



A selection of the items discussed in this issue.



# AUSTRIA 206 – Spring 2019 – Contents:

# AUSTRIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY HONORARY OFFICERS

Page	Item
1	Editorial
2	Bookshop and meeting reports
4	Koloman Moser / Kunst Auf Briefmarken / Art On Stamps
6	Automatic Machine issues (“Framas”)
10	2019 New Issues, part 1
11	The “girl with cat” christmas issue
12	A registered express cover: questions and answers
15	More questions and answers
16	Report of York Fair meeting on 19 January 2019
18	Richard Arthur Krueger 1928 - 2019
19	Roman Dubniak
20	Rückscheine from the inter-war inflation period
28	Dispenser stamps: an update
29	A tiny post-van
30	The Vienna Opera House
36	Legacy of the Austro-Hungarian registered post in the future Yugoslavia
42	Ecopost
44	Notes from other journals
IBC	Officers & Aide-memoire

## Edited by Andy Taylor

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is regularly updated and enhanced.**

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**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** are due on 1<sup>st</sup> April every year. UK and Europe £20. Airmail overseas £23. Please send membership applications (with payment) and queries to the Membership Secretary, but subscription renewal payments from existing members to the Treasurer. See below regarding ways of paying. You may pay in advance at the current rate for as many future years as you like.

**EXCHANGE PACKET:** apply to the Secretary thereof. Non-UK members are welcome to sell through the packet, but cannot receive it because of tax and insurance problems.

**AUCTION:** we run a quarterly postal Auction for members worldwide. Prospective sellers should contact the Auctioneer.

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**LIBRARY:** available to paid-up members; apply to the Librarian. Postage to you is free up to £4.50; any excess and all return postage is payable by the borrower.

**APS INTERNET SITE:** see <http://www.austrianphilately.com> for a wide variety of information, comprehensive indexes of 'Austria' and of the library, expanded & illustrated versions of articles, etc.

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## Editorial 206

<p>We offer congratulations to our Honorary Member Prof Richard Zimmerl on his 80th birthday [18 Jan 2019] and thank him for the considerable encouragement and support he has given our society over many years; we hope that we will enjoy this for many more years to come.</p> <p>With our best regards, John Anthony / President, A.P.S.</p>	<p>Dear John!</p> <p>Recht herzlichen Dank für Ihre lieben Wünsche. Selbstverständlich bleibt unser Kontakt auch im nächsten Jahrzehnt bestehen. Ich freue mich jedesmal, Mitglieder der ABS zu treffen.</p> <p>Mit lieben Grüßen, Richard Zimmerl</p>
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You may think that the Editor has adopted the foodie fashion of 'small plates' instead of his normal diet of Fuhrwerkerpfanne followed by Germknödel (zwei Stücke). Not so; it's simply that most of the articles that are ready for publication are short, while the longest one currently on the workbench ("All about Fahrpost") would be better if published as a book. Also, he has given preference to articles written in whole or part by others.

We regret to announce the recent death of John Wardrop, whose firm insures the collections and/or property of many members. His family intend to continue the business. We are sorry that severe illness has forced Gerrit Matthijssen to retire. We received an email from Jeffrey Rizza in the USA on behalf of his father Salvatore to cancel his membership. "My father has been a proud member of your club for many years, but at 92, he has decided to give up collecting." And Austrian member Dr Oscar Pongratz-Lippitt, Herr auf Pernegg und Maruševec, has died, last December. Our President writes:

*It is with sadness that we learn of the passing of another of our long-standing members, namely Dr. Oscar von Pongratz-Lippitt. He joined our Society as member number 1034 in 1997. He was an enthusiastic and respected philatelist in his own country, Austria, as well as in the wider philatelic world. He was recognised as an expert in the stamps and postal history of Bosnia & Herzegovina and his two handbooks published in 2000 and 2008 on this subject are notable reference texts for all scholars and collectors. His contribution was considerable and it will be missed.*

Congratulations to Spring Stampex entrants Garth Taylor, whose "Postal history of the Czech Army in WWII 1939-1945" got a Large Vermeil; and to Joyce Boyer, whose "Austrian Airmail to 1938" appearing for the first time as an 8-frame entry also got a Large Vermeil. Also to Helmut Kobelbauer who at Italia 2018 won a Large Gold medal for his postal history entry *Nach dem Grossen Krieg*, and also a Large Gold medal awarded to him and his co-authors Igor Pirc and Bojan Kranjc for their literature entry "Proceedings of the International Symposium 100th Anniversary of the Chainbreakers - The first Slovenian Postal Stamps", published in Slovenian and English.

### Changes in the Library

As you will be aware, the Librarian aided by the Committee is 'downsizing' the Library - see the introduction to the Book Auction listing for last year's Fest. The books being removed are ones which have not been borrowed for many years, or are superseded by newer works, or have nothing to do with Austria's philately.

Other than obvious garbage, they have been offered for sale in the Auction; those unsold may be re-offered in the Auction, those then remaining will be offered to the RPSL Library if appropriate or offered elsewhere if there is a reasonable prospect of finding a 'Good Home'.

So far the downsizing project has covered issues 1 - 200. Those removed from the Library have now also been removed from the APS web site's "Contents (in numeric order)" listing. The Subjects and Author lists will also be updated. Work on issues 201-350 has started.

The complete run of Die Briefmarke was offered for sale (or for storage) in the Yellow Pages of Austria 204, but attracted no interest. No member of the committee has space to store it, and it is rarely consulted. The committee has therefore decided to donate it to the Royal Philatelic Society, who have thanked us and will use it to fill the several gaps in their holding. The RPSL is a registered charity, and any member of the public may by arrangement use the library for research etc but are not allowed to borrow (take away) its contents.

The APS also holds incomplete sets of various "journals of other societies" - see the website for the list. Some are scanned images. Those on paper moulder in various members sheds and garages; their slumbers are rarely disturbed. The journals, that is. These also will soon be offered to members; then the RPSL; then recycled.

**Andy Taylor**

## THE APS BOOKSHOP

To purchase any of these items, contact the [Librarian](#).

NOTES: (1) If you pay by credit card, it will appear as “German Railway Society” or “GRS” on your card statement.

(2) Some emails to “library@austrianphilately.com” are ending up in the spam bucket: instead, please use “mjoyceb@uwclub.net”.

### CDs

- ❖ *All CDs cost £10 or €15 including postage to anywhere in the world.*
- ❖ **“The History of Austrian Revenue Stamps”** by Dr. Stephan Koczynski. Enhanced and published on CD in fully-text-searchable form. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-07-4.
- ❖ **1910 Post Office Index.** This is the “*Verzeichnis der Post- und Telegraphen-Ämter in Österreich, Ungarn und in Bosnien-Herzegowina sowie der österreichischen Postanstalten im Fürstentum Liechtenstein und in der Levante*”, published in Vienna in 1910. It lists all the Austrian post offices open anywhere at that date; with symbols indicating the facilities available at each. The CD contains deep-cleaned pictures of the original pages, not searchable text. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-08-1.
- ❖ **“Rohrpost” – the pneumatic post in Vienna.** Second completely revised edition, now in web-site format in full colour with numerous added appendices. It is ISBN 978-0-900118-10-4.

### Books

- ❖ **“The Austrian Post Offices in the Levant: Tchilinghirian and Stephen Revisited”.** by Hans Smith. Written in English and in full colour throughout, with over 200 A4 pages of text and illustrations and a comprehensive listing of all known postmarks of the consular offices. ISBN 978-0-900118-09-8 Price **£50. Only 13 10 copies left!** P&P £5 in UK, elsewhere at cost.
- ❖ **“A Celebration of Austrian Philately”:** the APS 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary ‘Festschrift’. viii+162pp. A4 in full colour. ISBN 978-0-900118-05-0. Price **£10**; P&P £3 in UK, elsewhere at cost.

### Other items

- ❖ **Back numbers** of “Austria” are **£1** each to members (**£5** to non-members), subject to us having stock. Some may be facsimiles or second-hand originals. Postage extra at cost. Bulk orders by negotiation.

## MEETING REPORT

### APS NORTHERN GROUP - NORTH YORKSHIRE, 7 NOVEMBER 2018

Members of the Northern Group were hosted by Keith Brandon who gave two displays relating to the Adriatic region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The first concerned the handstamps used on uncanceled mail put on board ships of the Austrian Lloyd and other Austro-Hungarian shipping lines. Keith showed examples of mail hand-stamped at various ports on arrival and also mail cancelled by on-board travelling post-offices. Highlights included a cover apparently disinfected in Zara in 1866; a manuscript cancel “*Trieste col Vapore*”; and a hitherto unknown handstamp cancelling mail carried by a ship of the Società Istria-Trieste line to Pola.

After a break for fruitcake and Coverdale cheese, Keith continued with the postal history of mail from postal-agencies on the Istrian Peninsula and their connections to the railway network. The Istrianer Bahn ran from the important military and naval base at Pola in the south of the peninsula to Divača, a junction town which connected to Vienna and beyond. Many of the postal-agency handstamps were from small villages and are rarely seen.

## Northern Group meeting report

The ‘famous five’ met on Wednesday 20 February in Stokesley for another mid-week meeting – we had realised that it was permissible to hold philatelic meetings on days other than Saturdays. Apologies were received from Yvonne and John. Andy Taylor presented two diverse rounds of material, with an interval for the now-traditional refreshment of fruit cake and Wensleydale cheese with full-strength coffee.

Round 1 was devoted to Music, as manifested in the Austrian Empire. The building of the Vienna State Opera house was discussed, and many of the philatelic commemorations of its performances were shown. The brochure accompanying the 1969 anniversary block was admired. Next came mint stamps portraying composers, with potted biographies; then performers, venues, instruments and events including a section on the traditional Vienna Sound as produced by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. FDCs and special cancels followed, then “other composers” such as Haydn and Fux. Letters written by musical personages preceded a lengthy section on the numerous philatelic productions from the Salzburg Festival, and the round was concluded by items, mostly special cancels, about Robert Stolz and his wife Einzi, “die lästige Witwe”.



Round 2 was all about Dues. The first section was ‘conventional’ dues, used where the sender hasn’t applied enough stamps. Or they had, but not those from the country of posting - this usually happens when someone writes and franks a holiday postcard abroad, forgets to post it, and sticks it in a post box after they’ve crossed the border.

Then came “recipient to pay”, where the postage on letters from official bodies such as local councils and courts – and in some cases lawyers - was paid by the addressee (at normal rate). Especially noteworthy was a letter saying “*Your husband has just died; kindly remove the corpse within 48 hours or it will be disposed of; signed The Hospital Management*” for which the just-widowed recipient had to pay 6 heller.

The next section was on Rückschein letters: a missive from, usually, a law court is accompanied by a tear-off slip whereby the addressee acknowledges that he has received it. The slip is returned to the sender, and the addressee pays the postage costs, often at a special reduced rate.



Austria has operated a Postlager (Poste Restante) system for many years, and for some periods the person collecting the letter had to pay a fee, shown by postage due adhesives. A more recent innovation is a Business Reply system: the business sends out cards inviting people to order its wares, and when they are posted back the sender pays nothing but the business pays standard postage plus a fee – shown by dues.

In Austria, it was possible to send cash via the post office. You filled in a form, and paid the amount being sent plus a fee. At the other end of the system, a form was produced instructing the delivery office to send physical cash to the addressee, who signed for it and paid a delivery fee (plus a tip for the postie!). These delivery fees were brought back by the money-deliverer and the details entered on yet another form. Finally, the cash was used to ‘buy’ postage dues which were stuck on the form. This example from the late 1940s is probably unique, in that the form is ‘home made’ by writing on the back of a redundant form; and instead of the special high-value postage dues introduced in 1948 they have used the cards intended for entering credit to a Pitney Bowes franking machine.

## MORE ON KOLO MOSER

By Mark Ebery

Reading Andy's article about the multi-talented artist and stamp designer, Koloman Moser, in Austria Number 204, reminded me that I had bought a most attractive book titled *Koloman Moser Kunst Auf Briefmarken / Art On Stamps* which I found on sale at the Leopold Museum when I visited there in 2014. The book was published on 22 November 2012; it is listed in Michel's *Marken.Buch* section of their *Oesterreich-Spezial* catalogue as Number 190 and in ANK 2018/19 specialised, top of page 606, *Sonderartikel der Post, Bücher im A4 Format*



Divided into three sections - His Life; His Work; His Stamps - the book's main focus is on what it calls *Schätze aus dem Postarchiv* (Treasures from the Postal Archive). Commencing with the 1906/1910 Bosnia-Herzegovina issues, each of Moser's stamp designs is illustrated in colour alongside detailed descriptions. Particularly interesting are the large-scale illustrations of the original designs, and in some cases of the items that served as a basis for Moser's art work. These include the painting of Maria Theresa that was probably used for the 2 Heller value in the 1908 Jubilee series; and the wartime postcard pictures that provided a basis for some of the 1915 War Charity stamps.

The front cover shows Moser's design for the 10Kr stamp; in the issued version the lettering at the bottom was rearranged into *ÖSTERREICHISCHE / POST*.



Alongside the information about Moser's stamp designs, there is considerable background about the first stamp booklet, issued in 1908. We are given large-scale illustrations of both the highly complex (rejected) original design on the left below, and the much simplified final version on the right. Moser's designs for banknotes, for the Jubilee Postcard and for postal stationery (unadopted) are also covered, as are his postage due and newspaper stamps.



Two other interesting aspects of Moser's postal work are included: his "Fleurons", described in the book as "printer's flowers"; and his unadopted designs for a stamp series for the new imperial family. Moser's "Fleurons", a type of Cinderella stamp often used as a means of closing up envelopes instead of using sealing wax, came in two designs: one was for a Viennese girls school, and the other was for the 1911 International Stamp Exhibition. The latter was a relatively austere design (almost 1920s Art Deco rather than Secessionist), issued in several colours.

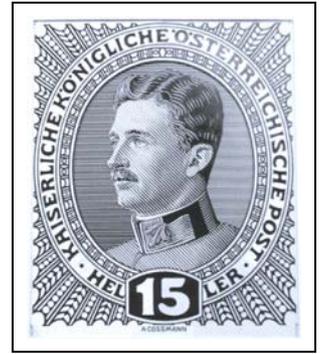
For those intrigued by "what might have been", Moser's final stamp designs are particularly interesting. They feature portraits of the last Habsburg Emperor, Kaiser Karl I, the Empress, Kaiserin Zita, and the heir to the throne, the long-lived Otto von Habsburg. Additionally, there were a number of stamps that portrayed Habsburg family residences. None of these designs were accepted and the book speculates that Moser's ill-health<sup>[1]</sup> was perhaps the reason why the designs don't appear to have quite the same high quality as his earlier work. Despite this comment, it is clear from the illustrations that, had the stamps been issued, Austria would have had yet another highly distinctive and attractive series.



<sup>1</sup> Moser developed throat cancer in 1916, and died on 18 October 1918; he was buried on 21 October in the cemetery at Hietzing.



And perhaps we can say that one last Moser design did appear after all – at least in part: it looks as though his art work of Kaiser Karl for a 25 Heller stamp (on the left) was the basis for the 1917 definitive series designed by Alfred Cossmann (on the right).



The book includes two blocks of Personal Stamps (Meine Marke), each containing four stamps featuring unadopted Moser designs. These are so appealing that they alone probably justified the cost of the book, which was €24.90.



Block showing designs for postal stationery stamps; a postage due stamp; and a Feldpost newspaper stamp.

Block showing unadopted designs produced in 1916-17 for a series of stamps honouring the new reign of Kaiser Karl.



Kolo's design for the 2Kr Jubilee stamp; he produced a similar design for the 5Kr Schonbrunn. The denominations were swapped and the colours altered for the final issue.

# Automatic Machine Issues

by Joyce Boyer

The question arises, should the items dispensed by the Automatic machines be regarded as stamps or labels? None of the major catalogues include these in the main part of the work but instead have a separate section for them. The reason for this is presumably because they are only available at specific places and sometimes only for a limited period. In this article I will call them labels.



Austria issued their first FRAMA labels on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1983 at an International event [IFABO] held at Berne, Switzerland. In autumn 2018 a few examples were seen for sale on eBay achieving double-figure prices - the illustration here is taken from one sale where I was an under-bidder.

By 1<sup>st</sup> June 1983 machines had been installed at fifteen locations in provincial capitals with a sixteenth machine added at Krems on 24<sup>th</sup> October, and the first Austrian FRAMA labels were being dispensed. The location of the machines changed from time to time but the maximum number appears to have been seventeen.

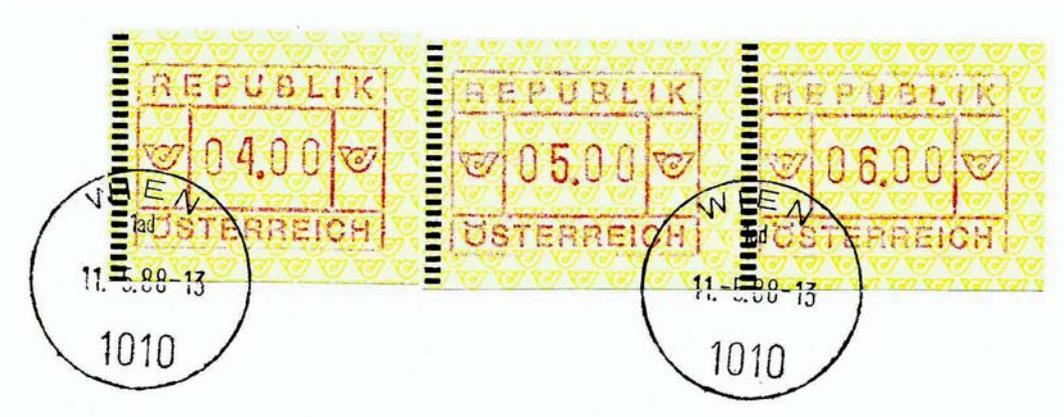
The FRAMA labels were oblong, printed in red on cream paper and delivered singly with each one having a bar code in black at the left hand edge. All designs have the value in the centre, 'Republik' at the top and 'Österreich' in the base. The FRAMA labels were issued in 50 groschen rate steps until 8.00 schillings, then 1 schilling steps until 12 and with various increments after that with a maximum value of 79.50 S. Netto lists 24 official values between 50 groschen and 50 schillings with differing numbers of higher values which are not numbered. The labels did not have to be used at the post office where they were bought – one typical Ebay seller has labels cancelled from many small places including some postablage!

The first issue has the post office logo each side at the top and five lines down each side. On some labels the printing is very light to almost missing, presumably due to the ink running out. This can be seen on the first day cover with the special first day cancellation. A 2Sch value label was used to make up the cost of postage on this postal stationery cover sent to Germany.

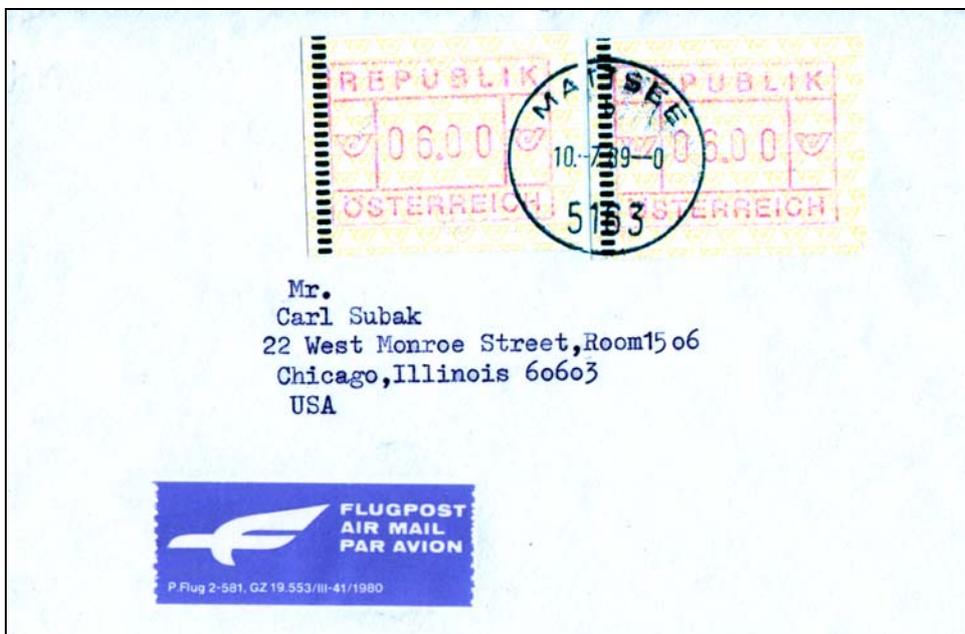


FRAMA labels could be used anywhere in the country if the sender of a letter carried them to use as stamps - or as on this example possibly took addressed envelopes to send to himself. The cover is addressed to Gerhard Kühnel, compiler of the book on postablagen cancels and has been sent from PSt Wiese, St Leonhard im Pitztal and may have been sent by him to obtain an example of the cancellation. I have seen similar covers on E-bay so Kühnel may have been on a tour of Tirol to obtain up-to-date cancellations.

A second design was introduced on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1988 with 'Republik' larger and the logo now at the sides. On this portion of a first day cover the sender has placed the three separate labels so close that they appear to be joined, but they are not.



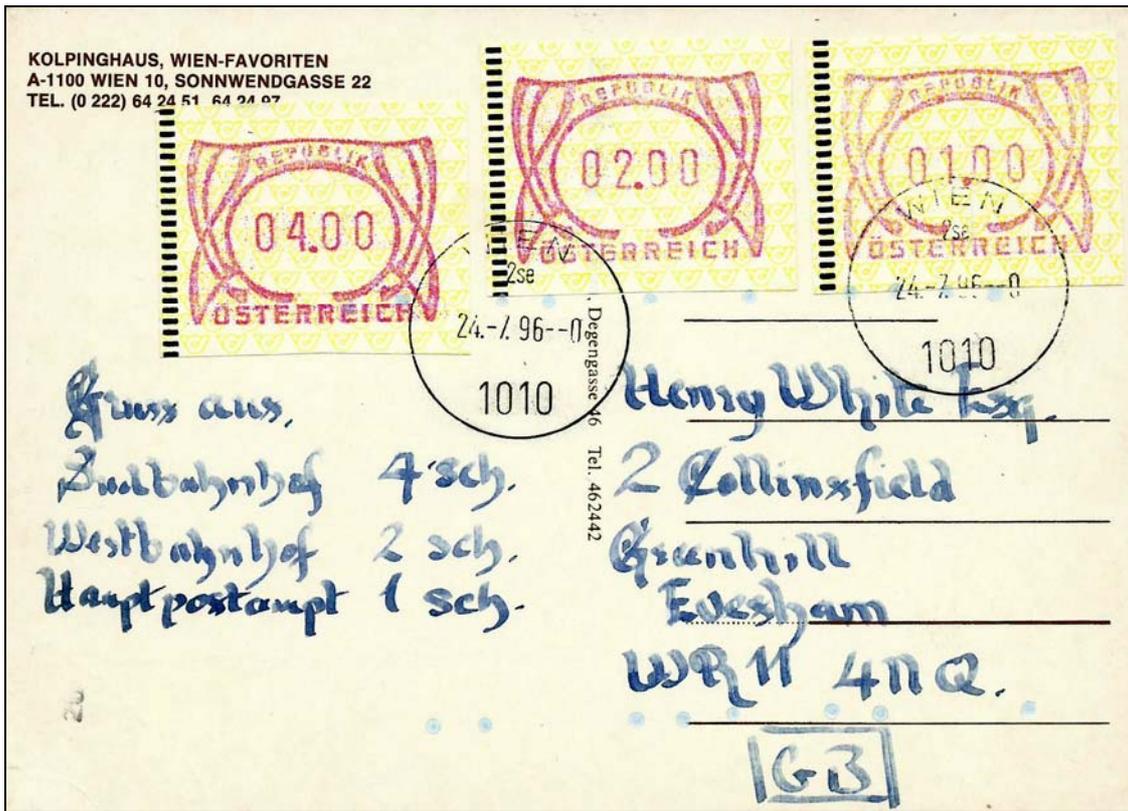
The second example shows two labels used to pay postage to the USA on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1989



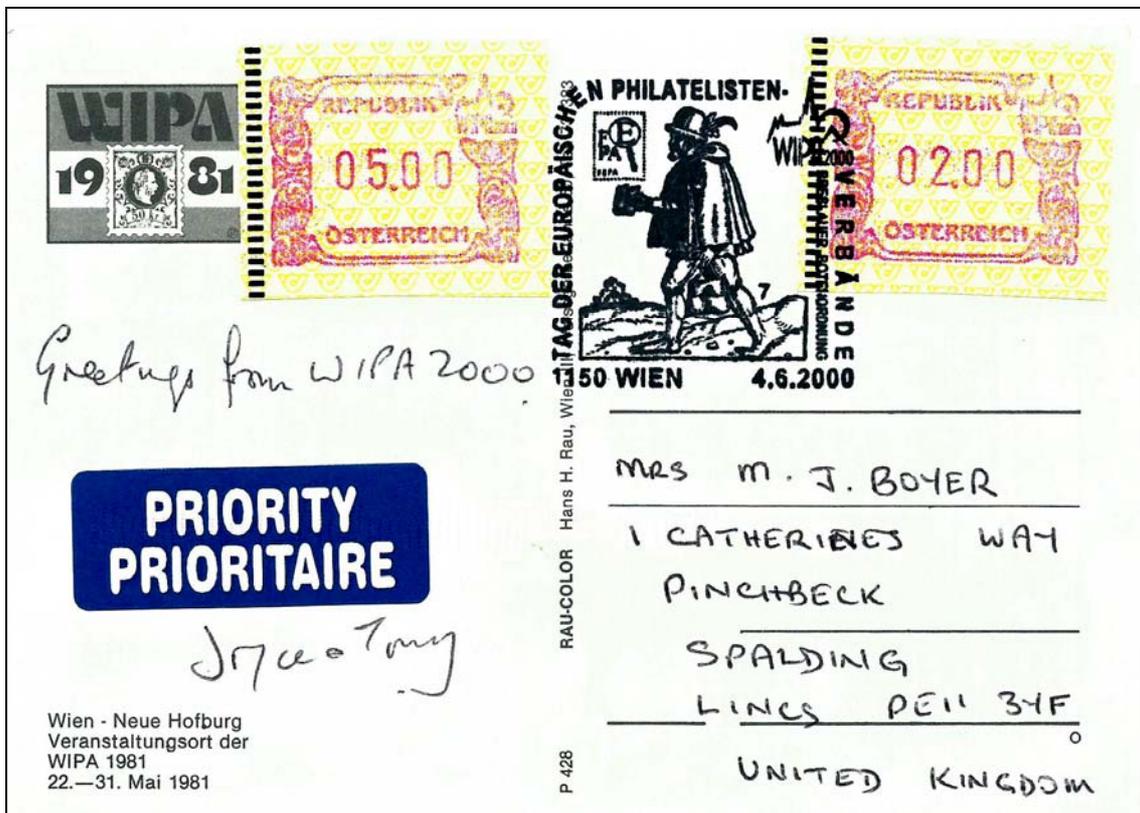
The third issue on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1995 retained the basic information but in a more elaborate frame. The first day card shown here has a far more elaborate first day cancellation used at Gmunden.



Unless told, as on this card sent by and to an APS member, there is nothing to indicate where the labels were bought. There is also no obvious difference in the three different value labels used to make up the 7s postage to the UK.



On 30<sup>th</sup> May 2000 a new design incorporating the event logo was used for the machines sited at WIPA 2000 when 100,000 labels were printed during the six days of the exhibition. It's almost impossible to find a copy with a clear WIPA logo!



Again a new design with Övebria '01 at the top was introduced for use at the exhibition held at Graz from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2001 when 26,000 were issued.

All FRAMA labels were issued in the schilling currency and ceased to be valid for use after 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002.



In 2006 the Austrian Post Office again introduced automatic machines with labels but these are mainly movable and are generally installed at different locations for short periods often associated with a philatelic event. There were a few fixed machines including one in the Philatelie Shop in Kärntner Straße, Vienna. The values are in (Euro)cents; you pay in cash; you must begin with an inland-letter-rate label; overpayment is refunded as an odd-valued stamp. Because of the number of issues (now well over 100!) I will deal with these in a separate article.



On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the Austrian Post Office introduced a new type of machine for ‘Automatic Post Franking’ trialling it in an area of Vienna. First reports were that they were difficult to use and the operation took some time. Payment could be by cash for small amounts, debit or credit card. The difficulties were resolved and during 2013 the machines were rolled out at selected post offices throughout Austria.

The labels are self-adhesive on a siliconed-paper backing, and come in two alternating designs with a view of the Dachstein or the Grossglockner in the Land of Mountains. [*LAND DER BERGE is the beginning of the Austrian National Anthem; The concept was apparently to continue the stamp series quarterly, illustrating the next phrases - LAND AM STROME, LAND DER ÄCKER and LAND DER DOME (ie rivers, meadows, and cathedrals) - but perhaps artistic invention failed at LAND DER HÄMMER!*]



The word Österreich and the value are printed as required, the available values being five Inland rates, five each for Priority mail to the EU and Europe or Rest of the World and four Economy rates for each of these areas.

<p><b>ÖSTERREICH 62</b>                  First printing: letters have sharp edges; grey-black ink; value higher than country name; 16.5mm long</p>	<p><b>ÖSTERREICH 62</b>                  Second printing: letters have ill-defined edges; dark black ink; value and country name in line; 18mm long</p>
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The first printing of 50 rolls of 500 stamps were perf 10½; the second printing of 800 rolls of 1000 stamps were perf 13 The differences in the two printings is shown on the left, using data adapted from the newsletter of an Austrian stamp club. Registration labels and packet tracking labels could also be obtained from the machine.

A third printing after the scheme was introduced countrywide seems to show a slight change in the position of the printed details. These labels appear to have been replaced with the Dispenser-Marken introduced throughout the country in September 2017 – see article on page 28.

## 2019 NEW ISSUES (1<sup>st</sup> instalment)

by Andy Taylor

The information given here is face value ('c' is Euro-cents); issue date; quantity printed; designer; engraver if any; printing method; printer; and sometimes details on the design. Many issues are also available in mini-sheets, blackprints, 'Buntdrucke' (ie printed in different colours from those issued) etc. Austria Post seem to have adopted a minimalist approach to both the English and the German descriptive details on their website, so I have supplemented some descriptions from many sources including Die Briefmarke and Wikipedia.



**350 years of the University of Innsbruck.** 90c; 25.01.2019; 185,000; Karin Klier; Offset; Enschedé. The University of Innsbruck (German: Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck; Latin: Universitas Leopoldina Franciscana) is a public university in Innsbruck, the capital of the Austrian federal state of Tirol. Founded in 1669, it is currently the largest education facility in the Tirol, the third largest in Austria after Vienna University and the University of Graz and according to The Times Higher Education Supplement World Ranking 2010 Austria's leading university. Significant contributions have been made in many branches, most of all in the physics department. In 1562 a Jesuit grammar school was established in Innsbruck by Peter Canisius, today called "Akademisches Gymnasium Innsbruck". It was financed by the salt mines at Hall in Tirol, and was refounded as a university in 1669 by Leopold I with four faculties. In 1782 this was reduced to a mere lyceum (as were all other Universities in the Austrian Empire, apart from Prague, Vienna and Lemberg), but it was reestablished as the University of Innsbruck in 1826 by Emperor Franz I. The university is therefore named after both of its founding fathers with the official title "Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck".



**Austro Fiat Type 1C.** 1€35; 30.01.2019; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé. In 1907 the Italian Fiat company founded an Austrian branch in Floridsdorf, the joint stock company Österreichische Fiat-Werke AG, known as Austro Fiat for short. This stamp from the "Cars" series shows one of the cars made there: the Type 1C.



**Lohner Sissy.** 2€30; 31.01.2019; 365,000; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé. The Lohner Sissy of 1957 was a classic post-war two-wheeler, an affordable, easy-to-use 50cc moped designed to carry a driver and a passenger. The "Sissy" owes its name to the films of the same name starring Romy Schneider.



**Neue Wege – Brieftaube.** 80c; 13.02.2019; 325,002 in sheets of 6; Theresa Radlingmaier; Offset; Enschedé. The theme for this year's collaborative stamp contest organised by the "Die Presse" daily newspaper and Austrian Post was "Neue Wege" (new ways). From the many entries, the design "carrier pigeon" was crowned the winner. As is increasingly common, the stamp is also available on cards, in this case with 4 stamps. The cards used to hang on racks in the Post Office, but now the racked cards are inscribed MUSTER and have no stamps; you choose what you want then ask at the counter for it.



Talking of cards, a minor mystery has been solved (thanks, Eva and Otto). The card of the new definitives on the right says "50 stamps at 90 cents, price 45Eu". However the version supplied to those who have a standing order for them only has 2 stamps so costs 1Eu80. It turns out that with many-stamp cards like this, the remaining stamps are on additional cards, fan-folded behind the front one; subscribers neither receive nor pay for these added cards.



**Erwin Wurm - Fat House.** 1€75; 13.02.2019; 135,000; Regina Simon; Offset; Enschedé. "Fat House" is an outstanding sculpture by Erwin Wurm, one of the most successful contemporary sculptors, to whom a stamp in the "Contemporary art in Austria" series is being dedicated.



**House of Austrian History (hdgö for short).** 2€70; 19.02.2019; 150,000; Marion Füllerer; Offset; Enschedé. On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the democratic republic of Austria, the House of Austrian History opened in the Hofburg in Vienna's Heldenplatz. Sounds worth a visit.

**70 years of the SOS-Kinderdörfer children's villages.** 80c + 10c; 21.02.2019; 125,000; Anita Kern; Offset; Enschedé. WWII resulted in many children becoming homeless and orphaned. Hermann Gmeiner, who himself participated in the war as an Austrian soldier, founded the first SOS Children's Village in Imst in the Tirol in 1949.

Originally, the SOS Children's Village was established to look after the orphans of the Second World War. Later, the organization expanded to look after abandoned neglected or abused children all over the world.



**150 years of the Opera House on Vienna's Ring.** 90c; 28.02.2019; 245,000; Karin Klier; Offset; Enschedé. See the article VIENNA'S OPERA HOUSE elsewhere in this issue.

## 'Young Girl with Cat'

Martin Brumby remarks: Further to the 'Young Girl with Cat' stamp which caught my eye (AUSTRIA 205, p.40: reproduced below), Raphael Tuck (Tuch) is considered more usefully at <https://tuckdb.org/history> than by Wikipedia, who draw a veil over anything before 1866!

Tuck was born on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1821 in Koschmin Poznan where he devoted his early years to the study of Judaism, including a working knowledge of Hebrew. His interest and enthusiasm for Orthodox Judaism led him to become an accomplished Talmudic scholar; and, although he spent the middle years of his life in business, he never fully left his study of the Talmud and Hebrew history.

Raphael was married to the former Ernestine Lissner in March of 1848. She gave birth to seven children, four boys and three girls, all born in Prussia prior to their migration to England. (None of this was previously known to me. But it's interesting.)

He would undoubtedly have considered himself a Jewish Prussian-Silesian. His parents would likely have considered themselves Jewish Austrian-Silesians. I very much doubt anyone in his family would have considered themselves Polish, or a resident of Wrocław. Wiki suggests only 1.3% of the population of Breslau were Polish in 1900, falling to 0.5% in 1918.

Breslau/Wrocław is today a very interesting and quite attractive place, which I commend. But it only became Polish when Uncle Joe moved Poland westwards in 1945.

And Keith Brandon adds: To join in the pedantry, Wrocław was in the Kingdom of Poland for the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, so Uncle Joe was just putting it back where it belonged!

**Christmas 2018 – vintage – young girl with cat.** 80c; 30.11.2018; 2,500,000 in rolls; Anita Kern; Offset; Enschedé. The designer of this delightful Christmas design is not known, but it was published for the first time on a picture postcard printed by the postcard publishing company Raphael Tuck & Sons in England in 1914. This London publishing company was founded in 1870 by Raphael Tuch (sic), who was born in the Polish city of Wrocław in 1821, and specialised in greetings cards and picture postcards. It enjoyed its most successful period in the Victorian era.



## A REGISTERED EXPRESS QUESTION

From Austria 205 page 42: “Northern Group Representative Keith Brandon has sent us this postcard in the hope that someone can help him understand the franking.

“The 8h postal-stationery card has been uprated with a further 85h and sent registered and express. The card is clearly dated 8 August 1917 by the sender and is postmarked the same day at Janow bei Lemberg (Galicia). The sender is ordering ten bottles of wine from a vineyard at Särospatok, near Tokaj in Hungary.

“At this time, the 1916 postal-tariff was in operation. According to this tariff, the charges should have been 8h postage (special-rate for an imprinted stationery-card) plus 25h for registration plus 30h express fee, a total of 63h. Is the franking of 93h simply an over-franking in error by the sender or is there another explanation for the extra 30h on the card?”



**We have received four, yes four, replies!**

### A REGISTERED EXPRESS ANSWER (1)

This card is from Inger Kuzych's Lemberg exhibit and is illustrated on page 146(126) of his Lemberg book (APS Library nr 463). His caption is: 8 August 1917, Janow bei Lemberg, via Lemberg, to Särospatak (Hungary). The franking of 93 heller covers the 8h postal card rate, 25h registry, and a double express (30h + 30h) rate, because the delivery address - a vineyard - was outside the normal postal round. Rectangular, three-line "Zensurstelle 2" (Censor station 2) and boxed "38" both applied by censor at the Lemberg railway station postal counter.

### A REGISTERED EXPRESS ANSWER (2)

Janow is a main town on the border of Ukraine and Poland some 150 kilometers north-west of Lemberg (Lviv in Ukrainian). Janow bei Lemberg is on a railway line just 30 kilometers west of Lemberg, its name probably originating from a small settlement of people from Janow.

My best guess is that the post office at Janow bei Lemberg was simply very basic. The only thing they had was stamps and registration labels. These were affixed to the card. The postal official charged 30h for express delivery of the card to the post office at the main railway station of Lemberg. The additional 30h (the amount in question) was charged so that the card would be sent express from the main railway station at Lemberg to Hungary. At the main railway station in Lemberg the card was censored by censor 38 then stamped with the main Censor Office 2 handstamp and the express label added.

Compare my rather frightening K.u.K. Gravediggers work detachment No.12 envelope !! (*cachet enhanced. Ed.*)

**Peter Cybaniak**



The boxed **30** is the censor's mark, not the 30h express fee.

An express letter in the middle of a war is unusual. Possibly it was sent to inform somebody that their family member was about to be buried.

**A REGISTERED EXPRESS ANSWER (3)**

Many years ago I met the same problem with a bosnian card to Hungary. But I found in Vienna a Zirkular Verordnung (Bosnian one) which mentioned this 60h rate to Hungary. Later, I received the Hungarian Verordnung. The Hungarian postal authorities raised the express rate from 30h to 60h on 20 May 1916. Please see both attachments, it includes two Verordnungen and a german translation of the Hungarian one.

Nr. 7.  1916.

## Zirkular-Verordnungen

k. u. k. Militärpost- und Telegraphendirektion in Sarajevo.  
Sarajevo, am 14. Juni 1916.

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P. D. Z.: 14487 ex 1916.

Expressgebühr im Verkehr mit Ungarn.

Laut Kriegsministerialerlasses Abt. 5-T. B. Nr. 3298 vom 16. Mai 1916, wird ab 20. Mai 1916 im Verkehre mit Ungarn die Expressgebühr mit einer (1) Krone für Pakete, mit 60 h für andere Sendungen festgesetzt.

In der bisherigen Höhe der Auszahlung von Expressgebühren an die Besteller tritt keine Aenderung ein.

MAGYAR



POSTA ÉS TÁVIRDA

KIRÁLYI

RENDELETEK TÁRA.

KIRALJA A KERESKEDELMI ÉS PÓCSKÖZMŰVÉSELETI MINISZTER.

Budapest.
67. szám.
1916. május 17.

Az expressdij fölemelése belföldön, valamint az Ausztriával, Bosznia-Herzegovinával és Németországgal való forgalomban és az expresskészenléti felhívás felfüggesztése az egyéb külfölddel való forgalomban.

34.230.

A belföldi, valamint az Ausztriával, Bosznia-Herzegovinával és Németországgal való forgalomban a levélpostai küldemények, postautalványok és pénzeslevelek expresskészenléti díját az eddigi 30 fillérről 60 fillérré emeltem föl, a csomagok expresskészenléti díját az eddigi 50 fillér helyett 1 koronában állapítottam meg.

Az egyéb külfölddel való forgalomban az összes küldeményfelejték névére az expresskészenléti további intézkedésig beszüntettem.

Jelen rendelkezés után tehát expresskészenléti díjat belföldön, Ausztriában, Bosznia-Herzegovinában és Németországban lehet feladni és pedig az eddiget csak levélpostai küldeményeket, postautalványokat, távirati utalványokat és pénzesleveleket, ellenben expresscsomag Ausztriában, Bosznia-Herzegovinában és Németországban, sem belföldön még nem küldhető. Belföldön csak a m. kir. honvédelmi és a m. kir. belügyminiszternek által adhatóak föl expresscsomagok. (L. P. és T. R. T. 1916. évi. 100. számában a 16.777. v. sz. rendelettel.)

A belföldre, Ausztriába és Bosznia-Herzegovinába azelőtt távirati utalványokért is az eddigi 30 fillér helyett 60 fillér expressdíj jár. Ugyanazt kell a Németországból érkező távirati utalvány kézbesítésénél a címzettől beszélni.

A mennyiben belföldön, Ausztriában, Bosznia-Herzegovinában vagy Németországban feladott oly expresskúldemények érkeznek, a melyekre a feladó csak a hatálytlan visszatérő expressdíjat fizette, és az a küldeményeket expressként kell kézbesíteni és a magasabb expressdíjból hiányzó összeget a címzettől kell beszélni.

Budapest, 1916 május hó 16-án.

Die Expressgebühr 1916 / Übersetzung

POSTA ÉS TÁVIRDA RENDELETEK TÁRA (P.e.T.R.T.)  
Budapest 1916. május 17.

Die Erhöhung der Expressgebühr im Inland sowie im Verkehre mit Österreich, Bosnien-Herzegovina und Deutschland sowie die Suspendierung der Expresszustellung im Verkehre mit den anderen Ländern.  
(Nr. 34.230)

Die im Inlandsverkehre sowie im Verkehre mit Österreich, Bosnien-Herzegovina und Deutschland gültige Gebühr für die Expresszustellung von Sendungen der Briefpost, von Postanweisungen und Geldbriefen erhöhe ich von bisher 30 Filler auf 60 Filler, die für die Expresszustellung von Paketen gültige Gebühr setze ich statt der bisherigen 50 Filler mit 1 Krone fest.

Im übrigen Auslandsverkehre habe ich hinsichtlich aller Sendungsarten die Expresszustellung bis auf weiteres eingestellt.

Nach dieser Verordnung ist daher eine Aufgabe zur Expresszustellung nur im Inlandsverkehre, nach Österreich, Bosnien-Herzegovina und Deutschland möglich und zwar nur Briefsendungen, Postanweisungen, telegraphische Postanweisungen und Geldbriefe. Hingegen können Expresspakete weder nach Österreich, Bosnien-Herzegovina und Deutschland noch im Inland versendet werden. Im Inland können Expresspakete nur von ung. kgl. Verteidigungs- und vom ung. kgl. Innenministerium aufgegeben werden (Siehe "P. és T.R.T." 1915. 100. Verordnung Nr. 16.777).

Auch bei den für das Inland, für Österreich sowie Bosnien-Herzegovina bestimmten telegraphischen Postanweisungen beträgt die Expressgebühr statt der bisherigen 30 Filler 60 Filler. Ebensoviel ist bei der Zustellung der aus Deutschland kommenden telegraphischen Anweisungen von Adressaten einzuheben.

Falls Express-Sendungen eintreffen im Inland, in Österreich, Bosnien-Herzegovina oder Deutschland aufgegeben wurden und für welche der Absender nur die ausser Kraft gesetzte alte Expressgebühr bezahlt hat, sind diese Express zuzustellen und die auf die höhere Expressgebühr fehlende Summe vom Adressaten einzuheben.

Budapest, am 16 Mai 1916

(Larger copies of these regulations are available from the Editor!)

Gerrit Matthijssen

**A REGISTERED EXPRESS ANSWER (4)**

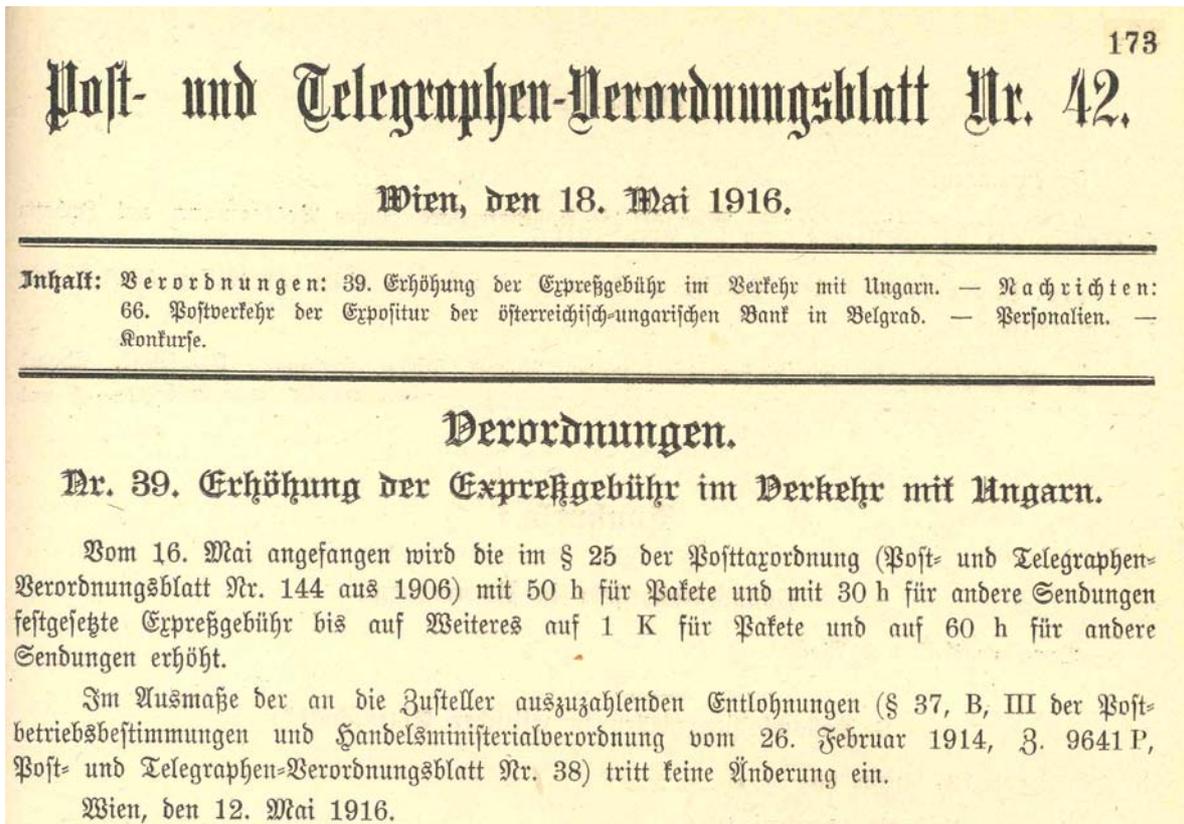
Dear Andy,

the assumption that the “Express” (urgent delivery) fee from Austria to Hungary was 30h at the given moment in time is wrong. As can be seen (deduced) from the attached page of PTV 42, this fee was raised from 30h to 60h with May 16, 1916. The same question came up in Arge Österreich some years ago. That is why I could remember looking up the respective fee.

One has to keep in mind that Austria and Hungary were INDEPENDENT postal administrations and so the “internal” fees do not always apply for the traffic crossing the border between these regions. A letter from Galicia to Sarospatak in July 1917 is such a case.

With my best regards,

**Helmut Kobelbauer**

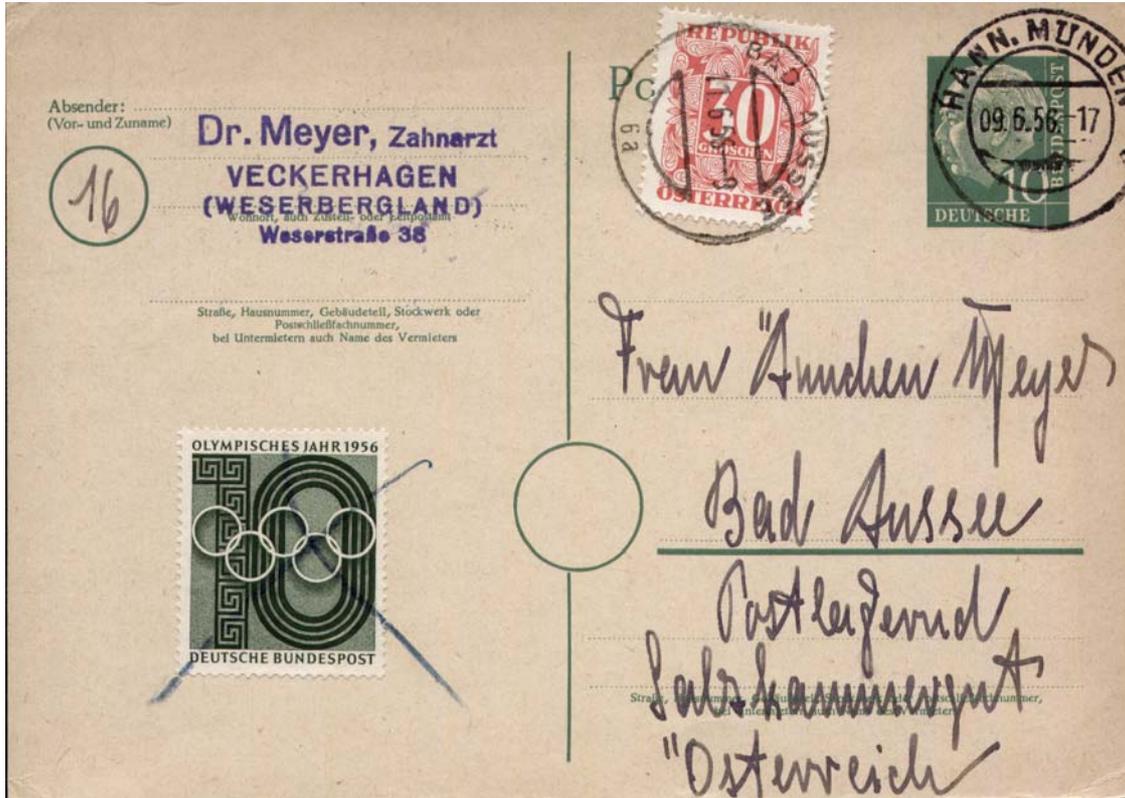


Keith concludes: I'm very grateful for all these useful replies. A 30h express fee should have been sufficient to deliver an item of mail anywhere within the Austro-Hungarian Empire, however complex the journey. This creates a problem with Peter and Ingert's solutions. However, Gerrit has reported a May 1916 increase to 60 fillers for the express-fee in Hungary, both for domestic mail and mail to Austria. Furthermore, Helmut's Austrian decree reveals a little-known tariff-change from 30 to 60 hellers for express mail from Austria to Hungary. My card, formerly owned by Ingert, from Galicia to Hungary falls into this category and was correctly charged 60h for express handling. This tariff-change is not included in Netto, Ferchenbauer or Kainbacher because it did not apply to domestic mail within the Austrian half of the Empire. The mystery is solved!

**Keith**

# Questions – and answers!

**Q1: What is the green label on this foreign postcard, why is it crossed out, and why the postage due?**



The 30 groschen postage due is an easy question – it’s the Austrian Postlager fee.

The green label, however, baffled me; and while my normal source of information on German matters was in Brisbane his reference books were in Britain. Luckily I have a fall-back guru, who said “*At this time the foreign postcard rate was 20 pfennigs; however the rate to CEPT countries was 10pf, the same as the inland rate. The item at bottom left is a West German 10 pf Olympic commemorative stamp. Also, the date of sending 9.6.56 was its first day of issue. It looks like the sender wanted to get a clear cancel on the Olympic stamp, but it missed being cancelled by the cds and received the post office blue crayon cancel.*”

**Q2: What is the cancellation on this stamp? Does it mean that the item went by TPO?**

Postmark for **KRUMBACH BREGENZERWALD 6942** but with the prefix **ZB**. Two horizontal lines across the middle, usually associated with rubber cancels. TPOs had been discontinued several years previously – is this another means of indicating it went by rail?



No. See the article by Hans Moser on pp 34-37 of the December 2015 issue of Die Briefmarke. “ZB” stands for Zustellbasis, a delivery office in the latest (and very efficient) letter-handling system. The two lines indicate that the cancel was applied by a machine.

## Yorkfair Joint Meeting

The annual Joint Meeting of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain (CPSGB) and the APS (Austrian Philatelic Society) was held in an upper room at York racecourse grandstand on Saturday 19 January. A pleasingly large turnout of members of one or both societies attended, plus a few prospective members – a grand total of 19!

In the order of presentation, we enjoyed:

**John Colton** showed us the stamp issues for Bosnia-Herzegovina military post and the occupations of Italy, Romania etc.

**Andy Taylor** produced “invalid stamps” (eg, Italian stamps used on a holiday postcard belatedly posted in the Tirol and gleefully blue-boxed by the Austrian Post); and some of his large accumulation of “Stille Nacht” material including the 1968 postcard series with an imprint of the 150 years of Silent Night stamp and assorted commemorative cancels related to F X Gruber.

**Nick Coverdale** intrigued us with “The life and times of Walter Stein” – selected correspondence from Stein’s time as a pharmacist in Sudetenland; internment in Sachsenhausen in the late 1930s; survival in Prague (with his business confiscated and his bank accounts frozen); obtaining a visa in 1939 to move to Great Britain; sojourn in India during WWII where he managed a cordite factory; and post-war life in London. Nick had acquired all this as “a bundle of old letters” in the CPSGB auction!

**Peter Cybaniak** told us of the arrangements made for the funeral in Ukraine of fellow-Ukrainian Roman Dubyniak, for many years a regular at the Joint Meetings in Leeds. See obituary on page 19.

**Colin Tobitt** showed “the other side” of cards marking the Kaiser’s Jubilee Exhibition in Prague (May to 18<sup>th</sup> October 1908) and the Jubilee Pageant in Vienna on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1908, both staged to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his coronation; and two sheets for the “Our Kaiser” Homage Exhibition on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1908 for the actual Anniversary and a selection of cards with the special cancel from some Crown land capitals.

**Joyce Boyer** continued Andy’s Silent Night theme with a wide-ranging display of material about Oberndorf.

**Keith Brandon** exhibited some of his Kabinett of Kuriosities: the dog-faced lady, the ‘how come he’s on an Austrian stamp?’ cover, and other improbable items.

**Clive Murray** showed “Levant – a work in progress”, including an example of the danger of claiming an item is “the only one known” when Clive has another one! It’s illustrated on the next page. See Hans Smith’s “Austrian Post Offices in the Levant” pp 84-85. Clive’s specimen has a Smith Type 4 cancel; both these covers were sent to Paris. The cancel is irritatingly unreadable; the Paris arrival cancel appears to be dated 1916 which is not credible (unless the war delayed it...)

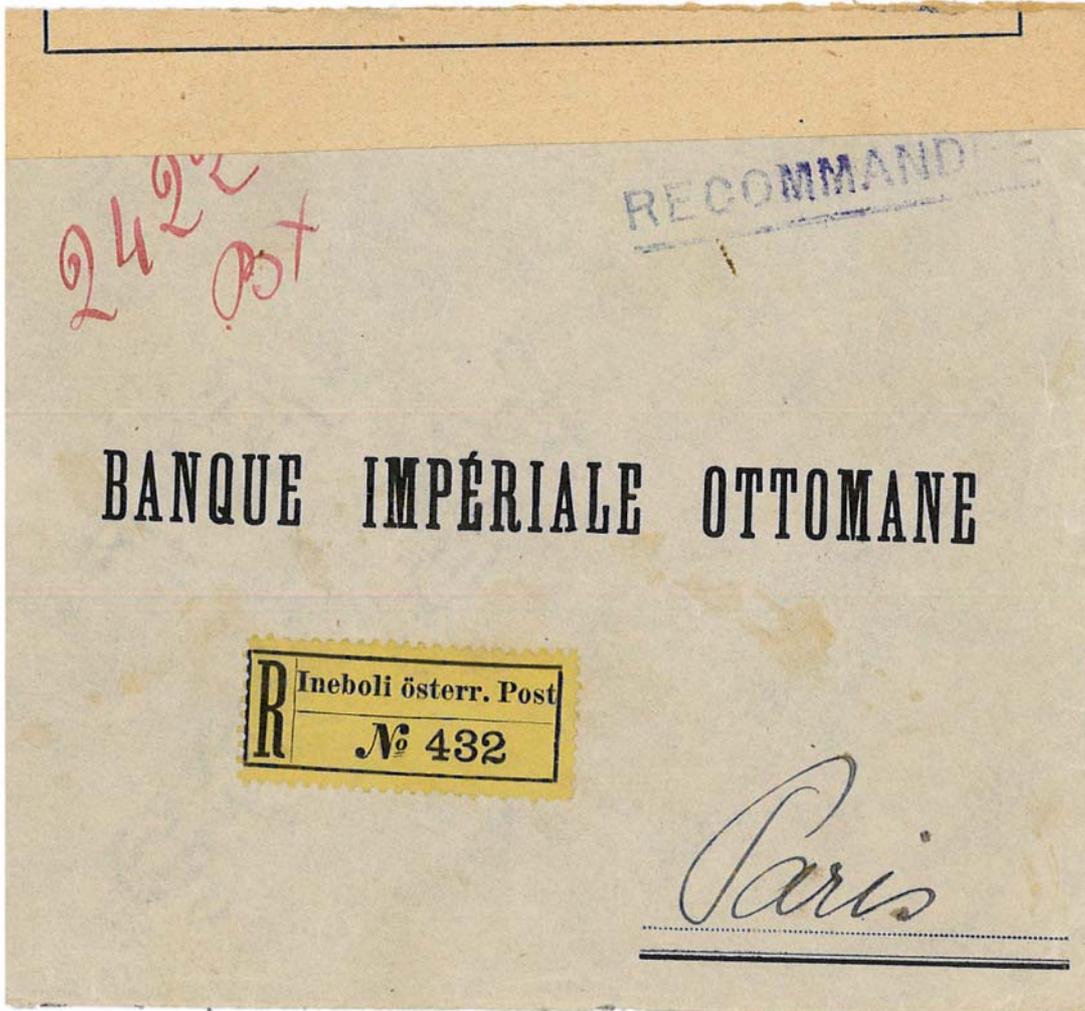
**Alan Berrisford’s** traditional display of immaculate rarities was TPOs on the Eastern Front plus Austrian Occupation of Russian Poland.

**Andy Taylor** gave an airing to Charity Stamps of the First Republic, explaining the complexities of how each issue was placed on sale and the charity to which the profits were given (or supposed to be given).

**Barry Clark** showed how Express and Air Mail transiting Vienna would normally use the pneumatic system, and be so marked.

And last but in no way least, **Yvonne Wheatley** displayed Postage Dues in Czechoslovakia before and after independence, which in many cases used Austrian stamps until the new Republic had dealt with more urgent matters.

# Another registered cover from Ineboli



## Richard Arthur Krueger 1928 - 2019

One of the pioneers of Austrian Postal History after WWII passed away on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2019, surrounded by the families of his sons Mark and Jay and his daughter Karen.

Richard Krueger was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 11<sup>th</sup> 1928 and graduated with a bachelors degree in electrical engineering in 1950. Soon thereafter he served his country for 42 years having a splendid career and becoming a much decorated person closely involved in peaceful solutions of the “Cold War” or the Cuba and other crises. I have known Richard for more than 20 years mainly from correspondence dealing with philately and this theme will be subject of this obituary.

After he retired in 1993 Richard Krueger started to look more closely at correspondence he had received from relatives in Austria and Germany being fascinated by cancellations and various markings he found on the envelopes after WW II. This was the start of his great philatelic work.

After several mail contacts he and his wife Mary visited Austria and we met at Hans Moser’s home in Telfs, having there enjoyable talks. We found out that we were interested in similar fields of postal history and had the same ideas about what should be done. I offered to organise contacts with collector-colleagues in Austria and ask them to send copies of their material, which I forwarded to him. Gradually the idea was born that I could reprint his books and deliver them in Europe to minimise postal costs. From the year 2000 onwards Richard was very productive in publishing.

In about 2001 he edited “Registered Mail Labels of Austria 1945-1965” including 56 pages. It was an attempt to show the big variety of labels and to get them organised. This was followed in 2002 by “US Military Postal Facilities (APOs) operating in Austria 1945-1955”, 110 pages. For me it is the most reliable book in this field, as he was able to study Army protocols in US archives. In 2003 our good collaboration and multiple contacts with other collectors led Richard to write a new edition of “Censorship of the Civil Mails in occupied Austria 1945-1953”, now 286 pages. In the following years there were 209 additions including new findings from collectors all over the world. It was this book which spread ~~over~~ worldwide and made him into “the Krueger”. To get such a distinction in Austria means to be honoured in a very personal way by the collector community.

“The Allied Military Government Stamp Issue for Austria 1945” described the “Posthorn” stamps printed in the USA and used in the Western (but not the Russian) Zones of Austria. 53 pages long, it was published in 2005. It again includes new knowledge coming from studies in US archives.

His 2006 book was “Austria Stampless Cover Markings May 1945 – April 1948”, 282 pages. Up to then such markings had been published in short articles by different authors. His book gives a survey of those markings, the postal offices being arranged in alphabetic order.

In my opinion one of the most valuable books was “POW and DP Facilities in Occupied Austria 1945-1950”, 380 pages and edited in 2009. I was able to sell this book to a department of the University of Graz, which specialises in this theme. They told me, that they found a lot of information they had not previously known.

In 2010 and later Richard concentrated on fringe philatelic subjects which are generally almost unknown to collectors. Literature in these fields is very scarce or missing. The titles are: “Civil mail censorship rejection / return slips used in occupied Austria 1945 – 1953”, 150 pages; “Censorship of Civil Telegrams in Occupied Austria 1945-1953”, 86 pages; “USIA = Soviet Authorities’ Clandestine Surveillance of Domestic and International Mails To and From Soviet Controlled Industrial and Trading Facilities in Occupied Austria 1946-1953”, 20 pages. The last book he edited was in 2016 and had the same title as his first “Censorship of the Civil Mails in occupied Austria 1945-1953” again including new findings and correcting earlier statements which could not be verified.

Knowledge of Richard Krueger’s contribution to Austrian Postal History and Philately for the post-war period was not limited to Austria or the USA, because his 13 books (including new editions) were distributed worldwide. Because of this he could build bridges to persons who had links to Austria but were spread all over the world. He had the valuable talent of presenting complicated or obscure philatelic matter so that even readers who were not familiar with English could use his literature because the text was well organised and included many pictures. Richard presented material and knowledge from Austria-collectors not only from the USA but from many countries. His main goal was to present up to date knowledge including “old” philatelic literature. Nevertheless, he always tried to find something new by studying protocols in US archives. His books lead readers to look more closely at their own treasures, to compare them with pictures and hopefully to find something new. I could observe that his books are a source for further publications presenting more details. New publications keep philately alive and his influence will last forever.

Richard Krueger has to be called a pioneer of Austrian contemporary postal history having opened the view and an understanding of many aspects concerning postal transfers in the years 1945-1955. Several of his books may be considered as milestones and sources for future investigations and publications in these fields. I cannot understand that the Austrian Philatelic Organisation (VÖPh) did not find a way to honour him because of his merits although I have pointed out this fact in 2017.

**Dr. Hans Moser, Telfs**

## ROMAN DUBYNIAK

Sadly my friend and fellow philatelist passed away on 19.9.2018 aged 90. He had been in the Army all his life. He served in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) - the 1st Ukrainian 'Galician' Division - then another 35 years in the British Army looking after 1000 Bomb Disposal experts.

He had 3 loves in his life -- **God** -- **Ukraine** -- **Philately**. He was a member of many Philatelic Societies and a good friend of the **A.P.S.** Together we wrote over 25 books on Ukrainian philately.



His final words were  
I wonder what work God will give me in the next world? Will it be interesting?

For his fellow Ukrainian soldiers who lost their lives for Ukraine, he donated over £200,000 for the publication of books that recorded forever their deeds and exploits.

After his death, his friends in England insisted that he be buried as a 'War Hero' back in his home town of Lemberg (Lviv) Ukraine. On 23rd November 2018 his funeral was held at the most famous cathedral of Western Ukraine the cathedral of St Yuriy in Lviv. Then his body was laid to rest at the Lychakivskiy 'War Heroes' cemetery in Lviv alongside the greatest War Heroes of Ukraine.



For fellow APS collectors and indeed all Ukraine collectors I am still available to help in any way I can with any Ukraine query! Just ring 07758714331 or write to Peter Cybaniak 16, Bexley Avenue, Leeds LS8 5LU, West Yorkshire.

# Official Rückschein letters of the Inflation Era.

By Andy Taylor and colleagues

The Postal Decree of 1.10.1916 (RGB 317) continued the system whereby postal costs incurred on Court Letters (other than to another Court) were to be met by the addressee. The receiving post office was obliged to weigh the letter and determine the postage due. After payment, the recipient signed a detachable counterfoil on the perforated flap of the envelope, and this was returned to the Court by the post office as proof of delivery. Such letters are marked **R.S.** which stands for **Rückschein** (= advice of receipt).

“Red Karasek” pp 320-324 reproduces Postverordnungsblatt 24/1920 §68 which describes the system effective from 1 June 1920. In general, letters from courts to official bodies or Parties may be sent without a Rückschein; however if one is needed then the item is to be sent UNregistered as an ordinary Rückscheinbrief. For the orderly handling thereof, the envelopes shall be marked RSa, b, c, or d (encoding whether it's from a civil or criminal court, and whether anybody or only the addressee may sign for it)

“Green Karasek” has on page 260 a snippet of PuTVOB 1925 #8 chapter 21; §2 says that official letters requiring proof-of-delivery can from 26 Jan 1925 be sent unregistered, and shall pay half the ordinary Rückschein rate. His table agrees with this, if half-groschen are rounded up. The illustration on p261 shows the recipient paying full letter post plus half-Rückschein.

Period	Dates		Local 20g Letters	Local 40g Letters	Inland 20g Letters	Inland 40g Letters
	From	To				
1	12.11.1918	14.1.1920			20h	25h
2	15.1.1920	14.4.1920			40h	50h
3	15.4.1920	31.1.1921			80h	1K
4	1.2.1921	31.7.1921	1.5K	2K	2K	2.5K
5	1.8.1921	30.11.1921	3K	4K	4K	5K
6	1.12.1921	30.4.1922	7.5K	9.5K	10K	12K
7	1.5.1922	20.8.1922	20K	25K	25K	30K
8	21.8.1922	17.9.1922	80K	100K	100K	120K
9	18.9.1922	31.10.1922	160K	200K	200K	240K
10	1.11.1922	31.7.1923	320K	400K	400K	480K
11	1.8.1923	30.11.1923			600K	800K
12	1.12.1923	30.11.1924			1000K	1200K
13	1.12.1924	28.2.1925			1500K	1700K
Aufbr A	1.3.1925	30.6.1925			15gro	17gro
Aufbr B	1.7.1925	30.9.1925			15gro	17gro

Aufbr(auch) A: Kr stamps could be used up; Schilling/Groschen stamps didn't appear till 1 June 1925. From 1.3.1925 new regulations were introduced for Rückschein letters: in addition to the postage, half the R.S. fee (rounded up) had to be paid by the addressee.

Aufbr(auch) B: Kr stamps could only be used for supplementary franking of imprinted postal stationery, so do not occur on official Rückscheinbriefe.

## References

The system is explained over many sections of Bernadini & Pfalz. For the inter-war inflation periods, see pages 290-299: “3 Die Briefe der Amter und Gerichte”: 12 Nov 1918 - 31 Jul 1938.

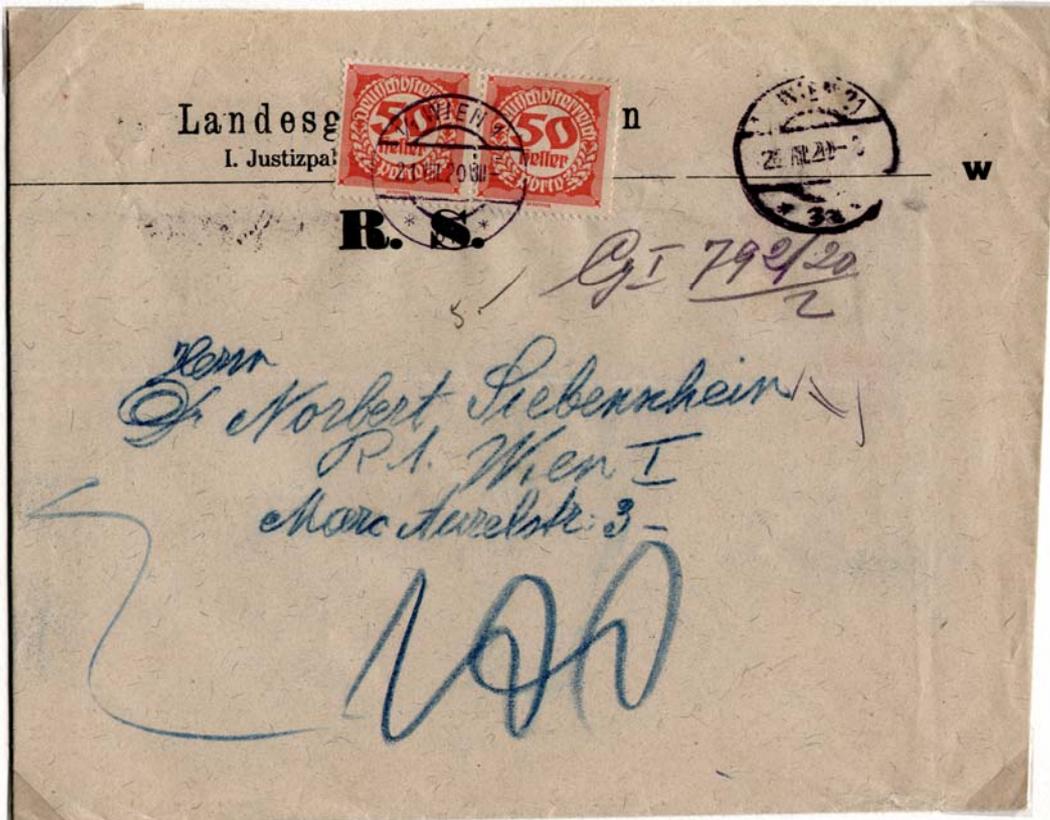
Note! All the images have been reduced to 5½” wide and colour-rebalanced. These items are usually 7-8” wide, and quite often are not rectangular!



Period 1. District Court Letter, 20h rate. Bludenz 3.10.1919 to Feldkirch 4.10.1919



Period 2. District Court Letter, 40h rate. Wien 40 (Landstrasse) 1.3.1920 to Wien 1 (Hauptpostamt), 2.3.1920



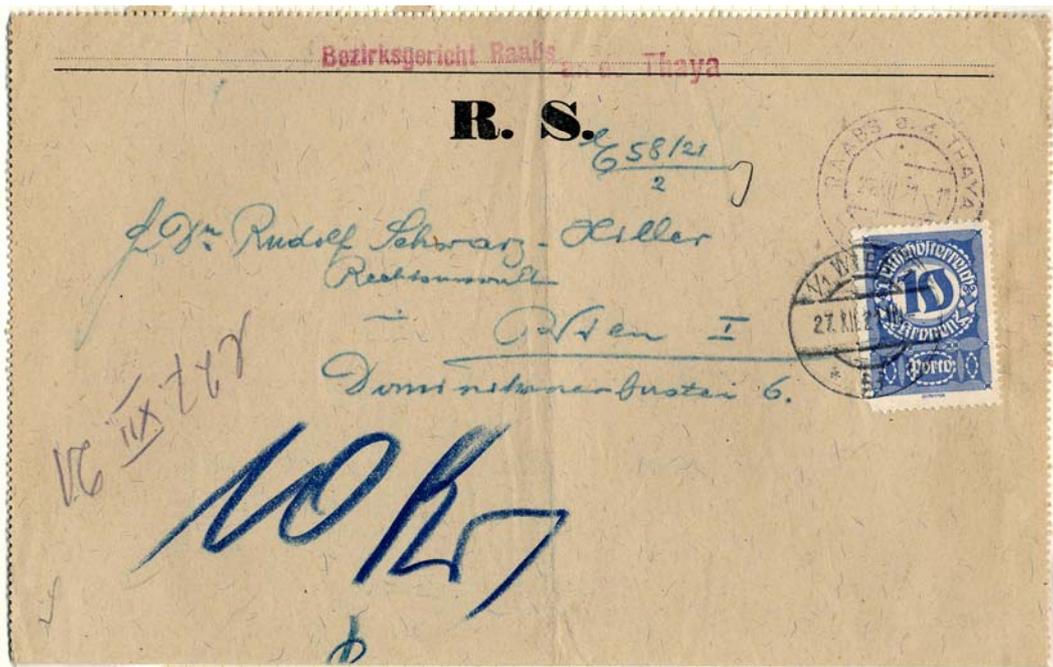
Period 3. Regional Court Letter. Crayon '2 100' indicates second weight rate of 100h. Wien 21 (Justizpalast) 20.8.1920 to Wien 1 (Hauptpostamt) 21.8.1920.



Period 4. Regional Court Letter, 1.50Kr rate. Wien 21 (Justizpalast) 1.2.1921 – first day of new rate – to Wien 40 (Landstrasse), 2.2.1921



Period 5. District Court Letter at 3K rate. Wien 21 (Justizpalast) 17.8.1921 to Wien 110 (Wahring) 18.8.1921



Period 6. District Court Letter from Raabs an der Thaya on 24.12.1921 to Vienna



Period 7. Regional Court for civil matters. 20Kr rate. Wien 1 (Hauptpostamt) 10.5.1922



Period 8. Rückschein letter posted Wien 111 on 23 Aug 1922 from the Währing district court. 80K made up by 8 x 1920 5K + 2 x Jan 1922 20K postage dues. Cancelled Wien 62 on 24 Aug 1922.



Period 9. Official Letter, 160K rate. Wien 21 (Justizpalast) 30.10.1922 to Wien 55 (Hundsturm) 31.10.1922.



Period 10. Rückschein envelope but with RSb crossed out and receipt portion removed. From the Commercial Court in Vienna on 3.6.1923 to Franz Josefs Kai in Vienna I. Recipient to pay standard local postage of 320K.



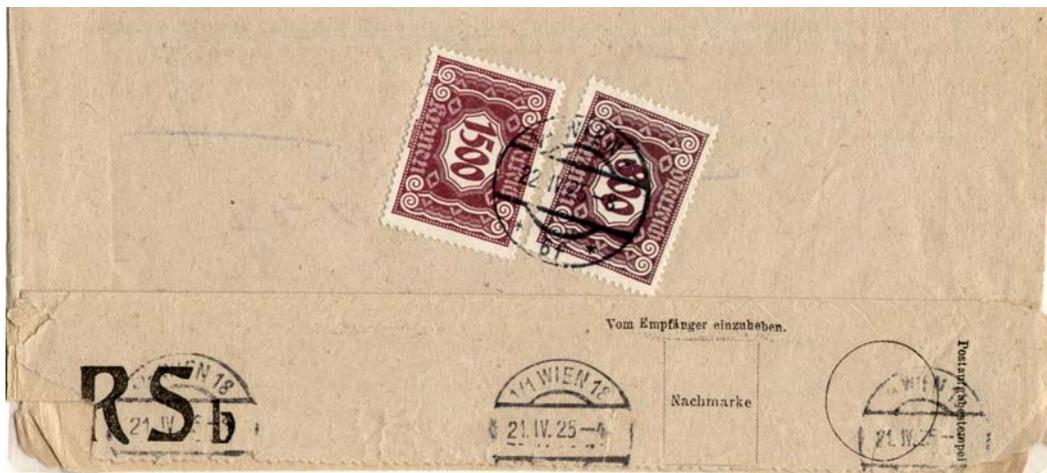
Period 11. District Court for Trade Matters in Vienna. 800 indicates second weight (21-40 grams) so 800Kr rate



Period 12. Official Rückschein used in Thalgau on 27 Nov 1924. Recipient paid the inland local rate of 1000K.



Period 13. Used in the district of St Gilgen on 20 Dec 1924; recipient to pay at the local postage rate of 1500K (shown in blue crayon). Paid with 2x400K + 2x100K postage dues plus 200K and 300K definitives used as provisional postage dues.



First Aufbrauch period. From 1.3.1925 new regulations were introduced for Rückschein letters: in addition to the postage, half the R.S. fee had to be paid by the addressee. Letter rate 1500Kr + ½R.S. fee of 1500Kr ie 750Kr which was rounded up to 800Kr. Total charge 2300Kr.

## Update on Austria's new Dispenser Stamps

By Mark Ebery

In Austria number 204, I described a new series of definitive stamps, available for sale from dispensing machines set up in larger post offices. At the time, I was unsure how collectors outside Austria could obtain these. A simple email to Austria Post solved the problem, and I was able to place a standing order for these stamps (issued periodically in sets of four), which must be purchased in multiples of three copies each. The email address is [sammler-service@post.at](mailto:sammler-service@post.at) Austria Post does not issue first day covers for dispenser stamps.

The latest set of four stamps, issued in October 2018, comprises the following values:



**80c: Südbahnhotel Semmering** - after the Semmering railway was completed in 1854, the Südbahn (Southern Railway) company built a number of hotels along the route. Of these, perhaps the most luxurious is that illustrated, the Südbahnhotel Semmering, built in 1903.

**90c: Mariazeller Lebkuchen** - Lebkuchen, or gingerbread, is particularly popular throughout Austria and other central European countries. Gingerbread from the pilgrimage town of Mariazell is an especial favourite because it has a very high honey content.

**135c: Mittenwaldbahn** - like the stamp issued in 2012 for the centenary of the opening of the Mittenwaldbahn, we have a design featuring a 1060 series electric locomotive, of which one is on display at the Technisches Museum in Vienna.

**270c: Krimmler Wasserfälle** - with a drop of 380 metres (1,247 feet), this waterfall is the highest in Austria and one of the most spectacular in Europe.

The stamps are delivered to the subscriber on their siliconed paper backing, cancelled if that was asked for.



The face values correspond to:

- 80c = small up-to-20-grams priority inland letter;
- 90c = small up-to-20-grams priority letter to Europe;
- 135c = medium-size 21-to-75-grams priority inland letter;
- 270c = small up-to-2kg inland priority packet.

## A TINY POSTAL VAN

By Mark Ebery

For a number of years, Austrian Post has sold models (usually in 1/87 scale<sup>1</sup>) of post buses and other vehicles<sup>2</sup>. A recently released model was of the Steyr Kastenwagen (van). In the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, the Austrian Post Office found itself with very few vehicles – most would have been destroyed or damaged in the conflict. One solution was to use old passenger cars that had been converted into delivery vans.

Austrian Post's model is of a delivery van based on the famous Steyr 55, nicknamed the "Baby", and sometimes referred to as the "Austrian Volkswagen" on account of its similar shape. Until the appearance of the FIAT-based Steyr-Puch cars in the 1950s, the Steyr 55 and its smaller engined but similarly designed predecessor, the Steyr 50, were the most popular Austrian-built cars; a total of about 13,000<sup>3</sup> were constructed between the years 1936 and 1940.



Production of the Steyr Kastenwagen conversions started in 1946. It is not known how many of these tiny vans were put into service by the Austrian Post Office, nor for how long they were used. This photo of the single example known to survive, which is currently undergoing restoration, was found on the Web site<sup>4</sup> of Austrian-Model Cars, who sell a range of Post Office models.



Austrian Post had not previously featured the Steyr Kastenwagen on any stamp, although the Steyr 50 appeared on a 7Sch stamp issued on 28 May 1999 (Austria 128 p4; ANK 2282) for the centenary of the birth of Karl Jenschke, the designer of the Steyr Baby models 50 and 55, as well as on the 125 cent stamp issued on 27 Jan 2018 (see Austria 204, p3; ANK 3401). However, a Meine Marke / Personal Stamp showing it appeared in late 2018, in the "Marken Edition 1" series on Postfahrzeuge.

<sup>1</sup> 1/87 scale is most commonly referred to as "HO" scale because "this is the scale of HO gauge model trains, by far the most popular scale for railroad modeling". Asking "why?" gave the answer "because 1/87 scale is one-half of 1/43.5 scale, which is the international scale for standard or O gauge, which was the most popular scale in the world".

<sup>2</sup> At present (Feb 2019) they have no models on sale, but are offering a wide range of used full-size postal vehicles on their web site!

<sup>3</sup> Rauscher, Karl-Heinz and Knogler, Franz (2002): Das Steyr-Baby und seine Verwandten. Wolfsberg: Weishaupt Verlag. ISBN 3-7059-0102-8

<sup>4</sup> [www.austrianmodelcars.com/products/steyr-baby-kastenwagen-osterreichische-post-kunststoffmodell-im-masstab-1-87/](http://www.austrianmodelcars.com/products/steyr-baby-kastenwagen-osterreichische-post-kunststoffmodell-im-masstab-1-87/)

# VIENNA'S OPERA HOUSE

By Andy Taylor



The architects, from the 1934 set of "Austrian Architects"

The Vienna Opera building, prominently sited on the Ring, was the work of the Vienna architects and Academy Professors: the ground plan by August Siccard von Siccardenburg (1813-1868) and the interior decoration by Eduard van der Nüll (1812-1868); they were the winners in a design competition. The building's slightly squat appearance is caused by the street level of the Ring having been raised after construction had started. This plus the acerbic comments of the Viennese on the design led to van der Nüll killing himself before the building was complete and von Siccardenburg dying from a heart attack soon afterwards.

125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the architects death

Franz Joseph, a remorseful party to the criticisms, thenceforth would only say about any artistic work "it was very nice and it pleased me".

## Digging the hole



What's underneath Vienna? Digging downwards from modern street level in the Inner City, you will first find up to 5m of man-made deposits dating back to the Romans, then some meters of a fine earth called Loess, then about 15m of Pleistocene gravel and then some hundred meters of bluish marls (clay, sand) of Pannonian age, originating from a lake. Going deeper you will get the brackish and then the marine sediments, the transgression sediments and finally the Alps. Under

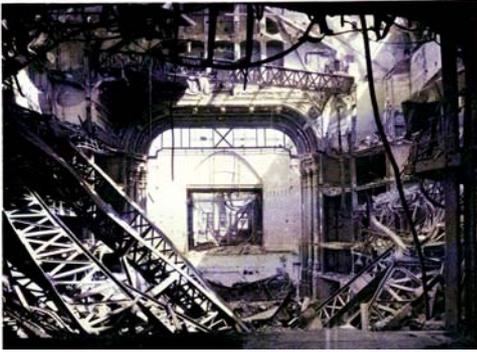
them is the Bohemian Massif; the Alps were extruded over it when the African plate crashed into the European plate: but by now we're thousands of meters deep and only oil wells go there. So if I'm building an opera house, I need to go down more than 20 meters, to the clay, before the ground will take the weight. Having dug my hole, there is no merit in filling it with a huge lump of concrete; and since pile-drivers hadn't been invented in 1869 I do need the hole. What to put in it? Coal cellars, scenery storage, props, offices, boilers, machinery to move the parts of the stage – all the things a big building needs!

## The opening

On December 16 1861 the ceremony of turning the first sod took place, while the foundation stone was laid on May 20, 1863. On May 25 1869 the new house was solemnly opened in the presence of the Emperor Francis Joseph I and the Empress Elizabeth with a performance of Mozart's Don Giovanni. Years of glittering performances and back-stage intrigues followed; famous conductors and producers came and went.



**1945: destruction; 1946: rebuilding**



In the very last days of WWII, on March 12, 1945, the Opera House was almost completely destroyed by several incendiary bombs. Since the Germans had turned off the water pressure pumps, the safety curtain couldn't be lowered and no fire hoses could be used. The resulting firestorm destroyed the auditorium and stage but didn't touch the foyer area.

All that was left was the shell of the building, the great staircase, the lobby with the paintings by the Austrian artist Moritz von Schwind, the latter's exquisite frescoes in the loggia with motifs from *The Magic Flute*, and the former Imperial Salon

This is Vienna: reconstruction began in 1946. Following a ten year construction period during which both the auditorium and the stage and backstage were rebuilt, the new Vienna State Opera was reopened on November 5, 1955. The first performance was Beethoven's *Fidelio*, with Dr. Karl Böhm conducting.

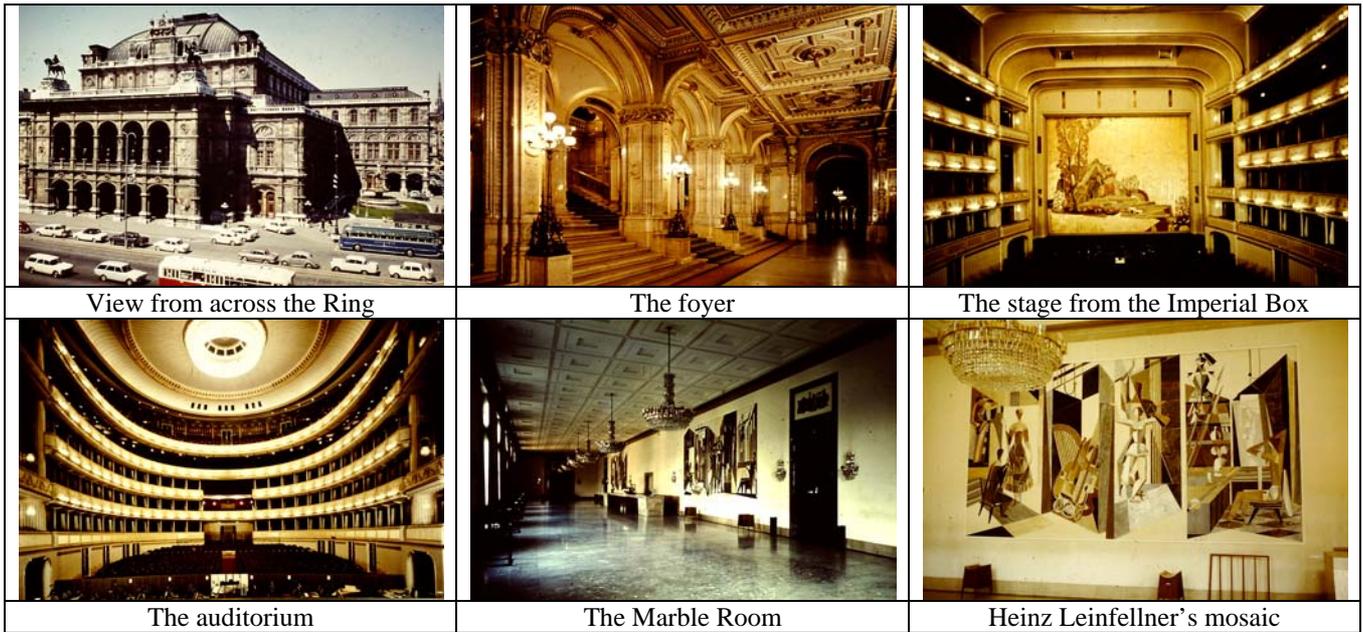


Slogan cancel “visit the reopening exhibition for the Burgtheater and the State Opera” dated 22 July 1955; and the stamp commemorating the reopening, which was issued on 25 July 1955 along with a similar design in sepia for the Burgtheater.



The stamp commemorating the reopening, with a commemorative cancel showing the boxes in the auditorium.

These slides show views of the building soon after its reopening.



**1969: the centenary celebrations**



In 1969 the Opera House celebrated its centenary, which was marked by the issue of a miniature sheet. The central vignette shows the building. The surrounding designs, all by O Stefferl, are from eight different operas and ballets; clockwise from top left Don Giovanni by Mozart; the Magic Flute by Mozart; Fidelio by Beethoven; Don Carlos by Verdi; Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky; Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Strauss; Carmen by Bizet; and Lohengrin by Wagner. See synopsis below.

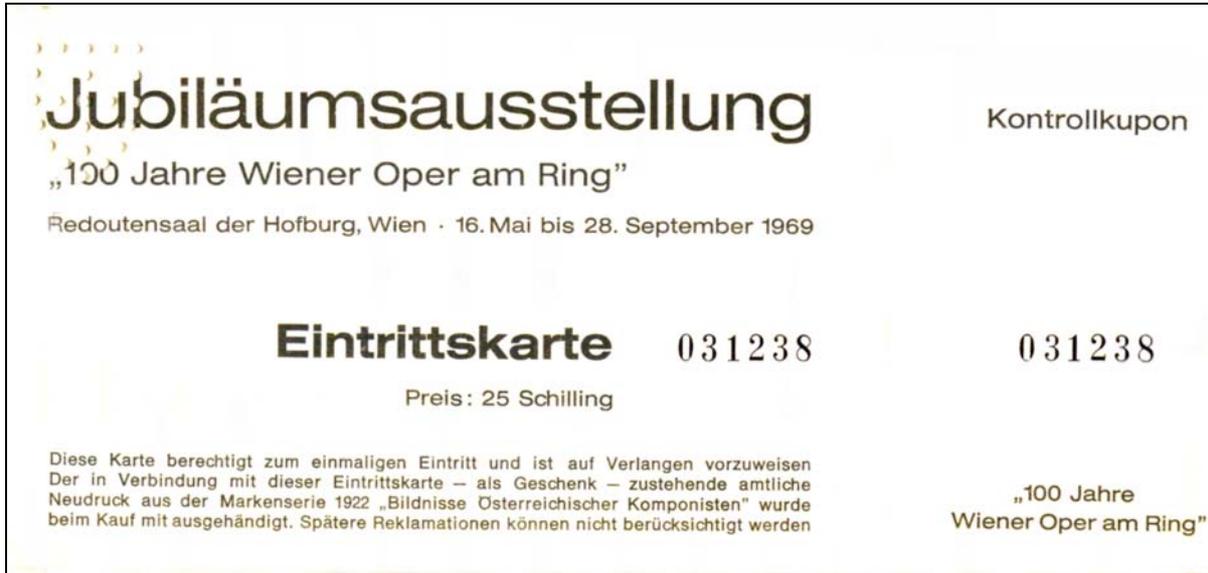
The catalogues list several arrangements that include the label as well as more that don't – and that by no means exhausts the possible variations! See the appendix. Indeed, the block reached the sales points as a counter-sheet of 4 blocks arranged 2x2 (as illustrated), so given a large enough envelope even more exotic combinations are possible. But that's getting silly... The label is not postally valid, but it can be found used and cancelled.

“Don Giovanni” by Mozart. The last scene, with Don Giovanni drinking claret. The statue of the Commendatore has not yet arrived...	“The Magic Flute” by Mozart. Papageno and his bird-cage.	“Fidelio” by Beethoven. Florestan, chained in his dungeon, singing of freedom.
“Lohengrin” by Wagner. The last meeting of Lohengrin and Elsa, who has demanded to know his name and so lost him for ever <sup>1</sup> .	The central label	“Don Carlos” by Verdi. King Philip upbraiding his wife Elisabeth
“Carmen” by Bizet. Carmen dancing the Habanera to seduce José	“Der Rosenkavalier” by Richard Strauss. Quinquin presents the silver rose to Sophia.	“Swan Lake” the ballet by Tchaikovsky. Prince Siegfried dancing with Odette, queen of the white swans.

<sup>1</sup> Lohengrin then departs on a magic swan-powered boat – unless it sets off without him, as allegedly happened once to Leo Slezak; he walked to the front of the stage and enquired of the audience, “Entschuldigen Sie bitte, wann geht der nächste Strassenschwan?”

The Austrian Post Office rose to the occasion, accompanying the sheet with a magnificent 44-page booklet containing a blackprint, essays on the history of Viennese opera, discussions on the building, dissertations on the musical directors, and descriptions of each stamp. There is even an 8-page supplement in English!

The Opera House centenary occasioned the issue of eight different FDCs, one for each stamp on the miniature sheet. There was also a Jubilee Exhibition in the Hofburg, which lasted for the whole season; the Jubilee Exhibition tickets entitled you to purchase a souvenir sheet with reprints (in changed colours) of the Mozart, Beethoven and Strauss stamps from the 1922 “composers” issue.



### 2005: 50 years since the reopening of the National Theatre and State Opera House



Issued on 25 October 2005, designed by Prof. Hans Ranzoni and Adolf Tuma, and engraved by Prof. Hans Ranzoni. The designs are those of Prof. Ranzoni's 1955 'reopening' stamp, reworked to remove the values, and with altered wording below. The printing is slightly sharper, perhaps due to improvements in ink technology.

### 2009: 140th anniversary of the Vienna State Opera House



This stamp was designed by Hannes Margreiter and issued on 25 May 2009; Viewed from the front, one sees the historic part of this elegant building that has survived from the original of 1869. The facades are in the Renaissance style, while the loggia on the Ringstrasse side impressively underlines the public character of the building. Although much of the interior of the old Opera House was destroyed on 12 March 1945, the main facade, the central staircase with the ceremonial stairs, the Schwind foyer and the Tea (Marble) Salon on the first floor were all spared.

### 2012: Opera Balls



Each year, on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, the auditorium and stage of the Opera House are turned into a (flat-floored!) ballroom and a highly formal Ball is held. This ball is "*the pinnacle of the social whirl of the Carnival season; everyone who is anyone (or thinks they are) wants to be there, to see and be seen*". This tradition began in 1935 and Balls have taken place every year since apart from during WWII and in 1991. Equally by tradition, a left-wing demonstration against capitalist excesses is held on the Ring on the same night. This stamp was issued on 16 Feb 2012 to mark the 2012 Ball. The design by Zoe Byland is called "*wind up dancer*" and must surely have been inspired by "*Coppelia*".

R.A. remarks: The cancellation of the 1991 Opera Ball is part of a strange point in modern Austrian history. During the first Gulf War there was panic buying of foodstuffs, the Vienna Phil cancelled its Europe tour, and the Opera Ball was cancelled. It was all very strange as no other country reacted in that way.

### 2019: 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of opening of the opera house on the Ringstrasse.



The design on the stamp is a collage linking the past and the present of this impressive building. Today, the house has some 60 operas and ballets in its repertoire. About 600,000 visitors from all over the world enjoy the 350-ish performances each year

# Philately taken to extremes



The 1969 minisheet celebrating 100 years of the Opera House on Vienna's Ring contains 8 stamps illustrating 7 operas and 1 ballet that have been performed there, and a central label showing the building.

Being of "a lively and inquiring mind", I wondered how many different visually-different part-layouts on first day covers would have been possible for a philatelist with considerably more money than sense. Some ground rules soon appeared: selvedge would be ignored, only one piece would be allowed (*so eg "one stamp in each corner of an envelope" is forbidden*); the stamps not there must have been detached completely and normally (*so a 'ring of 8' created by cutting out the label is forbidden*); stamps must join along an edge, not just at a corner (*so diagonal pairs are forbidden – as well as being impossible because of the way the sheet is perforated*).

So what visually-different part-layouts might exist? Some obvious ones are all-of-them; the 8 singles (the central label is not valid for postage) horizontal and vertical pairs and triples, blocks of 4 & 6. Then you can remove 1, 2, 3 or 4 corners; some from the left and some from the right; and so on.



My calculations of 'perms and combs' give me a **Grand Total of 209 different arrangements**. You will be relieved to read that the tabulated result, which takes 11 sides of paper, will NOT appear here!

# LEGACY OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN REGISTERED POST IN THE FUTURE YUGOSLAVIA

by Keith Brandon

*Editor's note. This article is based upon the last few sheets of the author's Presidential Display at the 2018 Austrian Philatelic Society Weekend, which concerned the registered post in Austria from 1789 to the end of the Empire. The examples shown are therefore all of registered mail. The article is also to appear in the March issue of "Jugoposta".*

## Introduction

After the First World War, Austria-Hungary lost substantial amounts of territory, both to existing neighbouring countries (such as Italy and Poland) and to newly-formed countries (Czechoslovakia and S.H.S Yugoslavia).

The new regimes had their priorities, such as their own flag, postage stamps, coins and bank notes, all important symbols of national pride and identity. The postal authorities had to use Austrian or Hungarian stamps, often overprinted at first, until new stamps could be procured. This was treated as a matter of urgency, and the next most important task was usually to remove the German or Hungarian language from bilingual postmarks as a short-term fix until new cancellers could be obtained.

Other labels, documents and practices of the Austro-Hungarian post, however, were less politically sensitive and often remained in use for a few years until the postal authorities got round to it or until the old supplies were exhausted. These would include postal stationery, receipts and forms, and registration and express labels.

## S.H.S Croatia

Usage of Austrian and Hungarian adhesives was permitted in Croatia alongside the S.H.S. Yugoslavia provisionals. The illustrations show both sides of a censored and registered letter of 7 March 1919 from the village of Mrcine (Dalmatia, near Dubrovnik airport) to Novi Sad (Újvidék in the Serbian Vojvodina). The 20h adhesive on the front pays the postage, the 10h plus five 3h values on the reverse pay the registration fee.



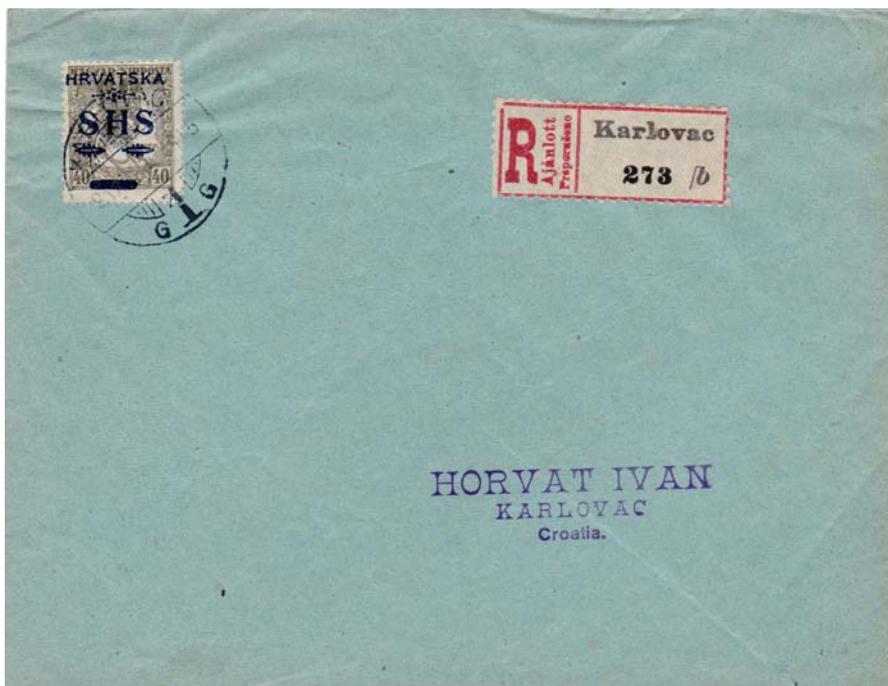
Austrian rates, postage-stamps, postmark and registration-label are still in use, along with a Hungarian arrival postmark.



Before the First World War, Croatia was partly Austrian- and partly Hungarian-administered. Usage of postage stamps and registration labels in the early S.H.S. days reflected this.

The next example is a 10f Hungarian postal-stationery envelope from Okučani (in Western Slavonia) to Zagreb, dated 4 November 1919.

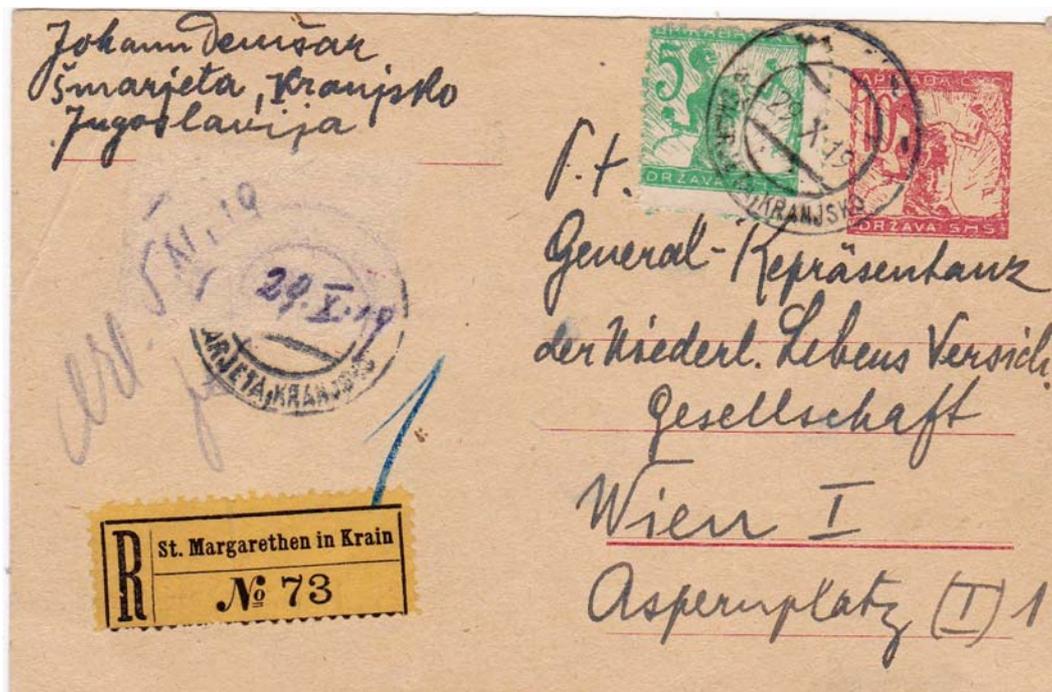
The remaining charges are met by 60h and 2 x 10h issues for S.H.S. Slovenia on the back. The Hungarian canceller and registration label are still in use.



New postage stamps for S.H.S. Croatia were produced by overprinting pre-War Hungarian stamps, from 18 December 1918 onwards. This registered letter was sent locally within Karlovac and franked with an overprinted 40f value to meet the postage and registration charges. The Hungarian registration-label and postmark were still in use.

**S.H.S. Slovenia**

As in Croatia, Austrian stamps were used initially, and were then permitted alongside Slovenia's own postage-stamps issued from 3 January 1919. The cover above, mailed from Rudolfswert (Rudolfovo), has a mixed franking of Austrian 40h value plus Slovenian 5v "chainbreaker", accounting for 20v postage and 5v registration. The bilingual cancel **RUDOLFSWERTH / RUDOLFOVO** and monolingual **Rudolfswert** registration-label of Austria are still in use.



This October 1919 registered postcard sent from St Margarethen in Krain (Šmarjeta pri Novem Mestu) to Vienna is franked 15v in the new adhesives. The German language has been excised from the Austrian bilingual canceller, but the German-language Austrian registration label survives.

**S.H.S. Serbia**



Most of Serbia was already an independent Kingdom before the War and had its own postal services, but the Vojvodina territory was gained from Hungary in 1918. This registered envelope to Germany from Versecz (Vršac in the Vojvodina), postmarked 27 May 1920 is franked on the back with S.H.S. Slovenian adhesives, and the Hungarian canceller is still in use. A patriotic postmaster, however, has redacted the Hungarian town-name **Versecz** and **Ajanlott** (registered) from the registration label, and has inserted **Vršac** in manuscript.



**S.H.S Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

The Bosnia-Herzegovina authorities were quick off the mark in producing their own stamps in November-December 1918 by overprinting Austrian issues. This November 1918 registered letter (right) from Sarajevo to Bruck an der Mur (Austrian Styria) bears an overprinted 45h value. The Austrian military-post canceller **Kuk MILITÄR POST / SARAJEVO 4** has been used. The Austrian-era registration label inscribed **Sarajevo H.P.A.** (Hauptpostamt) has been altered in manuscript to **Sarajevo 4**.



Overprinted Austrian stamps were evidently not available for this 17 March 1919 registered cover from Kreka (now a suburb of Tuzla) to Zagreb (left). It is correctly franked 45h using Austria-era Bosnia and Herzegovina newspaper stamps as postage stamps. **Kuk MILITÄR POST** has been excised from the Austrian military postmark, but the Austrian-era registration label is still in use.

Next (right) is an October 1919 registered cover from Mostar (Herzegovina) to Belgrade franked with a 90h-on-35h value from the SHS Bosnia and Herzegovina overprinted issues. **Kuk MILITÄR POST** has been removed from the canceller, but the Austrian-era **Mostar 1** registration label has not yet been replaced.



**Fiume**

The Hungarian port of Fiume (Rijeka in Croatia) followed a different course, and did not become part of Yugoslavia until after the Second World War. The port was occupied by the Allies from 17 November 1918 to



12 September 1919. This 28 January 1919 registered cover (left) was addressed to Sušak. Although Fiume and Sušak were literally a stone's throw from each other across the river, Sušak was awarded to S.H.S Yugoslavia while Fiume was occupied by the Allies and later awarded to Italy. A Hungarian 6f postage due, overprinted **FRANCO/45** for use as a postage stamp, correctly pays the 45f rate for a registered letter. The Hungarian postmark and registration-label are still in use.

The Italian poet Gabriele d'Annunzio and his followers seized Fiume and surroundings for Italy on 12 September 1919. Stamps for the regime were quickly introduced on 20 September and the ensuing weeks. The example below, dated 10 November 1919, comprises a 10c Italian postal stationery card overprinted for Fiume and uprated with 10c and 25c D'Annunzio values for the correct rate to Graz in Austria. Once again, the canceller and registration label are of a lower priority, and the Hungarian material is still in use. (The **Fiume 1** label has been amended for use in **Fiume 5**.)



# Austria's New Eco Post

By Joyce Boyer

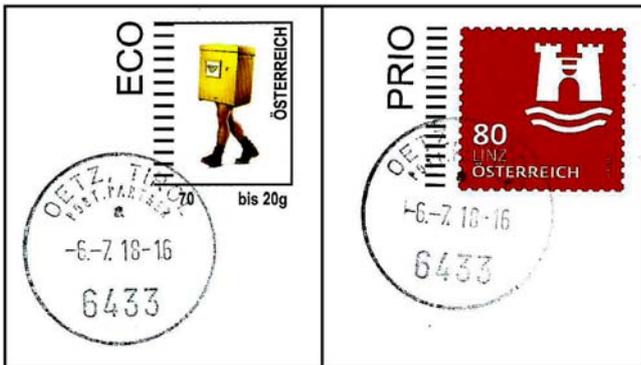
During my annual visit to the Tirol in 2018 I learned of the increase in postal tariffs being introduced by the Austrian Postal Authority as from 1st July of that year. Post boxes had their 'postage rate' notices changed when the last collection in June was made, which meant that in Oetz they were displaying different rates on the afternoon of Friday 29th June - one is cleared at 9.00am and the other at 4.30pm!

In talks with Dr Hans Moser and members of the Innsbruck Merkur Stamp Club, I learned that as from 1st July 2018 Austria was introducing a new ECO(nomy) service with the existing service being PRIO(riety). 95% of mail sent by the PRIO service should be delivered on the next working day whilst that sent Eco would take 2-3 days - think the British first and second class mail system. The new price for basic weight PRIO letters would now be 80 eurocents and the ECO rate 70 eurocents. This sounded straight forward BUT as with all things Austrian Postal Administration it is not.

When visiting Tyrol-Phila in Innsbruck, I asked about the new service. They were not convinced it was a good thing, feeling that the limitations would not suit businesses. It was suggested that mail with stamps on would not be delivered.

Visiting the Post Partner in Oetz to send my postcards (which needed extra postage for UK as this had gone up to 90 eurocents) I picked up a copy of the Guide to the new service and prices and looked at the details. The new ECO service is available for both small and medium letters and packets, with the price difference being 10 eurocents for letters and 20 for packets.

On closer inspection I found out the problems. Small (up to 20 grams) and medium (21-75 gram) letters being sent using the ECO system may only be put into the post box if they are using pre-paid envelopes (postal stationery). Alternatively, you can take any within-weight-limits letter into the post office and pay in cash; a special handstamp will be applied (shown below). It is not possible to have any additional service, eg registration, on ECO letters. For packets you need to go to the post office. As a philatelist I obviously had to try out the system. I purchased a set of the PRIO and Eco postal stationery envelopes and had one of each cancelled with the post office canceller.



I also obtained examples of the two handstamps that are used to indicate the postage paid - the Priority one was used on my up-rated postcards to UK.



On my last day in the Tirol I also sent four items to my friend Jean. Firstly an eco envelope handed in at the post office who cancelled it; it apparently arrived in Reutte the same day. Into the post box I dropped PRIO and ECO envelopes and a postcard franked with a 70 cent stamp and all were delivered. See illustration on next page.

In Vienna for Numiphil, I spoke to Alfred Graf of Favoriten about the ECO post system and he said it was not worth the trouble for inland letters. However there were savings for second weight letters. The reduced business rates (not sure if these are meter cancels) are really only an advantage to Banks and such like with large postings as - if I understood correctly - they have to have a minimum number of weekly/monthly letters.



ECO envelope handed in at post office

PRIO envelope posted in post box

ECO envelope posted in post box

Post card with handwritten 'ECONOMY' and posted in post box.

The cancel is unclear but appears to be BRIEFZENTRUM TIROL 6000 which is the main sorting office for Tirol and Vorarlberg.

The June 2018 issue of Die Briefmarke announced the new postal stationery items from 1 July. For both small and medium letters there are three sizes of envelope available for each of Eco or Prio mail - C6 in packets of ten and C5/6 [or DL] with or without window in packets of five. Two postcards are also available for Prio[ri]ty Inland or Europe.

# NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

Note that the items below the \* are not retained long-term by the Society, although copies may be available for a short period.

## Die Briefmarke

**2018/12:** Xmas customs; messenger-post in Murtal; mail from a much-travelled WWII POW; Maria Theresia's 1748 Postordnung; 2019's planned issues; Firemen and their helmets; ball- & roller-bearings; society news; etc.

**2019/1:** Vienna's Opera House; Fiat in Austria; Lohner, vehicle makers; the much-travelled WWII POW (ii); return-to-sender items; new issue info; meter marks and the Anschluss; society news; etc etc.

**2019/2:** 'Faschingsstempel'; Arthur Ladurner; return-to-sender (ii); new issues; meter marks & Anschluss (ii); book reviews; society news; etc etc.

## Germania

**Vol 54 Nr 4:** 20pp of meeting reports, AGMs etc; Postage-due part 9; WWII rate from Boh&Mor to Slovakia; extensive reports from the regions; new issues; etc.

## Stamps of Hungary

**No 215 December 2018:** news & notes; meeting reports; consular 'processing fee' stamps; censorship of civilian mail in WWI, part 6: southern Hungary; the humble stationery postcard; yet more on porto provisionals; the story behind a postcard; a curious thing about newspaper stamps; etc

**No 216 March 2019:** news & notes; meeting reports; "The Time-Line to Trianon – November 1918 to March 1919" (first part of a survey of Hungarian History); Letter post between the Kingdoms of Bavaria and Hungary, 1868 – 1875; ), transnational newspaper cancellations; etc etc.

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## Czechout

See [www.czechout.org](http://www.czechout.org) where you can read every issue including the latest.

**Vol 36/4 (Dec 2018):** Airmail Postal Tariffs for 1930 to 1939: Africa; Questions, Comments, Answers; Additions to Monograph 27: *The Czechoslovak Independent Armoured Brigade in France and their return home 1944–1945: A historical and philatelic study*; etc.

## Library notes

### "Muller unbekannt"

In 2016 a supplement was issued to Muller's work on cancellations on early Austrian stamps (library book 8) under the title 'Muller unbekannt' – library book 8A. As is usual when a book is published the author is told of omissions and so a supplement has now been produced and has been added to the library as 8B. This has 44 pages in colour, and illustrates some 100 additional cancellations advised to the authors. The supplement costs 15 Euro plus postage and details are available from the librarian.

## Tailpiece

*New Year greetings from Vienna!*

*"According to Chinese astrology, the Year of the Pig is the period of career and material abundance. People born under the pig are the most open and straightforward in the zodiac." (SofH)*

