 1859 postage stamps were used for forwarding of telegrams by the postal service within the monarchy.**

The telegraph dispatching stations had to provide those telegrams with stamps for the letter franking and registration fees, hand them over to the postal service against a receipt, and collect the amount charged from the sender. From that date on, telegrams for direct delivery were handled as express letters. The post office had to be paid delivery/express or messenger fees. For each telegram the fee was 15kr for daytime delivery and 30kr for night delivery. If the telegram was addressed to a recipient outside the dispatching office district, the express delivery fee amounted to 120kr plus a fixed surcharge of 15kr for delivery up to a distance of 2 *Meilen*; beyond that distance the actual delivery costs were charged.

If the forwarding charges could not be determined in advance (for instance, by a telegraph query) the fixed delivery fees plus a deposit (Gelddepôt or Vorschuß) were collected from the sender, which after delivery of the telegram and after determination of the actual costs, was settled with the sender as follows. The delivering post office had to note the costs for the telegram delivery on the back of an accompanying slip and return the latter to the forwarding post office. The forwarding post office collected the accrued charges from the telegraph office and with the accompanying slip settled accounts with the telegraph office once a month. If the messenger fee was paid in advance when forwarding a telegram, the notice “*Bote frei*” (Messenger free) was affixed to the telegram. In case of payment by the addressee “*Bote unbezahlt*” (Messenger not prepaid) was noted.



Telegram from Deva addressed to Maros Vasarhely; telegraphed from Deva to the telegraph station Klausenburg; the delivery form filled out there, franked as a registered letter and handed over to the post office for forwarding. Franked with 10 + 10kr as payment of the fee for a regular letter and the registration fee.

From **22<sup>nd</sup> January 1862**, telegrams that were to be picked up at the telegraph station or the nearest post office by the addressee could be marked with “Bureau restant” or “Poste restante”; however if such a telegram were to be forwarded by the post office, it was to be treated as a registered letter and it had to be decided if the forwarding charges for postage, registration and express delivery were to be paid by the sender and/or accounted for by a deposit, or be collected from the addressee. This was noted on the envelope with “*Postgebühr vom Adressaten zu zahlen*” (postage to be paid by the addressee) or “*zahlbares Telegramm*” (chargeable telegram).

Telegram marked “Bozen, poste restante” and therefore franked by the telegraph station as a registered local letter and handed over to the post office for delivery. Franked by 4 x 2kr stamps to pay the local letter fee of 3kr and the registration fee of 5kr.



Every telegram to be forwarded was handled as a registered letter until **May 1865**. On that date, the international telegraph treaty of Paris brought about the cessation of obligatory registration except when numbers were included in the telegram text. The registration charge was paid by the sender. The forwarding of registered telegrams was handled as before. Telegrams franked by the telegram forwarding station as registered letters were handled by the postal service as express letters, whereas non-registered telegrams were treated as ordinary letters.

By decree of **October 1866** the handling of registered and non-registered telegrams was amended further. Both options were still available to the sender, although telegrams from private parties to the government and its offices had to be registered. Non-registered telegrams were treated, in regard to forwarding and delivery at the destination, as express letters; and the respective fees (postage, express delivery or messenger fee) were paid by the addressee.

From **1<sup>st</sup> May 1868** whether delivered by day or night, there had to be paid an express delivery fee of 15 kr, and for delivery outside a post office district a messenger payment of 50kr per Meile or part thereof (but no other surcharge). All telegrams handed over to the post office for forwarding, which were not marked “*Poste restante*” and not to be delivered by messenger, were treated as express letters; and when handed over by the telegraph station to the post office all charges paid by affixing appropriate postage stamps.

Telegrams for which the forwarding fees were to be paid by the addressee were marked “*Porto und Expressgebühr vom adressanten zu entrichten*” (postage and express fee to be paid by addressee) on the envelope and forwarded as non-registered express letters. If that marking was not present, the telegraph posting station had to provide the envelope with stamps necessary to cover the postage, registration and express delivery or messenger fees and forward them, against a mailing receipt. They were treated as registered express letters.

From **19<sup>th</sup> January 1870** all telegrams were again handed over to the post office by the telegraph forwarding stations as registered and provided with appropriate stamps to cover postage and registration fees. That also applied to telegrams marked “*Expresbestell- oder Botengebühr vom Adressanten zu entrichten*” (delivery-fee or messenger-fee to be collected from addressee) If undeliverable, or if acceptance of the telegram was refused, the unpaid fees were recovered from the telegraph posting station by return of the telegram.

If forwarding was prepaid, which could only be the case for a registered telegram, postage and/or registering fees plus the express delivery fees or messenger charges had to be paid to the post office as postage stamps and the amount of the express delivery or messenger charges reported back to the posting station. The same procedure was applied from 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 1870 to telegrams that were not prepaid.

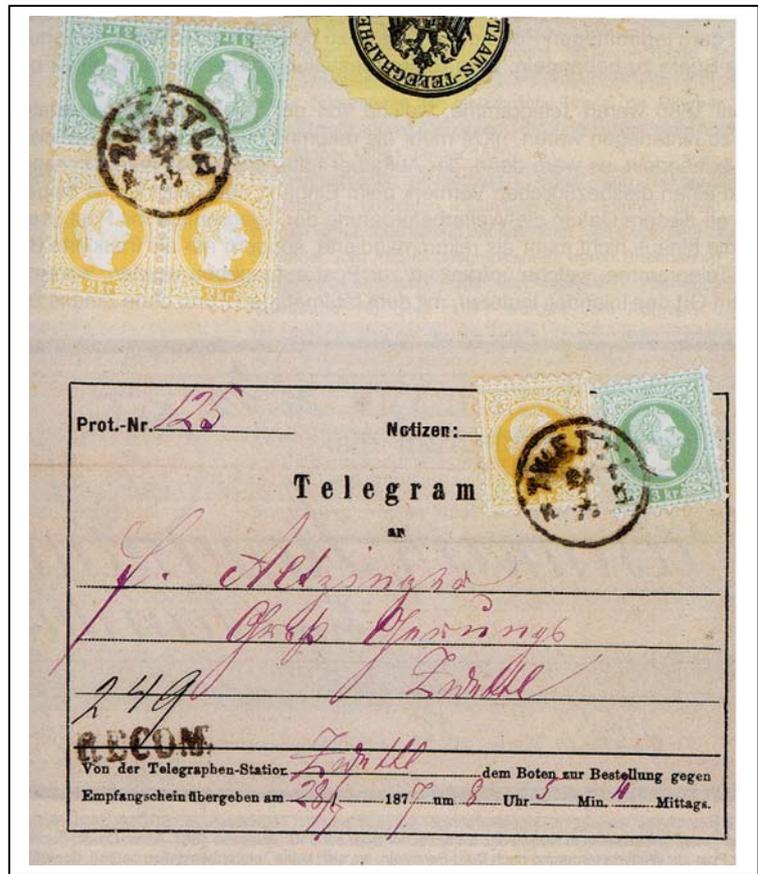
From 29<sup>th</sup> September 1877, telegrams that were handed over to the post office as registered and provided with appropriate stamps to cover postage and registration fees, or in case of inland government telegrams, were marked on the envelope with the inscription “*portofreies Staatstelegramm*” (postage-free state telegram).



Telegram of 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1873, addressed to a recipient at Anthering near Salzburg, annotated “Per Post” and in handwriting that express charges were to be collected from addressee. As there was no telegraph station at Anthering, the telegram was franked as a registered letter by the telegraph station and handed over to the postal service for delivery to Anthering, which also had to collect the express fee from the addressee. Franked with 15kr to pay the letter postage rate of 5kr & the delivery fee of 10kr.

If the telegraph station also correctly paid the express delivery or messenger fee with stamps, such telegrams were to be treated in every respect as registered express letters. However, if the express delivery or messenger fees were not paid the envelope was marked “*Expresßgebühr vom Adressaten zu entrichten*” (express charge to be paid by addressee). Such telegrams were also to be forwarded as registered letters and the fees collected from the addressee. Telegrams which were handed in unfranked, or were found in mailboxes, were to be franked with appropriate postage-due, without surcharge, and in every respect treated as ordinary letters. Express delivery was therefore not made.

Telegram of 29<sup>th</sup> July 1877, received at Zwettl, franked as a registered letter and handed over to the post office for forwarding to the addressee at Gross Gerungs. Franked with 3x2 + 3x3kr to pay 5kr postage for long-distance delivery and the registration fee of 10kr.



From 1<sup>st</sup> April 1880 telegrams that were handed in marked “*Poste restante*” were treated as franked but not registered letters, except when the sender had paid the registration fee and the telegram was so marked when handed over to the post office. Further, telegrams forwarded by mail were to be treated as franked but not registered letters. Telegrams mailed without franking and addressed to an inland location were to be franked with the appropriate postage-due.

Un-registered telegram, bilingual German-Bohemian pre-print, from Brünn to Pernstein franked by the telegraph station at Nedwieditz as an ordinary letter with 5kr and handed to the post office for forwarding to Burg-Pernstein, where no telegraph station existed.



After **1<sup>st</sup> April 1880** unfranked telegrams were no longer delivered; however if the telegraph station posted a telegram with the express delivery or messenger fee paid by applied stamps, the telegram was delivered as a registered express letter.

**On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1884** the telegraph and postal services were merged. The complicated systems for transferring telegrams between two separate but co-operating organisations came to an end.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Summary of procedural rules for the forwarding of telegrams by the postal service</b>
February 1851 - September 1859	Registration obligatory, to be paid by the sender in cash
October 1859 - May 1865	Registration obligatory; postage registration and express fees to be paid by the sender, to be franked by forwarding office with stamps; from 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 1862 also "Poste restante" telegrams as registered letters, their fees paid either by the forwarding telegraph office with stamps or by the addressee in cash.
May 1865 - January 1870	Registration optional; registered telegrams treated as before, forwarding of unregistered telegrams as ordinary letters (to October 1866) or express letters, fees collected from the recipient (from October 1866 to January 1870).
January 1870 - August 1877	Registration obligatory, postage and registration to be paid by the sender, delivery fees (express, messenger, runner) were paid by addressee in cash..
September 1877 - April 1880	Registration obligatory, postage and registration to be paid by the sender, delivery fees (express, messenger, runner) were paid either by the forwarding telegraph office with stamps if the sender had prepaid, or paid by the addressee in cash. Exception: unfranked telegrams were treated as ordinary letters, without express delivery.
April 1880 - end December 1883	Registration optional; if the sender paid registration and delivery fees (express etc) and therefore franked by the telegraph forwarding station with stamps, telegrams were delivered as express letters, otherwise as ordinary franked letters.
1 Jan 1884	<b>On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1884 the telegraph and postal services were merged.</b> The complicated systems for transferring telegrams and their costs between two separate but co-operating organisations came to an end.
1 Jan 1884 - 11 Nov 1918	After the merger, telegrams were treated as ordinary, post-paid, letters; and if correctly paid by the sender also as registered express letters.

### **Telegram handing-in forms (Telegrammaufgabebblätter) and receipts (Aufgabescheine)**

These are both discussed in later chapters.

## The Telegraph System in Vienna

### Vienna's delivery problems

When a telegraph system was introduced to Austria, telegrams sent to Vienna were delivered by messenger from the Central Telegraph Office in Börseplatz to addresses "within the Linienwälle". This was the line of the old outer defensive wall, and is today occupied by the Gürtel ring road, familiar to anyone trying to reach inner Vienna from any of the main line railway stations.

In Vienna, the capital city of an empire where commerce was booming following the settlement with Hungary, efficient communications were of the utmost importance both within Vienna itself and with the major centres many hundreds of miles away. At this time speedy communication was confined to the telegraph (the first telephone system in Vienna was opened in 1881 with 154 subscribers). However, it could take a messenger on foot an hour to go from the Central Telegraph Office to the boundaries, and another hour to return, even if he adhered to the rule forbidding entering licenced premises when on duty!

In 1872 a limited company applied for a concession for the establishment of "a pneumatic postal system". This would solve the problems of the expansion of Vienna and of the expansion of telegram traffic as trade increased. The Vienna Pneumatic Post system would be used (a) to send outgoing written telegraph messages from local post offices to the Central Telegraph Office for onward transmission by wire, and (b) to forward incoming messages to local offices for delivery by messengers based there. It would also avoid the State paying the Private Telegraph Company (founded in 1869) 10kr for each item handed to it for delivery. There may have been a legal dispute over this, since in 1895 the Vienna Private Telegraph Company was nationalised!

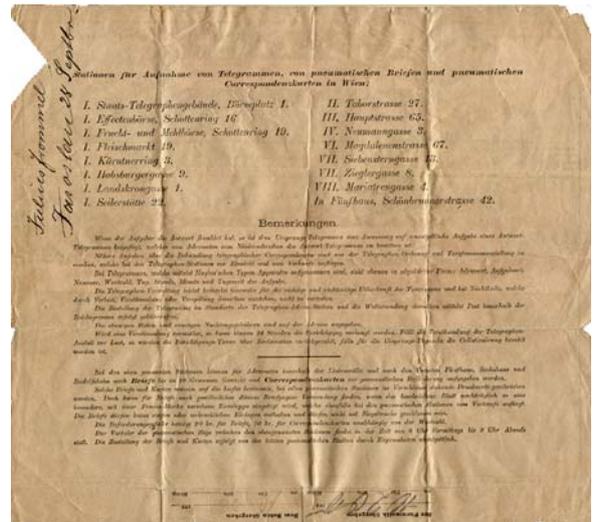
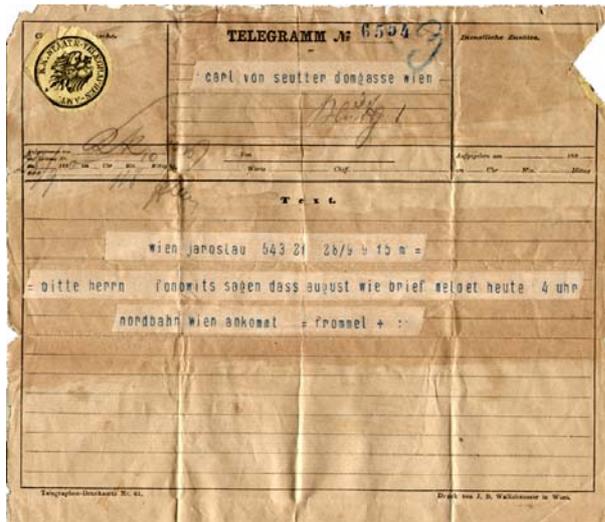
The Vienna Pneumatic Post was opened to the public on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1875, having cost the equivalent of about £2.6 million at 2010 prices). The new service was primarily for the expedition of telegrams, although private correspondence was accepted. The "Ordinances for the Austrian Telegraph Offices, No.3, of 19<sup>th</sup> March 1875" announced "the starting of the pneumatic pipe system and introduction of pneumatic letters in Vienna with effect from 1st March of this year".

Post-Nr.	
Regst.-Nr.	1875
9151	
<b>TELEGRAMM</b>	
an	
Graf Chodek Oberlieutenant	
Prin Mariahilferstrasse 20	
Pneumatik überg. U. 9 M. 11	
Von der Telegrafien-Station	dem Boten zur Bestellung gegen
Empfangschein übergeben am	187 um 5 Uhr Min. Mits.

An incoming telegram was transcribed on to a special form. With the opening of the pneumatic system the same form was used, and a stamped **Pneumatik überg.** applied with spaces for the manual entry of date and time. Later forms had a pre-printed space for these times.

**Typical 1880s telegrams to Vienna**

The first example was sent from Jaroslau in Galizien to Vienna, completing its journey by pneumatic post.

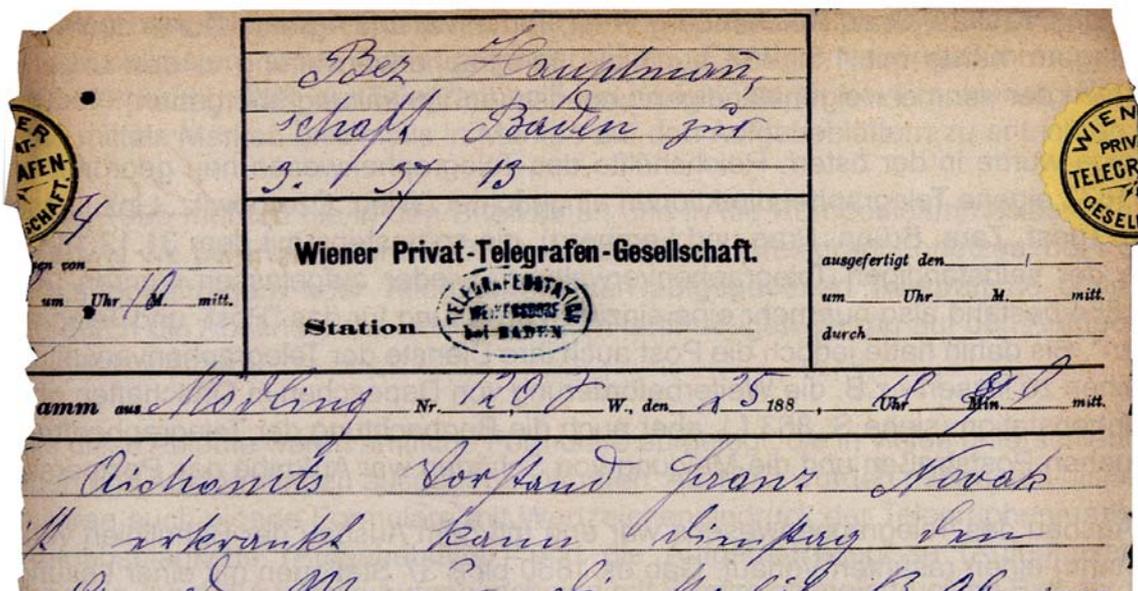


The telegram number is the stamped blue 6554 at the top; to the right thereof is a blue crayoned 3, the routing number (not the office number); the office was located at Karntnering. The delivery address is Domgasse which is just to the east of St Stephens; in pencil is Blutgasse which leads off it. The Fleischmarkt office was considerably closer, but each street was assigned to a specific office. The wording under the yellow seal is 'Classe der Depesche'. The handing-in date should have been on the line below the seal. On the back is a list of 16 telegraph- and pneupost-accepting offices which includes “Frucht & Mehl-Börse, Schottenring 19” and “Effectenbörse, Schottenring 16”. It must therefore predate 1<sup>st</sup> Sep 1890 when Fruchtbörse moved to its new building at Taborstrasse 10, and is thus the 10 July 1880 list.



Upside down at the bottom of side 2 is a small part which when the form is folded and sealed in the official manner becomes visible below the delivery address. It says “Der Pneumatik übergeben 188# um 10 Uhr 20 min V Mittag” and to the right in even fainter pencil “Dem Boten übergeben 188# um 10 Uhr 25 Min # Mittag” (# = blank). That is, despatched by the 10:20 am train and handed to the delivery man at 10:25.

The second example was handled by the private Vienna company, and went from Mödling to Weikersdorf bei Baden. Note the seal – very similar to the State one on the previous telegram!



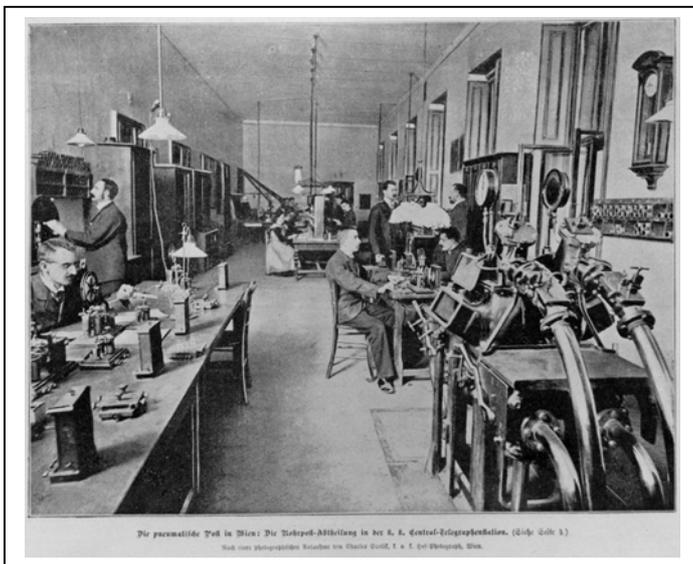
(the bottom half of the image has been trimmed to save space).

## The Telegrafen Centrale building, Vienna

The still-impressive (but difficult to photograph) k.k. Telegrafen Centrale building in Börseplatz was erected in 1870-73 by the architect Winterhalder and builder Edmund Kaiser, at a cost of 704,028 Gulden (about £7 million today). An extra story was added in 1902. A sculpture of a group of figures representing Telegraphy adorned the pediment, although a radio tower erected on the roof in 1964 somewhat ruined the effect. The building was occupied by Austrian Telegraphy, which was subsumed into the Austrian Post in 1883 (and divorced on 1 Jan 1920, only to be reunited on 1 July 1923); they remained there until 1996. The building was bought by the Bank Hypo Alpe Adria, presumably as an investment, and for over a decade was basically unused.

In 2014 a project began to convert it into posh offices and luxury apartments. *“The link between past and present is reflected in many architectural details and the exceptional high ceilings up to 6.1 metres. Enter the building through one of the most prestigious lobbies in Vienna, listed staircases and grand rooms with high ceilings. A personal concierge will assist residents with any request. Also included within the development is a wine cellar and underground parking with electric car charging.”* [See [www.boerseplatz1.com](http://www.boerseplatz1.com)]

## The equipment and how it was used



The Vienna Technical Museum contains a small display of both pneumatic and telegraph equipment; it is (at least, when I was last there it was) on the top public floor, in the opposite corner to the stairs and hidden behind a wall. Particularly informative is a photograph of a telegraph receipt and pneumatic office. According to the caption it is the Central Telegraph Office in Vienna in 1899 although it seems to have only one sending/receiving Felbinger apparatus (mounted unhelpfully close to the wall!) and is totally different from the 1907 photograph below from a Telegraph Department Festschrift. It's possible that this is the Police Headquarters on Schottenring, which was connected to the Central Jail and to the Telegrafen-Centrale.

In the photograph, a Hughes receiving apparatus is shown on the front left-hand desk, being disbelievably observed as it receives a message and produces a paper tape. At a desk behind, ladies are separating the tape into addresses and messages, and sticking these on to telegram forms. Men then assign destination-office codes (the Instradierungschiffre) and sort the forms into pigeon-holes. There are extensive racks on the walls containing the Büchse for outgoing messages.

The staff of the Rohrpost Zentralstation in Vienna, from their 1907 Festschrift. The five sets of apparatus shown – others will have been in the room – is consistent with the number of separate pipes that ran to the building, which a map in the Festschrift shows to have been eight.





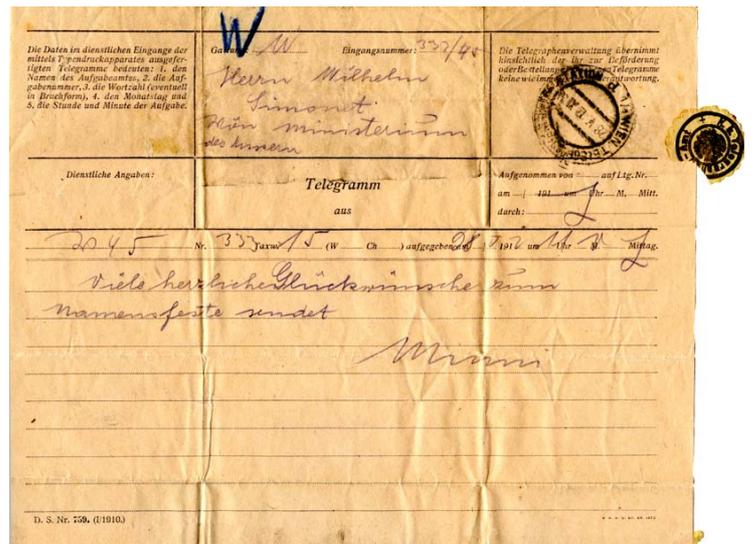
The key to understanding the system is the Hughes Apparatus, which you can see in the Vienna Technical Museum and in the Budapest Postal Museum.

The Hughes transmitter had a keyboard somewhat like a small piano with letters and numbers (it has been suggested that the average Viennese could play the piano from birth, but typing had to be taught!). Pressing the keys caused a 5-part code for the character to be sent as short and long electrical impulses down the wire, and also the character was printed on a paper tape. The Hughes receiver accepted incoming code and printed the corresponding character on a paper tape. Some method existed of synchronising transmitter and receiver, and of setting up a route for the signals to the correct destination.

A longer discussion, with examples of Hughes-station cachets, is in “Stamps of Hungary” #148, Mar 2002, pp 17-20; it notes that the inventor was the American Prof David Hughes, born in Wales in 1831! A later article discusses Prof Hughes and his system.

**Folding and sealing of telegrams**

Before delivery, telegrams were folded (to stop the messenger reading them?) and had one fold inserted into the other. Some specimens have paper seals or sealing strips, some of which are specific to this purpose, others are torn from whatever came to hand in the office!



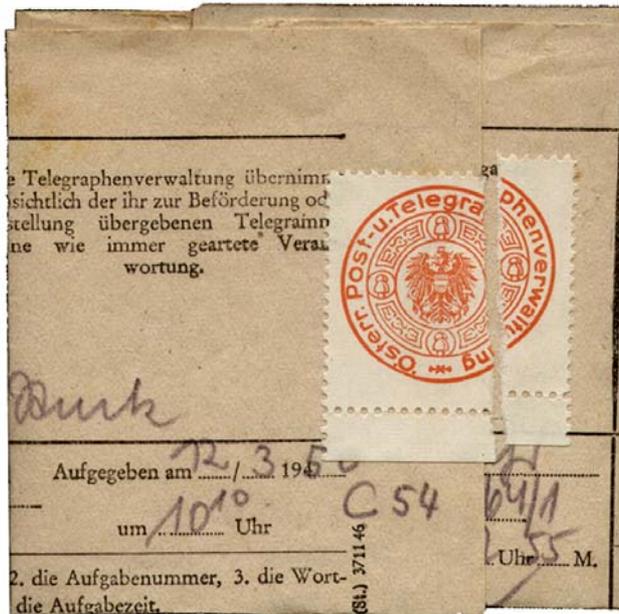
1912 telegram, folded and sealed for delivery (left) and opened (right). The Telegraphencentrale where the telegram arrived was also the delivery office for the Foreign Ministry at Minoritenplatz, the addressee.



1903: the seal is “k.k.telegraphenstation \* c.k.telegrafni stanice \*”. Prag to Trebic.



1927: the seal is “Österr. Bundestelegraphenverwaltung”. Hofkirchen, Mühlkreis to Linz.



This 1962 telegram is from and to Kitzbühel; originally it was folded up and secured with the red seal.

**Seals had other uses, as these examples show.**



This envelope arrived “mit aufgesprungenem Rand” (= with a split-open edge) so was officially sealed on the back on 5 May 1893 at Marokkanergasse (Office 49) by Ferdinand Hübl who duly annotated and signed it.



This letter-card's perforations had torn; it was repaired on 6 May 1908 with a smaller simpler seal and no explanations.

## Further reading

(mostly from the on-line Austrian Law book <http://alex.onb.ac.at/>)

- **1849 RGB416:** 14<sup>th</sup> October – provisional details of the telegraph service that was to be made available to the public “on a date to be announced later”.
- **1850 RGB068** 6<sup>th</sup> Feb – the date (15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1850) and the details, many changed from 1849 RGB416!
- **1850 RGB362** 18 Sept – extension to Austria-Germany traffic.
- **1854 Zalesky’s Handbook p374ff:** a collation of official reports and regulations, apparently privately published by Vienna’s Chief Constable!
- **1872 RGB053:** Austria-Germany telegraphs treaty.
- **1872 RGB055:** Telegraphs control devolved to Länder instead of Vienna.
- **1872 RGB152:** International Telegraph Treaty (82 pages of parallel French and Austrian).
- **1873 RGB127:** Verordnung of 7 July from the Ministry of Trade “Inland telegraph rates shall change, and telegraph stamps shall be introduced”. (On 1 August, the rates changed to 50kr for the first 20 words plus 25kr for each additional 10.)
- **1873 RGB129:** Verordnung of 14 July from the Ministry of Trade giving detailed descriptions of the telegraph stamps and the instructions for using them.
- **1873 RGB130:** 14-page Telegraph Ordnung of 16 July from the Ministry of Trade giving all the rules and regulations for inland and foreign telegrams.  
*Section 5 includes the list of permitted languages: Armenian, Danish, German, English, Flemish, French, Greek, Hebrew, Dutch, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Swedish, Bohemian, Croat, Illyrian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Turkish and Hungarian.*
- **1875** Instruction Manual for the State Telegraph Messengers in Vienna.
- **1879 RGB040:** Verordnung of 17 March from the Ministry of Trade changing the rates from 1 April to 24kr fee plus 2kr per word (half price for local telegrams). The stamps were withdrawn (they could for a brief period be redeemed) and sundry other charges were introduced. The Aufgabescchein was only available if specifically requested, and would cost 5kr.
- **1879 RGB041:** Verordnung of 21 March giving the equivalent information for telegrams to and from Germany.
- **1883 RGB179:** Verordnung of 14 July from the Ministry of Trade dated 16 December. On 1 Jan 1884 the separate Telegraph organisation was abolished and its functions taken over by the Post, whose head offices become “k.k. Post- und Telegraphen-Directionen”.
- **1895 RGB076:** Nationalisation of Vienna Private Telegraph Co.
- **1919 SGB496:** From 1 Jan 1920 there shall be two organisations – (a) Post; (b) Telegraphs Telephones and Pneumatic Post.

See also the Müller articles on “Telegraph Stamps and the Vienna pneumatic system”, parts 3-5 of an 11- instalment series from “Die Postmarke”. The Editor can lend you an electronic copy; it’s 24 pages of German Fraktur presented as pictures.

# Telegram handing-in forms (Telegrammaufgabeblätter)

## Catalogue and listings

You will not be surprised to find that the different catalogues and handbooks list the Telegram and Aufgabebeschein forms in slightly different ways – eg listing the language variants in a different order for an otherwise identical listing. We'll deal with the following:

- ❖ Ferchenbauer 2000 (obsolete but many philatelists still use it)
- ❖ Ferchenbauer 2008 (APS Library Nr 31) **Beware: some item numbers were changed from the 2000 edition!**
- ❖ Michel stationery 2008 (APS Library Nr 355)
- ❖ Higgins & Gage (APS Library Nr 288)
- ❖ ANK (Netto) stationery 2009 (APS Library Nr 438)
- ❖ Schneiderbauer 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (APS Library Nr 56)
- ❖ Ascher (APS Library Nr 1A)

## Telegram forms (Telegrammaufgabeblätter) with imprinted stamps

The fees for sending a telegram had to be paid in cash until 1<sup>st</sup> August 1873 when telegraph stamps were introduced and imprints thereof put on the forms. This lasted until 31<sup>st</sup> March 1879 when the rates changed, stamps were discontinued, and cash was reintroduced. After 1<sup>st</sup> January 1884 there was an option of using cash or postage stamps on whatever printed or handwritten form or paper you wished; Tabacs etc may have sold preprinted forms but you were paying for the paper not the telegraphing! On 1st January 1885 special forms (shown below) were available for deferred-payment telegrams

What?	Ferch 2000	Ferch 2008	Michel 2008	H&G	ANK 2009	Schn 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ascher
Form with "Telegramm" heading issued 1 Aug 1873; imprinted 50kr Telegraph stamp in black/grey. Boxed "Telegraphische Depesche" on the back, designed so that the form could be folded up to conceal your message. Text in German only. Valid till 31 Mar 1879	1	1a	TB1	1	1	1	1
Ditto but black/lilac-grey imprint	--	1b	TB3	3	3	3	3
Form with "Telegraphen Aviso" heading issued Sept 1876; imprinted 30kr Telegraph stamp in olive. Text in German only. Valid till 31 Mar 1879	2	2	TB2	2	2	2	2
Telegraphen-Aviso forms used from 1 April 1879 to end 1883 and with a hole punched in the imprint. This was to use up obsolete forms.	--	(2)	Remainders	--	--	--	(noted)

[Aside: similar-looking sheets and envelopes with a 20kr Telegraph stamp imprint are pneumatic mail items!]

Form with “Telegramm” heading issued 1 Aug 1873: message side

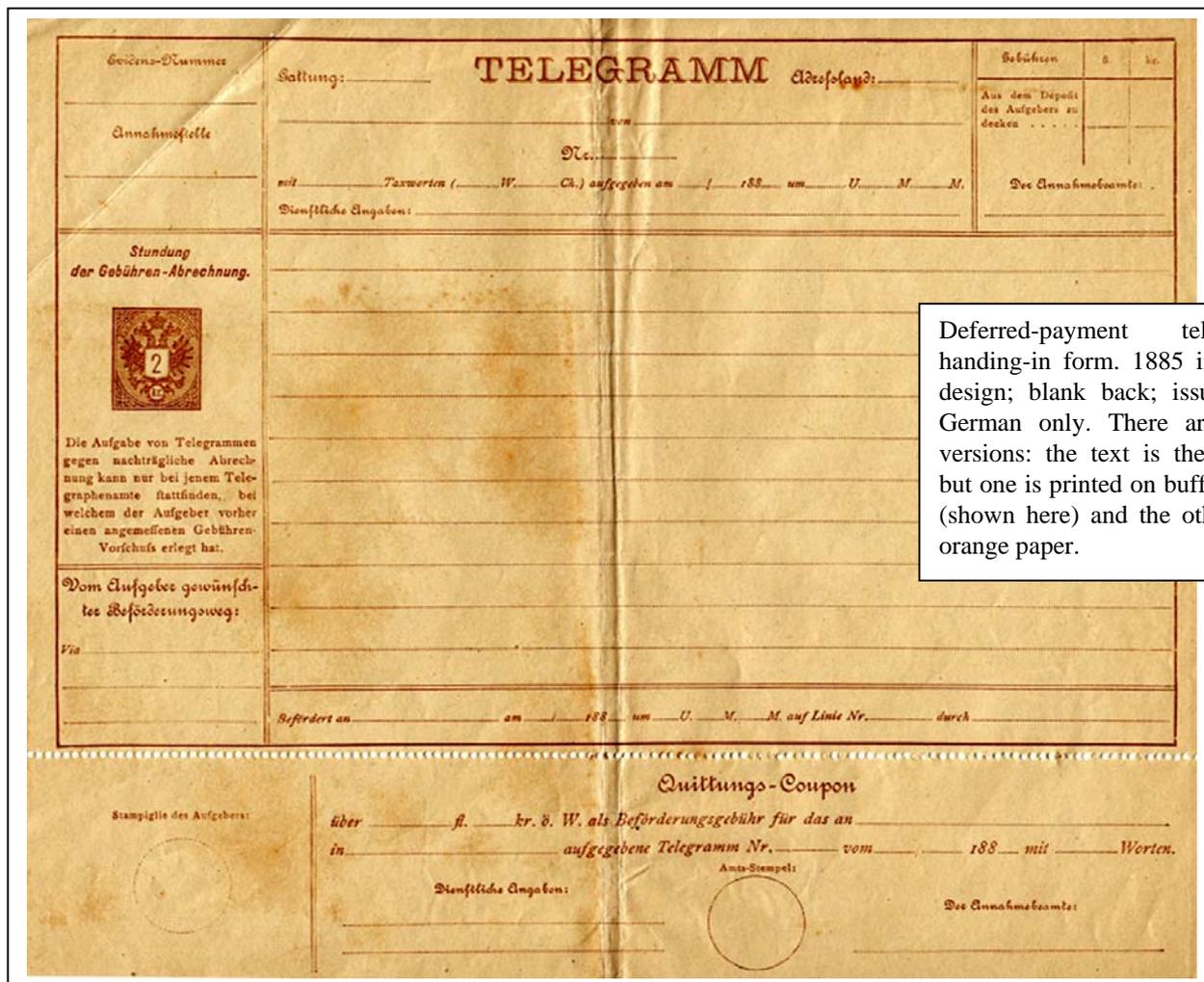
The “address” side, greatly shrunk, and a readable version.

**Telegram forms for deferred-payment telegrams (Telegrammaufgabeblätter für Gestundete Telegramme)**

As well as immediate payment of charges for sending telegrams, certain senders were permitted to pay a deposit and be billed monthly. This privilege was limited to a group of senders known to officials for having extensive telegraphic correspondence. Each of their telegrams had to pay a reduced receipt fee of 2kr (later 5h) for preparation of a receipt coupon. These coupons were kept by the transmitting office for accounting purposes. From 1st January 1885, forms with stamp imprints were available for deferred payment telegrams. The imprint covers the cost of the form and the receipt, NOT of the telegram! The catalogue abbreviations for the ‘languages’ are: D = Deutsch; Böhm = Böhmisch. “D/Böhm” is a two-language form having both German and Czech on it.

What?	Ferch 2000	Ferch 2008	Michel 2008	H&G	ANK 2009	Schn 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ascher
1 Jan 1885; 2kr "1883 arms stamp" imprint, brown on orange. D	--	1A	TB4	4	4a	4	4
1 Jan 1885; 2kr "1883 arms stamp" imprint, brown on buff. D	--	1B	TB5	5	4b	5	5
1890, 2kr "FJ in frame", brown imprint on buff. D	--	2	TB6	6	5-7	6	6
1900, 5h "FJ in frame", brown imprint on buff. D	--	3	TB7	7	8-9	7	7
1900, 5h "FJ in frame", green imprint on buff. D	--	4	TB8	8	10-12	8	8
Ditto but D/Böhm	--	5	TB9	9	13	9	9
1906, 5h "FJ in frame" plus a 2h charge for the form itself, green imprint on cream. D	--	6	TB10	10	14	10	10
Ditto but D/Böhm	--	7	TB11	11	15	11	11
1908, 5h "FJ Jubilee", green imprint on cream. D	--	8	TB12	12	16	12	12
Ditto but D/Böhm	--	9	TB13	13	17	13	13
1916, 5h "Imperial Crown", green imprint on buff. D	--	10	TB14	14	18	14	14
Ditto but D/Böhm	--	11	TB15	-	19	15	--

Note: for the 1890 and 1900 issues, ANK gives separate numbers to generally-identical items with small differences, eg the number of dots in a line.



Deferred-payment telegram handing-in form. 1885 imprint design; blank back; issued in German only. There are two versions: the text is the same but one is printed on buff paper (shown here) and the other on orange paper.

**TELEGRAMM** Österreich

Zeilen-Nummer: \_\_\_\_\_ Sattung: \_\_\_\_\_

Vom Absender gewünschter Beförderungsweg: \_\_\_\_\_

Stundung der Gebühren-Abrechnung: \_\_\_\_\_

Die Aufgabe von Telegrammen gegen nachträgliche Gebührenabrechnung kann nur bei dem Telegraphenamte stattfinden, bei welchem dieselbe ein angemessener Gebührenvorschub erlegt worden ist.

Die Telegraphenverwaltung übernimmt hinsichtlich der ihr zur Beförderung oder Bestellung übergebenen Telegramme keine wie immer geartete Verantwortung.

Geht die Entrichtung eines Mehrgebühre im Betrage des vierten Theiles der tarifmäßigen Taxe wird das Telegramm bei der telegraphischen Übermittlung als chwegs vollständig wiederhergestellt (collationiert), so dass das Einlangen des richtigen Wortlautes bei der Adressirung in erhöhtem Grade gesichert ist.

Bei internen Telegrammen und solchen nach Ungarn und Bosnien-Herzegowina hat der Absender, falls dieselben außerhalb des Stationsortes der Adresse durch einen besondern Boten zugeführt werden sollen, unbedingt die einträgliche Botenlohngebühr von 40 kr. zu bezahlen.

Erfordert an \_\_\_\_\_ am \_\_\_\_\_ 1890 um \_\_\_\_\_ U. \_\_\_\_\_ M. \_\_\_\_\_ Mit. \_\_\_\_\_ durch \_\_\_\_\_

**QUITTINGS-COUPON**

über \_\_\_\_\_ fl. \_\_\_\_\_ kr. v. W. als Gebühr für das an \_\_\_\_\_

in \_\_\_\_\_ aufgegebenes Telegramm Nr. \_\_\_\_\_ vom \_\_\_\_\_ 1890 mit \_\_\_\_\_ Worten.

Dienstliche Angaben: \_\_\_\_\_

Der Annahmebeamte: \_\_\_\_\_

Antonia-Gesellschaft für Manilla-Industrie

Deferred-payment telegram handing-in form. 1890 imprint design; issued in German only. [It has proved impossible to create an image which is both true to the original colours and visible when printed.]

**TELEGRAMM**

Evidenznummer:	Gattung	<b>TELEGRAMM</b>	Adressland	<b>GEBÜHREN</b>
Vom Absender gewünschter Beförderungsweg:	von _____			Aus dem Vorschub zu decken
	Nr.	mit Taxworten ( W. Ch.)	aufgegeben am _____ 1900 um _____ Uhr _____ M. _____ Mit.	Der Annahmebeamte:
Stundung der Gebühren-Abrechnung:	Dienstliche Angaben: _____			

Die Aufgabe von Telegrammen gegen nachträgliche Gebührenabrechnung kann nur bei jenem Telegraphenamte stattfinden, bei welchem dieselbe ein angemessener Gebührenvorschub erlegt worden ist.

Die Telegraphenverwaltung übernimmt hinsichtlich der ihr zur Beförderung oder Bestellung übergebenen Telegramme keine wie immer geartete Verantwortung.

Befördert an \_\_\_\_\_ am \_\_\_\_\_ 1900 um \_\_\_\_\_ Uhr \_\_\_\_\_ Min. \_\_\_\_\_ Mit. \_\_\_\_\_ auf Leitung Nr. \_\_\_\_\_ durch \_\_\_\_\_

**QUITTINGS-COUPON**

Stampiglie des Absenders:	über _____ K _____ h als Gebühr für das an _____
	in _____ aufgegebenes Telegramm Nr. _____ vom _____ 1900 mit _____ Worten
	Dienstliche Angaben: _____
	Amtstempel _____
	Der Annahmebeamte: _____

Deferred-payment telegram handing-in form. 1908 "Jubilee" imprint design; back blank; issued in two versions: German (shown here) and German-Czech (with each piece of text in both languages).

88

Evidenznummer: **6428** Gattung: **Telegramm** Adreßland: **Belgrad**

Vom Absender gewünschter Beförderungsweg: **1** von **Belgrad** mit **1** Taxw. ( **W** Ch) aufgegeben am **1918** um **5** Uhr **15** Min. Mit **1** auf Leitung Nr. **136** durch **136**

Gebühren K h  
 Bar ...  
 Marken ... **1.36**  
 Kredit ...  
 Der Annahmestempel:

Dienstliche Angaben:  
**Lotte Daumen Semlin Haupt**  
**Ein donnerndes hoch dem jungen Ehepaar**  
**entbietet das Kleblatt**  
**Lini Emmi Elli**

Das Briefblatt wird für den Empfänger freigegeben, die Briefmarken jedoch ausschließlich mit Postwertzeichen auf kleinem Blättchen vorzuturnen.

Das Briefblatt wird für den Empfänger freigegeben, die Briefmarken jedoch ausschließlich mit Postwertzeichen auf kleinem Blättchen vorzuturnen.

Name und Wohnung des Absenders:  
**Daumen Lotte**  
**Mariendamm**  
**akt 9.**

D. S. Nr. 771. (Auflage 1916.)

Example of "free" form used in 1918 to write a telegram, then affix postage stamps to pay for its transmittal. Sent from Belgrade to Semlin.

Gattung: **Telegramm** Adreßland: **Belgrad**

Nr. **1050** mit **16** Taxw. ( **W** Ch) aufgegeben am **1918** um **4** Uhr **15** Min. Mit **1** auf Leitung Nr. **136** durch **136**

Gebühren K h  
 Bar ... **1.28**  
 Marken ... **1.10**  
 Kredit ...  
 Der Annahmestempel:

Dienstliche Angaben:  
**Stationskasse Budweis.**  
**Bitte Grundgebühr der Nichtanweisung**  
**Juli und August 1918 wegen Warte**  
**weiterer Schritte.**

Absender:  
**Hauptmann Josef Jemelka,**  
**Instradierungsstelle Belgrad**

Die Telegraphenverwaltung übernimmt hinsichtlich der ihr zur Beförderung oder Bestellung übergebenen Telegramme keine wie immer geartete Verantwortung.

Name und Wohnung des Absenders:  
**Hauptmann Josef Jemelka,**  
**Instradierungsstelle Belgrad**

Befördert an **1918** um **4** Uhr **15** Min. Mit **1** auf Leitung Nr. **136** durch **136**

D. S. Nr. 771. (Auflage 1916.)

A similar form used in 1918, with postage stamps. Sent from Belgrade to Budweis. Sender's cachet: **KuK XXXX Baon V. Belgrad / Instradierungsstelle**

# Telegram Receipt Certificates (Aufgabebescheine)

## In the beginning

In the early years of the telegraph service in Austria, a sender of a telegram was automatically given a receipt in the form of a Gebührenquittung or Aufgabebeschein. This showed the recipient's name, destination and the charges paid. The wording on the front and the back changes from issue to issue – sometimes reflecting an operational need, sometimes it seems because a Beamte felt he could improve on the wording, grammar, or spelling of his predecessor! At first, they were supplied free of charge as part of the service.

Gebühren-Quittung					
über die entrichteten tarifmäßigen Gebühren für die Beförderung des Telegramms N. 81					
in 12 Worten von RAAB nach Comorn					
Aufgegeben am 17. 1862 um 11 Uhr 5 Min. Mittags.					
Bezahlt wurden:		fl.	kr.	Hinterlegt wurden:	
a. für vereinsländische Beförderung			66	a. für Estafetten	
b. „ auswärtige Beförderung				b. „ Expresboten	
c. „ Mehrfältigung					
d. „ Weiterbeförderung					
e. „ Rückantwort					
	Summe		66	Summe	
				Dazu Gebühren wie nebenstehend	
				Hauptsumme	
Gut für [Signature]					
k. k. Telegraphen-Station RAAB					
Angenommen durch [Signature]					

K. k. Druckf. Nr. 31.

Raab (Győr) to Comorn (Komarno), date line 1862, print type No. 31.

**Zur Nachricht.**

- Die Frist zur Rückstellung der für eine Antwortdepesche hinterlegten Gebühr ist auf 15 Tage vom Tage der Aufgabe der Ursprungsdepesche an gerechnet, festgesetzt. Diese Rückstellung findet statt auf Verlangen des Absenders der Ursprungsdepesche, wenn auf dieselbe binnen 10 Tagen keine Antwort erfolgt, oder wenn die Antwortdepesche von ihrem Aufgeber selbst bezahlt wurde. Nach Verlauf von 15 Tagen verfällt die hinterlegte Gebühr.
- Der Ueberrest aus dem für Voten- und Estafetten-Beförderung hinterlegten Betrage wird dem Aufgeber der Depesche, sobald die Höhe der Beförderungskosten bekannt geworden ist, vom 5. bis zum 15. Tage nach der Aufgabe der Depesche, über Anmelden sogleich zurückgestellt. Nach dieser Frist kann die Rückerstattung nur von dem betreffenden k. k. Telegraphen-Inspectorate bewilligt werden, und findet nach Ablauf eines Jahres nicht mehr statt.
- Der Absender einer Depesche ist zur Nachzahlung der zu wenig erhobenen Beträge überhaupt und auch in dem Falle verpflichtet, wenn sich die mit demselben über das hinterlegte Depositum gepflogene Abrechnung nachträglich als unrichtig erweisen sollte.
- Für etwaige Nachteile, welche durch Verlust, Versümmung oder Verspätung von Depeschen entstehen, wird keinerlei Entschädigung gewährt.
- Der Aufgeber einer Depesche, welcher dieselbe zurückziehen oder unterdrücken will, ist gehalten, sich vollständig zu legitimiren.
- Reclamationen sind innerhalb sechs Monaten vom Tage der Depeschen-Aufgabe geltend zu machen. (Erlaß der k. k. Staats-Telegraphen-Direction vom 9. April 1861, Z. 1339-T).

[Signature]

Back of above with six paragraphs of text. Last line refers to an Erlaß of the k.k. Staats-Telegraphen-Direction dated 9 April 1861.

**Gebühren-Quittung** *Duplicate 19*

über die entrichteten tarifmäßigen Gebühren für die Beförderung des Telegramms N<sup>o</sup> *12*  
 in *48* Worten von *Skirchen* nach *Mohacs*  
 Aufgegeben am *25. September* 18*69* um *11* Uhr *9* Min. *9* Mittags.

Bezahlt wurden:	fl.	kr.	Sinterlegt wurden:	fl.	kr.
a. für vereinsländische Beförderung		<i>1 50</i>	a. für Stafetten		
b. „ auswärtige Beförderung			b. „ Expresboten		
c. „ Vervielfältigung					
d. „ Weiterbeförderung					
e. „ Rückantwort					
Summe			Summe		
			Dazu Gebühren wie nebenstehend		
			Hauptsumme		

Gut für *Ein golden 50 Kr*  
 K. K. Telegraphen-Station *Brün* *Mugoginski*  
 Angenommen durch *Mugoginski*

Tel. Druckort Nr. 31.

'Skirchen' (Fünfkirchen, Pécs) to Mohacs duplicate receipt 25 Sept 1869, print type 31. Same back as above

**Gebühren-Quittung**

über die entrichteten tarifmäßigen Gebühren für die Beförderung des Telegramms N<sup>o</sup> *4642*  
 in *22* Worten von *Brünn* nach *Wien*  
 Aufgegeben am *29* 187*7* um *4* Uhr *4* Min. *1* Mittags.

Bezahlt wurden:	fl.	kr.	Sinterlegt wurden:	fl.	kr.
a. für vereinsländische Beförderung			für Weiterbeförderung		
b. „ auswärtige Beförderung					
c. „ Vervielfältigung					
d. „ Weiterbeförderung					
e. „ Antwort					
f. „ Recommendation					
Summe			Hauptsumme		

Gut für \_\_\_\_\_  
 K. K. Telegraphen-Station *Brünn* *Mel.*  
 Angenommen durch \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. Druckort Nr. 31.

Privately printed Drucksorte 31, by J B Wallishauser, dated 187\_, used Brünn to Vienna, front layout changed.

The 1873 and 1875 forms with 5kr Telegraph Stamp imprints are easy to tell apart; they follow the redesigned telegraph stamps issued on 21 October 1873. See pages 47-48. Note also the date when the form was used, and the cancellation; eg oval K.K. PNEUMATISCH STATION N<sup>o</sup> nn cancels began in 1875.

## Changes and charges for the charged-for forms

After 1st August 1873, owing to the vastly increasing numbers of telegrams being sent and as an opportunity for a further revenue stream, Aufgabescheine were only issued on request and on payment of a 5kr fee. A 5kr (after 1900, 10h) imprint was added to the form; and as normal with Austrian stationery, the forms were issued in German-only and in bilingual or even trilingual versions. Many issues have “Rules” on the back, to tell the sender what he must or must not do. In theory an Aufgabeschein was also available for pneumatic post; but none are known. Firstly, three specimens, to clarify what we’re discussing!



Telegram receipt issued on 7.11.1877 at KKPS No 3 which was Telegraphenamnt Kärntner-Ring; the telegram cost 50kr and the receipt an extra 5kr.



Telegram receipt from K.K.POST- u. TELEGRAPHENAMT WIEN EFFECTENBORSE for a 25-word telegram sent to Szegedin at a charge of 75kr on 23 April 1888. The receipt cost an extra 5kr.



German receipt with dual Czech-German cancel from the K.K. Telegraph station at Neu Bystritz on 5 Feb 1909. 17-word telegram handed in at 5:15pm and sent to Vienna at a cost of 1K14h plus 10h for the receipt.

## The 1890s problem

The text of the 5<sup>th</sup> “Rule” on the back is of interest: if Rules are present there’s nearly always a German version, of which we have found two types. Rule 5 type A says “Der **Aufgeber**, welcher sein Telegramm zurückziehen oder **unterdrücken** will, ist gehalten sich zu legitimiren”. Type B says “Der **Absender**, welcher sein Telegramm zurückziehen oder **aufhalten** will, ist gehalten sich zu legitimiren”.

**1890:** All the catalogues list 5kr carmine-rose imprint of Franz Josef in frame; buff; 6 rules on the back; last line of main text is **K.K.Telegraphen-Station**. (Ferchenbauer 24-29).

**1892:** All the catalogues **except Ferchenbauer** list 5kr carmine-rose imprint of Franz Josef in frame; buff; 5 Rules on the back; last line of main text is **K.K.Telegraphen-Station**. Rule 5 is type A

**1892:** Ferchenbauer (**only**) lists 5kr carmine-rose imprint of Franz Josef in frame, buff, 5 Rules on the back; last line of main text is **K.K.Telegraphen-Amt**. (Ferchenbauer 30-35)

**1894:** All the catalogues **except Ferchenbauer** list 5kr carmine-rose imprint of Franz Josef in frame, buff, 5 Rules on the back; last line of main text is **K.K.Telegraphen-Amt**. In the language-mark, “Deutsch” is printed in full. Rule 5 is type B.

**We have sought an example provably from the “Ferchenbauer 1892” issue. It would look the same as an everybody-else’s-1894 issue but be used in 1892 or 1893. No such item has been found. After considerable study and international discussion, we have concluded that the “Ferchenbauer 1892” issue (his numbers 30-35) is a chimera. This theory will of course be disproved by an example: any reader having one is cordially invited to communicate with the authors!**

## Catalogue listings

The different catalogues and handbooks list these forms in slightly different ways – eg listing the language variants in a different order for an otherwise identical listing. We tabulate Michel stationery 2015; Schneiderbauer 2<sup>nd</sup> edition; Ferchenbauer 2000; Ferchenbauer 2008; ANK stationery 2009; Higgins & Gage; and Ascher. We’ll ignore the sub-numbers some catalogues assign to minor errors.

What?	Michel 2015	Schn	Ferch 2000	Ferch 2008	ANK 2009	H&G	Ascher
<b>1873, 1 Aug.</b> Imprint of first printing of 5kr Telegraph-stamp in pale brown; value tablet has mottled background and 2 ornaments; '1873' under it is larger. Title "Aufgabs-Recepisse". Valid till end 1883.							
D	TA1	1	(1) <sup>1</sup>	1	1	15	1
Ditto but D/Böhm	TA2	2	(2)	2	2	16	2
Ditto but D/Ital	TA4	4	(3)	3	4	17	3
Ditto but D/Poln	TA3	3	(4)	4	3		
<b>1873, Oct.</b> Imprint of redesigned 5kr Telegraph-stamp in pale brown; value tablet has solid background and no ornaments; '1873' under it is smaller. Title "Aufgabs-Recepisse". Valid till end 1883. Michel has subtypes depending on the shape of the corners of the frame.							
D	TA5	5	(5)	5	5	18	4
Ditto but D/Böhm	TA6	6	(6)	6	6	19	5
Ditto but D/Poln	TA7	7	(8)	8	7	20	6
Ditto but D/Ital	TA8	8	(7)	7	8	21	7
<b>1879, 1 April</b> , '5kr' text in black at both top corners but no imprint. Title changed to "Aufgabeschein". 145 x 87 mm. <i>[Looks like a temporary expedient while they agreed on the next issue's imprint!]</i>							
<i>A similar-looking item but with Aufgabs-Recepisse as the title, 2kr in black at both top corners, 3 rules on the back, and no imprint is from the Vienna Private Telegraph Company, as is one with nothing in the corners and 4 rules on the back.</i>	(was TA9)	16	2		II	22	8
<b>1880</b> , 5kr lilac-brown imprint similar to the 1883 postage stamp design but with KK STAATS-TELEGRAPH surrounding a shield with 5 in the middle. Yellowish paper. Title "Aufgabeschein" (which lasted till at least 1936).							
D	TA11	10	3	10	9	24	10
Ditto but D/Böhm (the form has only Böhm: no D)	TA12	11	4	11	10	25	11
Ditto but D/Poln	TA13	12	8	15	11	26	12
Ditto but D/Ital	TA14	13	5	12	12	27	13
Ditto but Ital/III (no D text)	TA15	14	6	13	13	28	14
Ditto but D/Slov	TA16	15	7	14	14	29	15
<b>1884</b> , 5kr lilac-brown imprint in the 1883 postage stamp design. Yellowish paper.							
D	TA17	17	9	16	15	30	16
Ditto but D/Böhm	TA18	18	10	17	16	31	17
Ditto but D/Poln	TA19	19	12	19	17	32	18
Ditto but D/Ital	TA20	20	11	18	18	33	19
Ditto but Ital/III (possibly no D)	TA21	21	13	20	19	34	20
Ditto but D/III/Ital	TA22	22	14	21	20	35	21
Ditto but D/Slov	TA23	23	15	22	21	36	22
<b>1890</b> , as 1884 issue but on orange-brown paper.							
D only	TA24	24	16	23	22	37	23
<b>1890</b> , 5kr carmine-rose imprint of "Franz Josef in frame", buff, <b>6 Rules</b> on the back. Last line of main text is "K.K.Telegraphen-Station".							
D	TA25	25	17	24	23	38	24
Ditto but D/Böhm	TA26	26	18	25	24	39	25
Ditto but D/Poln	TA27	27	19	26	25	40	26a
Ditto but D/Slov	TA28	30	20	27	28	41	27
Ditto but D/Ital	TA29	28	21	28	26	42	28
Ditto but D/IIIr/Ital	TA30	29	22	29	27	43	29

<sup>1</sup> Ferchenbauer's 2000 edition lists these separately because they have the Telegraph Stamp imprint. His 2008 combines the lists.

What?	Michel 2015	Schn	Ferch 2000	Ferch 2008	ANK 2009	H&G	Ascher
<b>1892</b> , Mi, ANK and Schn explicitly say “as 1890 except <b>5 Rules</b> on the back”. Last line of main text is “K.K.Telegraphen-Station”.							
D	TA31	31		See note above	29	38a	
Ditto but D/Böhm	TA32	32			30	39a	
Ditto but D/Poln	TA33	33			31	40a	26b
Ditto but D/Ital	TA34	34			32		
Ditto but D/Illyr/Ital	TA35						
<b>1894</b> , 5kr carmine-rose imprint of “Franz Josef in frame”, buff, <b>5 Rules</b> on the back. Last line of main text is “K.K.Telegraphen-Amt”. “Deutsch” printed in full.							
Deutsch	TA37	37		See note above	33	44	30
Ditto: Deutsch-Böhm	TA38	38			34	45	31
Ditto: Deutsch-Poln	TA39	39			35	46	32
Ditto: Deutsch-Ital	TA40	40			36	47	33
Ditto: Deutsch-Ital-Illyr	TA41	41			37	48	34
Ditto: Deutsch-Poln-Ruth	TA42	42			38	49	35
Ditto: Deutsch-Ruth	TA43	43			39		
Ditto: Deutsch-Rum	TA44	44			40		
A Deutsch-Slovenian version is known but wasn't issued.							
<b>1900</b> , 10h carmine-rose imprint of “Franz Josef in frame”. Blank on the back. All language versions are found in both salmon-pink and dark-carmine.							
D	TA45	45	29	36	41	50	36
Ditto but D/Böhm	TA46	46	30	37	42	51	37
Ditto but D/Poln	TA47	47	31	38	43	52	38
Ditto but D/Poln/Ruth	TA48	48	32	39	44	53	39
Ditto but D/Ruth	TA49	49	33	40	45	54	40
Ditto but D/Rum/Ruth	TA50	50	34	41	46	55	41
Ditto but D/Rum	TA51	51	35	42	47	56	42
Ditto but D/Ital	TA52	52	36	43	48	57	43
Ditto but D/Illyr/Ital	TA53	53	37	44	49	58	44
Ditto but D/Slov	TA54	54	38	45	50	59	45
<b>1908</b> , 10h ‘Jubilee’ imprint, buff paper, language marks truncated (eg to “1908,I,d.sk.i.”).							
D	TA55	55	39	46	51	60	46
Ditto but D/Böhm	TA56	56	40	47	52	61	47
Ditto but D/Poln	TA57	57	41	48	53	62	48
Ditto but D/Slov	TA58	58	46	53	54	63	49
Ditto but D/Ital	TA59	59	44	51	55	64	50
Ditto but D/Poln/Ruth	TA60	60	42	49	56	65	51
Ditto but D/Rum/Ruth	TA61	61	43	50	57	66	52
Ditto but D/SK/Ital	TA62	62	45	52	58	67	53
<b>1916</b> , 10h imprint in Postage Due design, printed in plain text, buff paper.							
Deutsch	TA63	63	47	54	59	68	54
Ditto but Deutsch/Böhm	TA64	64	48	55	60	69	55
Ditto but Deutsch/Poln/Ruth	TA65	65	49	56	62	70	56
Ditto but Deutsch/Slov	TA66	66	52	59	63	71	57
Ditto but Deutsch/Ital	TA67	67	50	57	64	72	58
Ditto but Deutsch/SK/Ital	TA68	68	51	58	65	73	59

What?	Michel 2015	Schn	Ferch 2000	Ferch 2008	ANK 2009	H&G	Ascher
Ditto but Deutsch/Poln					61		
[In Michel, 'TA69-70 bleibt frei']							
<b>1918</b> , 10h red imprint in 1916 Postage Due design, buff paper, printed in Fraktur. D	TA71a	71x	52 again	60	66a	74	60a
Ditto on greenish yellow paper	TA71b	71y			66b	74	60b
<b>1919</b> , 30h red imprint in Deutschösterreich postage due design, buff paper, printed in Fraktur.	TA72	72x			67a	75	61
Ditto on greenish yellow paper.	TA73	72y			67b	76	62
<b>1920</b> , Eagle imprint at top right without value in its middle, violet brown on buff paper, Fraktur.	TA74a	73x			68a	77	63a
Ditto on greenish yellow paper.	TA74b	73y			68b	77	63b
<b>1921</b> , like the 1920 but no "vorm nachm" after "Minuten", and space for writing K & h amounts has background of parallel lines. Eagle imprint at top right without value in its middle. Fraktur.	TA75	74			69		
<b>1922</b> , like the 1920, Eagle imprint at top left without value in its middle. Fraktur	TA76	75			70		
<b>1924</b> , like the 1920, Eagle imprint at bottom left without value in its middle. Fraktur.	TA77	76			71		64
<b>1924</b> , Ditto but line for cost now in S & g (Schilling, groschen). Fraktur.	TA78	77			72		
Ditto but single border.	TA79						
<b>1947</b> : form issued on 1 Sept 1947. B/W, no imprint, 20g preprinted as cost of form.	TA80						
<b>1949</b> : form issued on 1 Aug 1949. B/W, no imprint, 30g preprinted as cost of form.	TA81						
<b>1951</b> : form issued on 1 Sept 1951. B/W, no imprint, 70g preprinted as cost of form.	TA82						
<b>1955</b> : form issued on 1 Jan 1955. B/W, no imprint, 60g preprinted as cost of form.	TA83						

A cross-check on the **Aufgabescheine** issues is the data in Kainbacher<sup>2</sup> taken from the official instructions and giving rate-change dates. These are: 1/12/1919: 30h; 1/4/1920: 1K; 1/7/1921: 3K; 1/12/1921: 6K; 1/5/1922: 50K; 1/9/1922: 150K; 1/10/1922: 600K; 1/8/1923: 1000K. There is no record in Kainbacher of a 2000K rate.

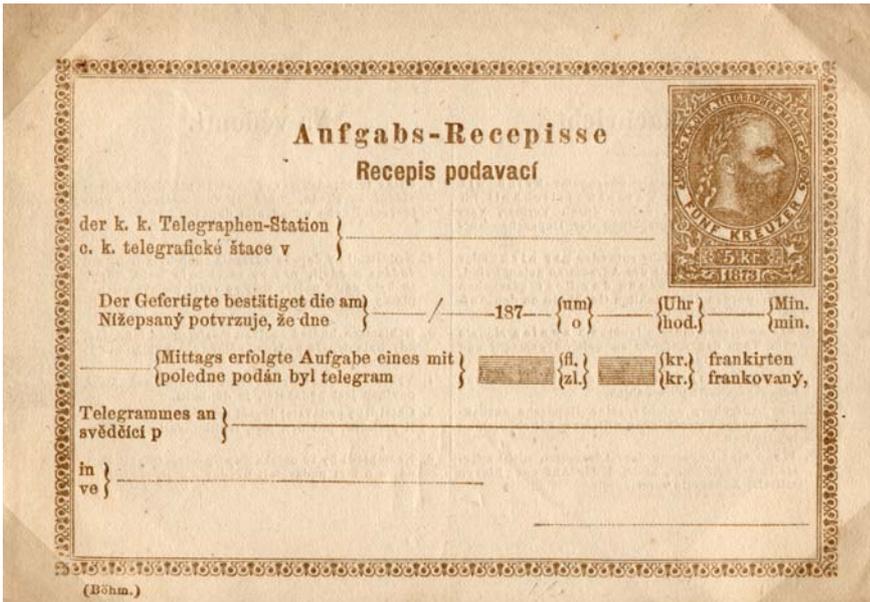
Michel doesn't give rates for the no-value-imprint forms; Schneiderbauer states that his nr 76 (Mi's TA77) was for 2000K, as do ANK which numbers it 71. Michel does however list the actual rates, showing that the rate of 1000K was **not** increased, becoming 10gro on 1/1/1925 and rising to 20gro on 1/11/1926 (with which Kainbacher agrees).

Kainbacher has no more data until 1947, but notes that "1/8/1938 3rd Reich system begins" and "1/1/1946: the costs of 1938 now apply".

ANK states that from 1936 imprints was no longer used (they were a very Austrian-looking eagle!). Thereafter: 1/9/1947: 20gro; 1/12/1947: 25gro; 1/6/1948: 20gro; 1/6/1949: 30gro; 1/9/1951: 70gro; 1/1/1955: 60gro; 1/2/1958: zero (other sources date this as 1 Jan 1962)

<sup>2</sup> Kainbacher "Postgebühren von Österreich 1919-2006 für den Inlandsverkehr" Vol III Part II Sections 44 & 49

**Aufgabscheine – selected examples**



First (1873) issue, D/Böh version.

First issue D/Poln; used in 1874 for a basic-rate telegram (50k) between Okocim and Tarnow.



Second issue D-only; used in 1874 for a basic rate telegram from Czernowitz.



1880 issue cancelled with blue WIEN BORSE. Note the manuscript **D** between '14' and Worten: this is a 'dringend' ie urgent telegram of 14 words, so charged  $(24 + 14 \times 2) \times 3 = 1fl56kr.$

D/Pol type with a Krakau Fil postal date-stamp 18/5/1886 for a 29 word telegram to Vienna charged  $24 + 29 \times 2 = 82$  kr

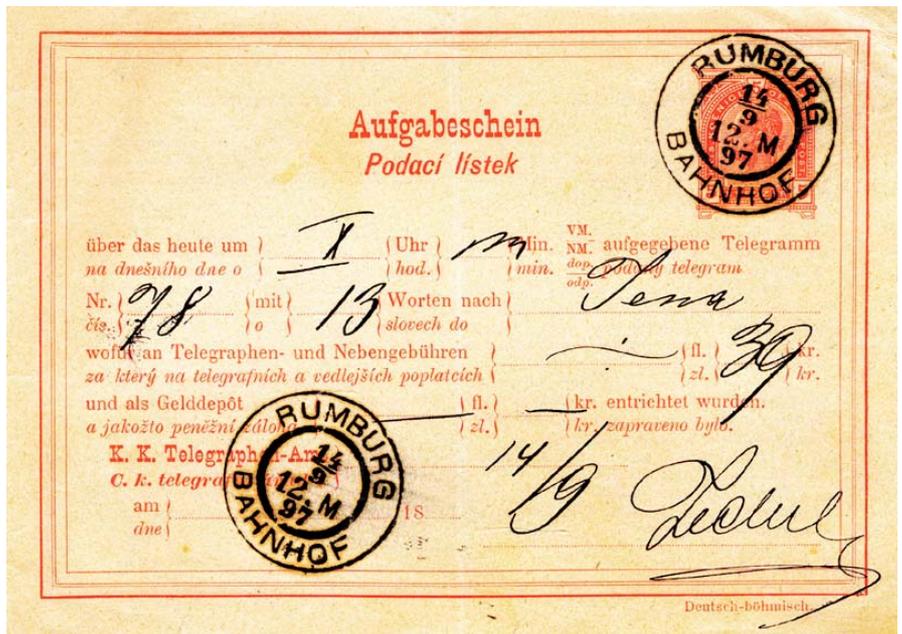


D/Böhm. From Prague to New York - an expensive telegram of 6 words sent by Trans Atlantic cable at 85kr per word. Prag telegraph cancel.

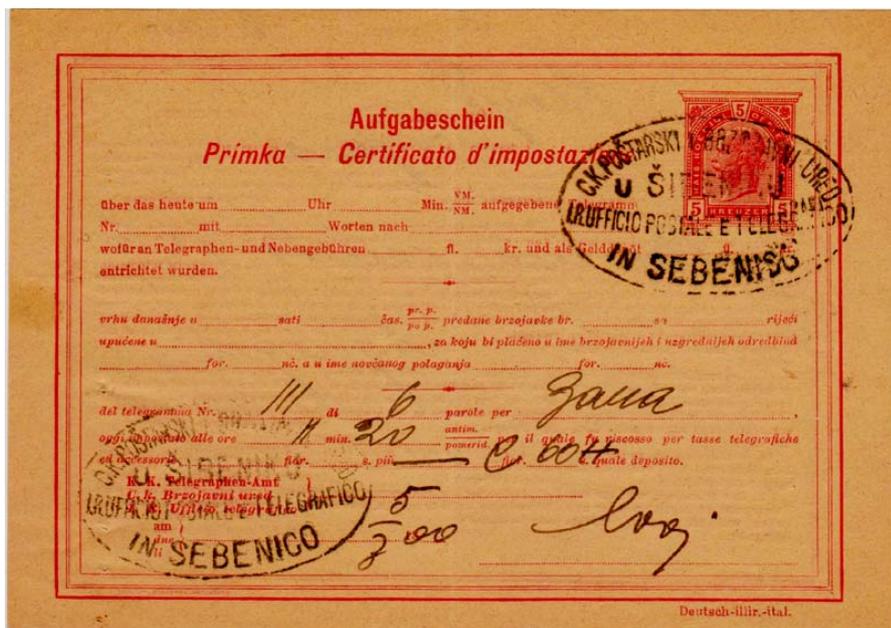


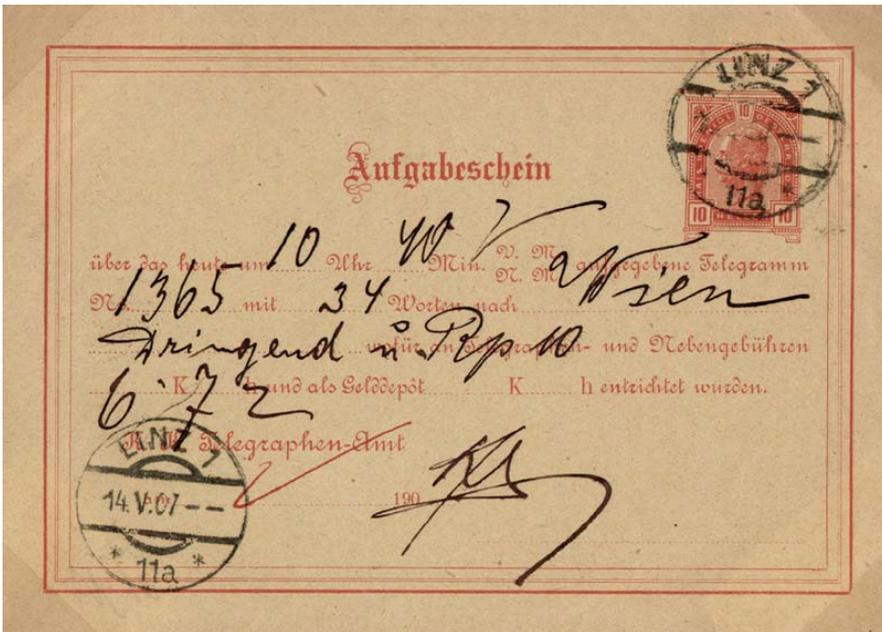
1894 D/Illir/Ital type, five lines of instructions on the back, for a 19 word telegram from Sebenico to Gorizia; charge 19 x 3 = 57kr

D/Böhm used 14/9/1897. Note Deutsch-böhmisch is in full. Rumburg to ?Jena in Germany. 13 words at 3kr per word = 39kr



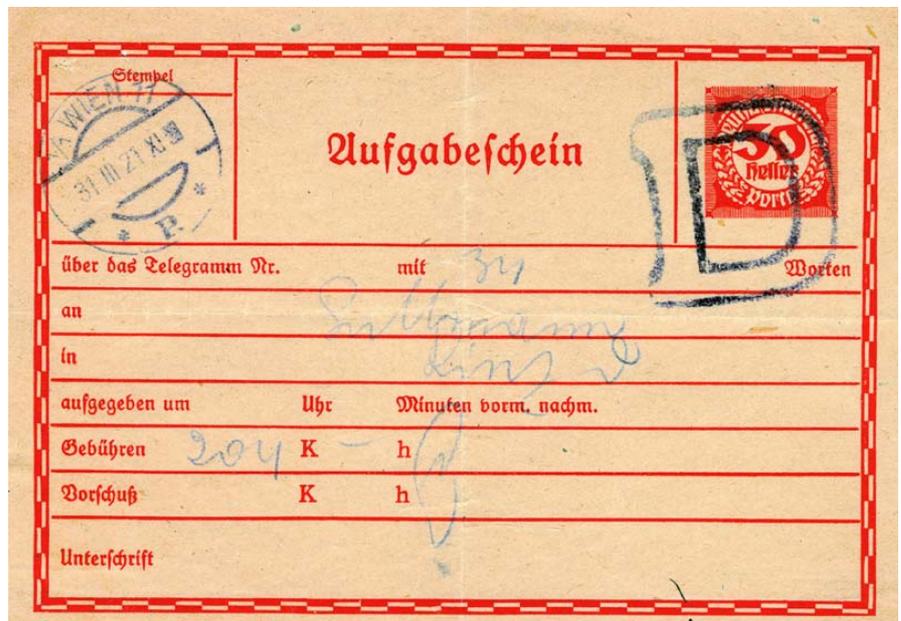
Deutsch-illir-ital. Sebenico to Zara in May 1900. The minimum rate for a telegram after 1/1/1900 was 60h. Using-up of 5kr stock stationery, on which the Italian header has changed from Ricevuta to Certificato.





1900 issue: new currency introduced. 34 words from Linz to Vienna in May 1907. Sent **Dringend u RP10**, ie urgent with 10-word prepaid reply. Charged 34x6h=204h, tripled because urgent, plus 60h for the reply: total 6K72h.

31/3/1921. Vienna to Linz. 34 words for 204K at 6K per word.  
D was for dringend = urgent; charged at triple rate.



1920 issue. 17 words from Vienna to Passau in Germany: 40K/word = 680K

## Aufgabescheine – the rules on the back

The back of most issues - whether the earlier free or the later charged-for - have “Zur Nachricht”: detailed instructions for the customer on what they must and must not do. A selection is transcribed here. We had hoped that the wording, specifically of the paragraph usually numbered 5 and beginning either **Der Aufgeber** or **Der Absender**, might identify each issue – however a useable pattern didn't emerge.

### An 1861 printing with six paragraphs of text on the back:

1 Die Frist zur Rückstellung der für eine Antwortdepesche hinterlegten Gebühr ist auf 15 Tage vom Tage der Aufgabe der Ursprungdepesche an gerechnet, festgesetzt. Diese Rückstellung findet statt auf Verlangen des Absenders der Ursprungdepesche, wenn auf dieselbe binnen 10 Tagen keine Antwort erfolgt, oder wenn die Antwortdepesche von ihrem Aufgeber selbst bezahlt wurde. Nach Verlauf von 15 Tagen verfällt die hinterlegte Gebühr.

2 Der Ueberrest aus dem für Boten- und Estaffeten-Beförderung hinterlegten Betrage wird dem Aufgeber der Depesche, sobald die Höhe der Beförderungskosten bekannt geworden ist, vom 5. bis zum 15. Tage nach der Aufgabe der Depesche, über Anmelden sogleich zurückgestellt. Nach dieser Frist kann die Rückerstattung nur von dem betreffenden k.k. Telegraphen-Inspectorate bewilligt werden, und findet nach Ablauf eines Jahres nicht mehr statt.

3 Der Absender einer Depesche ist zur Nachzahlung der zu wenig erhobenen Beträge überhaupt und auch in dem Falle verpflichtet, wenn sich die mit demselben über das hinterlegte Depositum gepflogene Abrechnung nachträglich als unrichtig erweisen sollte.

4 Für etwaige Nachtheile, welche durch Verlust, Verstümmung oder Verspätung von Depeschen entstehen, wird keinerlei Entschädigung gewährt.

**5 Der Aufgeber einer Depesche, welcher dieselbe zurückziehen oder unterdrücken will, ist gehalten, sich vollständig zu legitimieren.**

6 Reclamationen sind innerhalb sechs Monaten vom Tage der Depeschen-Aufgabe geltend zu machen. (Erlass der k.k. Staats-Telegraphen-Direction vom 9. April 1861, Z.1339-T)

**An 1870 private printing** by J B Wallishausser has six paragraphs of text on the back, paragraphs 5 and 6 interchanged from 1861, and considerable rewording.

1 Die für Antwortdepeschen voraus bezahlten Gebühren werden dem Adressaten bar ausgezahlt. Wenn derselbe nicht ausgefunden werden konnte oder die Annahme der Depesche verweigert, so wird der Aufgeber der Ursprungdepesche hiervon durch eine Amtsdepesche verständigt, welche die Stelle der Antwort vertritt.

2 Der Ueberschuß aus dem für die Weiterbeförderung recommandirter Depeschen durch Boten, Estaffetten etc deponirten Betrage wird dem Aufgeber zurückgestellt, sobald die wirklichen Auslagen mit der Retourdepesche zurückgemeldet sind.

3 Gebühren, welche für beförderte Depeschen irrtümlich zu wenig behoben worden sind, hat der Absender auf Verlangen nachzuzahlen.

4 Für etwaige Nachtheile, welche durch Verlust, Verspätung oder Verstümmung von Depeschen entstehen, wird keinerlei Garantie geleistet; die gezahlten Gebühren hingegen werden zurückerstattet, wenn Depeschen verloren gehen oder in einer Art verstümmelt werden, daß sie ihren Zweck erweislich nicht erfüllen können, oder wenn dieselben später in die Hände des Adressaten gelangen, als dies durch die Vermittlung der Post hätte der Fall sein können.

5 Reclamationen sind innerhalb drei Monaten (bei Depeschen nach außereuropäischen Ländern innerhalb 10 Monaten) geltend zu machen, und bei verstümmelten Depeschen durch die dem Adressaten zugestellte Ausfertigung, bei angeblich verlorenen Depeschen aber durch einen dießfälligen Nachweis zu begründen.

**6 Der Aufgeber einer Depesche, welcher dieselbe zurückziehen oder unterdrücken will, ist gehalten, sich vollständig zu legitimieren.** (Erlass der k.k. Staats-Telegraphen-Direction vom 30. April 1861, Z.3270-T)

### The first charged-for issues, 1873

1 Die Telegraphenanstalt übernimmt keine wie immer geartete Verantwortlichkeit für etwaige Nachtheile, welche durch Verlust, Verstümmung oder Verspätung der Depeschen entstehen könnten.

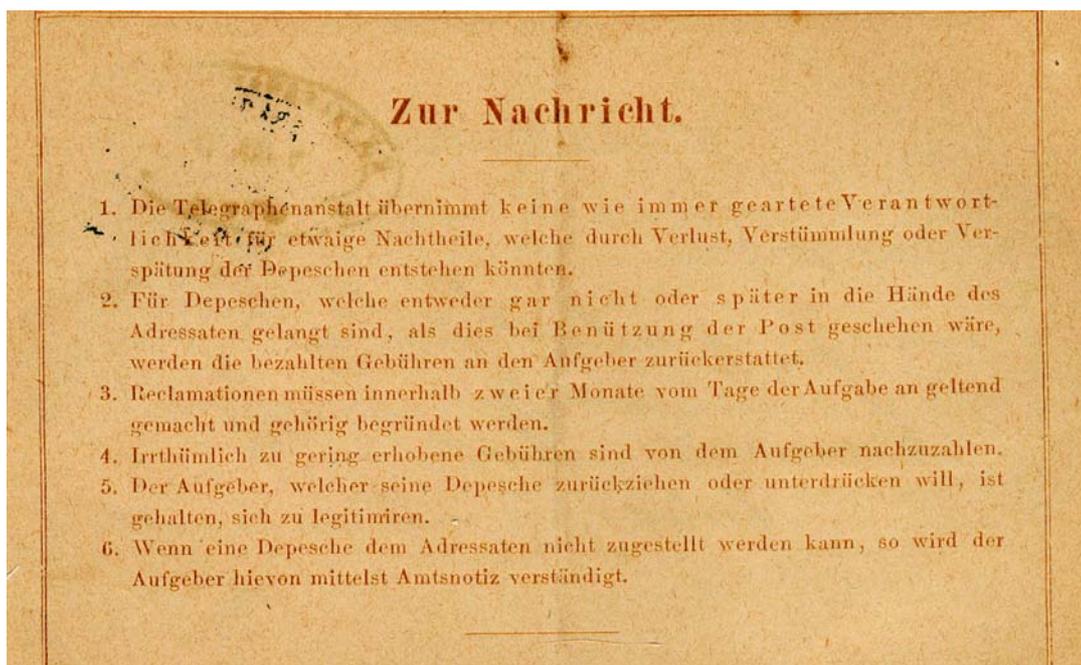
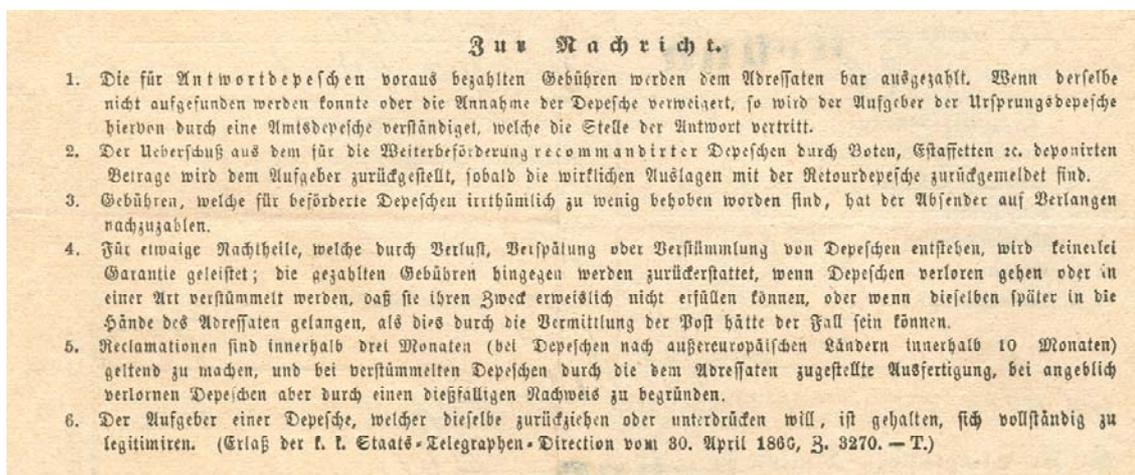
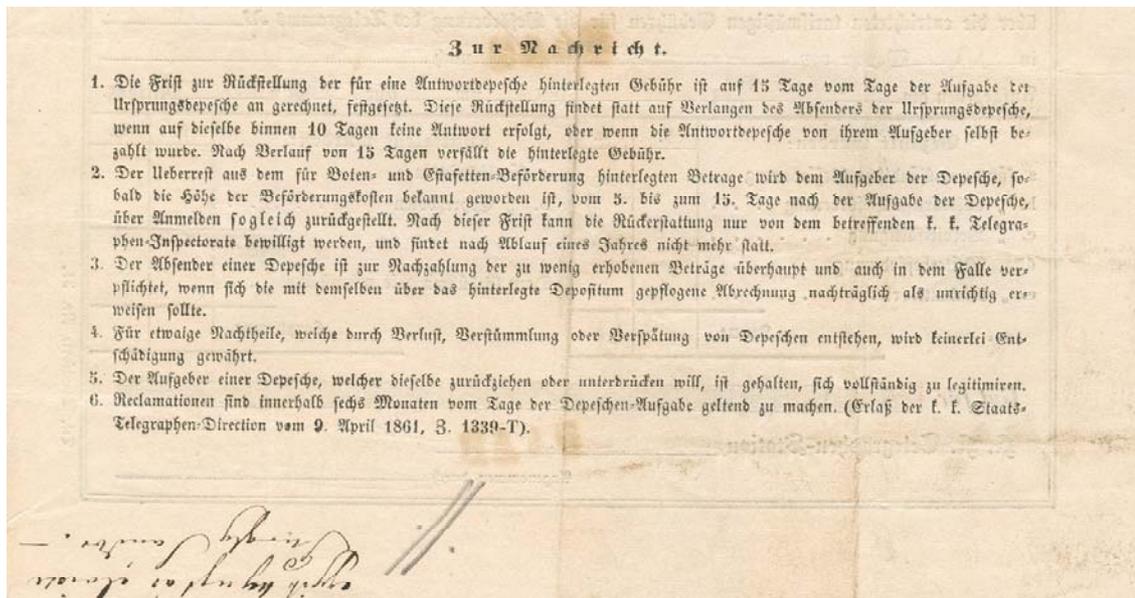
2 Für Depeschen, welche entweder gar nicht oder später in die Hände des Adressaten gelangt sind, als dies bei Benützung der Post geschehen wäre, werden die bezahlten Gebühren an den Aufgeber zurückerstattet

3 Reclamationen müssen innerhalb zweiter Monate vom Tage der Aufgabe an geltend gemacht und gehörig begründet werden.

4 Irrtümlich zu gering erhobene Gebühren sind von dem Aufgeber nachzuzahlen.

**5 Der Aufgeber, welcher seine Depesche zurückziehen oder unterdrücken will, ist gehalten, sich zu legitimieren.**

6 Wenn eine Depesche dem Adressaten nicht zugestellt werden kann, so wird der Aufgeber hiervon mittlst Amtsnotiz verständigt.



**The 1880 & 1884 issues**

1 Die Telegraphenanstalt übernimmt keine wie immer geartete Verantwortlichkeit für etwaige Nachteile, welche durch Verlust, Verstümmelung oder Verspätung der Telegramme entstehen könnten.

2 Für Telegramme, welche durch Verschulden der Telegraphenanstalt entweder gar nicht oder später in die Hände des Adressaten gelangt sind, als dies bei Benützung der Post geschehen wäre, sowie

für collationierte Telegramme, welche in Folge Verstümmelung ihren Zweck verfehlt haben, werden die bezahlten Gebühren an den Aufgeber zurückerstattet

3 Reclamationen sind bei Telegrammen nach europäischen Stationen binnen zwei Monaten und bei Telegrammen nach aussereuropäischen Stationen binnen sechs Monaten einzubringen

4 Irrthümlich zu gering erhobene Gebühren sind von dem Aufgeber nachzuzahlen.

5 Der Aufgeber, welcher seine Telegramme zurückziehen oder unterdrücken will, ist gehalten, sich zu legitimieren.

6 Wenn eine Telegramme dem Adressaten nicht zugestellt werden kann, so wird der Aufgeber gegen Entrichtung einer besonderen Gebühr von 24kr ö.W. hievon verständigt.

**The 1892 issue**

1 Die Telegraphenanstalt übernimmt keine wie immer geartete Verantwortlichkeit für etwaige Nachteile, welche durch Verlust, Verstümmelung oder Verspätung der Telegramme entstehen könnten.

2 Für Telegramme, welche durch Verschulden der Telegraphenanstalt entweder gar nicht oder später in die Hände des Adressaten gelangt sind, als dies bei Benützung der Post geschehen wäre, sowie

für collationierte Telegramme, welche in Folge Verstümmelung ihren Zweck verfehlt haben, werden die bezahlten Gebühren an den Aufgeber zurückerstattet

3 Reclamationen sind bei Telegrammen nach europäischen Stationen binnen zwei Monaten und bei Telegrammen nach aussereuropäischen Stationen binnen sechs Monaten einzubringen

4 Irrthümlich zu gering erhobene Gebühren sind von dem Aufgeber nachzuzahlen.

5 Der Aufgeber, welcher seine Telegramme zurückziehen oder unterdrücken will, ist gehalten, sich zu legitimieren.

**The 1894 issue**

1 Die Telegraphenanstalt übernimmt keine wie immer geartete Verantwortlichkeit für etwaige Nachteile, welche durch Verlust, Verstümmelung oder Verspätung der Telegramme entstehen könnten.

2 Für Telegramme, welche durch Verschulden der Telegraphenanstalt entweder gar nicht oder später in die Hände des Adressaten gelangt sind, als dies bei Benützung der Post geschehen wäre, sowie

für collationierte Telegramme, welche in Folge Verstümmelung ihren Zweck verfehlt haben, werden die bezahlten Gebühren an den Aufgeber zurückerstattet

3 Reclamationen sind bei Telegrammen nach europäischen Stationen binnen zwei Monaten und bei Telegrammen nach aussereuropäischen Stationen binnen sechs Monaten einzubringen

4 Irrthümlich zu gering erhobene Gebühren sind von dem Aufgeber nachzuzahlen.

5 Der Absender, welcher seine Telegramme zurückziehen oder aufhalten will, ist gehalten, sich zu legitimieren.

Zur Nachricht.	Avvertenze.
<p>1. Die Telegraphenanstalt übernimmt keine wie immer geartete Verantwortlichkeit für etwaige Nachteile, welche durch Verlust, Verstümmelung oder Verspätung der Telegramme entstehen könnten.</p> <p>2. Für Telegramme, welche durch Verschulden der Telegraphenanstalt entweder gar nicht oder später in die Hände des Adressaten gelangt sind, als dies bei Benützung der Post geschehen wäre, sowie für collationirte Telegramme, welche in Folge Verstümmelung ihren Zweck verfehlt haben, werden die bezahlten Gebühren an den Aufgeber zurückerstattet.</p> <p>3. Reclamationen sind bei Telegrammen nach europäischen Stationen binnen zwei Monaten und bei Telegrammen nach außereuropäischen Stationen binnen sechs Monaten einzubringen.</p> <p>4. Irrthümlich zu gering erhobene Gebühren sind von dem Aufgeber nachzuzahlen.</p> <p>5. Der Aufgeber, welcher sein Telegramm zurückziehen oder unterdrücken will, ist gehalten sich zu legitimiren.</p> <p>6. Wenn ein Telegramm dem Adressaten nicht zugestellt werden kann, so wird der Aufgeber gegen Entrichtung einer besonderen Gebühr von 24 kr. ö. W. hieon verständigt.</p>	<p>1. L'amministrazione dei telegrafi non assume responsabilità di qualsiasi specie per eventuali danni che potessero emergere da smarrimento, mutilazione o ritardo di un telegramma.</p> <p>2. Per quei telegrammi, i quali, per colpa dell'amministrazione dei telegrafi, o non pervenissero affatto al destinatario, oppure fossero recapitati più tardi di quanto sarebbe avvenuto usando della posta; come del pari per telegrammi collazionati, che, per causa di mutilazione, non conseguissero il loro scopo, saranno restituite al mittente le tasse pagate.</p> <p>3. Reclami concernenti telegrammi diretti a stazioni europee sono da prodursi entro due mesi, e nel termine di sei mesi quando riguardano telegrammi diretti a stazioni fuori d'Europa.</p> <p>4. Qualora venisse erroneamente esatta una tassa minore di quella prescritta, il mittente del telegramma è obbligato di completarla posteriormente.</p> <p>5. Volendo ritirare o sopprimere un telegramma impostato, il mittente dovrà all'uopo legittimarsi.</p> <p>6. Se non si potesse consegnare un telegramma al destinatario, ne sarà avvertito il mittente con un telegramma speciale verso la tassa di soldi 24.</p>

Zur Nachricht.	Do wiadomości.
<p>1. Die Telegraphenanstalt übernimmt keine wie immer geartete Verantwortlichkeit für etwaige Nachteile, welche durch Verlust, Verstümmelung oder Verspätung der Telegramme entstehen könnten.</p> <p>2. Für Telegramme, welche durch Verschulden der Telegraphenanstalt entweder gar nicht oder später in die Hände des Adressaten gelangt sind, als dies bei Benützung der Post geschehen wäre, sowie für collationirte Telegramme, welche in Folge Verstümmelung ihren Zweck verfehlt haben, werden die bezahlten Gebühren an den Aufgeber zurückerstattet.</p> <p>3. Reclamationen sind bei Telegrammen nach europäischen Stationen binnen zwei Monaten und bei Telegrammen nach außereuropäischen Stationen binnen sechs Monaten einzubringen.</p> <p>4. Irrthümlich zu gering erhobene Gebühren sind von dem Aufgeber nachzuzahlen.</p> <p>5. Der Aufgeber, welcher sein Telegramm zurückziehen oder unterdrücken will, ist gehalten sich zu legitimiren.</p>	<p>1. Zakład telegrafów nie bierze na siebie jakiegokolwiek odpowiedzialności za straty, które powstać mogły wskutek zaguby, dojścia z błędami lub opóźnienia depesz.</p> <p>2. Zakład telegrafów zwraca opłacone należności nadawcy za telegramy, które z winy zarządu albo wcale nie dojechały do adresata lub później nadeszły, aniżeli by to począć się było mogło; jakoteż za telegramy kolacionowane, które wskutek zaszczytów błędów celu chybiły.</p> <p>3. Reklamacje dotyczące depesz adresowanych do stacji europejskich mogą być wniesione w przeciągu dwóch miesięcy, zaś do stacji pozaeuropejskich w przeciągu sześciu miesięcy.</p> <p>4. Nadawca jest obowiązany, opłaty przez pomyłkę w niedostatecznej ilości pobrane uzupełnić.</p> <p>5. Nadawca chcący depeszę wstrzymać lub unieważnić, winien się wylegitymować.</p>

Zur Nachricht.	K povšimnutí.
<p>1. Die Telegraphen-Anstalt übernimmt keine wie immer geartete Verantwortlichkeit für etwaige Nachteile, welche durch Verlust, Verstümmelung oder Verspätung der Telegramme entstehen könnten.</p> <p>2. Für Telegramme, welche durch Verschulden der Telegraphen-Anstalt entweder gar nicht oder später in die Hände des Adressaten gelangt sind, als dies bei Benützung der Post geschehen wäre, sowie für Telegramme mit Collationirung, welche in Folge Verstümmelung ihren Zweck verfehlt haben, werden die entrichteten Gebühren an den Absender zurückerstattet.</p> <p>3. Reclamationen sind bei Telegrammen nach europäischen Stationen binnen zwei Monaten und bei Telegrammen nach außereuropäischen Stationen binnen sechs Monaten einzubringen.</p> <p>4. Irrthümlich zu gering erhobene Gebühren sind von dem Absender nachzuzahlen.</p> <p>5. Der Absender, welcher sein Telegramm zurückziehen oder aufhalten will, ist gehalten sich zu legitimiren.</p>	<p>1. Ústav telegrafní nebere nežádáné zodpovědnosti za škodu, která by vzniknouti mohla ztrátou, zkomolením neb opožděním telegramu.</p> <p>2. Jen tehle, kdyžby telegram zaviněním telegrafního ústavu adresáta nedošel nebo kdyžby mu byl dodán později, než by se stalo po poště, jakož i kdyžby kolacionovaný telegram následkem zkomolení účtu se minul, budou zapravené poplatky odesílateli vráceny.</p> <p>3. Telegramy evropské lze reklamovati do dvou měsíců, mimoevropské do šesti měsíců.</p> <p>4. Vybralo-li se omylem méně poplatků, jest odesílatel povinen je doplatiti.</p> <p>5. Chce-li odesílatel telegram vzíti nazpět nebo zdržeti, jest povinen se legitimovati.</p>

Deutsch-böhmisch.

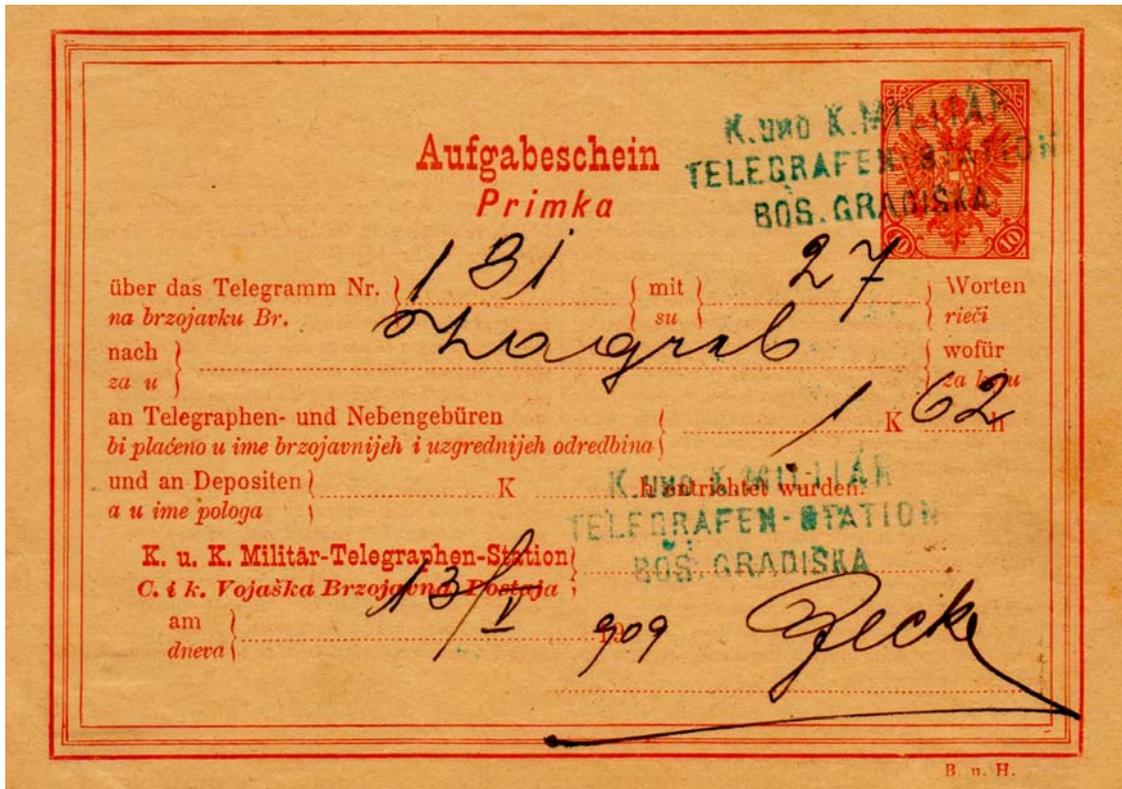
## Bosnia-Herzegowina Aufgabescheine

The telegraph service was extended to Bosnia-Herzegowina in 1882 and special forms introduced. They are listed in the catalogues.

Description	Michel 2015	Schn	Ferch 2000	Ferch 2008	ANK 2009	H&G	Asch
1882, 5kr B&H coat of arms imprint (values in top corners), violet on cream, German/Illyrian, six rules on back; language mark 'Illir.' at bottom right	TA1 I	1a	1a	1a	1a	1	1a
Ditto but without language mark	TA1 II	1b	1b	1b	1b	1a	1b
1890, as 1882, German/Illyrian, five rules on back; 'B.u.H.' on front and back at bottom right	TA2 I	2a	2a	2a	2a	2a	2b
Ditto. 'B.u.H.' on back only, at bottom left	TA2 II	2b	2b	2b	2b	2	2a
1900, 10h B&H coat of arms imprint (values in lower corner), pink on cream, German/Croat (as Illyrian has become), five rules on back; 'B.u.H.' on front and back at bottom right	TA3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1907, 10h B&H landscape imprint, carmine on buff, text bilingual German/Croat, the latter in both Latin and Cyrillic scripts; 'B.u.H. 1907.' on front and back at bottom left; five rules on back	TA5	4	4	4	4	4	4
1916, 10h landscape imprint, carmine on buff, text bilingual German/Croat, the latter in Latin script only; 'B.u.H. 1916.' on front at bottom left; 'B.u.H.' on back at bottom left; five rules on back	TA4	5	5	5	5	5	5



Michel type TA2 II



Michel TA3



Michel TA4. Used for a telegram from Sarajevo to Vienna of 26 words charged at  $26 \times 8 = 208h$ , +12 h – was the 12h the charge for the receipt?

# Sending money by telegraph

From 1872, it was possible to use the telegraph system to send money, inland and later abroad.

The sender (or his Post Office) filled out a special “Post-Anweisung per Telegramm” form (from 1900 called a Bedeckungsanweisung) with details of who from, who to, where, and how much. He paid for the telegram, including express delivery, normally shown by adhesive postage stamps; and handed over, in cash, the amount to be telegraphed (including any fees). The sending office sent a telegram to the receiving office, who made out an ersatz money order form (on orange or red paper; it was called “Quittung zur telegraphische Postanweisung”), which the recipient encashed. The paperwork (the hard copy Bedeckungsanweisung or a duplicate thereof) is then posted from the sending office to the receiving office for the accountants to marry up the numbers with the ersatz form, and the bunch of papers representing the entire transaction is filed.

This Bedeckungsanweisung form, dated 13 June 1928, was sent to Steyer Postlager. Presumably the recipient would be alerted by a separate telegram – or a phone call? – and rush round to collect his cash. Sending it Postlager also means it cannot be express-delivered, so the cost of that should be saved. One suspects that this was quicker and cheaper than having cash delivered by the Geldzusteller, for which a fee was charged and a large tip expected.

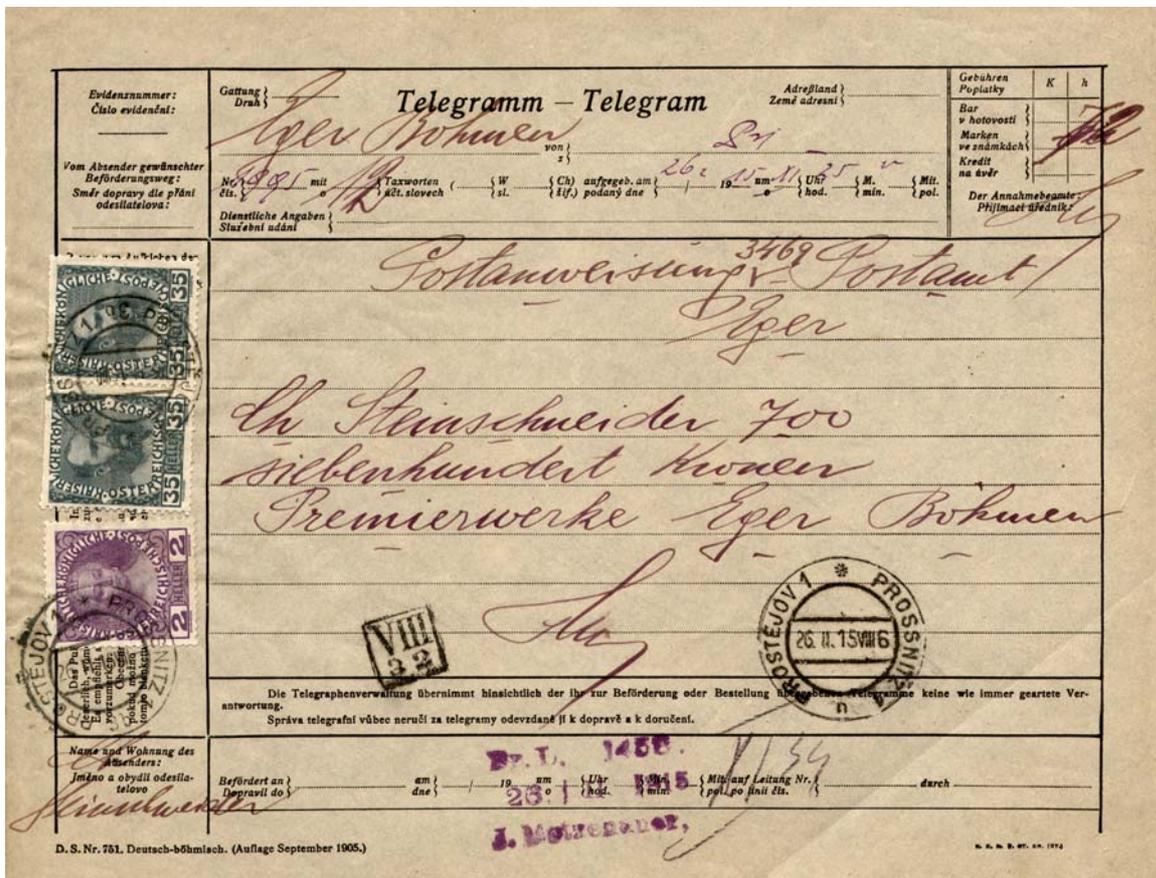
Note the special all-in-one financial-form canceller, which cancelled all the applied adhesives at a single strike!



An earlier (1920ish) unused Bedeckungsanweisung, and the instructions on its back.

Die Auszahlung und Ausgabeberechnung  
ist nur auf Grund der Quittung zur tele-  
graphischen Postanweisung und nicht auf  
Grund der Bedeckungsanweisung zulässig.

The form below is catalogued as a “Postanweisungstelegramme”, but seems to be a standard telegram dated 26 Feb 1915. It cost the sender 72h and tells the Eger Premierwerke that “their money is in the post” - in this case, money order No. 3469 has been sent to Eger Post office.



# THE HUGHES TELEGRAPH

by Roger Morrell

A while back in a Hungarian Profila auction there were a number of lots of WW1 fieldpost cards sent back to Budapest from Bulgaria bearing various forms of cachet, but all incorporating the ubiquitous 'K.u.K.' and the word 'Hughes', i.e. 'Hughesstelle' or 'Hughesstation'. I was intrigued. What or who was a Hughes? Hardly a Germanic or Hungarian word or name. Being also a collector of matters Bulgarian, I went for some of these, missed them all, but luckily got hold of three in the unsolds. Still intrigued, I started to dig.

The first stop was a work colleague who was a bit of a military buff - you know the type - knows his buttons, insignia, gun bores, life in the trenches, exploits of the 51st regiment, etc.... He trawled his mates on the Web, and they came up with the suggestion that it might be something to do with telegraphs. The next stop was various encyclopaedias. The only relevant reference I could find was to a David Hughes, a Welsh born US professor of music who dabbled in telegraphy [1]. Then I decided to do a search on the Web, and lo and behold struck gold very quickly. There is, would you believe, a website [2] dedicated to the history of telegraphs. It is US-based, and didn't mention Hughes up front, but gave an email contact for more information. The contact came back almost immediately with confirmation that the Hughes telegraph did indeed exist, and played a dominant role in central Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, indeed in some places in Germany up to 1938. He gave me some more specific references, and sent me a picture (Figure 1). Then it dawned. They've got one in the Budapest Postal Museum, and six weeks previously I had got my wife to take a picture of it (Figure 2)! It wasn't called a 'Hughes' in the Museum, so I hadn't made the connection.

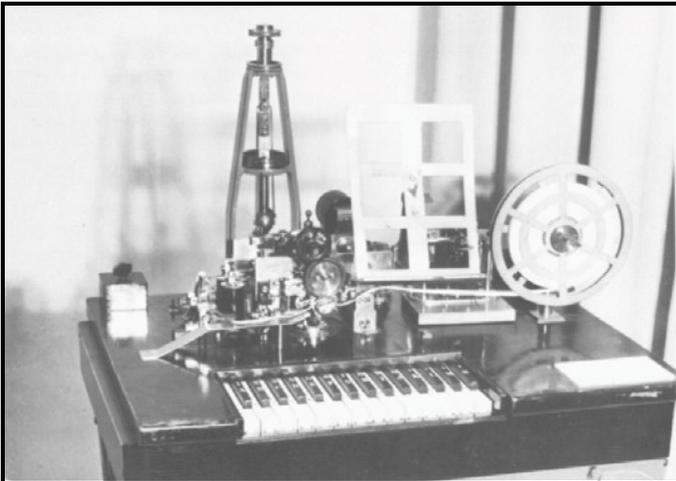


Figure 1: The Hughes machine



Figure 2: Budapest Postal Museum's version

During the 19th century, there was fierce competition to provide effective electrical (one couldn't call it electronic in those days) communications. Much of the development took place in the USA where some of the famous names (you've heard of Samuel Morse, of course) were battling it out by filing patents and building competing systems. Morse's system was put into place in the USA, but it was left to others to market their devices in Europe.

Professor David E Hughes was born in London in 1831 of Welsh parents, but was taken to the US at the age of seven. With his talent for music he became a professor of music at St Joseph's College, Kentucky, but also taught natural philosophy. In 1855, he filed a patent entitled 'Improvements in printing telegraphs', an early form of telex, claiming that the system in no way used or conflicted with any of the 'prior art' employed by the likes of Morse. He brought the idea to England, where it was met with distrust, but was taken up by the French Government after much testing. It was then was developed and sold throughout Europe, and was adopted by the Austro-Hungarian Empire as a key means of fairly secure communication. The concept was developed into a keyboard machine with 28 alternating black and white keys, a bit like a rather short piano (Figs. 1 and 2). The keys are for the 26 letters of the alphabet (writing umlauts in the old form with an added e to the vowel, i.e. 'ä' becomes 'ae') plus '.' and '-'. Numbers were obtained from the black keys using the equivalent of a 'shift' (Figure 3). The fact that the machine ended up looking like a piano is probably no coincidence bearing in mind Hughes' main employment.



Figure 3: A close-up of a Hughes keyboard with its piano-like keys.

Back to the postal history. Figure 4 shows a card sent back to Budapest from Sofia in Bulgaria, where the writer describes himself as military attaché. The red circular cachet reads ‘HUGHESSTATION DER K.U.K. ÖSTER.-UNG. GESANDTSCHAFT SOFIA’, i.e. the telegraph office attached to the embassy. It is interesting to note that the February 1917 datestamp on the card is of the Deutsche Feldpost, Nr. 185, which is also the writer’s contact address. Bulgaria, with its German-born Tsar Ferdinand, had only entered into WW1 in 1915 with German officer assistance in its army. Consequently, the Germans put a Feldpost system in place in Bulgaria, but the Austrians did not, sending their military mail courtesy of the German system. A few weeks later (March 1917), a card from the same writer bears a three-line cachet ‘K.U.K. HUGHESSTATION SOFIA’, this time with an unnumbered Deutsche Feldpost datestamp (Figure 5).

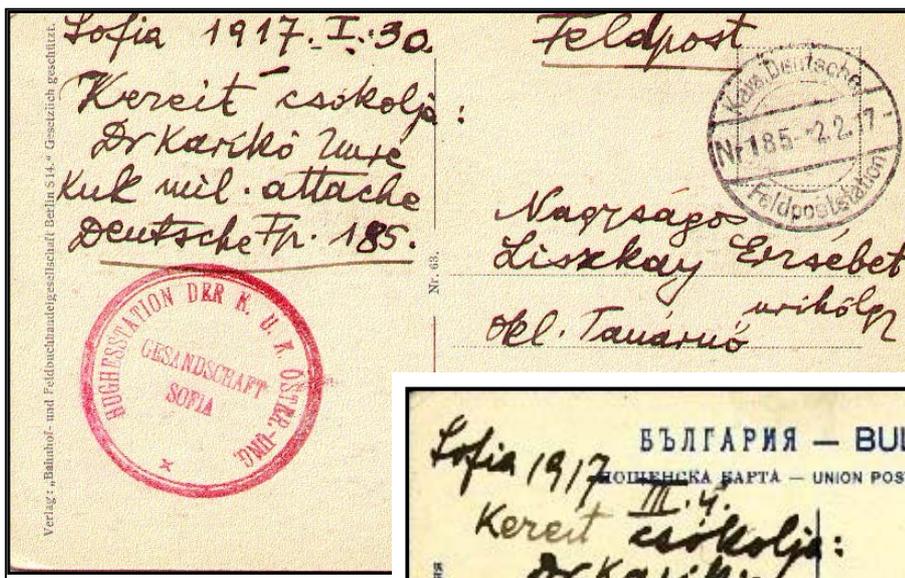
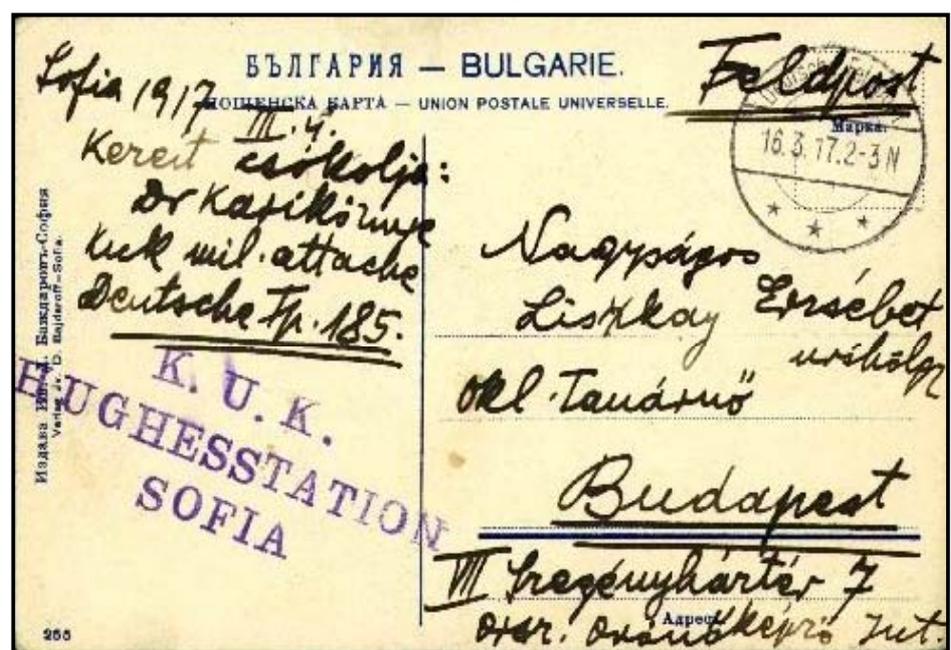


Figure 4: Picture postcard from Sofia to Budapest with circular cachet. Sent through Deutsche Feldpoststation Nr 185

Figure 5: Picture postcard from Sofia to Budapest with three-line cachet, sent through an unnumbered Deutsche Feldpoststation.



A month later, the cachet has changed again to a two-line boxed version with the same wording. In this example, the writer appears to be in Nisch in north-eastern Serbia (Figure 6). Finally, in May 1917 the writer is in Constantinople, this time residing with the ‘K.u.K. mil. Bevollmächtigter’, which roughly translates as the military authority (Figure 6). The cachet, partly obscured by the Budapest censor cachet, reads ‘K.u.K. Militärbevollmächtigter Konstantinopel Hughesstelle’.

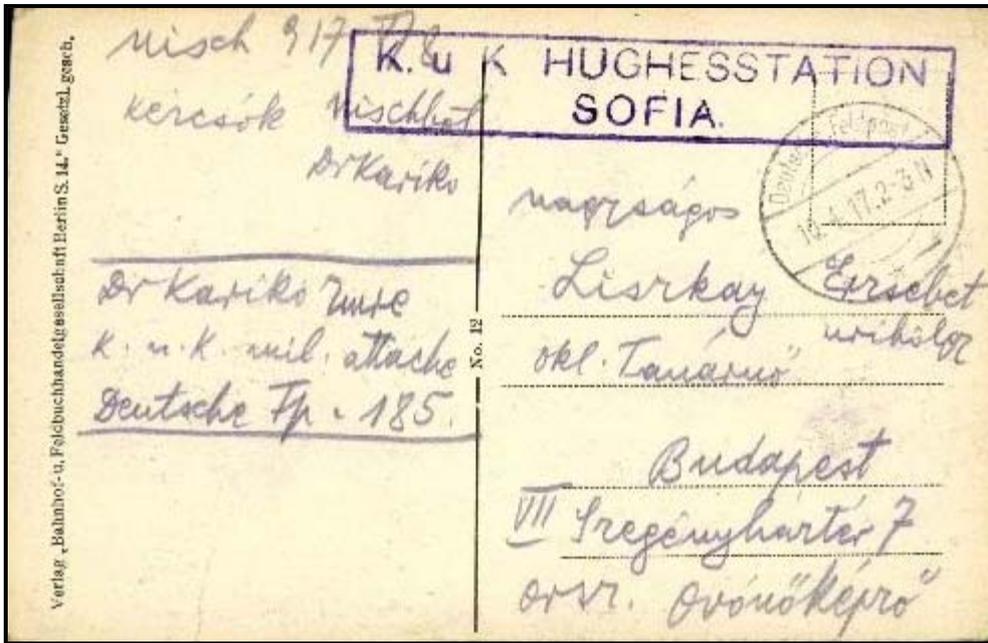
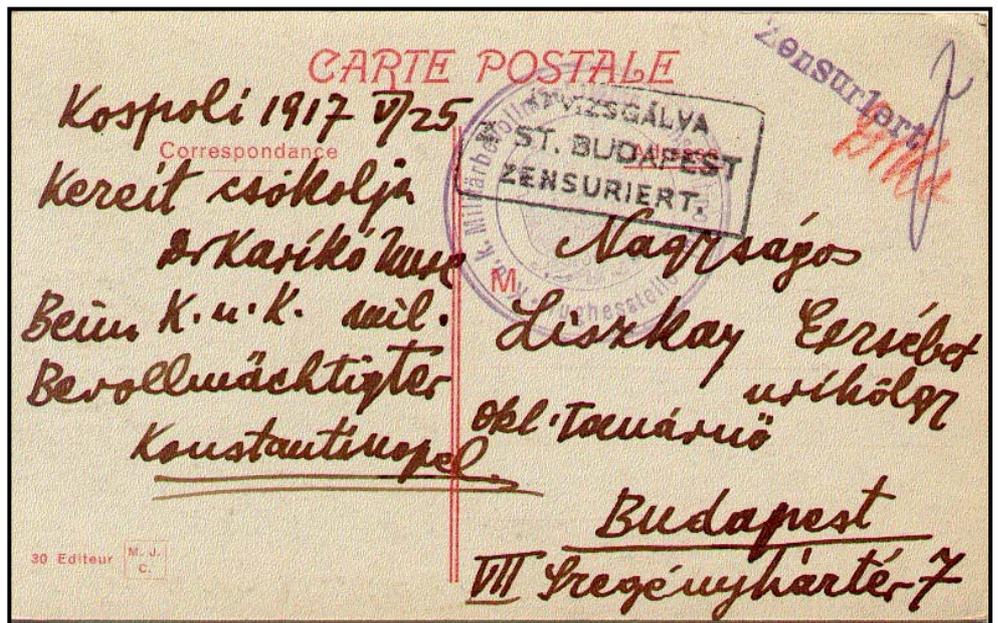


Figure 6: Picture postcard from Sofia to Budapest with two-line boxed cachet.

Figure 7: Feldpost postcard from 'Kospoli' (Constantinople) to Budapest.



The auction contained two other related items. One was a very attractive Bulgarian postal stationery card with a three-lined cachet ‘Hughesstation des k.u.k österr.-ung. bevollmächtigten Generalstabsoffiziers LOM PALANKA’, referring to a small town on the Danube in north west Bulgaria (Figure 8). There are also cachets of the ‘K.u.K Reserve Telegraphen Bauabteilung Nr. 79’ (the telegraph construction unit) and of the censor in Temesvar, as well as a datestamp of Orsova, which suggests that this card was carried up the Danube by boat back to Hungary, rather than going through the German Feldpost. The other item was a stamped postcard to Budapest from Russe/Roustchouk (Figure 9), carried via the German Feldpost, and with a cachet of the ‘K.U.K. ÖSTER.-UNG HUGHESSTELLE RUSCUK’. This is also a Danube town in north central Bulgaria, which acted as a base for the Austro-Hungarian Danube flotilla following the successful invasion of Rumania. Taken together, these cards demonstrate the existence of a fairly extensive network of military telegraph stations to aid communication during the war.



Figure 8: Postal stationery card from Lom Palanka to Budapest.



Figure 9: Franked picture postcard from Russe/Roustchouk to Budapest.

Since finding out about these long-range telegraph services, mostly used by the diplomatic service, I have found the ‘Hughes’ crops up occasionally in ordinary Austrian-Hungarian fieldpost cards. Figure 10 shows a selection. The Hughes telegraph system thus paid a very important role in military communication during WW1. He didn’t live to see this happen, but one wonders what he would have thought about aiding the opposition.....

The printing telegraph was not the only important invention of Professor Hughes. My email contact confirmed that it was the same Professor Hughes that gave a paper to the Royal Society in May 1878 in which he described, for the first time, the microphone, one based on carbon granules seeming to be the most effective [3]. He was already laying the basis for what was to become the most dominant modern means of communication, the telephone. He also invented the inductive balance, the instrument with which Bell sought to discover the whereabouts of the bullet in US President Garfield [4]. Finally, he experimented with wire-less communication, based on his researches with microphones, and successfully made transmissions of up to 500 yards. His work laid a basis that was built upon by many more famous names, such as Marconi and Bell, who followed him in less sceptical times. He died of influenza in London in 1900, and having set aside enough to support his wife, left £400,000 from his large, presumably telegraph-derived fortune to London hospitals [5].

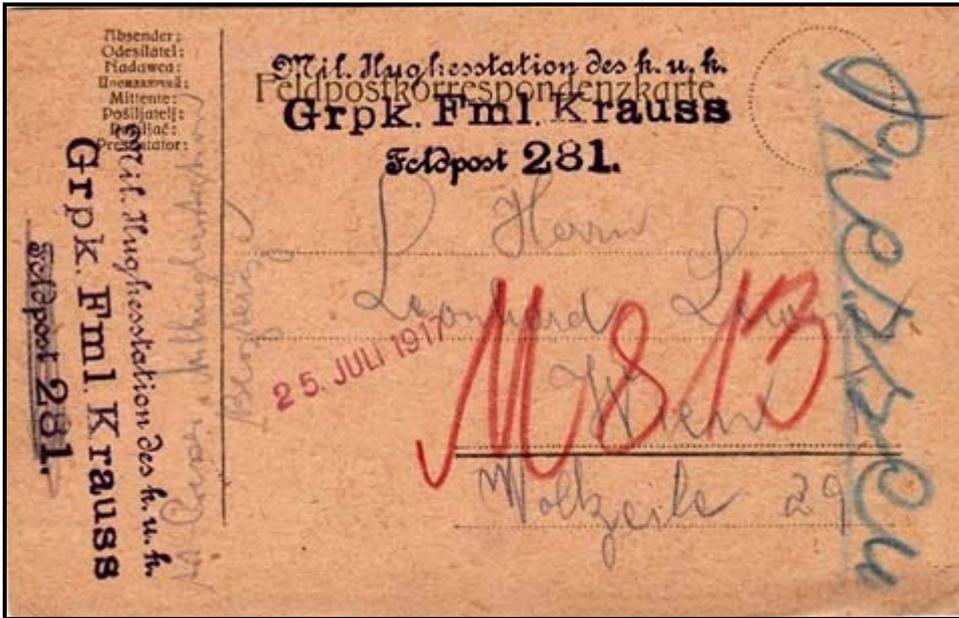


Figure 10a: The 'Mil. Hughes-station' at Feldpost 281.

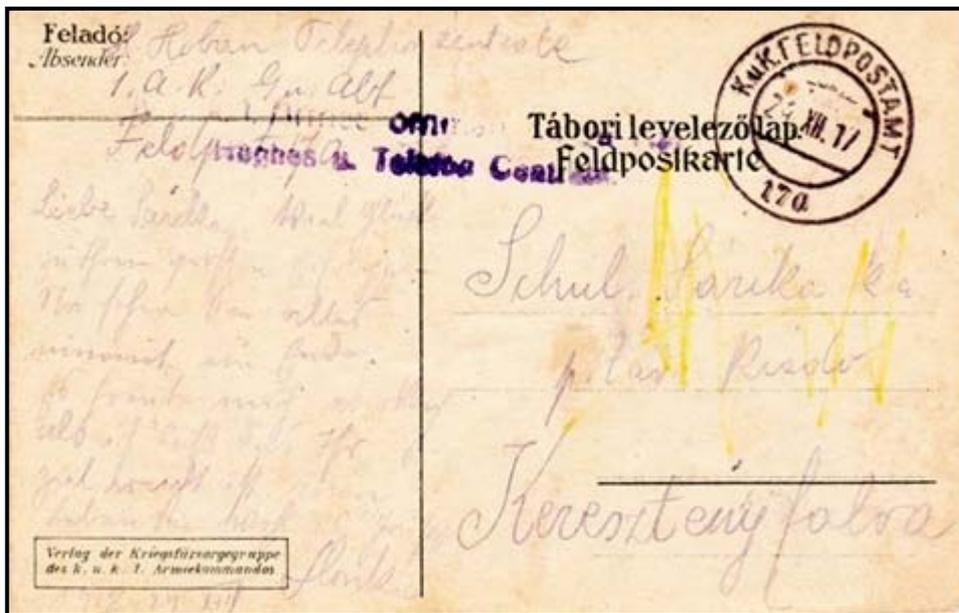


Figure 10b: The '1 AOK Hughes u. Tele?? Centrale' at Feldpost 170.



Figure 10c: The 'Telegraphenabteilung beim Kommando der Besitzungsgruppe in Montenegro', from Cetinje.

Figure 10d: Field postcard from TPH509 to Kolozsvár with a 'K.u.K. Reserve Hughes Telegraphen Abteilung No 154' cachet.



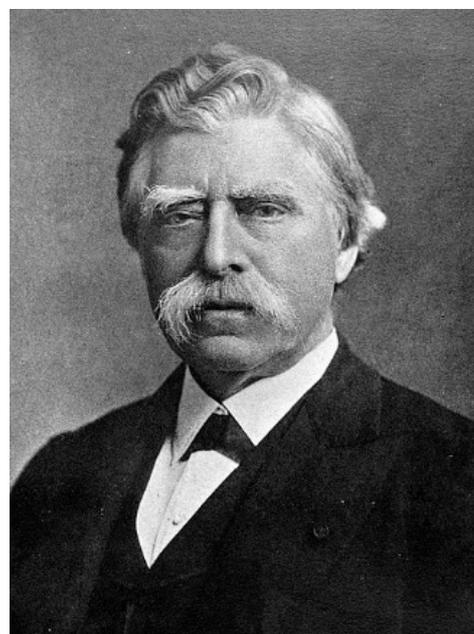
Figure 10e: Cover from TPH251 to Kolozsvár with two 'K.u.K. Reserve Hughes Telegraphen Abteilung No 151/II' cachets plus a Hungarian telegram transit cachet.

## Acknowledgements

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## References:

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<http://www.mindspring.com/~tjepsen/Teleg.html>
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sign in at <http://www.oxforddnb.com/>



**More about David Hughes can be found at:**

<http://www.lit-verlag.de/isbn/3-643-50635-1>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David\\_Edward\\_Hughes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Edward_Hughes)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hughes\\_Medal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hughes_Medal)

<https://www.google.com/patents/US14917>

<https://www.google.com/patents/US22531>

<https://www.google.com/patents/US22770> <-- keyboard!

<http://davidwardhughes.com/>

[http://davidwardhughes.com/David\\_Edward\\_Hughes.pdf](http://davidwardhughes.com/David_Edward_Hughes.pdf) <-- explains how the keyboard worked

<https://telegraphmuseum.org/> is said to have a Hughes although I can't find it on the web site



## The Vienna Private Telegraph Company

The Viennese Pneumatic Post was opened to the public on the 1st March 1875. It was initially intended for expediting incoming and telegraph messages. A claimed bonus would be “the State ceasing to pay the Private Telegraph Company 10kr for each item handed to it for delivery”. Who were this rival organisation?

The Vienna Private Telegraph Company (founded in 1869) seem to have been a quick-witted enterprise, filling the gaps between aspects of the state service wherever a profit could be made. Their ‘patch’ was ‘Vienna, its suburbs, and the countryside for 40km around, where no state telegraph office exists’. They accepted and delivered telegrams, linking up with local organisations, the railways, and the state telegraphs as needed.



In 1869 the Vienna Private Telegraph Company issued 6 imperforate “receipts” in 1870 in denominations of 10, 20, 30, 40 and 80kr and 1fl20kr. They were always cancelled with a horizontal pen mark. There are no authenticated examples of stationery used at the sending office. They were not sold after 1871, perhaps because changes in the rates (eg to 25, 37 or 62kr) would have required an infeasibly large range of face values.

The Vienna Private Telegraph Company was an early experimenter with telephones. Initially using them to relay concerts to audiences elsewhere, they then used telephones as an efficient means of reading a telegram from the receiving office to the addressee. Inspiration struck, and after obtaining a concession from the Trade Ministry they built a telephone network in Vienna; it opened on 1 December 1881 and soon had 154 subscribers. In 1882 private companies opened networks in Prague, Graz and Trieste, and in 1883 in Lemberg, Czernowitz and Pilsen.

The new telephone industry proved so successful that the Postal and Telegraph administration argued that a telephone line is only a telegraphic connection using acoustic devices, and hence is subject to the state monopoly operation. Legal proceedings followed, and in 1895 the Vienna Private Telegraph Company was nationalised!

# AUSTRIAN TELEGRAPH STAMPS

## Government Telegraph Stamps

### 1st Issue

The introduction of Telegraph Stamps was announced in a Decree: RGB127 of 7 July 1873, which also detailed a new basis for the tarif – the previous distance-dependence was abolished. The decree stated that the new basis would come into effect on 1 August 1873 while the date of issue of the stamps would be announced later.

Decree RGB129 of 14 July 1873 duly followed. The stamps went on sale on 31 July and were valid for all telegraphic transmissions to anywhere in Europe. No other stamps could be used: neither postal, nor fiscal, nor another authority's, nor one previously used. Detailed instructions were provided: "Affix the stamps by moistening the gum on the back...". Overfranking was allowed but the excess was not refunded!



The first telegraph stamps were prepared in a rush, leading to a poor quality of printing. Early collectors assumed that they had been produced by lithography but in fact they were printed by the typography process, as were the telegram stationery forms and receipts also produced in 1873. We have studied the variations encountered in these stamps – finding that it's much more complex than we, or the catalogues, thought! A flavour of the differences encountered is shown in these "assorted bottoms", all of which are on typo stamps.



The only "rules" found are that if the value tablet is decorated, or if the '1873' is big, then the stamp is always typo – as on the lowest row of the above illustration. Note the (catalogued) 2 types of the 5kr. Further work and subsequent publication is envisaged.

## 2nd Issue

Between 1874 and 1875 a further set was introduced in the same design but this time they were engraved.



This is a proof set; the details show up more clearly than on the coloured printings.

The large size of the stamps means that cancellations show up well!



## End of the Stamps

On 1st April 1879 the use of these stamps was discontinued. There were a number of reasons for this including the cost of printing and the fear of telegraph clerks reusing them. There were also the complications of accounting: on 1st April 1879 a new tariff was introduced that replaced a basic rate of 50kr for 1-20 words with a fixed charge plus a charge-per-word, and to apply the correct stamps would have been excessively complicated.

## Remainders



When the telegraph stamps were discontinued the authorities had almost 1.3 million left over. From 1884 some of these stamps were offered to dealers at face value. Others were overprinted SPECIMEN and offered to dealers at a rate of 3 Gulden per 1000 stamps. These consignments were supplied in a mixture of different face values depending on stock available rather than in full sets; for this reason some SPECIMEN values are scarcer than others. Two styles of SPECIMEN overprint exist, placed either high or centrally. Eventually stocks that could not be sold to dealers were destroyed.