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VEREINIGUNG DER PHILATELISTEN DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN EISENBAHNER

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A collection of Austrian postage stamps and cancellation marks, including a 135-cent stamp, a 210-cent stamp, and a 53-cent stamp. The stamps feature various designs, including a building, a musical instrument, and a train.

A selection of the items discussed in this issue.

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Edited by Andy Taylor

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We offer various items (books, CDs, etc) to buy. The actual stock is spread around the country in the houses of various committee members, and moves around from time to time. Mrs Joyce Boyer has kindly agreed to be the single point of contact for anyone who wants to buy anything we offer. Order from her (address on inside back cover) and pay her, and she will arrange for whoever holds the stock to send it to you. Full details can be found on the "Bookshop" and "Officers" pages.

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Editorial 207

Once read in the Travel section of a newspaper that “*Scotland and Switzerland have one thing in common: Both are unique*”. Philately seems to have several examples of common uniqueness! Austria 206 noted on page 16 that there exist more than one unique registered cover from Ineboli (Clive Murray and Hans Smith each have one). And page 3 reported Andy Taylor proudly showing his “*probably unique form accounting for cash delivery fees by writing on the back of a redundant form and affixing the cards intended for entering credit to a Pitney Bowes franking machine*”. It isn’t; Steve Schweighofer has another example of this imaginative (or maybe desperate) usage: see the next two pages!

Me to Dr. Helmut Kobelbauer: *Congratulations on your Grand Prix award at Slovenia 2019! Could you give me a title and brief description in English, in case I mistranslate “nach dem großen Krieg”. Thanks.* Dr H K to me: “*After the Great War*” is exactly what it says: *The social and political history of the countries originating from the Habsburg Empire in the years 1918 to 1923 as seen in the mirror of philately. In Austria they write “Nach dem großen Krieg” because they do not call the First World War the Great War (as the English-speaking world still does and so do the French in their own language - La Grande Guerre). But the correct German title is “Nach dem großen Krieg”. The idea of the title comes from the book “After the War” by a British military [man] and journalist of that time, Repington Court. I have now been congratulated so many times that I feel a bit nauseous but hopefully this will pass ... Best wishes, Helmut*”

British National Stamp Day was on 6 May, as I discovered in the middle of April. I am a Volunteer at my local library (indeed, only 2½ of the 95½ staff are paid!) so I put on a philatelic display. The gory details are on pages 4-5. As a concession to it being the British day, a sheet of Penny Black images was concocted for the book display!

Welcome from the Festmeister team!

The 2019 Fest on 27-29th September is for the second time being held at the Stuart Hotel, Derby which is near to the town centre and close to the Railway Station. Rooms are still available: book now to reserve your space. Or if you can come for a day you’ll be equally welcome. Come and meet up with old friends and like-minded colleagues!

Contact Colin Tobitt, E-mail tobittc@ntlworld.com. Tel: 020 82 65 42 51

Stockholmia – the RPSL’s exhibition at Stockholm. Unless I’ve missed anyone (and if I have please tell me!), there were only 2 competitive entries from current APS members. Alfonso Zulueta got 90 points and a Gold for “Bosnia-Herzegowina: Austro-Hungarian Occupation 1878-1908”. Andy Taylor scraped 86 for a Large Vermeil with the 8-frame version of “The newspaper postage stamps of Austria”.

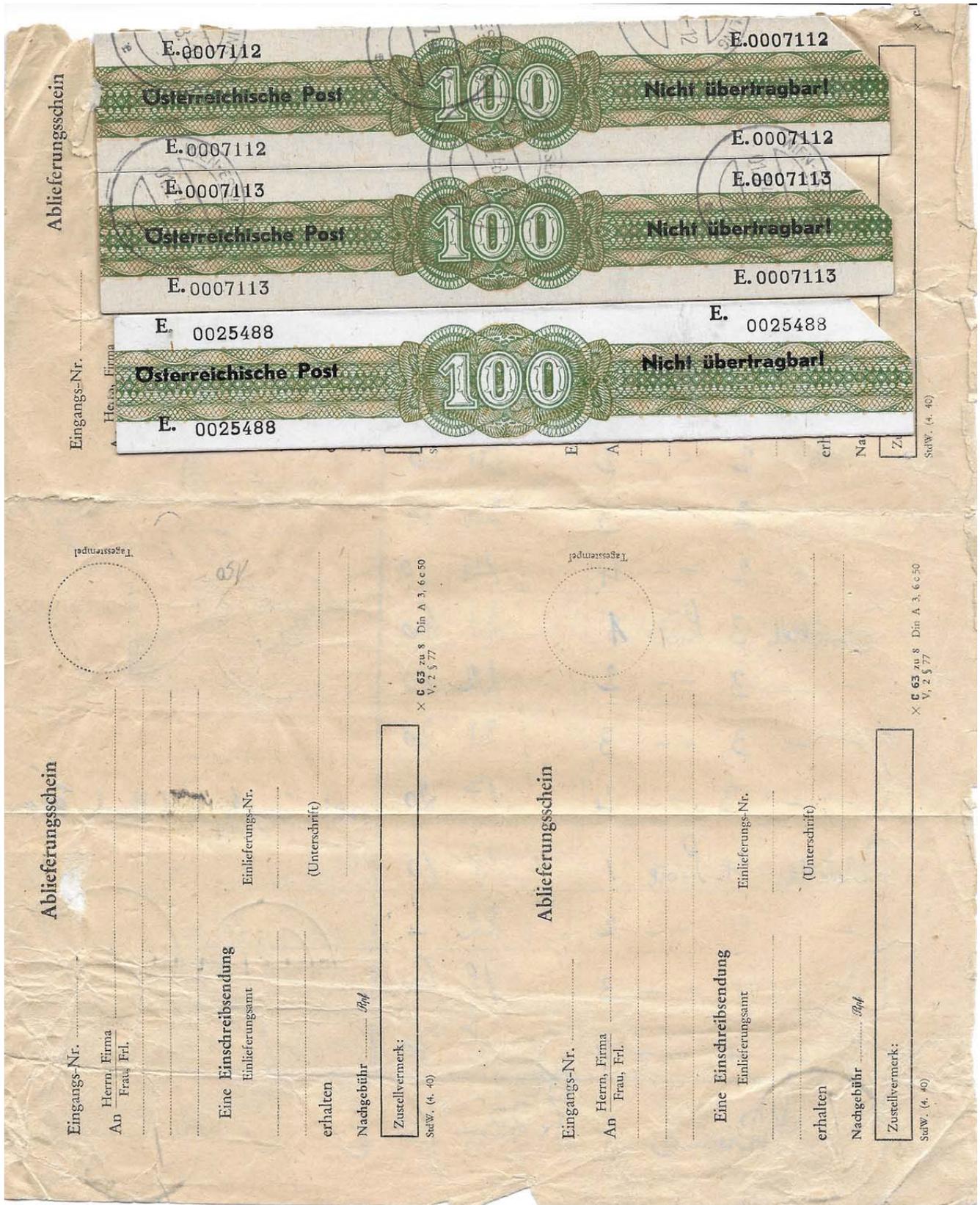
Our indefatigable member Octavian Tabacaru announces the completion of his Kuk Kriegsmarine catalogue (Volumes 7, 8 and 9 of the Kuk FELDPOST 1914-1918). It has 1,268 pages; it comes in three volumes; is bilingual Romanian-English in full colour; and is more fully described in the Newsletter along with details of how to get your own copy.

Expertising can be useful in commercial or philatelic disputes. The RPSL has an Expertising Committee, available (for a fee) to everybody whether a member or not. However they are “in transit” from their traditional roost at 41 Devonshire Place to the RPSL’s new building in Abchurch Lane. Clients are strongly recommended to telephone their Secretary before sending anything; and to **be aware that Post Office redirection does not apply to items delivered by courier.**

Hopefully (if I’m still allowed to use the word) the weather you’re experiencing when you read this is less unpleasant than when I’m writing it! I’ve just received a message from the firm who look after my lawn reminding me to water it. This might have been relevant yesterday ☺

Andy Taylor

Member’s Small Advert: Wanted: non-standard material for the period 1st January to 30th June 2002 for exhibit/collection. For more details see page 30.



“S’not unique!” Steve Schweighofer’s form where franking machine cards have been used to account for money-delivery fees. Three 100 Schilling cards on the back of a form of four uncut Ablieferungsschein forms, dated 01.7.48, not on the usual Tagesrechnung form.

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|----|--|
| Besteller 1 | Liste 1 | 20 | 90 | |
| — | — 2 | 18 | 40 | |
| — | — 3 | 21 | 70 | |
| — | — 4 | 26 | 50 | |
| — | — 5 | 9 | 40 | |
| Besteller 2 | Liste 1 | 18 | 20 | |
| — | — 2 | 34 | 50 | |
| — | — 3 | 24 | 10 | |
| — | — 4 | 14 | 10 | |
| Besteller 3 | Liste 4 | 21 | 60 | |
| — | — 2 | 22 | 80 | |
| — | — 3 | 21 | 20 | |
| — | — 4 | 17 | 20 | |
| Besteller 4 | Liste 1 | 19 | 80 | |
| — | — 2 | 22 | — | |
| — | — 3 | 19 | 60 | |
| — | — 4 | 5 | 70 | |
| | | P. 337 80 P | | |

note: immediately 3 Markstücke 100

we

“S’not unique!” The back of a form of four uncut Ablieferungsschein forms, dated 01.7.48. The total fees come to 337Sch80; on this side are dues totalling 37Sch80 and the 300Sch is on the other side.

Stamp Day Display in Stokesley Library



British National Stamp Day was on 6 May, as I discovered in the middle of April. I am a Volunteer at my local library (indeed, only 2½ of the 95 staff are paid!) so offered to put on a display. There's a registered library user called Ms Display, with unrestricted borrowing powers, so she obtained a selection of catalogues (mostly Stanley Gibbons) and printed some articles from Austrias (thimble cancels, British Troops in Austria) plus several 'spectaculars' such as Kinderdorf balloon covers and jigsaw-perfs. Contacts for local societies were added, and since everything was copies there was no security problem. I tied four APS frames to a table and the job was done. We didn't count the number of visitors, but many were seen to take an interest – and the display was placed next to the entrance. As a concession to it being the British day, a sheet of Penny Black images was concocted for the book display's front header! The fluorescent lighting in the Library distorts colours in photos, so on the next page you can see a better-colour representation of the display sheets.



2019 NEW ISSUES (2nd 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 supplement some descriptions from sources including Die Briefmarke and Wikipedia.



The 2018 'loyalty stamp' – red (common or Remembrance) poppy. 80c; 9.03.2019; 310,000; Brigitte Heiden; Offset; Enschedé. Issued to standing order subscribers but not sold over the counter, so while perfectly valid for inland postage (its official foreign validity is unclear although they usually work) it will not appear in most catalogues.

Michelangelo Merisi usually known as **Caravaggio**: "David with the head of Goliath" in the Old Masters series; 1€80; 9.03.2019; 190,000; Kirsten Lubach; Combination-

print; Enschedé



Vienna Zither in the series Musical Instruments. 2€10; 20.03.2019; 150,000; Maria Schulz; Combination-print; Enschedé. See separate article!

"Many Colourful Trojans and Acorn-Shaped Worms". 80c; 21.03.2019; 215,000; Regina Simon; Offset; Enschedé. This year's stamp from

the "Modern art in Austria" series shows a work by the Upper Austrian artist Markus Huemer, the title of which is a reference to the virtual world of the Internet.



Wild Boar in the series Game and Hunting. 2€70; 29.03.2019; 215,000; Kirsten Lubach; Combination-print; Enschedé.

Kaplan-Turbine - **Viktor Kaplan** in the series Austrian Inventors. 80c; 30.03.2019; 350,000 in minisheets of 10; David Gruber; Offset; Enschedé.

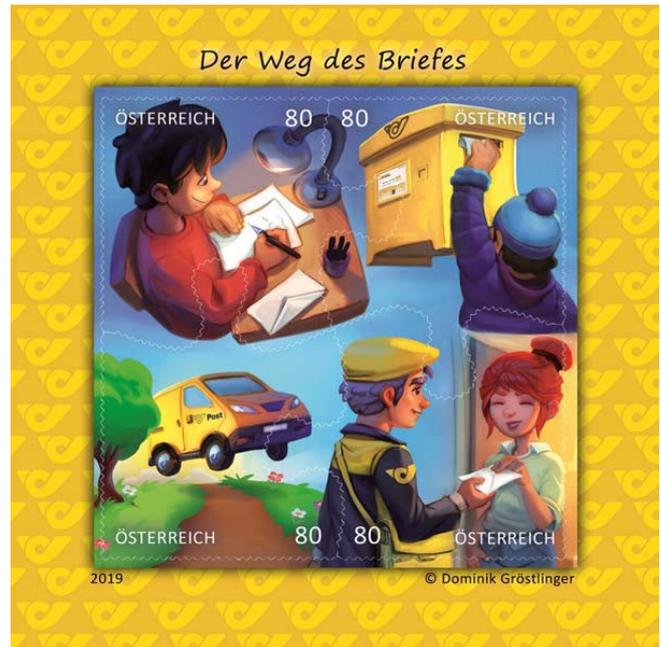


500th anniversary of the death of Emperor Maximilian I. 80c; 11.04.2019; 350,000 in minisheets of 10; Herbert Wähner; Offset decorated with gold embossing; Enschedé. Emperor Maximilian I, also known to many as the "last knight", was one of the most important monarchs of Austria.



I love you 80c + 10c; 24.04.2019; 150,000 sheets of 2; Marion Füllerer; Offset; Enschedé. “It doesn’t matter whether it is meant romantically, directed at a family member or as a sign of friendship: the stamp block with the declaration of love “Ich hab dich lieb – von ganzem Herzen” (I love you with all my heart) will get your message across in a particularly charming way.”

[I note that adding “with all my heart” costs an extra 10c to send! Ed.]



The letter’s journey. Block of 4 x 80c; 24.04.2019; 130,000; Dominik Gröstlinger; Offset; no named printer. “Letters connect people. But by the time a letter reaches the recipient, it has always followed a specific path. The aim of this comic stamp block in the form of a puzzle is to make children more aware of that journey.”



EUROPA 2019 – white-tailed sea eagle. 90c; 09.05.2019; 185,000; Marion Füllerer; Offset; Enschedé. The topic for the 2019 EUROPA stamp is “national birds”. The Austrian edition of the EUROPA stamp shows a white-tailed sea eagle, which also forms part of the coat of arms of Austria.

This stamp from the series “Modern architecture in Austria” shows one of Austria’s most spectacular churches from the architectural point of view: the Martin Luther Protestant Church in Hainburg an der Donau.



Martin Luther Protestant Church, Hainburg. 2€70; 14.05.2019; 230,000; Offset; Karin Klier; Joh. Enschedé.

This stamp from the series “Modern architecture in Austria” shows one of Austria’s most spectacular churches from the architectural point of view: the Martin Luther Protestant Church in Hainburg an der Donau.

Hochriegl sparkling wine cellar. 90c; 15.05.2019; 190,000; Offset; Enschedé. Almost 130 years of sparkling indulgence – this year’s stamp from the “Classical trademarks” series features a traditional Viennese company: the Hochriegl sparkling wine cellar.



Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Vienna. 1€35; 17.05.2019; 325,000; Offset; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé. This year’s stamp from the “Churches in Austria” series shows the impressive and opulent Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Vienna’s Landstraße district.





Postage stamps of 1883. 2€30+80c; 17.05.2019; 130,000; Offset; Anita Kern; Enschedé.

The 2019 stamp block from the “Classic Edition” series shows a 5 Kreuzer and a 50 Kreuzer postage stamp from the year 1883 with the double-headed eagle in the background.

With the next item, readers should bear in mind the Third Law of Arthur C Clarke, namely that any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. Ed.

'**Crypto Stamp**' block. 6€90; 11.06.2019; 150,000; Julia Obermüller; Siebdruck & Offset. The stamp is presented as an 86x54mm piece of plastic, about 1mm thick – rather like an overgrown credit card. The back has a removeable siliconed paper protecting the adhesive. The design shows a unicorn admiring a QR code; what appears as diagonal blue stripes in my illustration is actually metallic and is reflecting the passes of the light in my scanner! My stamp is black and reflective on white, but they were issued in five colour varieties: 1,500 in red, 10,000 yellow, 20,000 blue, 40,000 green and 78,500 black!



On the right hand side are three data blocks. Block [1] is a code unique to this physical copy of the stamp – every one has a different code here. Entering this code into the web site crypto.post.at reveals who currently owns it – mine belongs to 0xF99509A4A342b49555D2e977A3C1c932aDd76a03!

Block [2] is a “scratch-card” which reveals the address of the digital wallet where your digital stamp lives.

Similarly Block [3] is the code needed to transfer your stamp to a different wallet.

The Opost web site says “*Stamps go digital! With the innovative crypto stamp, Austrian Post is for the first time offering a stamp which also exists as a digital asset (crypto collectible) in the Ethereum blockchain, and is thus breaking completely new ground. The blockchain is a special form of decentralised data storage. For this, data are not stored in a single computer centre but are distributed across many independent computers. A sophisticated mechanism ensures that completed transactions cannot be subsequently manipulated. Using the QR code printed on the stamp, the owner can look at the digital version of his/her crypto stamp in the Ethereum blockchain and then transfer it to other users.*”

They continue: *“Unfortunately, the Crypto stamp is out of stock. In order to find a Crypto stamp elsewhere, you are very welcome to download the mobile app “All About Stamps” – the digital collector’s album. In this app you can get in touch with other collectors in order to trade the Crypto stamp.”*



Admont Abbey Museum. 1€35; 15.06.2019; 360,000; Engraved-recess printing; Kirsten Lubach; Enschedé . The design on this year’s engraved stamp from the “Sacred Art” series shows the angel from the “Baptism of Christ”. The relief is part of the Mayer Collection in the Gothic Museum of Admont Abbey in Styria

The traditional costume of Carinthia. 80c; 27.06.2019; 360,000 in minisheets of 10; Offset; Anita Kern; Enschedé .

This time, the special stamp from the popular “Classic traditional costumes” series is dedicated to the traditional costume of Carinthia, which is worn throughout the federal province.



Café Zauner. 1€80; 29.06.2019; 200,000; Offset; Regina Simon; Enschedé. For almost 200 years the Zauner Café and Cake Shop in Bad Ischl has been producing sweet treats, and Austrian Post is honouring the long-established company with a special stamp in the “Catering with tradition” series.

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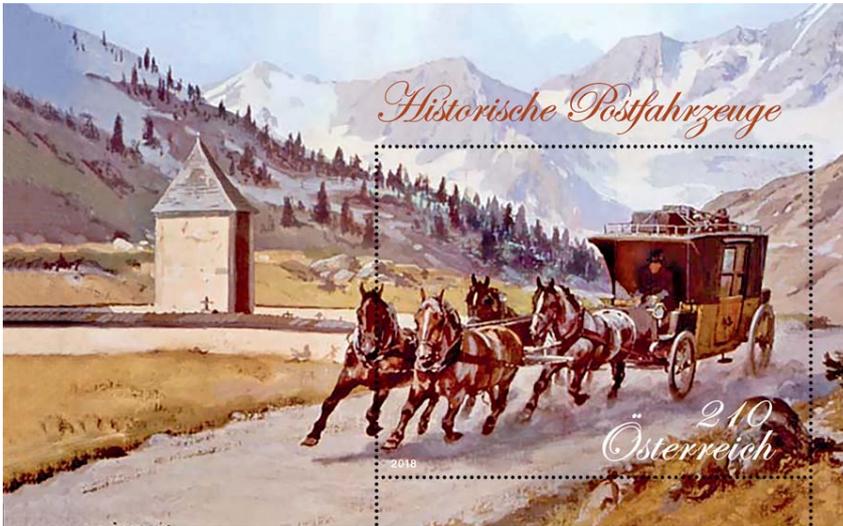
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The prettiest stamps of 2018

Each spring, Die Briefmarke invites its readers to vote on the prettiest Austrian stamp issues of the previous year. From 2008's sixty issues, the result of the referendum was as follows; the first place received 2000 votes. (They have discontinued the second vote, which used to be for the most unnecessary stamp of the year!)



Historic Transport: Tauernstrasse coach. Designed by Regina Simon and issued on 24 August with a face value of 2€10. Four-horse-drawn passenger coach at the top of the pass on the Tauern mountain road, which connects Pongau with Lungau. In addition to the mail, the coach is also carrying passengers and their luggage, which is strapped to the roof. The coach appears to be travelling at high speed; the road looks to be exceptionally firm and well-used. The coachman sits beneath the protruding roof at the front of the carriage

Christmas 2018 – 200 years of “Silent Night” Issued on 23 November with a face value of 90c; designed by Anna Rastl.

On Christmas Eve “Silent night, holy night” rings out around the world in many different languages. 200 years ago it was sung for the first time in the church in Oberndorf in the province of Salzburg.



Serious flooding of the Salzach River, the worst being in 1903, made the village of Oberndorf move upstream. The new St. Nicholas church was dedicated in 1906. The old church was finally demolished and the foundation stone for the Memorial Chapel laid in 1924 although it wasn't consecrated until 1937.

Centenary of deaths of Klimt, Schiele, Moser & Wagner. Designed by Anita Kern and issued on 24 August with a face value of 4 x 80c = 3€10;

1918 was a fateful year for Viennese modernism. Four of the most important artists of the modern age died: Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Koloman Moser and Otto Wagner.

Clockwise from top left, the block of stamps shows Moser's painting “Spring”; Klimt's “Death and Life”; Schiele’s “self-portrait with Physalis” (a plant, as the Austrian name ‘Lampionfrüchten’ makes clear!); and a light urban railway station designed by Wagner.



All these stamps were printed in offset by Enschedé.

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 her 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-Herzegovina sowie der österreichischen Postanstalten im Fürstentum Liechtenstein und in der Levante*”, published in Vienna in 1910. It lists all the Austrian post offices open anywhere at that date; with symbols indicating the facilities available at each. The CD contains 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**. There's only 9 copies left of this important work, and there are no plans to reprint it. P&P £5 in UK, elsewhere at cost.
- ❖ **“A Celebration of Austrian Philately”:** the APS 60th 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.

At a recent committee meeting, it was agreed that (a) some back numbers of *Austria* (selected from issues 127 onwards) would be made available via the APS website; and (b) that printed copies of back numbers will only be available for sale until copies run out.

Do you have a display or article or essay that you'd like to share with your fellow members but are too diffident about writing up for publication? Your editor would be delighted to assist! He can cope with almost all formats of words and pictures, and printed original texts varying from black-on-white to darker-grey-on-lighter grey. Hesitate no longer – get in touch, and make him happy and yourself famous!

Bill Sandrik's Selection

Our member Bill Sandrik, who lives in Florida, has sent me (via John Anthony, to whom thanks – there were email problems) several pages about items from some of the Lloyd Agencies that Hans Smith did not cover in his “Tchilinghirian and Stephen Revisited”, except for the Pireo (Piraeus) marking illustrated on page 113. Bill says he has been meaning to send the information to me for quite some time: it needs to be published somewhere, and no better place than our Journal.



Bill also sent an image of the oval Constantinople Lloyd Austriaco marking, saying “All the reference works show an illustration of the marking that is incorrect, ie with a short ‘s’ - in reality it has a long German ‘s’ (the one that looks like an ‘f’). Perhaps whoever first published an illustration of the marking – Mueller? - did not have a clear example to work from, as many examples are smudged (and the ‘s’ is next to a ‘t’), and future authors simply copied the same image. I think it is time to correct this error.”

Bill adds: Several years ago, when I contacted Hans he confirmed to me that his covers had the long ‘s’. If you look at the illustration of Alexandria on page 9 of Hans’ book, you will see an illustration of the oval “Alesandria” seal marking. The ‘s’ in that marking is the same one that appears in the “Constantinopoli” marking. The illustration on page 56 is incorrect.

The Lloyd Agency at Pontelagoscuro



Cover of 8 Dec 1855 from the Lloyd Agency at Pontelagoscuro, a small commune just north of Ferrara, Papal States. A Lloyd shipping agency opened in 1853 for the carriage of passengers and freight. The 1 baj. issue of 1852 (First Setting) cancelled by grid cancel and with circular datestamp at right, paid the local letter rate to Ferrara. Four stampless covers are known with this marking, two with a 1 baj. stamp and two stampless.

Only two covers are recorded from the Lloyd Agency at Guastalla



The Lloyd Agency wax seal on the reverse is different (the town name is on two lines)



Fully-paid cover from the Lloyd Agency at Guastalla, Duchy of Modena, used 16 July 1855 to Milan, Lombardy-Venetia. The Lloyd Agency's official seal indicates prepayment of postage. The 25c Modena issue of 1852 paid the letter rate to Milan. Blue barred cancel with Guastalla /16 Luglio circular datestamp. Lloyd Agency wax seal on reverse is different than the seal on front. **The other known cover with this seal, used in 1858, has the same franking.**

Only two covers are known from the Lloyd Agency at Pavia



2 July 1855 fully-paid registered cover originating at the Lloyd Agency at Pavia, Lombardy to Torino, Sardinia. The Lloyd Agency affixed its official seal, to indicate prepayment, which it also impressed into three wax seals on the reverse. The 45c paid the letter rate, and the 30c paid the registration charges, and it was sent via the post office in the Austrian province of Lombardy-Venetia, arrived 5 July.

Only known cover with Lloyd Agency Seal of Piacenza

22 Oct 1858 folded letter from the Lloyd Agency at Piacenza, on the River Po, to Borgo San Donnino, a commune in the Duchy of Parma, franked with 15c issue of 1852, and circular datestamp of Piacenza, first recorded in 1847.

This cover was first recorded by Edwin Mueller in the Mercury Stamp Journal in 1959. An Austrian Lloyd Agency was established in 1852 when Austrian ships called there on their way from Trieste to Lago Maggiore via the Po and Ticino Rivers. The oval Agency seal affixed at lower left supports Tchilinghirian's supposition that "its main purpose was to serve as a dispatch or arrival marking on mail handled by the Agency."

Only known example of AUSTRO-UNGARICO PIREO oval marking on cover or stationery



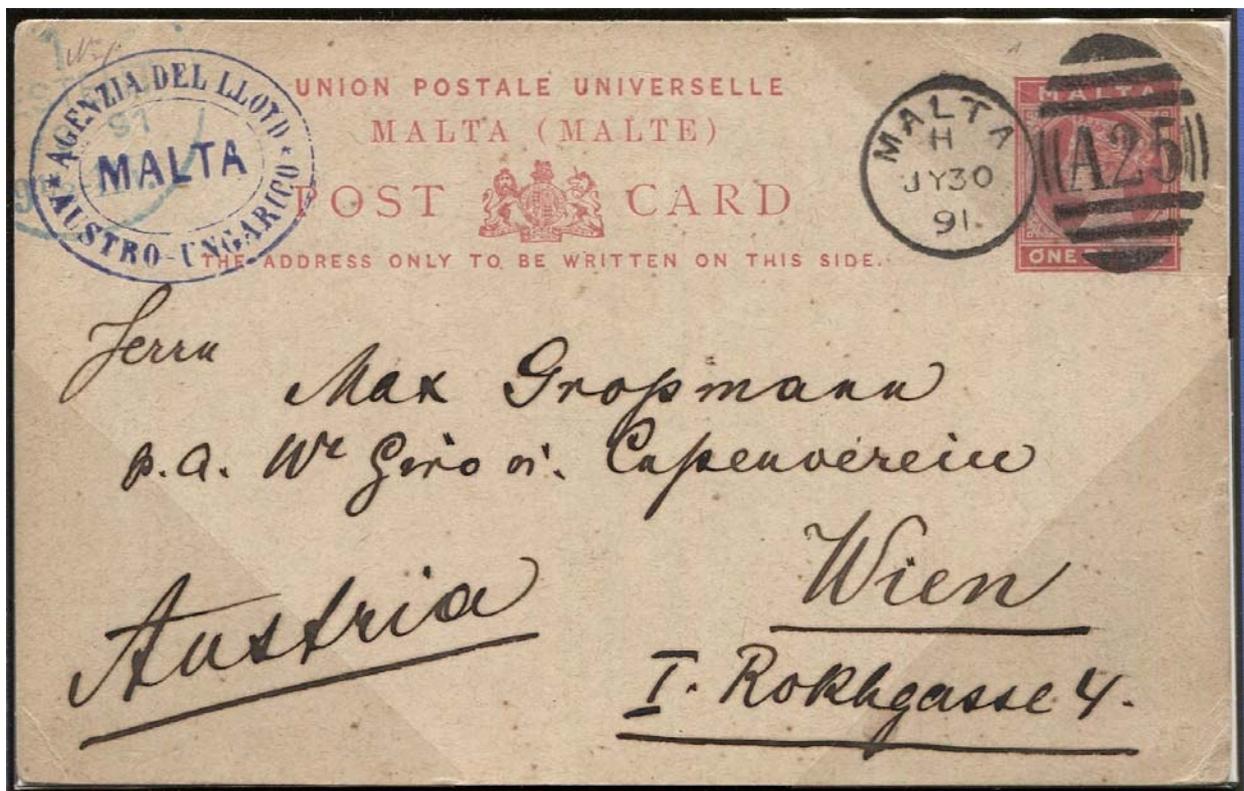
Five soldi postal card of 1867 used at the Lloyd Agency on 10 Jan 1884 and sent to Bregenz, Austria, arriving on 25 Jan (different calendar). The Type 2 Blue double-circle marking “**AGENZIA DEL LLOYD / PIREO / AUSTRO-UNGARICO**” was issued to this Agency in the 1870’s, and Tchilinghirian recorded only a single 3 soldi 1867 issue (off cover) and a couple of 10 soldi 1867 and 1884 issues (also off cover). No examples are recorded on cover or postal stationery. The example shown here may be the only item known on postal stationery.

Only example known of double-circle Austro-Ungarico marking of Malta

In 1854 the Lloyd established a Branch Line with a Corfu-Mersina-Malta itinerary. It was discontinued a few years later, but a couple of covers are known with the earlier type oval marking.

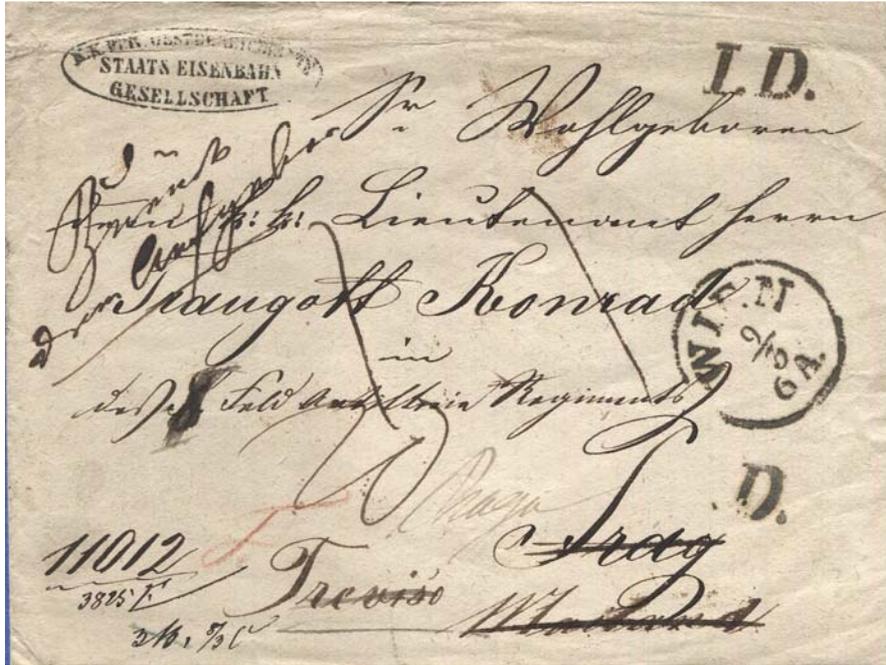


The Lloyd steamer *Thalia* is known to have visited Malta when cruising with tourists, on her many voyages in the Mediterranean and the Fjords of Scandinavia.

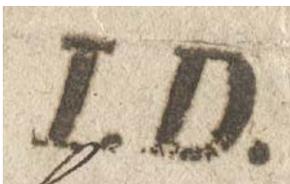


One penny postal card of Malta, accepted at the Lloyd Shipping Agency at Malta and struck with a clear blue example of this marking and mailed at the British post office on 30 July 1891. The writer, probably an officer on a Lloyd ship that had stopped to refuel, writes “*in the morning we entered here to take on 500 tons of coal, and will stay here until tomorrow. Our next station stop will be at Gibraltar.*”

Very interesting cover/envelope sent to a military officer and forwarded several times.



On the envelope flap is an embossed seal, partially missing details, but that which is readable is the same as the oval marking on the front. Unpaid envelope from the Imperial Royal Privileged Austrian State Railway Company (Oesterreichische / Staats Eisenbahn / Gesellschaft), posted at Vienna on 9 March (1859) and addressed to 2nd Lt Konrad Traugott attached to a Regiment in Prag. Taxed at 20 Neu-Kreuzer (3rd distance: 15 Kr + 5 Kr (unpaid) = 20 Nkr (after 1 Nov 1858). At Vienna, an unusual "I.D." handstamp marking was applied. It is in the same color ink as the Wien postmark. A partial second strike is under the postmark. Received at Prag on 10 March, and forwarded to Milano, Lombardy (15/3) and Treviso, Venetia (17/3) and returned to Vienna on 23 March ("Zuruck dem Aufgeber"). Possibly Lt Traugott was involved in the Austrian war with Sardinia, hence the movement.



Bill has never seen this "I.D." marking, and it is unlisted in any of Mueller's handbooks on prestamp or later handbooks on cancellations. **Does anybody know what this marking represents?** It is a most interesting cover, which he has had for at least 10 years. Perhaps the marking had something to do with the forwarding or abatement of taxation? Answers to the Editor, please.

The Austro-Hungarian joint issue of 2017

By Mark Ebury

The se-tenant block of two stamps in the Austrian classic stamps series, issued on 25 August 2017 was a joint issue with Hungary. The two stamps illustrated, the 5 Kreuzer and 50 Kreuzer, are part of the 1867 definitive series recognised as being Hungary's first stamps. They were used until 1871 by the separate Hungarian postal administration, introduced following the Ausgleich ("Compromise") which established the overall relationship between Austria and Hungary within the Dual Monarchy. Pictured below is the first day cover of the Hungarian version, issued by Magyar Posta. The cancel date is in Hungarian format (yyyy-mm-dd). Hungary issued 60,000 copies of their version; Austria 126,000 of theirs.



On the date of issue, the Hungarian stamps paid the following postage: HUF (Hungarian Forint) 120: domestic postcard and standard letter up to 30g, HUF 450: registered non-standard letter up to 50g; HUF 570 (=120+450): non-standard letter up to 50g to countries outside Europe. The Austrian values of 68c and 2€20 paid respectively for a small basic weight inland letter and the separate registration fee.



See also https://www.posta.hu/stamps/stamps/new_stamps/hungary-austria-joint-stamp-issue/ for a fair and very readable historical background in English.

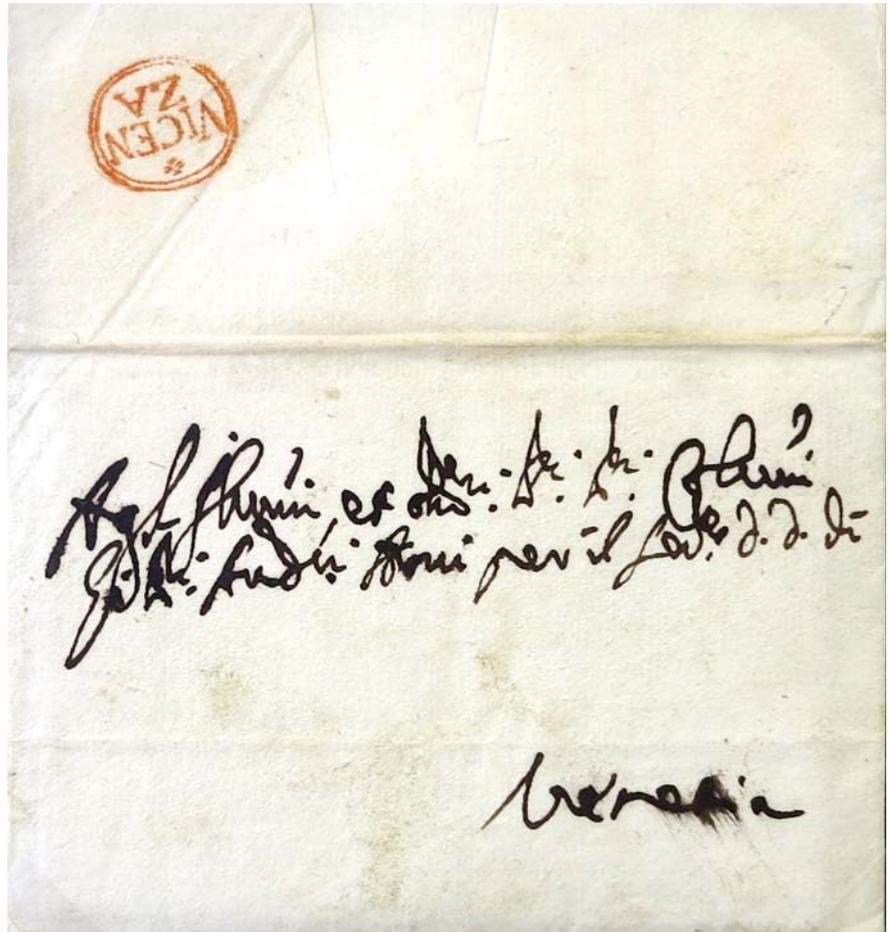
Meeting @ Lincoln

By Andreas Daumenschmerz

Nick Coverdale arranged the annual Lincoln meeting in the usual format, at the Bailgate Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 23 March. Your roaming reporter's notes follow!

The first half was devoted to a display by **John Anthony** of items posted in Vicenza, which was a province of Lombardy-Venetia. Its sovereign was Franz Josef, but he appointed a Viceroy to be his local representative. One was Field Marshall Radetsky, who served from 1848 to 1857 - being the only Viceroy not of royal Habsburg blood.

John had tried to obtain one example from each Post Office in the province for each of the first five classical issues. Such items are, unsurprisingly, elusive – and expensive.



The item above is a folded letter sent from Vicenza to Venezia on 20 August 1761; John remarked that whilst the letter is no doubt genuine, the red Vicenza mark is too good to be true and probably isn't! The document below is from the District Commissioner's office in Valdagno to Crespino on 20 July 1831.

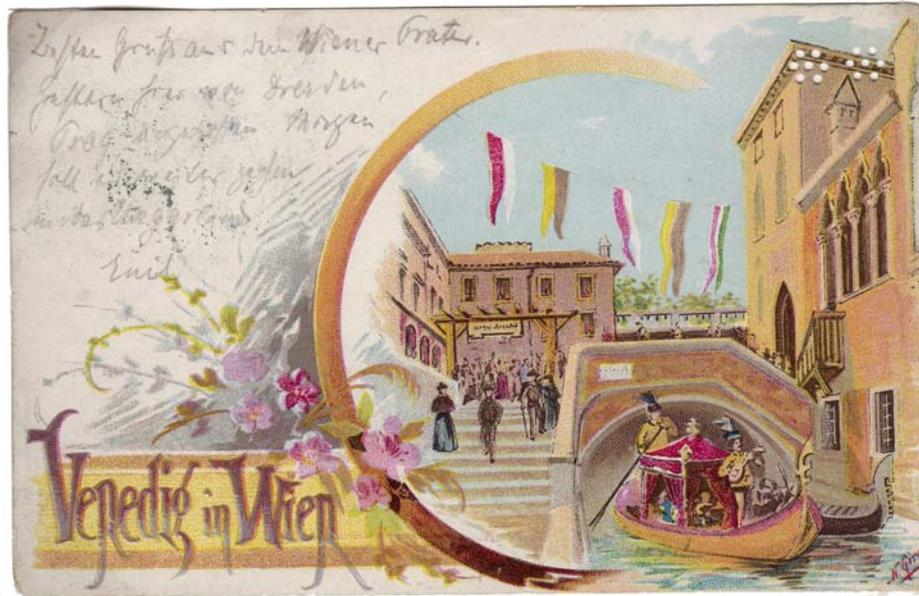


Refreshments followed, brought by **Nick Coverdale**; we refrained from eating the Faith Lunch awaiting the Lent Group in the other hall.

Next, **Colin Tobitt** showed us early special cancels and background information on the events they were for, including exhibitions in Vienna and Prague some of which were open for over 6 months.

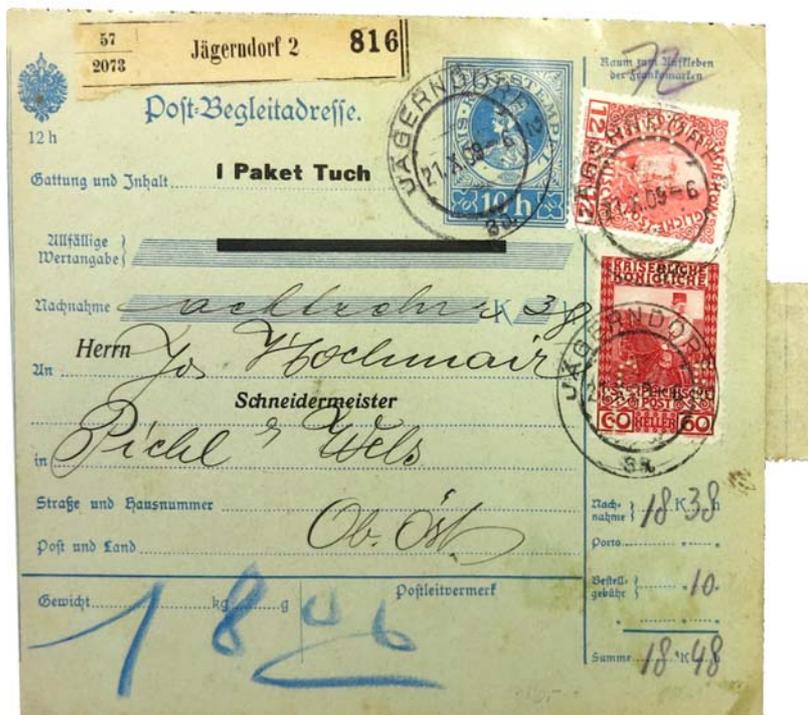


On the right is a typical special cancel, the earliest one listed in Wurth, for **WELTAUSSTELLUNGSPLATZ WIEN** where an exhibition took place in 1873 from 3 March to 31 December. Below is the picture side of a postcard from “Venice in Vienna”: from 1895 to 1900 the Prater was embellished with pavilions, canals, and ‘genuine Venetian gondolas moved by genuine Venetian Gondolieri’!



Joyce Boyer came next, with Postal Stationery including private printings of the Costumes series on envelopes (there weren't public equivalents). The items had been mounted for display, not study, so blank areas of an envelope might be overlapped by another one.

It is apparently British National Stamp Day on 6th May, although information is not readily available. Nevertheless, **Andy Taylor** had prepared a 4-frame display for his local library, using photocopies in case of theft, and put up the first half to show what it might look like. See pages 4-5 above!

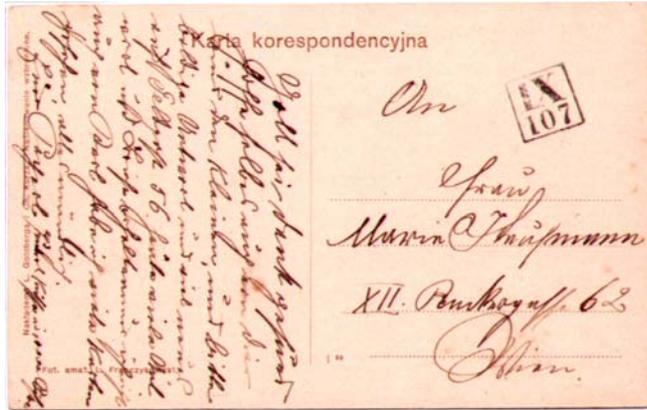


Alan Berrisford's traditional goodies were from Austrian Silesia, including postablage, a Blue Mercury on a complete newspaper, and several parcel cards.

Barry Clark showed cachets from part of the Schladminger-Tauern-Höhenweg, which is a set route of 7 stages over the high alps that we might have attempted in our youth but now could only dream of. Most of the stages are to be accomplished at about 1km per hour; on-line pictures suggest that nearly all of the walk is either steeply up or sharply down.



To conclude the day, **Alan Berrisford** displayed Tarnstempel, which were introduced as control marks for money-handling in post offices and then used in a valiant but generally fruitless attempt to conceal where mail from troops in the field to addresses back home had come from. Two examples follow:



IX107 = Biecz, a town in southeastern Poland, in the Carpathian Mountains. Card to Vienna, 19th September, probably 1914



IX104 = Biadoliny Szlacheckie, a village in Brzesko County in southern Poland. Cover to Neumarkt a.d. Ybbs; no date

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Can you help me, please?

Following exhibiting at Spring Stampex and York in 2018 I was approached by Stamp & Coin Mart - now Stamp Collector - to allow part of my 'Schilling to Euro' exhibit to be featured in their Stamp Showcase section. I agreed and it appeared in the May 2019 issue. An edited version appeared in Austria 205 [Winter 2018].

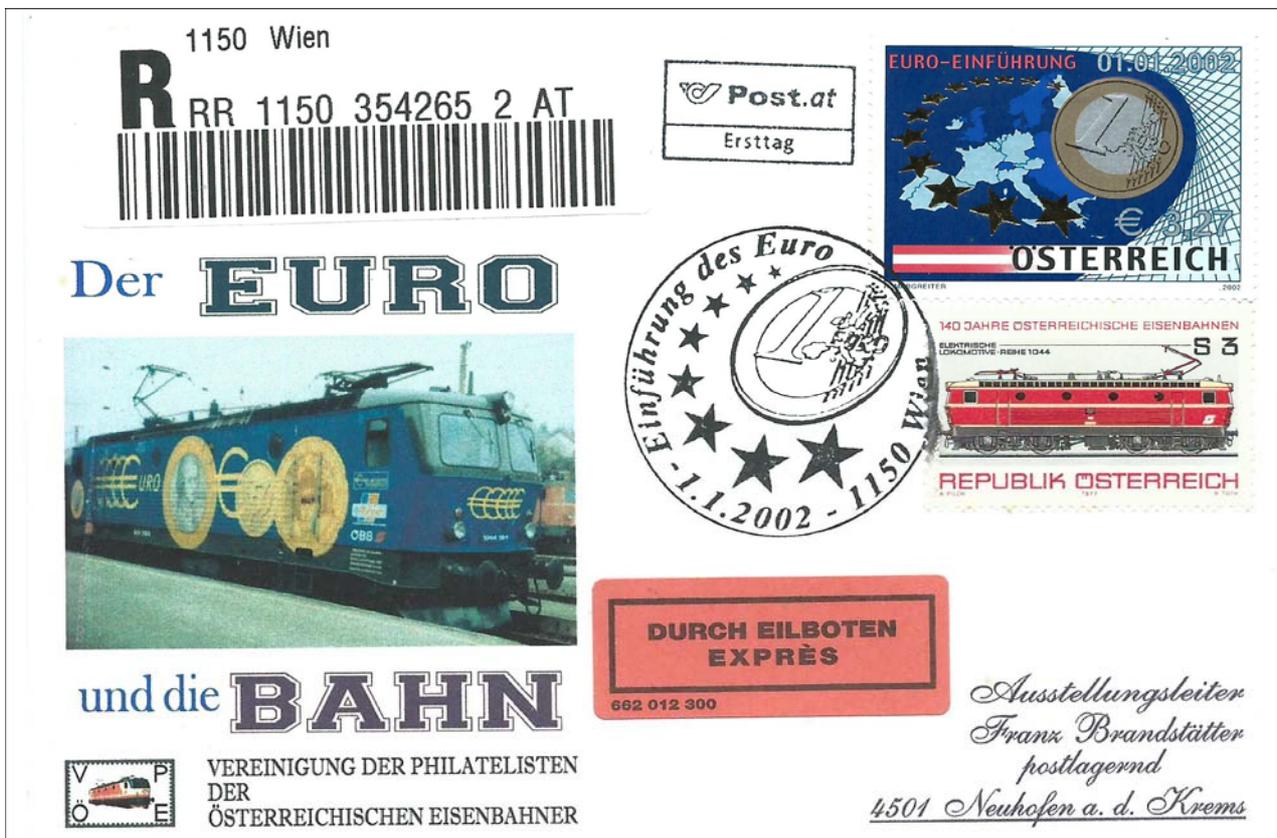
Stamp Collector also included an Expert's Opinion which was very helpful; however he did suggest that it was perhaps not strictly Postal History since it contains mainly normal postal material and none of the extra services that were available. There are a couple of registered covers but everything is either inland or to Europe for which postage rates were the same or similar.

My visits to the Ebay and Delcampe websites have not produced any items other than what I have - and the special commemorative stamps are mainly found on first day covers.

If I am to take up this collection again to enter it into a Modern Philately class I need to find some other material and this is where I need help. **The display mainly covers the period 1st January to 30th June 2002 when euro, schilling or mixed stamps could be used.** To add more variety and interest I need to find material using other services for example insured, value declared, cash on delivery, overseas both economy and priority mail. Was there still Express mail? or a fast service within Vienna? I cannot find a rate for this but have recently acquired a mixed franking FDC dated 1st January 2002 with an express label ... or was this just added to explain an over-franking?

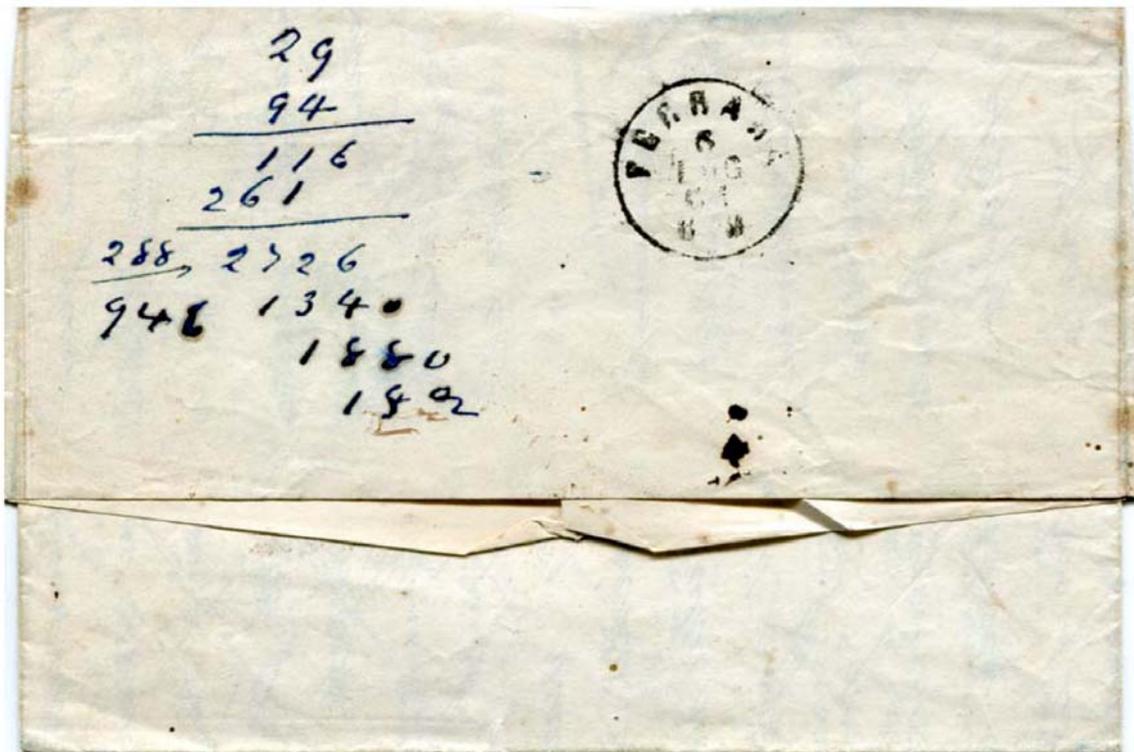
If anyone has surplus material of the sort I am looking for and that they are prepared to sell, please contact me with details - email mjoyceb@uwclub.net address and phone details as listed for officers.

Joyce Boyer



Why sent at the printed matter rate?

This Italian missive was sent at the 2kr-per-Loth printed matter rate; it was cancelled at TRIESTE on 4.7.1861 and addressed to FERRARA (Italy) where it arrived on 6.7.1861. The contents are shown on the next page – how did it qualify for the low rate?



... comune buono f44. - mangiabile f42 1/2 mezzo fine f45. -
 fine f49 - sopra fine f51. Corna di 107. - Il Raguse
 manca affatto. - Gringally 1^a qualità f36 1/2 II f35 1/4 -
 Grisgiolina f41. - Limes Pugliese f28 1/2 il Bruckrone
 doppio raso d'Ungheria pronto f35 1/2 per consegna
 nei mesi prossimi f34 1/4. -
 Droghe. - Tutta domanda ed a prezzi bassi.
 Pepe Sumatra con polvere f31. Singapore per
 essere in una sol mano, f34. - Casialigua f85.
 Garofani f32. Pimento f26. - Zinzaro f36 1/2
 Legumi da tinta. - Continue domande, prezzi
 alti, Deposito limitato & poche aspettative. - Cassia
 peggio Domingo f6. - La Guna f7 3/4. - Gialla
 Cuba f7. 75 Tampico f6. 25. Il macis scottato al
 vivo f20. - naturale f15. -
 Spiriti. - Nello scorso mese, causa le favorevoli
 notizie sulle reti, le viste d'un abbondante raccolto
 grani ed aggiunto la mancanza di Commissionari,
 ribassarono i prezzi. - In oggi sono meglio tenuti con
 viste d'annunciati. - e nazionale doppio di g. 35 1/4 pronto,
 della fabbrica C. M. o. Spingher f29 3/4 -
 f25 1/4. - Per consegna f30 1/4
 f25 1/4. - Russia di g. 36 1/4 doppio raffinato,
 pronto f25 1/4, per consegna nei prossimi tre mesi
 f25. - Novembre, Dicembre f24 3/4 -
 Tutti li prezzi segnati si intendono resa la
 merce qui franco a bordo, collo Scoto 2% Valuta
 pronta. - Disposti ai prezzi con ordini con tutta
 sicurezza si riveriamo
 Da 20/2 f11. 10 *Motta & Goettner*

Answer: it IS printed matter! It's a goods-and-prices list, probably made by a lithographic technique. The writing is bad and the Italian indifferent. Thanks to Sue and Maria for deciphering!

...semi-fine f45, fine f49, extra fine f51. The Raguse is handmade: Gringally 1st quality f36.5, 2nd quality f35.25. Grisgiolina f41.5, Limes from Puglia f28.5, Oranges double wrapped from Hungary f35.5, for consignment next month f34.25. Sumatran pepper ground f31 ... Casealigua f85. Cloves f32. Paprika f26. Ginger f36.5 ... Special offer – this month, due to the favourable grain harvest, we offer the lowest price, free of commission. Today there is no better time to stock up. Available after 35 or 14 days as soon as it is made. ... All confirmed orders are made up on our premises and the goods consigned with a discount of 2%. We thank you for your custom and look forward to receiving your further orders.

Automatic Machine Issues (ii)

by Joyce Boyer

In 2006 the Austrian Post Office again introduced Automatic machines with labels but these are mainly movable and are, in general, installed at different locations for a short period often associated with a philatelic or special event. There are a few fixed machines at philately shops. Once printed the labels can be used on mail posted anywhere in Austria and remain valid for use so that it is possible to find covers with 'mixed or late frankings' as in this example sent from the Graz area in 2018 with labels from Christkindl 06 and 07. [¹]



The labels are in two different designs appearing alternately on the roll with every fifth stamp having a check number on the reverse. They have two indents on the long sides to guide them through the machine and printed 'perforations' or miniature bar codes on the short ends. The early labels were designed by Hannes Margreiter. Although there were standard values available - Inland, European, Overseas and Registration rates - others were also available. When I first used a machine the minimum payment was €1 with any change being dispensed in labels of assorted value.



The first pair of labels depicting tulips and liverwort (a wild flower) was issued on 25th August 2006 at Gmunden 2006. These come in two varieties with and without a space between the name and year. The machine was again used at Bad Reichenhall in October and was introduced at the Philatelie.shop on 16th October. The same labels were used in 2007 and 2009 between 7th January and late November at a number of locations. When sited at an event the year was included on the label but at a static site like Philatelie.Shop there is no date.



On 24th November 2006 two new winter designs were introduced and these were available at Christkindl, Philatelie.shop, Sonderpostamt, Numiphil and Christkind, Wien [²] until 6th January 2007.

The same labels were used for the 2007/08 and 2008/09 winter seasons but only at Christkindl and Numiphil.

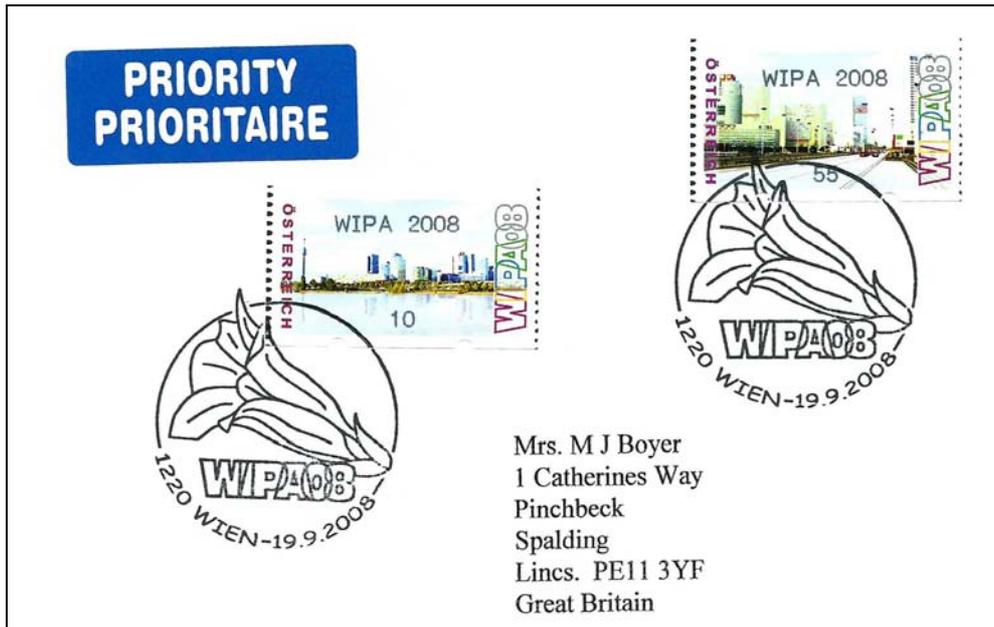
¹ The mint labels are illustrated with black borders so that the indents (and indeed the edges) are visible. Ed.

² Christkind, Wien was a Christmas post office set up in the Stephansplatz for a few years.

In 2008 the flower design was replaced. Austria co-hosted the European football championships with Switzerland and the label designs for the first part of the year were football related.



In June this design was again changed to mark WIPA 2008 held in September, with the designs showing Donau City where the event was held.



In March 2009 the flower labels were re-introduced and available at three 'Phila-shops' and three philatelic events. On 19th November 2009 a new design for the winter stamps was introduced and these were used until 6th January 2010 at four sites.



Since January 2010 a new pair of flower labels have been issue in January for use for most of the year with new winter labels issued in mid-November for us until the following 6th January. Examples of the flower and winter labels for 2013 and 2014 are shown here.



In 2015 Austria hosted the Eurovision Song Contest and a pair of labels was introduced on 24th April for a short period with the flower labels for that year being used before and after the song contest.



The 2016 labels are shown here; in the summer the flower labels were suspended for a period in June and July for the European Football Championships but I do not have examples of these.

In October 2017 new machines were introduced resulting in two different types of printing on the labels. The Silaff Farbband-nadeldruck machines print in a modified antiqua type with a serif on the letter I in 11 point which results in longer text. The new Inform thermotransferdruck machine uses triumvirate [*a font similar to Helvetica*] type where the letter I is without serif. The text is in 10 point, meaning it is shorter, but the figure is 12 point. The Inform machine appears to give a stronger print result. However the letter I is the more easily seen difference between the two machines (assuming that letter is in the text!). These two pairs of 2018 labels show the different printing methods:



Silaff

Inform

A request to the Philatelic Bureau in Vienna for different printings of the labels resulted in the message that you get what they have, especially since both machines may be used at the same event.

In general there have been few problems with printing the labels; however for Christkindl 2017 there are a number of varieties. The labels printed using the Silaff machine by the philatelic service in Vienna should have a small indent at the top and almost a complete hole at the bottom: see illustration below left taken from Die Briefmarke 02/18. However my pair obtained from the same source has the holes the opposite way with large at the top and small at the base as illustrated below right. They read Christkindl 17. When they used the Inform machine the labels have similar size indents both top and bottom with the same wording.



At Christkindl one of the Silaff machines initially printed labels reading Cristkindl 2017 [no h]. It was suggested that the error occurred as a result of a short 'power outage' whilst the machine was being set-up and the error was not noticed when being checked. Next the name was corrected but there was no gap between the name and date (so Christkindl2017); and finally the labels correctly read Christkindl 2017.

The Gmunden labels for 2017 appear to have been printed by the Silaff machine but I know these were obtained there [by David Bravery].



Correction to Automatic Machine Issues part 1

It would appear that the information about the first Automatic machine labels included in my article in Austria 206 is not completely correct. I have received the following information from Hannes Roller in Vienna'

“The IFABO stamp was introduced 1983 at a fair for office supplies at the Messegelände in the Viennese Prater by the Austrian Post. The stamp was dispensed by a vending machine at the fair. As far as I know two persons (one of them was me) provided themselves with these labels by inserting money into the vending machine. I don't know if there were any other purchasers. At this time I sold many of these labels to two retailers from Switzerland and Germany. I don't have any knowledge of these labels having been sold in Bern/ Switzerland as well.”

I have now found the information I had used from a Netto catalogue which roughly translated says: “In May 1983 at IFABO [*an International trade fair for office and organisation technology*] on 4-7 May and at the Stamp exhibition TEMBAL 21-29 May 1983 in Basel, the Austrian Post made its first printings [*of Frama labels*] with the number/value box in both a narrow and a broad format. The labels were available in a limited range of values with a total of around 5,000 being issued.”

Joyce Boyer.



NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

Die Briefmarke

2019/3: Zithers, expert players, third men etc; 100th anniversary of the **Deutschösterreich** overprints; Arthur Ladurner (ii); 825th anniversary of the Vienna Mint; new issues; special cancels; the Lake Garda postcards of Michael Zeno Diemer; exhibitions societies news etc.

2019/4: Oswald von Wolkenstein; Maximilian I; the **Deutschösterreich** overprints (ii); the digital collector; Peter Bruegel; new issues; special cancels; exhibitions societies news etc.

2019/5: Biedermeier sensation: the Express Coach; the 1883 issues; registration labels with incorrect place-names; paintings by Leonardo da Vinci; zithers at VÖPh; new issues; special cancels; exhibitions societies news etc etc.

2019/6: Konditorei Zauner in Bad Ischl (and the Kaiser's Second Breakfast Gugelhupf); Grand Prix motor racing; the 1883 issues (ii); Austrian perforated postcards during 1916-1919; 3rd centenary of Triest harbour; 75th anniversary of D-day; new issues; special cancels; exhibitions societies news etc etc.

2019/7-8: Phila-Toscana 2019 and the Gmunden tram; Grand Prix (ii); postal documents from WWII; centenary of the Renner definitives; new issues; special cancels; exhibitions societies news etc. August looks a good month for interesting new issues and events!

Germania

Vol 55 Nr 1: 'posted on board SMS Fürst Bismark' and the Deutsch Marine Schiffspost system; Bavarian return-to-sender labels; usage of the 1933 Wagner issue; meeting reports; new issues; etc etc.

Vol 55 Nr 2: The Sorbs of Lusatia; Clemens Winkler and the discovery of germanium; the Building series issued 1 September 1948; the Carl Benz Monument in Mannheim; the first four Germania booklets; Mail to the lost Polish provinces, 1946-7; News in brief; etc etc.

Stamps of Hungary

No 217 June 2019: Martin Brumby installed as President of The Hungarian Philatelic Society Of Great Britain for a 2-year term; The Time-Line to Trianon ii: April 1919 to June 1919; More about official stamps; More on transnational newspaper cancellations; Postal Savings Bank stamps; Questions, Answers and Comments; etc.

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

Czechout

See www.czechout.org where you can read (but not print) every issue including the latest.

Vol 37/1 (Mar 2019): Hradčany Postal Stationery Cards; etc etc

Vol 37/2 (June 2019): Mail between Early Czechoslovakia and Germany; Postal History of Brünn/Brno up to 1875; Currency Reform: The Events of 25 February – 9 March 1919; etc etc.

ArGe Feldpost Öst-Ung

Nr 133 (July 2018): summer tour itinerary; Fischamend to Sweden by balloon in 1914; on the literary trail of former POWs in Russia; POWs in Japan and their eventual return; 1915-16 mail from POWs in Russia to Romania; “overfranking is forbidden”; book reviews; etc.

Nr 134 (Nov 2018): news, Qs & As; wants; Austria-Hungary’s last war: 14 Sept 1928 to 25 Nov 1918; the detailed history of Ferdinand Baumer; 1913 manouverpost; book reviews; etc

Jugopošta

Nr 128: Monograph 14 “Slovene Stamps - 1919-20 mixed frankings” by Helmut Kobelbauer (on CD)

Nr 129 March 2019: Adriatic shore stations of the KuK Kriegsmarine during WWI (ii); Censor sealing tapes in the NDH, 1941-45; legacy of the Austro-Hungarian registered post in the future Yugoslavia.

ArGe Österreich

2019/1 (Nr 124): first issue from the new Officers – printed (excellently, by Druckfrey in Germany “printers to 17 societies”) on glossy paper, A4, full colour. Nice! Articles include: the sale and use of Austrian postal stationery from 13 March 1938 till 31 October 1938; commercial use of the 1883 postcard; the end of WWII in Styria and the Graz provisionals (*the illustrations show the 9 May 1945 entry into Graz of the Red Army in light tanks, and later in 1945 of the British troops led by a pipe band!*); Austrian Levant mail from the island of Simi; etc. An impressive first issue – we wish them all the best for their future.

Other Society Journals

Consequent on the downsizing of the Library, the Other Society Journals that we hold are as follows. Note that we don’t have every issue, and that the “PDF images” are pictures of the pages not searchable text, with most issues being in “recreate original double-sided publication” order, not consecutive pages. The Editor can advise on what we have (and in what format), and partial indexes are on our web site: <http://www.austrianphilately.com/notbooks/index.htm> Apply to the Librarian to borrow.

1002: ASCGB Bulletin, first and second series (not indexed).

1003: Bulletin of the (former) Austrian Philatelic Society of New York. This is indexed as Library book nr 6.

1004: Stamps Of Hungary, issued by the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. Held as PDF text files

1010: Rundbrief of the ARGE Österreich e.V. (first series). Held as PDF images.

1012: Wiener Ganzsachen Frei- und Poststempelsammlerverein. Held as PDF images.

1017: Bollettino: the Journal of the Associazione per lo Studio della Storia Postale.

THE 1914 AND 1915 WAR CHARITY STAMPS

by Henry Pollak & Andy Taylor

The concept, design details, and usage [AT]

The War Charity Issue of 1914

Austria had declared war on Serbia on 28th July 1914, and issued its first War Charity stamps on the 4th October 1914. The decision was taken to confine this issue to two values only, the 5 heller green and the 10 heller red which were those used most commonly for inland mail; and to produce the issue speedily. Hence, the design of the 1908 issue was adapted, with the head of the Emperor looking towards the left, with the addition in an oval of the year 1914. The stamps were sold with a 2 heller supplement (not shown in the design) which was paid into a special fund for the widows and orphans of soldiers, sailors and airmen who fell in battle.

Professor Koloman Moser was entrusted with the modifications required to the design. In the space obtained by an 8mm elongation of the stamp, between the portrait and the value tablet, the number 1914 was placed in an oval field, with white numerals on a coloured background, whilst the surrounding space was filled in with laurel twigs. The date of issue, 4th October, was chosen because it was the Name Day of the Emperor.

As with the 1910 commemorative issue, a counter-sheet consisted of 80 stamps only (8 horizontal rows of 10) because of the larger format; the printing plates consisted of four counter sheets.

The numbers produced are given by Müller [Ref. 1] as follows: 5+2 heller - 17,599,968 stamps; 10+2 heller - 17,440,500 stamps. [These are of course not whole 80-stamp sheets; perhaps the balance were retained in the files, or sent out with official notifications, etc.] Müller notes that about 3 million of the 5 heller stamp and 2 million of the 10 heller stamp remained unsold on devaluation on 1 July 1915. These were then offered for sale at the Collector's Counter of the Vienna General Post Office and were still not exhausted when it closed. He also states: "The War Charity Definitives were the first Austrian stamps for which a discount was allowed on the sale of whole sheets at the postal counter. This discount was 20 heller for sheets (of 80 stamps) of the 5 heller stamps and 25 heller for sheets of the 10 heller stamps. In addition to this the postal officials were allowed 5 heller for each sheet sold. The post offices had to remit only 5K35h or 9K30h in place of the nominal value of 5K60h or 9K60h for each sheet; the higher price did not form the basis for internal accounting."

Trial printings of this issue exist only in small numbers as essays on various types of coloured paper. The paper finally used was precisely that employed after 1913 for the 1908 definitive issue: ordinary medium-thick paper with the usual gum. The printing itself was done very carefully and no errors are known. Also the colours were quite uniform, although with the 10 heller value it is possible to distinguish the two shades of lilac rose and bright rose. The same perforation was employed as with the 1910 commemorative issue. This was a horizontal comb perforation 12½ (16:24 teeth) which was applied to each half of the printing sheet at a time.

This issue was not submitted to the UPU so was only authorised for use on internal mail and for postage to Hungary, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the German Empire. However, mail franked with this Charity Issue did go to other countries unchallenged: see later discussion.

The issue was used very commonly on letters due both to patriotism and also to the fact that the post office made a deliberate attempt to sell it to the public. This was because the Postal Administration had to pay the tax to the charitable organisations, via the postal reserve funds, whether or not the stamps were sold. There was thus some compulsion upon the post offices to recover the surcharges although it was not compulsory to stick the Charity Stamps on all mail posted.

The War Charity Issue of 1915

This issue was designed from scratch; the five values each depicted a separate scene to typify the different types of warfare. They were designed by Professor Koloman Moser, using photographs taken by the Kilophot organisation, and the steel engraving was then performed by Professor Ferdinand Schirnböck. They were printed in typography by the K.u.K. Court and State Printing Works and comb perforated 12½. The set of stamps was issued on 1st May 1915 and was valid for postage until 30th September 1916. Müller says that the

5h and 10h were only placed on sale when the 1914 issue had run out; however the 1915 Decree states that the 1914 issue was to be invalidated on 30 June 1915. These statements are compatible!

The designs may be itemised as follows:

| <u>Value</u> | <u>Colour</u> | <u>Design</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 3h + 1h | chocolate | Infantry in a firing trench |
| 5h + 2h | green | Cavalry riders |
| 10h + 2h | rose carmine | 30.5cm Mortar, Artillery |
| 20h + 3h | blue-green | Navy battleship |
| 35h + 3h | ultramarine | Air Force biplane |

All these designs were placed in horizontal oval frames with the name of the engraver on the right and that of the designer on the left of the bottom margin.

The following quantities were produced: 3h+1h - 7,881,250; 5h+2h - 35,427,500; 10h+2h - 40,367,500; 20h+3h - 3,225,000; 35h+3h - 2,602,300. [Again, the missing ones may have been used for some official purpose].

Because relatively small quantities were needed of the two top values, the 20h and 35h stamps were printed, like the contemporary definitive stamps, using plates each containing 400 printing dies. However, because of the larger quantities needed for the three bottom values, the 3h, 5h and 10h stamps were produced from roll-plates by the rotary printing process already used for the 1908 definitive issues. Each roll-plate contained 200 stamp designs arranged in two groups of 100 (ie 10 by 10 stamps). Also, row summation numbers were placed to the left and right of each group, in the space between the groups; beginning on both sides with the lowest number at the last row and ending with the highest number at the first row placed horizontally in relation to the stamps:

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| 3h+1h | -.40 | -.80 | 1.20 | 1.60 | 2.- | 2.40 | 2.80 | 3.20 | 3.60 | 4.- |
| 5h+2h | -.70 | 1.40 | 2.10 | 2.80 | 3.50 | 4.20 | 4.90 | 5.60 | 6.30 | 7.- |
| 10h+2h | 1.20 | 2.40 | 3.60 | 4.80 | 6.- | 7.20 | 8.40 | 9.60 | 10.80 | 12.- |

The row summation numbers thus showed the nominal value including the surcharge.

In addition, a small cross was placed on the rotogravure plate to distinguish between the two groups of 100. Also, above the 10th stamp of each of the sheets, which is the final value of the first horizontal row, the indication of the plate is located in the sheet margin very near to the perforations. When these sheets were packed, every second sheet displayed this plate indication but often it did not print well and appeared “blind”.

While the 3, 5 and 10 heller values were all printed on the Gandenbergr Rotary Printing Machine, the two top values were printed from flat plates in sheets of 400 stamps. However, the 20 heller stamp was delivered to the post offices in sheets of 50 (10 rows of 5 stamps) and the 35 heller stamp was delivered in sheets of 25 (5 rows of 5 stamps). Collectors could purchase complete sheets of 100 (ie one of the 4 panes) and the remainders were all sold in this way.

There are no known plate errors with this issue; the well-known “errors” on the 5 heller value of the “Saluting Rider” and the “Breadbun on shoulder” are actually due to a foreign body adhering to the printing plate. Colour trials and essays are known.

The stamps were printed on normal medium-thick paper of the type used after 1913 for the 1908 issue. The 3, 5 and 10 heller values were printed on a roll of pre-gummed paper whilst with the 20 and 25 heller values the paper was gummed after printing. Again the three lowest values were vertically comb perforated on the perforating head on the Gandenbergr Press so that the two side sheet margins were perforated. The two top values were horizontally comb perforated RZ.12½ (19:16 teeth) so that the upper and lower sheet margins were perforated. These margins were removed before sale but those on the 3h, 5h and 10h were not.

What do the rules and regulations state?[AT]

In 1914 a Decree was issued, which is available in the online Reichsgesetzblatt for that year as Number 260, page 1083. The title is “Verordnung des k.k. Handelsministeriums vom 24. September 1914, betreffend die Ausgabe neuer Briefmarken zu 5 und 10 Hellern” The first paragraph states that there’s a war on, and new 5h and 10h stamps with a surcharge of 2 heller will be sold. The proceeds of the surcharge are to support the War Widows and Orphans Fund. There is a small discount on a complete sheet.

Paragraphs 2, 3 & 5 describe the design in pedantic detail (“the stamps are 8mm longer than the current series ... the year ‘1914’ in white digits on a coloured ground”). Issue begins on 4 October 1914, and once you’ve bought them you can’t return them and ask for your money back.

Paragraph 4 prescribes where they can be used; this being Austria it follows that they cannot be used in other situations. They are permitted to be applied as well as the current issue (ie that of 1908; the Jubilee issue had been invalidated on 1.1.1911) on “inland mail and mail to Hungary, Bosnia, Hercegovina, and Germany”.

The complete text of this Decree was dutifully repeated unchanged in the Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt, issue 141 of 1914. An accompanying Durchführungsbestimmungen (Z.5913-H.M.) discusses discounts and rebates in extensive detail but does not alter the usage restrictions.

In 1915 a similar issue was made, of 5 stamps, with various values and surcharges. The Decree is Reichsgesetzblatt 1915 Number 104, page 176, entitled “Verordnung des k.k. Handelsministeriums vom 21. April 1915, betreffend die Ausgabe neuer Briefmarken zu 3, 5, 10, 20 und 35 Hellern”. Again, it’s for the War Widows and Orphans Fund; there are discounts on complete sheets; the design is described at length; purchase is irrevocable. The 1914 issue is invalidated from 30 June 1915 and this new issue begins “at the end of April” [so mixed frankings are possible]. The same restrictions on usage are restated.

The complete text is reprinted as Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt, issue 53 of 1915; the accompanying Durchführungsbestimmungen (Z.2916-H.M.) discusses the complicated customer and internal discount arrangements and does not mention usage restrictions.

The 1915 issue was invalidated on 30 Sept 1916 as prescribed in Reichsgesetzblatt 1916 Number 310 dated 17 September 1916. and PVOB 75, section 78, date 23 Sep 1916

No other decrees, Verordnungs, etc concerning these stamps have been found. In particular, no validity-area-extension is known.

Conclusion: according to the published rules, both issues of the charity stamps were only valid for mail to Austria, Hungary, Bosnia, Hercegovina, and Germany; and only while still within their validity dates.

To what countries were they valid for postage; and to what other countries were they actually used? [HP]

The question “to what countries were they valid for postage?” has never bothered anybody, because the answer was perfectly clear, and the reference books all said the same thing. For example, Edwin Müller, in “Die Postmarken von Oesterreich”, says for the 1914 issue (page 298, HP translation): “The 1914 war charity issue was not communicated to the UPU – according to the UPU treaty in force at the time, they would not have been admissible – and therefore was valid only for postal franking internally as well as to Hungary, Bosnia-Herzegowina, and Germany. Unchallenged mailings to other countries just slipped through.”. The same rules applied to the 1915 issue.

Ferchenbauer [Ref. 2] gives the same information for the 1914 issue (Vol II page 277) and repeats it for the 1915 issue (page 281). But Ferchenbauer does give us the first inkling that perhaps the situation is not quite as simple as all that: On page 95 of volume IV, there is a brief discussion of mixed frankings between field-post and regular issues during World War 1. He pictures a cover to Stockholm from FPO 11, the main military HQ, franked with two 10 heller 1914 charity stamps and a 5 heller field post stamp. There is no other comment about this unchallenged use of war charity stamps to Sweden, and its apparent contradiction of what was said in volume II.

HP has assiduously collected covers of these two issues to countries that were neutral at the time. They seem to have “slipped through” with some regularity: He has about 25 of them, to Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, and the USA. Only two of the covers, both postcards to Switzerland, have markings which indicate that this part of the franking was unacceptable. All others, including several more to Switzerland, went through unimpeded in any way. All known examples are censored, as they should be.

Discounts and rebates [AT]

These are set out in the Durchführungsbestimmungen, in a complicated manner summarised here.

| Value | Price each | Price per sheet of xx | Customer discount per complete sheet | Cost to Post Office per sheet | Post Office commission** per sheet |
|--|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1914 | | | | | |
| 5h + 2h | 7h | 5K40 for 80 | 20h | 5k35 | 5h / 25h |
| 10h + 2h | 12h | 9K35 for 80 | 25h | 9K30 | 5h / 30h |
| 1915 | | | | | |
| 3h + 1h | 4h | 3K87 for 100 | 13h | 3K82 | 5h / 18h |
| 5h + 2h | 7h | 6K75 for 100 | 25h | 6K70 | 5h / 30h |
| 10h + 2h | 12h | 11K70 for 100 | 30h | 11K65 | 5h / 35h |
| 20h + 3h | 23h | 11K25 for 50 | 25h | 11K20 | 5h / 30h |
| 35h + 3h | 38h | 9K35 for 25 | 20h | 9K30 | 5h / 25h |
| ** The Post Office commission was the smaller amount if they sold a complete sheet of 80 intact, and the larger if they sold 80 individual stamps. | | | | | |

References

1. Müller, “*Die Postmarken von Österreich*” 1981 reprint pp 297-304
2. Ferchenbauer, “*Österreich 1850-1918 Handbuch und Spezialkatalog*”, Wien 2008
3. Reichsgesetzblatt for 1914, Number 260, page 1083, “*Verordnung des k.k. Handelsministeriums vom 24. September 1914, betreffend die Ausgabe neuer Briefmarken zu 5 und 10 Hellern*”.
4. Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt, issue 141 of 1914, and the accompanying Durchführungsbestimmungen (Z.5913-H.M.)
5. Reichsgesetzblatt for 1915 Number 104, page 176, “*Verordnung des k.k. Handelsministeriums vom 21. April 1915, betreffend die Ausgabe neuer Briefmarken zu 3, 5, 10, 20 und 35 Hellern*”.
6. Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt, issue 53 of 1915; and the Durchführungsbestimmungen (Z.2916-H.M.)
7. Reichsgesetzblatt 1916 Number 310 “*Verordnung des Handelsministers vom 17 September 1916, betreffend die Einziehung der Kriegsmarken und Jubiläumskorrespondenzkarten*”
8. Post- und Telegraphen-Verordnungsblatt, nr 75, section 78, date 23 Sep 1916

Annexe – some examples [HP]

Timeline:

← First issue valid from 4
Oct 1914 to 30 June 1915 →

Overlap: mixed

←.....→

frankings possible

← Second issue valid from 1
May 1915 to 30 Sept 1916 →

Valid mixed frankings are possible during the overlap period of May and June 1915; examples used outside the 'correct' area are scarce.

I have bought every cover to a neutral country I have seen except when it was outrageously overfranked. The only one I was ever offered with postage due charged is the third item below. I have 23 covers altogether to neutral countries. The probability that the 22 others only "slipped through" is not high.



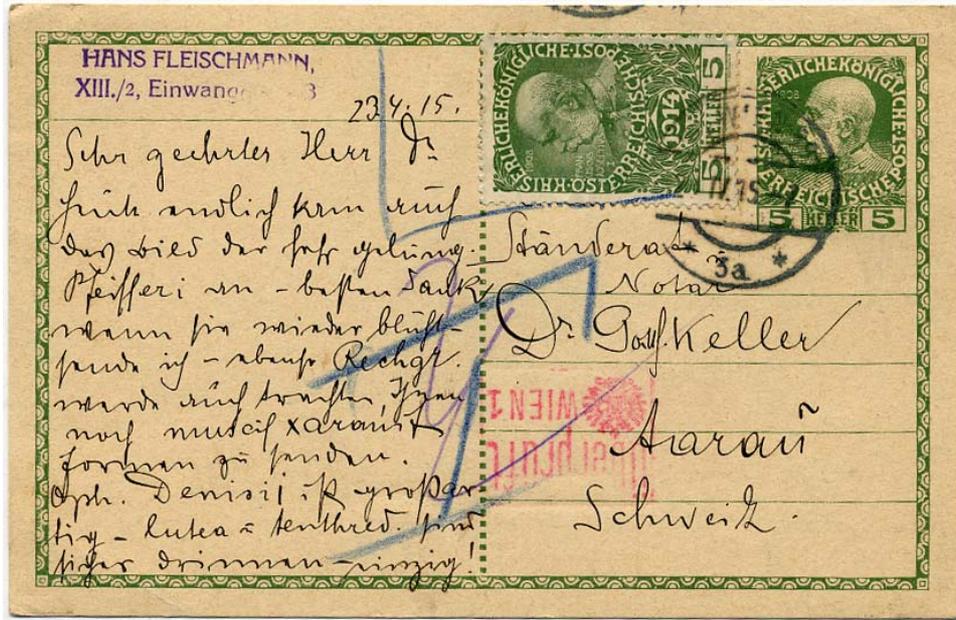
Cover to Denmark from 31 Oct 1914, to the Red Cross. Correct postage. This one, two months earlier than the third item, did go through. So either the Danish didn't care, or it slipped through, as Mueller says.



Registered cover to the USA from December 1914. NOT a genuine mixed franking, because the 10 was not needed for the correct postage of 50 heller.



5 heller card to Switzerland with the 5 heller 1914 as additional franking. Purple T, pencil 10 for postage due, which was collected by a 10 centimes Swiss postage due stamp. Mailed 29.12.1914, postage due cancelled 2.1.1915.



5 heller card to Switzerland with the 5 heller 1914 as additional franking for a foreign postcard. Marked as unacceptable, but the "T" is then crossed out and the Swiss did accept it. So the change in rules must have come before 24 April 1915, the date of this card. The Swiss, of all people, would certainly have collected postage due if they had an excuse to do so: see previous item!



My only mixed franking of the two issues from the two months, dated 12.VI.1915. Overfranked - should be 50 heller. To Holland.



Card with correct 10 heller to the USA, 4 July 1915. Went through fine, but it is 4 days too late for official validity. Didn't bother anybody.



Mixed franking of the two issues from August 1915 to Sweden. But it's not a late use of the first war issue, it is overfranked by 5 heller, and the 5 from the first issue just went along for the ride. It didn't pay postage. Express cover.



Registered letter to the USA, with 20 heller second war stamp issue and 30 heller regular issue, October, 1915.



Just a pretty franking, registered cover to Holland franked with 17 3-heller second issue, or 51 heller instead of 50, from November 1915.



Cover to Switzerland with 50 heller correct postage, 6 December 1915. No thought of postage due on this one.



Block of 6 of the 20 heller, toughest to get on cover, I am told. Express cover to Switzerland, only there because it is pretty, but certainly overfranked and I don't know by how much. Date 7 Feb 1916.



Not overfranked! 75 Heller to the USA, registered with return receipt, so 75 is the correct rate. Date 15 Feb 1916.

*Letters to the Editor***COULD THIS HAPPEN TO THE APS?**

For many years a friend and I have regularly undertaken a 100 mile round trip to the meetings of Mablethorpe and Sutton Philatelic Society. Last year the society had about 20 members with attendance at meetings usually between 10 and 15. The society has ample funds so only charges £5.00 for membership.

When it came to electing the Officers of the Society for 2019/20 at the AGM in June it became clear that there was a problem as most of the then committee was retiring for health or personal reasons. We finally had an offer for Chairman and the Treasurer would agree to keep the books but not to handle the room auctions held two or three times a year – solved when my friend and I agreed that we would do this if we were there. However no one would agree to become Secretary. It was agreed that we would hold two further meetings in the hope that someone might take on the position but if no one comes forward the Society will need to close.

The reason I am telling you this is because the APS could end up in the same situation. On recent occasions when a committee position has become vacant the lack of volunteers has resulted in one of the existing committee adding another job to their existing portfolio but this cannot continue. The secretary has added membership secretary to his job, the librarian is also the sales officer and in addition to being both editor and webmaster Andy is now also the treasurer.

The average age of the committee is probably about 75 and several of us have had health or personal problems in recent years. We need new people to join the committee, possibly as a co-opted “member without portfolio” at first but with a view to taking on one of the major roles in the near future to ensure that the APS continues to function. As is clear from the above ‘without one of the main committee positions being filled there is no proper committee, and could be no Society!’

As you will see in the Newsletter, all positions on the committee are open for nominations and for at least one the incumbent is not seeking re-election. Any volunteer will be welcome - just let the secretary know you want to stand and we will find sponsors.

Please, please consider becoming a member of the APS committee.

Joyce Boyer

There's another aspect: as less and less people take on more and more roles, it only needs a well-aimed bus or a single malevolent mutation to knock out half the Officers. Ed.



An emailed question: “I wonder if you know the very earliest letter of the Austrian postal history which has a city stamping on the front?” **My reply:** Several colleagues have sent me answers from various reference books:

- 1714 DE BRVXELLE (and various others in the Austrian Netherlands, according to Herlant)
- 1731 Austria (Holy Roman Empire) also controlled the Duchy of Milan from 1714. Vollmeier gives a double M (for Milan) from 1731. The earliest “MILAN” looks like 1770.
- 1751 Wien
- 1752 Trieste
- 1759 Ofen
- 1776 Pest
- 1782 Graz
- 1783 Prag

Has anyone a more authoritative answer?

The Zither and the Third Man

By Andy Taylor



On 20 March 2019 a stamp was issued showing the Vienna Zither in the series Musical Instruments. The entirety of the description provided by Austrian Post's web site is *Die Marke aus der Serie „Musikinstrumente“ stellt diesmal ein Instrument vor, das untrennbar mit der Wiener Musikkultur verbunden ist: die Wiener Zither. Sie bezaubert durch ihren weichen, ruhigen Klang. Hmmm. Let's try their English pages... This time, the stamp from the "Musical instruments" series presents an instrument which is inextricably linked to the musical culture of Vienna: the Viennese zither. It captivates the audience with its soft, tranquil sound.*

Surely there must be more to zithers than that! Don't I rather hazily recall William Somebody's Theme – no, wasn't it Harry - from a definitely not tranquil evening (mis)spent in Grinzing?

Summon the heavy cavalry! The full-text-index of AUSTRIA issues 127 onwards produces 9 mentions of zithers; Wikipedia has one long article in English and a longer one in German (with different pictures, and both have an embedded clip of the 1-minute zither solo from "Tales from the Vienna Woods"!); Google offers "about 5,000,000 results, which to explore life too short is. Summon the Editor...



A 10 groschen stamp was issued on 6 Sep 1948 in the Costumes series; it shows a girl from the Salzkammergut in Styria holding an Alpine zither.



The Austrian-China musical friendship is reflected in the joint issue of 2006, in the form of traditional musical instruments (the Austrian stamp showed a Bosendorfer piano). The Chinese stamp was a Guqin, also called the Seven-Stringed Qin, which is a traditional Chinese musical instrument with a history of over 3000 years. The plucked instrument belonging to the zither family creates delightful harmonics, and symbolizes the essence of Chinese traditional music. It was so revered in ancient China that it was given the name of "Ancestor of Chinese Music". The particular guqin in the stamp is called the Da Sheng Yi Yin Qin; it was produced in the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618–907)

and is now kept in the Beijing Palace Museum.



"The Third Man", filmed in Vienna** in 1949, brought the zither to a wide audience; this 2009 stamp marked the 60th anniversary of its filming. The story is set in Vienna just after the Second World War. The city is divided into five zones, one administered by each of the occupying forces, the USA, the Soviet Union, France and the UK, plus the international zone administered jointly by all four. The black market is flourishing, and anyone who resists the gangs of black marketeers ends up in the Danube. One of the most famous scenes is

without doubt the chase through the extensive sewers, in which Harry Lime, played by Orson Welles, is injured by gunfire and then, trapped in an exit shaft, is finally shot dead. The theme music, played by Anton Karas on the Zither, is perhaps even better known than the film!

** When this topic first appeared in a member's article in these pages, the author remarked that much of the filming was actually done in Prague. A torrent of correspondence followed, saying in various ways No No It Was All In Vienna. However a further twist to the story emerged from Hans Smith: "Nearly all the sewer scenes in *The Third Man*, apart from a few shots in the covered-over section of the river Wien, were filmed at Pinewood Studios near London. My late uncle Bert was a stage designer and set builder and I can still remember him coming home at nights (in London) with lurid stories about the 'giant loos' he was building. They eventually turned out to be the (non-existent) Vienna sewers!"



The popularity of the film led to the setting-up of a Third Man Tour company, visiting some of the sites featured in the film and culminating in a Trip Down The Sewers – actually the covered-over section of the river Wien near the Stadtpark. The APS excursion to Vienna in 2002 included this trip; we were warned to bring stout shoes and a torch, and that the trip would be curtailed or even cancelled if heavy rain were forecast. The day was dry, but we didn't find Harry Lime...



Is he up there?



A shadow of his former self?



Did he go that way?

Perhaps Harry Lime was a secret stamp collector: the most surprising people are! In 2005 after a rates increase the residual old definitives, which no longer corresponded to the new tariffs, were overprinted with the new standard value of 55 cents. Students of the University for Applied Arts in Vienna were invited to compete in the production of the best design. The students of 2 master classes set about the project with great enthusiasm and came up with excellent, innovative and unexpected ideas. The best designs were selected by a panel of judges in conjunction with the Austrian Post AG. Eight definitives were reissued as the new overprinted 55c stamps. Here, the “Third Man” steals through the rich pattern of colours of the Schönlaterngasse, cunningly casting a shadow over the bottom-left printing of the old 4c value.



For the 2014 Europa issue, Austria's choice for “national musical instruments” was the “Alpine Concert Zither”; this curiously-truncated representation of a zither in the traditional Salzburg design appeared on May 9th. The success of the zither began around 1820 with the Viennese Johannes Petzmayer, who developed it and made it socially acceptable. Petzmayer had been invited to the Bavarian (Wittelsbach) court, where he taught Duke Maximilian and his daughter Sissi, the later Empress Elisabeth, to play the instrument. Sissi finally brought it to the Viennese court. The middle class, the aristocracy and even the Emperor developed an enthusiasm for the instrument, which corresponded to the trend towards folklore during the Biedermeier age. Of the various types of tuning, two prevailed: the Munich tuning and the different (of course) Vienna tuning, in which Anton Karas composed the world-famous Harry Lime Theme for “The Third Man”.

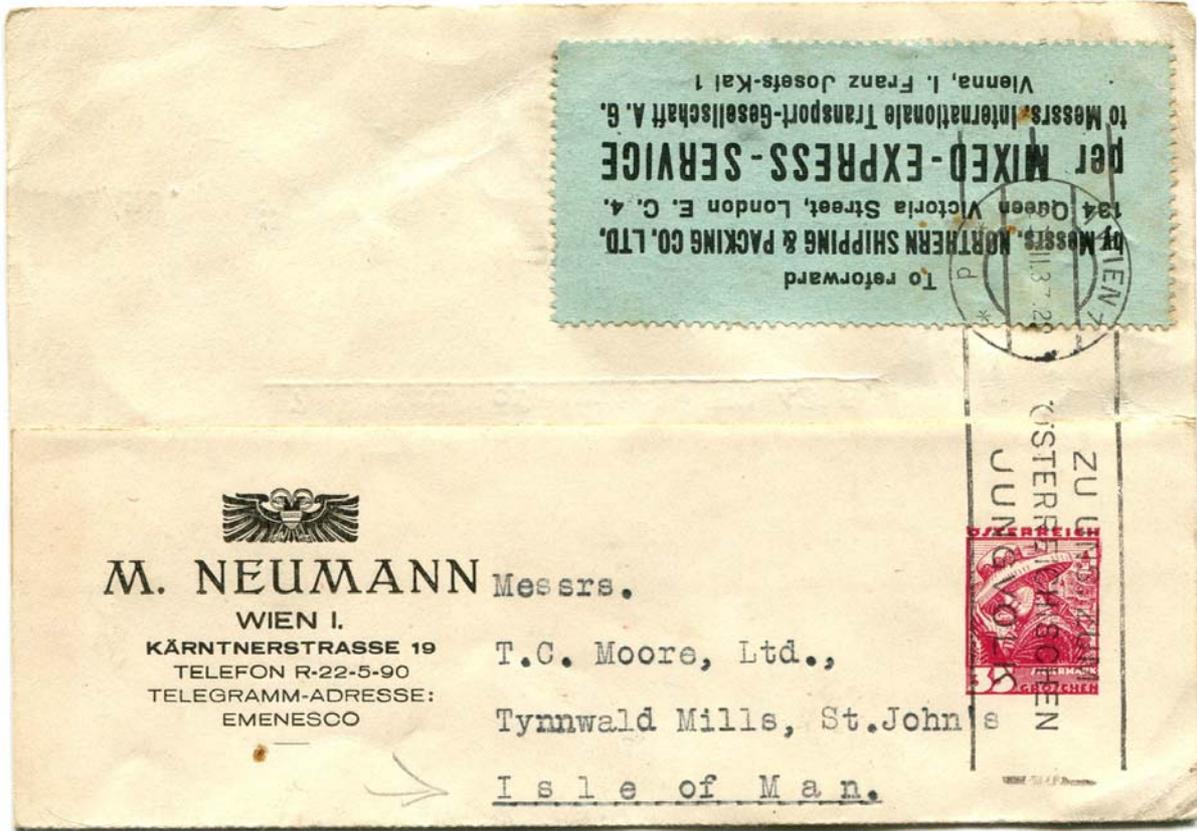


It is said that Sissi played the zither excellently; and that once when she visited an alpine inn she played on a zither. Another guest - a rich farmer, not knowing that she was the Austrian Empress - gave her one Gulden for her performance. This was the only money she ever earned in her life, and she was very proud about it.

The 2019 Zither stamp was formally unveiled in the VÖPh office in Vienna. The proceedings included a film and museum presentation, FCD-signing by Maria Schulz the stamp designer, a Heurigenbuffet, and a concert by Corneila Mayer, one of today's leading zither performers and teachers. Personal-stamps were on sale. Much more information on the stamp, the event, and on zithers is in Die Briefmarke issue 3/2019. There is a Dritte Mann Museum at Pressgasse 25, and appropriate tours are organised by many companies including www.viennawalks.com and www.drittemanntour.at



A funny folded postcard



A query from USA:

Dear Austria Philatelic Society,

Here is a Folded Typewriter Postcard with an unusual perforated blue [the colour may have been altered in transmission] sticker stick on the front measuring 7.7 x 3.6 cm. It went from Vienna to T.C. Moore, Ltd. Isle of Man in the United Kingdom; and is dated July 20th 1937. It reads: To reforward by Mixed Express Service of the Northern Shipping and Packing Company 134 Queen Victoria St, London, E.C.4 to Messrs Internationale Transport-Gesselschaft A.G. Vienna, I Franz Joseph-Kai 1. The typing on the back asks for 17½ yards of article HT 4215.

To reforward
by Messrs. NORTHERN SHIPPING & PACKING CO. LTD.
134 Queen Victoria Street, London E. C. 4.
per MIXED-EXPRESS-SERVICE
to Messrs. Internationale Transport-Gesellschaft A. G.
Vienna, I. Franz Josefs-Kai 1

Do you know anything about this Service?

Robert Bell

USA